

GLOBAL PEACE INDEX 2021

WORLD GIVING INDEX 2021



ICC WORLD TEST CHAMPIONSHIP

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 June to 30th June) 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.

National

Global Peace Index 2021

Question- Which of the following country has ranked 1st in the global Peace Index 2021 report-

(a) Iceland (b) New Zealand (c) Norway (d) Denmark

Ans. (a)

Related facts-

- 15th edition of Global Peace Index (GPI) was announced by Institute for Economics and Peace (IEP) Sydney, Australia.
- Index ranks 163 independent states and territories as per level of their peacefulness.
- Iceland is most peaceful country worldwide since 2008.
- Iceland is joined by other top countries like Denmark, New Zealand, Portugal and Slovenia.
- Afghanistan is the world's least peaceful country for the fourth consecutive year, but it was Burkina Faso which recorded the largest deterioration in the Global Peace Index 2021.
- Afghanistan is followed by Yemen, Syria, South Sudan, and Iraq.
- India has moved up by two position from its last year's ranking. It has become 135th most peaceful country while, 5th in South Asia region.
- Bhutan and Nepal are first and second most peaceful in this region.
- Bangladesh was 91th out of 163 countries across the world while being 3rd in South Asia.
- Sri Lanka slipped by 19 position to become 95th peaceful country while, 4th in South Asia region.
- Pakistan witnessed the most improvement in peacefulness with 150th rank globally and 6th in South Asia region.



Reference- <https://www.thenationalnews.com/world/global-peace-index-2021-the-world-s-most-and-least-peaceful-countries-ranked-1.1243463>.

World Giving Index (WGI) 2021

Question – World Giving Index(WGI) 2021 has released recently by the Charities Aid Foundation(CAF). With reference to this, consider the following statements:

(i) A total of 114 countries have been ranked in this.

(ii) Indonesia got the credit of being the top donor country in this index.

(iii) India got 14th place in this.

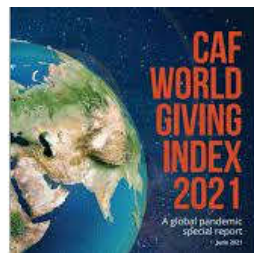
Which of the above statement(s) is/are correct

(a) only (i) (b) only (ii) (c) only (iii) (d) all of the above

Answer—(d)

related facts

- World Giving Index 2021 has recently(June 2021) released by the UK based Charities Aid Foundation (CAF).
- In this, 114 countries have been ranked.
- This year's survey of CAF mentions the effects of the lockdown on charity and philanthropic activities.
- Ranking has been provided on the basis of total 3 pillars in this index. These three pillars are-



I. Helped a Stranger, or someone you didn't know who needed help?

- II. Donated Money to a Charity
- III. Volunteered your time to a organisation

- Indonesia got the credit of being the top charitable country in this index.
- After this Kenya, Nigeria, Myanmar and Australia came second, third, fourth and fifth respectively.
- In this index, the lowest rank were respectively Japan (114th place), Portugal (113th place), Belgium (112th place) and Italy (111th place).
- India has been ranked 14th in this index.
- It is notable that Charities and philanthropic activities increased significantly in India between 2017-2019 and the trend continued in 2020.
- Sixty one percent of Indians helped strangers, 34 percent came forward to help and 36 percent people donated money.
- USA and UK on this index ranked 19th and 22nd respectively.
- Among India's neighboring countries, Nepal was ranked 27th, Sri Lanka 63rd, Bangladesh 69th, China 95th and Pakistan 107th.

Link:

<https://www.cafonline.org/about-us/publications/2021-publications/caf-world-giving-index-2021>

ICC World Test Championship

Question: Which cricket team has won the inaugural ICC World Test Championship?

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

Answer: (b)

Related facts:

- New Zealand defeated India to win the first ICC World Test Championship.
- The final test cricket match of the Championship was played on 18 -23 June 2021 in Ageas Bowl Stadium, Southampton (England). The Championship began in 2019.
- New Zealand chased down the target of 139 to win the first-ever World Test Championship final with eight wickets in hand.
- Kyle Jamieson (NZ) has been adjudged as the "Player of the match", while Kane Williamson (NZ) is the "Player of the series".
- The top three team of Championship are New Zealand, India and Australia respectively.



Links:

<https://www.indiatoday.in/sports/cricket/story/new-zealand-crowned-world-test-champions-they-re-the-best-in-our-history-says-richard-hadlee-1818742-2021-06-24>

India approves 4th vaccine for Covid-19

Question: Which vaccine has been given license by India on 29th June 2021 for emergency use?

a) Moderna's mRNA-1273 b) Sputnik c) Cinovac d) None of the above

Ans: a

Facts

- Government of India has given approval to its fourth Covid-19 vaccine, and its first mRNA vaccine, Moderna's mRNA-1273 for emergency uses.



- Other vaccines available in India are Covaxin, Covishield and Sputnik.
- This also cleared the path for importing foreign regulator-approved Covid vaccines to India without bridging clinical studies.
- Moderna vaccine which has 94.1 percent efficacy will be available here through its Indian partner Cipla.

Moderna Vaccine

- Moderna's method of creating vaccine to protect against Covid-19 is based on messenger RNA (mRNA). mRNA helps the cells to generate immunity against coronavirus. This vaccine along with Pfizer is being preferred among wealthy countries.

Reference: https://www.business-standard.com/article/current-affairs/moderna-vaccine-is-first-mrna-jab-to-get-emergency-use-nod-in-india-121062901472_1.html

Government Extends NITI Aayog CEO Term

Question: Whose term as a CEO of NITI Aayog has been extended by Government of India recently?

a) Amitabh Kant b) Arvind Pangariya c) Shaktikant Das d) None of the above

Ans: a

Facts

- Central government has extended tenure of NITI Aayog Chief Executive Officer (CEO), Amitabh Kant, by one year.
- He was appointed as the CEO of Niti Aayog on February 17, 2016, for a fixed two-year term. He was later given an extension till June 30, 2019. His term was then further extended for two years in June 2019.
- His tenure will now end in June 2022.
- Extension order was issued by Department of Personnel and Training after it was approved by Appointments Committee of Cabinet headed by Prime Minister Narendra Modi.



NITI Aayog

- The NITI Aayog (National Institution for Transforming India) is a public policy think tank of the Government of India, established established in 2015 by replacing the planning commission .
- It is established with the aim to achieve sustainable development goals with cooperative federalism by fostering the involvement of State Governments of India in the economic policy-making process using a bottom-up approach.

Reference: <https://www.timesnownews.com/business-economy/industry/article/niti-aayog-ceo-amitabh-kant-given-another-extension-till-june/777835>

Black Guava

Question: Which institute has developed a unique variety of guava termed as black guava?

(a) Bihar Agriculture University (b) Tamil Nadu Agricultural University
(c) Kerala Agricultural University (d) Central Agricultural University

Answer: (a)

Related facts:

- Scientists of Bihar Agriculture University, Bhagalpur has developed a unique variety of guava 'black guava'.
- This exclusive variety of black guava with red pulp inside is rich in antioxidants, minerals and vitamins.
- It has been developed with more than three years of scientific research and is likely to be launched for commercial farming soon following some improvement in its size, fragrance and longer shelf life.
- The exclusive variety of black guava will be fully ripe by August end or September.



Links:

<https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/patna/bau-develops-black-guava-rich-in-minerals-vitamins/articleshow/83899604.cms>

National Technical Textiles Mission

Question: Consider the following statements:

- (1) Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs has given its approval to set up a National Technical Textiles Mission.
- (2) Technical Textiles are futuristic and nice segment of textiles used for automotive applications, medical usages, crop protection, protective clothing etc.
- (3) The Mission would have a four year implementation period from FY 2020-21 to 2023-24.

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

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

Answer: (d)

Related facts:

- The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs, chaired by the Prime Minister Narendra Modi, has given its approval to set up a National Technical Textiles Mission.
- For the implementation of this mission, the Cabinet has allocated total fund of Rs 1480 Crore.
- The mission has been launched with an objective to position India as a global leader in Technical Textiles.
- The Mission would have a four year implementation period from FY 2020-21 to 2023-24.
- Technical textiles are material and products manufactured primarily for their technical performance and functional properties rather than for aesthetic characteristics.
- They have various applications ranging from agriculture, roads, railway tracks, sportswear, health on one end to bullet proof jacket, fire proof jackets, high altitude combat gear and space applications on other end of spectrum.



Links:

<https://pib.gov.n/PressReleaseDetail.aspx?PRID=1604413>

Bio-Asia Summit, 2020

Question: Where was Bio-Asia Summit, the largest biotechnology and life sciences forum of Central Asia held during 17-19 February, 2020?

- (a) Kolkata (b) Hyderabad (c) New Delhi (d) Bangalore

Answer: (b)

Related facts:

- The largest bio-technology and life sciences forum of Central Asia,



Bio-Asia Summit, 2020 was held in Hyderabad, Telangana during 17-19 February 2020.

- The theme of this three-day conference is Today for Tomorrow.
- Switzerland is the partner country for this conference.
- It is organized by the Telangana Government.
- About 2000 delegates from 37 countries are participating in this conference. The delegation also included 800 Corporates, 75 Start-ups.
- It is noteworthy that this conference provides a platform to global industry leaders, researchers, policy makers, innovators and investors.

Links:

<http://2020.bioasia.in/>

Childline India Foudnation report

Question: Consider the following statements:

(a) CHILDLINE India Foundation (CIF) is the nodal agency of the Union Ministry of Women and Child Development.

(b) According to its report, one in every 10 calls made to the child emergency helpline 1098 was of child abuse.

Choose the correct statement:

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

Answer: (c)

Related facts:



According to the data from Childline India Foundation, one in every 10 calls made to the child emergency helpline 1098 was of child abuse.

The largest number of phone calls was made to seek intervention for Child abuse cases followed by those pertaining to child labor, education, runaways and missing children.

The nature of abuse which children has suffered shows that 37% of the complaints were about child marriage, 27% about physical abuse and 13% regarding sexual abuse among others.

The data also shows that 35% of the total cases of sexual abuse were committed by neighbors, 25% by strangers and 11% by family members.

CHILDLINE India Foundation (CIF):

Childline India Foundation (CIF) is the nodal agency of the Union Ministry of Women and Child Development.

It acts as the parent organisation for setting up, managing and monitoring the childline 1098 service all over the country.

It is also the sole agency responsible for monitoring childline service delivery and finance, training, research and documentation, creating awareness, advocacy as well as resource generation for the service.

Links:

<https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/one-in-10-calls-on-abuse-to-helpline-made-by-children-study/article30863277.ece>

4th Anniversary of Shyama Prasad Mukherji Rurban Mission

Question: Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched the Shyama Prasad Mukherji Rurban Mission on?

(a) October 21, 2015 (b) February 21, 2016 (c) March 22, 2016 (d) October 24, 2017

Answer: (b)

Related facts:

- On February 24, 2020, Union Minister Shri Narendra Singh Tomar inaugurated the 4th Anniversary celebration of Shyama Prasad Mukherjee Rurban Mission (SPMRM) at Dr. Ambedkar International Centre in New Delhi.
- The theme of 4th anniversary of SPMRM is Aatma Gaon Ki, Suvidha Sheher Ki.
- The Mission was launched by Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi on 21st February 2016, with the vision to deliver catalytic interventions to rural areas on the threshold of growth.



Mission's Vision:

- The National Rurban Mission (NRuM) follows the vision of Development of a cluster of villages that preserve and nurture the essence of rural community life with focus on equity and inclusiveness without compromising with the facilities perceived to be essentially urban in nature, thus creating a cluster of Rurban Villages.

Mission's Objective:

- The objective of the National Rurban Mission (NRuM) is to stimulate local economic development, enhance basic services, and create well planned Rurban clusters.

Mission's Outcomes:

- The larger outcomes envisaged under this Mission are:
- Bridging the rural-urban divide-viz: economic, technological and those related to facilities and services.
- Stimulating local economic development with emphasis on reduction of poverty and unemployment in rural areas.
- Spreading development in the region.
- Attracting investment in rural areas.

Current Status:

- 300 clusters have been allocated so far by the Ministry, out of which 296 have been approved.
- This mission leads to convergence of the schemes of Union Government and the State Governments which leads to overall development of the region in a planned and organized manner.

Links:

<https://pib.gov.in/PressReleaseDetail.aspx?PRID=1604214>

Journalist P Sainath wins Japan's Fukuoka Grand Prize

Question-Which of the following person has been awarded the Fukuoka Grand Prize for 2021?

(a) P Sainath (b) Rajat Sharma (c) Ravish Kumar (d) Prannoy Roy

Ans. (a)

Related facts-

- Noted journalist P. Sainath has been selected as one of the three recipients of the Fukuoka Prize for 2021.



- Mr. Sainath will receive the 'Grand Prize' of the Fukuoka Prize while the Academic Prize and the Prize for Arts and Culture will go to Kishimoto Mio of Japan and filmmaker Prabda Yoon of Thailand, respectively.
- The Fukuoka Prize Committee said Sainath is a committed journalist who has continued to investigate impoverished farming villages in India and captured the reality of the lifestyle of the residents in such areas.
- Sainath was born in Chennai and has served as the editor of The Hindu and as the vice-editor of political magazine Blitz.
- **About the award-**
- The award, established by Japan's Fukuoka city and the Fukuoka City International Foundation in 1990.
- It is given to individuals and organizations for their work in preserving Asian culture.
- Fukuoka prize has three prize categories- Grand Prize, Academic Prize and Arts & Culture Prize.

Reference- <https://scroll.in/latest/998733/journalist-p-sainath-wins-japans-fukuoka-grand-prize>.

India gets Asia's longest and world's fifth longest High Speed Track for automobiles

Question- Which of the following city has built the Asia's longest and world's fifth longest High Speed Track for automobiles?

(a) Indore, M.P (b) Noida, U.P (c) Bhopal, M.P (d) Jabalpur, M.P

Ans. (a)

Related facts-

- On June 29, 2021, Minister of Heavy Industries and Public Enterprises Shri Prakash Javadekar has inaugurated NATRAX- the High Speed Track (HST) in Indore which is the longest such track in Asia.
- NATRAX, developed in an area of 1000 acres of land, is a one stop solution for all sorts of high speed performance tests for widest categories of vehicles from 2 wheelers to heavy tractor trailers.
- It is 11.3 km world class high speed track.
- The NATRAX centre has multiple test capabilities like measurements of maximum speed, acceleration, constant speed fuel consumption, emission tests through real road driving simulation, high speed handling and stability evaluation during manoeuvred such as lane change, high speed durability testing, etc. and is a Centre of excellence for Vehicle Dynamics.
- HST is used for measuring the maximum speed capability of high-end cars like BMW, Mercedes, Audi, Ferrari, Lamborghini, Tesla and so forth which cannot be measured on any of the Indian test tracks.
- Being centrally located in Madhya Pradesh, it is accessible to most of the major OEMs.
- Foreign OEMs will be looking at NATRAX HST for the development of prototype cars for Indian conditions.
- At present, foreign OEMs go to their respective high speed track abroad for high speed test requirements.
- It is one stop solution for all sorts of high speed performance tests, being one of the largest in the world.
- It can cater to widest category of vehicles; say from two wheelers to the heaviest tractor trailers.
- Vehicle can achieve max speed of 375 Kmph on curves with steering control and it has less banking on ovals making it also one of the safest test track globally.



Bhopal in top 10, Pune jumps to 4th spot in NewsOnAir Radio Live-stream India Rankings

Question- In which of the following city All India Radio live-streams on NewsOnAir App are most popular?

(a) Bhopal (b) Lucknow (c) Pune (d) Chennai

Ans. (c)

Related Facts-

- In the latest Rankings of top cities in India where All India Radio Live-streams on NewsOnAir App are most popular, we have Bhopal as the newcomer in the top 10, while Lucknow is out.
- Chennai has displaced Hyderabad to take the third spot, while Pune and Bengaluru have retained their first and second positions respectively.
- Hyderabad slides to number 4.
- In major changes in rankings of top AIR Streams in India, AIR Pune has moved 3 positions up from rank 7 to rank 4.
- In quite a significant fall, FM Rainbow Delhi has slipped from 5th to 9th position. FM Rainbow Kochi is the new entrant, while FM Rainbow Mumbai is no more in the top 10.
- More than 240 Radio Services of All India Radio are live-streamed on NewsOnAir App, Prasar Bharati's official App.
- These All India Radio Streams on NewsOnAir App have a large number of listeners not just in India, but globally, in more than 85 countries and 8000 cities across the globe.



Reference- <https://www.pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1731201>.

Project Seabird

Question: Consider the following statements:

(1) Project Seabird is a naval infrastructure project for India.

(2) Project Seabird involves a naval base INS Kadamba at Karwar in Kerala.

Of the above correct statement/s is/are:

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

Answer: (a)

Related facts:

- On 24 June 2021, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh visited the Karwar Naval Base in Karnataka to review the progress of ongoing infrastructure development under 'Project Seabird-Phase IIA'.
- As of Defence Minister, Project Seabird will be Asia's largest Naval Base.
- It will house various warships and aircraft carrier to further strengthen the operational readiness of the Armed Forces.
- The new expanded naval support will enable several major warships and submarines and yard crafts.
- INS Kadamba is an Indian Navy base located near Karwar in Karnataka on the west coast of India.



Background:

- The first phase of construction of the base, code-named Project Seabird, was completed in 2005 and the base was commissioned on 31 May 2005.
- Development of Phase II commenced in 2011.
- INS Kadamba is currently the third largest Indian naval base, and is expected to become the largest naval base in the eastern hemisphere after completion of expansion Phase IIB.

Links:

<https://pib.gov.in/PressReleaseDetailm.aspx?PRID=1730082>

PM Narendra Modi inaugurates Zen Garden and Kaizen Academy

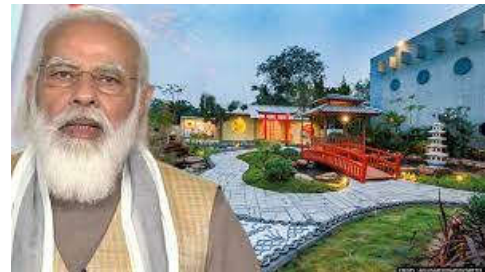
Question: Where did PM Narendra Modi inaugurate a Zen Garden and Kaizen Academy on June 27 2021?

(a) Ahmedabad (b) Surat (c) Pune (d) Mumbai

Answer: (a)

Related facts:

- On 27 June 2021, Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated a Zen Garden and Kaizen Academy at AMA, Ahmedabad.
- It is a joint endeavour of the Japan Information and Study Centre at AMA and Indo-Japan Friendship Association (IJFA), Gujarat, supported by the Hyogo International Association (HIA), Japan.
- Zen in Japan is similar to Dhyana in India.
- The project is a showcase of shared culture of two countries.
- PM Narendra Modi elaborated on his vision of creating a 'Mini-Japan' in Gujarat.
- Prime Minister also informed about Japan Plus mechanism in the PMO.
- **About Japan Plus:**
- The Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade, Ministry of Commerce & Industry, Government of India, set up "Japan Plus", a special management team to facilitate and fast track investment proposals from Japan to achieve this goal.
- Japan Plus is operational from 8th October, 2014. It comprises representatives from Government of India and representatives from Government of Japan.
- Presently Japan Plus is functioning from Vigyan Bhawan, New Delhi.



Links:

<https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1730671>

National Portal for Transgender Persons

Question: Consider the following statements:

(1) Transgender ID is issued by District Magistrate without any medical examination

(2) Getting Transgender Certificate and Identity Cards as per their self-perceived identity is an important provision of The Transgender Persons (Protection of Rights) Act, 2019.

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:

- According to Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment, in just over six months after its launch, the Centre's national portal for issuing certificates of identity to transgender persons has issued 1,557 certificates as of June 16, 2021.



- The National Portal for Transgender Persons was launched in November 2020 by the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment.
- It has been developed within 2 months of Notification of Transgender Persons (Protection of Rights) Rules, 2020 on 29 September, 2020.
- This Portal would help a transgender person in applying for a Certificate and Identity card digitally from anywhere in the country.
- The most important benefit is that it helps the transgender person to get the I-Card without any physical interface and without having to visit any office. Through the Portal, they can monitor the status of their application that ensures transparency in the process.
- Getting Transgender Certificate and Identity Cards as per their self-perceived identity is an important provision of The Transgender Persons (Protection of Rights) Act, 2019.

Links:

<https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/centres-transgender-id-portal-now-available-in-regional-languages/article34858548.ece>

INS Vikrant

Question: India's first indigenous aircraft carrier which is planned to be commissioned in 2022 will be rechristened as

(a) INS Vikrant (b) INS Vikramaditya (c) INS Vishal (d) INS Arihant

Answer: (a)

Related facts:

- On 25 June 2021, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh reviewed the progress of construction of first Indigenous Aircraft Carrier (IAC) at Kochi, Kerala.
- He informed that that India's first Indigenous Aircraft Carrier (IAC-I), is planned to be commissioned by 2022.
- After the induction into Navy, the carrier will be rechristened as INS Vikrant, in memory of India's first aircraft carrier.
- The carrier is being built by M/s Cochin Shipyard Ltd under a public-private partnership.
- **About the IAC-I:**
 - India's first Indigenous Aircraft Carrier (IAC-I) comprises nearly 75 per cent of indigenous content from design, to steel used in construction, to key weapons and sensors.
 - The IAC-1 will undergo a series of sea trials before its commissioning into Navy.
 - Vikrant is 262 metres (860 ft) long and 62 metres (203 ft) wide, and displaces about 40,000 metric tons (39,000 long tons).
 - The ship shall operate MiG-29K fighter aircraft, Kamov-31 Air Early Warning Helicopters, the soon to be inducted MH-60R multi-role helicopter and the indigenously manufactured Advanced Light Helicopters.
 - Currently, Indian Navy is operating an aircraft carrier INS Vikramaditya purchased from Russia since 2014.
 - Addressing during his visit to Karwar Naval Base in Karnataka, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh expressed that Indian Navy will become one of the top three Navies in the world in coming years.



Links:

<https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1730269>

Goa becomes India's first rabies free state

Question: Which is the first rabies free state in India?

(a) Goa (b) Odisha (c) Kerala (d) Tamil Nadu

Answer: (a)

Related facts:

- On 23 June 2021, Chief Minister Dr. Pramod Sawant announced that Goa has become the India's first Rabies free state.
- The state hasn't report a single rabies case in last three years i.e. since 2018.
- This huge achievement came through the Mission Rabies, a statewide drive since 2014.
- The state has achieved 5,40,593 vaccinations against the rabies in dogs and educated nearly a lakh people in dog bite prevention across Goa as well as set up 24-hours rabies surveillance involving an emergency hotline and rapid response team for dog bite victims
- **About Rabies:**
 - Rabies is a fatal viral disease that spread to people through an animal bite (zoonotic disease) for example stray dog, bat, cat, monkey, etc.
 - It is caused by a Ribonucleic Acid (RNA) virus that is present in the saliva of a rabid animal.
 - This virus belongs to a family called Rhabdoviridae.
 - The virus affects the central nervous system and ultimately resulting in death.



Links:

<https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/india/goa-is-first-rabies-free-state-in-the-country-cm/articleshow/83776388.cms>

Additional USAID's additional assistance for India to respond to the COVID-19 Pandemic

Question: Additional assistance of what amount is being provided by the US Agency for International Development (USAID) to help India respond to the COVID-19 pandemic?

a) \$51 million b) \$41 million c) \$21 million d) None of these

Answer: (b)

Related Facts:-

- On 28 June 2021; United States of America has announced an additional USD 41 million assistance to help India respond to the COVID-19 pandemic.
- This aid is being provided to strengthen the country's preparedness for the future health emergencies.
- US till now has provided the total aid of more than USD 200 million including with this USD 41 million assistance at present.
- In April and May, India struggled with the second wave of the COVID-19 pandemic with more than 3, 00,000 daily new cases.
- There were huge shortage of medical oxygen and beds in most of the Hospitals during those tough times.
- US Agency for International Development (USAID) said India came to the assistance of the United States during this country's time of need.
- Now the United States stands with the people of India as they continue to battle the COVID-19 pandemic.
- USAID's assistance will support access to COVID-19 testing, pandemic-related mental health services, timely referrals to medical services.
- It will help to provide access to healthcare in remote areas.



- USAID is the independent agency of the US federal government primarily responsible for administering civilian foreign aid and development assistance.

Links:-

<https://www.financialexpress.com/economy/us-announces-usd-41-million-additional-covid-19-assistance-to-india/2280312/>

Indian Hotels' iconic Taj named Strongest Hotel Brand in the World

Question- Which of the following hotel brand has been rated the 'Strongest Hotel brand in the world'?

(a) Taj Brand (b) Sarovar Brand (c) Oberai Brand (d) Royal Brand

Ans. (a)

Related Facts-

- Indian Hotels Company (IHCL), South Asia's largest hospitality company, announced that its iconic brand, Taj, has been rated the Strongest Hotel Brand in the World by Brand Finance, the world's leading brand valuation consultancy in its annual 'Hotels 50 2021' report.
- This report recognizes the most valuable and strongest hotel brands across the globe.
- Taj received an overall Brand Strength Index of 89.3 out of 100, with a corresponding AAA rating for customer familiarity, employee satisfaction and corporate reputation as well as its world-class customer service.
- The Hotel 50 2021 report also highlighted the company's successful implementation of its R.E.S.E.T 2020 strategy, which provided a transformative framework, helping the Taj brand surmount pandemic related challenges.



Reference- https://www.business-standard.com/article/companies/indian-hotels-iconic-taj-named-strongest-hotel-brand-in-the-world-121062600262_1.html.

Statistics Day will be celebrated on June 29

Question- Which of the following person birth anniversary is celebrated as 'Statistics Day'?

(a) Prof. P C Mahalanobis (b) Prof. J P Mehta (c) Prof. C R Rao (d) Prof. S N Roy

Ans. (a)

Related Facts-

- The Government has been celebrating the Statistics Day, to popularise the use of Statistics in everyday life and sensitise the public as to how Statistics helps in shaping and framing policies.
- Statistics day is celebrated on the birth anniversary of Late Prof. P C Mahalanobis, on 29th June, in recognition of his invaluable contribution in establishing the National Statistical System.
- The theme of Statistics Day, 2021 is Sustainable Development Goal (SDG)- 2 (End Hunger, Achieve Food Security and Improved Nutrition and Promote Sustainable Agriculture).



Reference- <https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1730815>.

MCA expands Small firm definition, raises turnover and borrowing limits

Question- Consider the following statements regarding the new definition of Small and Medium Companies?

(1) SMCs are unlisted companies

(2) They have a turnover of up to 250 crore and the borrowing up to 50 crore

(3) Banks, financial institutions, insurance companies and listed companies cannot be classified as SMCs

Select the correct answer using the code given below-

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

Ans. (c)

Related Facts-

- The Ministry of Corporate Affairs has expanded the definition of small and medium companies (SMC), raising their turnover and borrowing limits.
- As per new definition, small and medium companies as unlisted entities which are not banks, financial institutions or insurance firms.
- The Corporate Affairs Ministry has increased the turnover threshold for SMCs to Rs 250 crore from Rs 50 crore, and the borrowing threshold to Rs 50 crore from Rs 10 crore.
- SMCs are permitted to avail a number of exemptions under the Company (Accounting Standards) Rules 2021 to reduce the complexity of regulatory filings for smaller firms.
- Banks, financial institutions, insurance companies and listed companies cannot be classified as SMCs.
- Further, any company which is either the holding company or subsidiary of a company that is not an SMC cannot be classified as an SMC.
- SMC are completely exempted from having to file cash flow statements and provide a segmental break up of their financial performance in mandatory filings.





RAISING THE BAR New thresholds for small and medium companies (SMCs)

ILLUSTRATION: AJAY MOHANTY

- ▶ Turnover not exceeding **₹250 crore, up from ₹50 crore**
- ▶ Borrowings not more than **₹50 crore, up from ₹10 crore**
- ▶ An SMC cannot be a bank, financial institution or an insurance company

Reference- https://www.business-standard.com/article/companies/mca-expands-small-firm-definition-raises-turnover-and-borrowing-limits-121062400055_1.html.

DRDO successfully tests new generation nuclear capable missile Agni-P

Question- Consider the following statements about Agni- P(Prime) –

(1) It is a new generation nuclear capable ballistic missile

(2) Its range capability is between 1,000 to 2,000 kms.

Select the correct answer using the code given below-

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

Ans. (c)

Related Facts-

- Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) successfully flight tested a New Generation Nuclear Capable Ballistic Missile Agni P from Dr APJ Abdul Kalam island off the coast of Balasore, Odisha on June 28, 2021.
- The missile followed text book trajectory, meeting all mission objectives with high level of accuracy.
- **About Agni P-**
- Agni P is a new generation advanced variant of Agni class of missile.
- It is a canisterised missile with range capability between 1,000 and 2,000 kms.
- It can be launched from rail and road and stored for a longer period.
- It can be transported across the length and breadth of the country, as per requirements.
- It also comes with the technologies found in the 4000-kilometre range Agni-IV and 5000-kilometre range Agni-V.
- The new Agni P can be used to target enemy warships in the Indo-Pacific.
- Agni I, India's first intermediate-range ballistic missile, was successfully test-fired for the first time in May 1989. It was inducted into service in 2004. It has a range capability between 700 and 900 kms.



Reference- <https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1730828>.

Hemis Festival

Question: in which of the following state of India Hemis Festival is organised every year in June/July?

a) Jammu & Kashmir b) Ladakh c) Himachal Pradesh d) None of these

Answer: (b)

Related Facts

- From 20th to 21 June 2021 Hemis Festival in Ladakh was celebrated in the state of Ladakh.
- This festival is celebrated annually on the 10th day of the Tse-Chu, Lunar month of the Tibetan Calendar.
- The 2-day fiesta marks the birth anniversary of Guru Padmasambhava. On this day.
- Hemis Monastery is adorned beautifully to host the ceremony.
- The colorful festival showcases the beautiful handicrafts of the area.
- Natives also dress up in lovely traditional attires and gather in the courtyard of Hemis Monastery.
- It should be known that Hemis Monastery is the biggest Buddhist Monastery of Ladakh.
- Lamas dance around central flagpole to the tunes of drums, cymbals and long horns. The otherwise cold-barren desert comes to life during Hemis Festival.
- Hemis Festival in Ladakh is one of the important Buddhist festivals, which is not only famous amongst locals but also attended by a large number of tourists.
- This jubilant celebration is a perfect way to witness the grand display of Tibetan Buddhism in India.
- As a festival that promotes brotherhood, the festival combines entertainment, history, culture, and spirituality to offer a heavenly experience.
- The land of the Lamas comes alive to celebrate an age-old history that marks their identity.



Links:-

<https://www.tourism-of-india.com/events-festival/hemis-festival.html>

Deforestation in Kerala

Question : Kerala is in limelight for massive deforestation in recently(June 2021). Accordingly, which of the following statement is correct ?

1. Government order was issued on 17-8-2017 and 24-10-2020 giving permission to cut down any trees from patta lands as well as forest land.
2. The Kerala Preservation of Trees Act 1986 restricts felling of trees in notified areas and there is restriction for cutting any trees in patta lands.
3. Mangroves, coffee and cardamom plantations are considered as notified areas.

Options —

A.Only 1. B.Only 2. C.Only 3. D.All above

Answer : D

Related facts —



- Kerala is in limelight for massive deforestation in recently(June 2021).
- On June 15 a highly respected conservator of forests in the State known for his passion towards preserving nature writing to Prime Minister Narendra Modi asking for a Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) probe into the controversy.
- It is noteworthy that there has been a massive deforestation drive in the fragile forests of Kerala, which witnessed the illegal felling of rare varieties of trees on a large scale.
- **Background & controversy —**
 - Government order was issued on 17-8-2017 and 24-10-2020 giving permission to cut down any trees from patta lands as well as forest land.
 - In a backdrop of this order there has been a massive illegal felling of trees from the reserve forests as well as from de-notified forest land which was offered to the tribals on the condition tat they would not touch the trees in the concerned land.
 - This deforestation drive covered notified areas, patta land, mangroves, coffee and cardamom plantations.
 - The Kerala Preservation of Trees Act 1986 restricts felling of trees in notified areas and there is restriction for cutting any trees in patta lands.
 - Mangroves, coffee and cardamom plantations are considered as notified areas.

Link:

<https://www.dailypioneer.com/2021/india/conservator-writes-to-pm-about-kerala-s-largest-ever-forest-loot.html>

Atlas on General Elections 2019

Question : The Election Commission of India has recently(June 2021) released an atlas on General Elections 2019. How much thematic maps and tables it consists ?

- A. 42 thematic maps and 90 tables B. 32 thematic maps and 80 tables
C. 22 thematic maps and 70 tables D. 52 thematic maps and 60 tables

Ans. A.

Related facts —

- Chief Election Commissioner, Shri Sushil Chandra along with Election Commissioner Shri Rajiv Kumar and Election Commissioner Shri Anup Chandra Pandey released 'General Elections 2019 – An Atlas' on June 15, 2021.

- The Atlas encompasses all the data and statistical figures of this monumental event. It has 42 thematic maps and 90 tables depicting various facets of the elections.
- The Atlas also shares interesting facts, anecdotes and legal provisions related to the Indian elections.
- Since the first General Elections in 1951-52, the Commission has been publishing compilation of electoral data in the form of narrative and statistical books.
- 17th General Elections conducted in 2019 were the largest democratic exercise in human history which witnessed the participation of 61.468 crore voters at 10.378 lakh polling stations spread over 32 lakh square kilometer territory of India.
- The Atlas brings out salient features such as data of the 23 States and Uts where women voting percentage was more than the male voting percentage; information about the largest & smallest parliamentary constituency in terms of electors, candidates and performance of political parties amongst other parameters.
- The Atlas depicts the electors data in different categories and through various comparison charts like Elector Gender Ratio and electors in different age categories.
- The 2019 General Elections witnessed the lowest gender gap in the history of Indian elections. The Elector Gender Ratio which has shown a positive trend since 1971 was 926 in 2019 General Elections.
- The Atlas also compares the average number of electors per polling station in different states during 2014 & 2019 General Elections.
- The Election Commission of India set up over 10 lakh polling stations in General Elections 2019 with the lowest number of electors per polling station (365) in Arunachal Pradesh.
- Amongst the various other categories, the atlas compares the number of contesting candidates in the General Elections since 1951.
- In the 2019 General Elections, there were 8054 qualified contesting candidates after rejection of nominations & withdrawals from a total of 11692 nominations filed across the country.



Link:

<https://pib.gov.in/PressReleaselframePage.aspx?PRID=1728136>

Brand 'Chhattisgarh Herbals'

Question : Chhattisgarh's herbal products are now available on which E-commerce company ?

(A) Amazon (B) Flipkart (C) Groffers (D) None of the above

Ans. (A)

Related facts—

- Chhattisgarh's herbal products are now available on Amazon under the brand name 'Chhattisgarh Herbals'.
- Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel on Saturday(26 June) became the first online customer by ordering 'Forest Honey'.
- 'Van Honey' is prepared by women self-help groups.
- Many products like Forest Honey, Organic Bastar Cashew, Chironji and Mahua Laddu are now available on Amazon.
- Chhattisgarh State Minor Forest Produce Association —
- This is an initiative by Chhattisgarh State Minor Forest Produce Association.



- The Chhattisgarh State Minor Forest Produce Association has collaborated with Amazon to encourage women entrepreneurs under the Saheli programme.
- Through Amazon these products will get a bigger market and recognition across the country.

Link:

<https://www.dailypioneer.com/2021/state-editions/c-garh-herbal-products-on-amazon-cm-orders—forest-honey—.html>

Development of National Highways in Haryana

Question:How much amount of projects have been sanctioned for the development of National Highways in Haryana ?

(a)Rs 6,393.32 cr (b)Rs4,393.32cr (c)Rs3,393.32cr (d)Rs5,393.32cr

Answer- a

Related facts —

- Union Minister for Road Transport and Highways Nitin Gadkari has recently(June 2021) sanctioned 11 projects of Rs 6,393.32 cr for development of National Highways in Haryana.



Key points —

1. Isamailabad Narnaul Expressway :-The Haryana CM assured the Union Minister that support for taking possession of land at village Khatiwas in Charkhi Dadri District for construction of Isamailabad Narnaul Expressway will be provided.
2. DND-Sohana Expressway :- He also assured to remove encroachments on Faridabad bypass so that construction of DND-Sohana Expressway is expedited.
3. Vehicular Underpass (VUP) on Panipat – Jalandhar National Highway No. 44 (Old NH-1) :- The union minister directed NHAI to construct the VUP at the earliest.
4. Declaration of Pehowa-Kurukshetra- road upto NH-44 as National Highway :- On the proposed project of declaration of Pehowa-Kurukshetra- road upto NH-44 as National Highway and construction of Kurukshetra Bypass, the member (Projects) NHAI intimated that the corridor was declared as “in-principle” National Highway and is yet to be declared as NH due to pending policy decision on “in-principle” NHs. The Union Minister directed NHAI to include the project in Bharatmala Phase-II including Kurukshetra bypass.
5. Construction of a new National Highway :- On the project of Construction of a new National Highway starting from Faridabad bypass and ending at EPE interchange near Chainsa village, Gadkari directed NHAI to examine the feasibility of construction of this new road.

Link:

<https://www.dailypioneer.com/2021/state-editions/gadkari-sanctions-11-projects-of-rs-6-393-32-cr-for-haryana-after-meeting-cm.html>

Attractive incentive policy to promote use of EVs(Electric Vehicles)

Question : Which state would offer to attractive incentives to promote use of Electric Vehicles?

(a)Haryana (b)MP (c)UP (d)Maharashtra

Answer : (a)

Related facts—

- Haryana would offer to attractive incentives to promote use of Electric Vehicles (EVs).
- Haryana Government has proposed to waive off road tax, registration fee, state toll tax and provide an incentive of upto at least Rs one lakh for new vehicles.
- **Policy —**
- The draft electric vehicle policy chalked out by the State Government to provide the much needed impetus to the electric mobility sector and reduce carbon emissions, is also aimed at generating employment in Haryana.
- The electric vehicle (EV) draft policy has proposed 100 percent exemption of road tax on EVs purchased within Haryana state, applicable over the period of the validity of policy.
- The state will also exempt SGST on purchase of EVs manufactured within the state under certain conditions.
- **Other proposed incentives —**
- Other proposed incentives include 100 percent interest free loans to the State Government employees for purchase of EVs in the state, exemption from paying state toll tax, 30 percent subsidy on road price of EVs in form of reimbursement directly to the buyer in the state on purchase of EVs and to the financier, if the electric vehicle is hypothecated, the dealers of EVs (non-transport) will be exempted from submitting of bank guarantee of Rs one lakh for Online Dealer Point Registration in the state and the EVs will also be registered on priority basis with a minimum token fee of Rs 100.
- Under its ambitious policy, the State Government has proposed to convert 100 percent of bus fleet owned by State Transport Undertakings in Haryana into electric buses (battery electric vehicles or fuel cell EVs) by 2029, with the first phase of 100 percent conversion of bus fleet in Gurugram and Faridabad by 2024.
- **Charging infra —**
- For developing charging infra, the draft policy has planned installation of charging infrastructure every 50 km on highways, other major roads in the state.
- The government buildings will prepare a roadmap to set up charging or swapping stations in all of its parking spaces while all petrol pumps will be asked to have charging stations and battery banks.
- An extra incentive for a period of six months from the date of issuance of policy is proposed to be provided to the buyers who intend to purchase e-rickshaw or carts, electric cars below Rs 10 lakh and above Rs 10 lakh.
- It has been proposed to issue these buyers incentive coupons of upto at least Rs one lakh.



Link:

<https://www.dailypioneer.com/2021/state-editions/hry-to-offer-attractive-incentives-to-promote-use-of-evs.html>

Ambedkar Cultural Centre

Question : Which State Government has decided to set up an Ambedkar Cultural Centre ?

(A) Up (B) Mp (C) Bihar (D) Maharashtra

Answer : (a)

Related facts —

- UP government has recently (June 2021) decided to set up an Ambedkar Cultural Centre.
- **Location & date —**

- It will be setup close to Aishbagh (Eidgah) in Lucknow.
- President Ram Nath Kovind is expected to lay the foundation for the Ambedkar Cultural Centre at a programme scheduled to be held in Lok Bhawan (Lucknow) on June 29.

▪ **Fact —**

- This will be the second such centre after BSP president Mayawati constructed a sprawling Ambedkar Memorial spread in over 40 acres at Gomti Nagar area of Lucknow in 1995.
- The Ambedkar Cultural Centre will have a 25 feet high statue of Dr BR Ambedkar along with landscaping and will be spread over 5,493.52 sq metres in government land opposite Aishbagh Idgah.
- The UP government has decided to provide land free of cost for the Ambedkar Centre.



Uttar Pradesh: Declaration of new hub of fruit and vegetable export

Question – Which cities have UP government decided to turn into the new hub of vegetable and fruit exports?

- (a) Varanasi and Amroha (b) Shravasti & Bahraich (c) Saharanpur & Meerut
(d) None of the above

Answer – (a)

Related facts —

- UP government has recently (June 2021) decided to turn Varanasi and Amroha into the new hub of vegetable and fruit exports.
- **Objective —**
- This move is a part of a larger goal to increase farmers' income.
- **Implementation —**
- The project will be actualised through integrated pack houses being built in Varanasi and Amroha to facilitate export of popular farm products of the region.
- The construction work is expected to be complete by the end of the year.
- **Other pack houses —**
- Later, similar pack houses will be set up in Pratapgarh, Bareilly, Gorakhpur, Prayagraj, Lakhimpur Kheri, Shahjahanpur, Ayodhya, Jhansi and Aligarh.
- With the commissioning of these integrated pack houses, the income of farmers of 13 districts adjoining Varanasi and seven districts adjacent to Amroha will increase substantially.
- Also Varanasi and Amroha will come to be known across the country as the new hub of vegetable and fruit exports.



Link:

<https://m.patrika.com/amp-news/lucknow-news/varanasi-and-amroha-will-become-hub-of-vegetable-fruit-export-6916446/>

Innovation in Judiciary : Accessibility of captchas to physically disabled people

Question : Which of the following is a recent(June 2021) innovation in the Indian Judiciary system?

- (a) All High Court websites now have captchas accessible to physically disabled people
 (b) beginning of e-stamping (c) Beginning of paperless prosecution
 (d) None of the above

Answer – (a)

Related facts —

- All High Court websites now have captchas accessible to physically disabled people
- This is a recent (June 2021) innovation in the Indian Judiciary system.
- These captchas serve as entry points to access several essential facets of a court website, such as judgments/orders, cause-lists and checking the status of cases.
- Many High Court websites were hitherto exclusively using visual captchas inaccessible to the visually challenged, making it impossible for them to access such content independently.
- In coordination with all High Courts, the e-Committee has now ensured that visual captchas are accompanied by text/ audio captchas making the website content accessible to the visually challenged.
- **Background —**
- In a letter dated 16th December 2020, the Chairperson of the e-Committee, Dr Justice D.Y. Chandrachud, exhorted all High Courts to make their digital infrastructure accessible to persons with disabilities in conformity with the constitutional and statutory entitlements of the disabled.
- The letter contained a series of structural interventions for all High Courts to undertake in this regard.
- Pursuant to this letter, the e-Committee formulated an action plan to ensure the accessibility of the digital interface of all High Courts' websites in Phase 1 of this project.
- Another significant initiative —
- Another significant initiative undertaken by the e-Committee in collaboration with NIC is creating a judgment search portal (<https://judgments.ecourts.gov.in>) accessible to persons with disabilities.
- The portal contains judgements and final orders passed by all High Courts.
- The portal uses a free text search engine. In addition, the portal provides the facility of using an audio captcha, along with a text captcha.
- It also uses accessible combo boxes, making it easier for the visually disabled to navigate the website.
- The e-Committee's training programmes for Lawyers also sensitise Advocates to adopt accessible filing practices.

Link:

<https://www.pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1730627>

India Smart Cities Awards 2020

Question- Consider the following statements regarding Smart City Awards 2020-

(1) Uttar Pradesh was ranked as top performing state under India Smart Cities Award Contest 2020.

(2) Best union territory award was conferred to Chandigarh

(3) Surat and Indore won best award for their overall performance in 2020

Select the correct answer using the code given below-

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

Ans. (c)

Related Facts-

- On June 25, 2021, the Central government has declared Smart City awards 2020 in which Indore (Madhya Pradesh) and Surat (Gujarat) won the award jointly for their overall development.
- Whereas Uttar Pradesh emerged on the top among all states, followed by Madhya Pradesh and Tamil Nadu under the Smart City award, 2020.
- Best union territory award was conferred to Chandigarh.
- The Smart City awards were given across the themes of Social Aspects, Governance, Culture, Urban Environment, Sanitation, Economy, Built Environment, Water, Urban Mobility.
- According to the ministry, Ahmedabad bagged the 'Smart Cities Leadership Award', followed by Varanasi and Ranchi in the second and third spots respectively.
- **List of winning Smart Cities under the different categories-**



1. **Social Aspects-**

Tirupati: Health Benchmark for Municipal Schools

Bhubaneswar: Socially Smart Bhubaneswar

Tumakuru: Digital Library Solution

2. **Governance-**

Vadodara-GIS

Thane: Digi Thane

Bhubaneswar: ME app

3. **Culture**

Indore: Conservation of Heritage

Chandigarh: Capitol Complex, Heritage

Gwalior: Digital Museum

4. **Urban Environment**

Bhopal: Clean energy

Chennai: Restoration of water bodies

Tirupati: Renewable Energy Generation

5. **Sanitation**

Tirupati: Bioremediation & Bio-Mining

Indore: Municipal Waste Management System

Surat: Conservation through Treated Wastewater

6. **Economy**

Indore: Carbon Credit Financing Mechanism

Tirupati: Boost Local Identity & Economy through Design Studio

Agra: Micro Skill Development Centre

7. **Built Environment**

Indore: Chappan Dukan

Surat: Canal Corridor

8. **Water**

Dehradun: Smart Water Metering Water ATM

Varanasi: Eco-Restoration of Assi River

Surat: Integrated and Sustainable Water Supply System

9. **Urban Mobility**

Aurangabad: Majhi Smart Buses

Surat: Dynamic Scheduling Buses

Ahmedabad: Man-less parking system and automatic ticket dispensing machines

10. **Innovative Idea Award**

Indore: Carbon Credit Financing Mechanism

11. Covid Innovation Award-
Kalyan-Dombivali and Varanasi

Reference- <https://www.livemint.com/news/india/centre-releases-full-list-of-smart-cities-awards-2020-winners-check-details-11624640795296.html>.

SBI launches Aarogyam healthcare business loan

Question- Which of the following bank has launched the Aarogyam healthcare business loan?

(a) SBI (b) IDBI (c) PNB (d) HDFC

Ans. (a)

Related Facts-

- On June 24, 2021, the country's largest lender State Bank of India (SBI) has launched a new business loan scheme 'Aarogyam Loan' for the healthcare sector to extend loan support in view of the novel coronavirus pandemic.
- The new loans may be availed by way of Cash Credit, Term loan, bank guarantee, letter of credit etc.
- Under this new scheme, entire healthcare ecosystem such as hospitals, nursing homes, diagnostic centres, pathology labs, manufacturers, suppliers, importers, logistic firms engaged in critical healthcare supply can avail of loans up to Rs. 100 crore, repayable in 10 years.
- The Aarogyam Loan can be availed either as a term loan to support expansion/modernization or as working capital facilities such as cash credit, bank guarantee/letter of credit.
- In metro centres loans under Aarogyam can be availed up to Rs100 crore, Tier I and Urban centres up to ₹20 crore and in Tier II to Tier VI centres up to ₹10 crore.
- Moreover, the beneficiary availing the loan of up to ₹2 crore will not be required to offer any collateral or security to the bank as this will be covered under the guarantee scheme of Credit Guarantee Fund Trust for Micro and Small Enterprises (CGTMSE).



Reference- <https://www.livemint.com/industry/banking/sbi-launches-new-business-loan-scheme-for-healthcare-sector-details-here-11624535579100.html>.

Rajasthan set to get its fourth tiger reserve

Question- Which of the following wildlife sanctuary is going to become a tiger reserve?

- (a) Ramgarh Vishdhari Wildlife sanctuary
(b) Gajner Wildlife sanctuary
(c) Bharatpur Wildlife sanctuary
(d) Sajjangerh Wildlife sanctuary

Ans. (a)

Related Facts-

- The Rajasthan government has approached the National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA) to develop Ramgarh Vishdhari sanctuary in Bundi as the fourth tiger reserve.
- The Rajasthan government had first announced in 2020 the plan to develop the sanctuary as a tiger reserve to provide additional habitat to Ranthambore tigers, improve ecosystem and strengthen tourism in its budget last year.



- Rajasthan has three tiger reserves with over 90 big cats at Ranthambore Tiger Reserve (RTR) in Sawai Madhopur, Sariska Tiger Reserve (STR) in Alwar, and Mukundra Hills Tiger Reserve (MHTR) in Kota.
- The Ramgarh Vishdhari sanctuary is spread across 1,071 sq km, of which 302 sq km will be made critical tiger habitat of the tiger reserve and the rest, into a buffer zone.
- To strengthen the prey base, the state had already approved shifting of chital (spotted deer) from Ghana Bird Sanctuary (Karauli) to MHTR, Keoladeo National Park, and Ramgarh Vishdhari.

Reference- <https://www.hindustantimes.com/cities/jaipur-news/upgrade-ramgarh-vishdhari-sanctuary-into-4th-tiger-reserve-rajasthan-to-ntca-101622635508773.html>.

India Wind Energy Market Outlook 2025

Question- According to the “India Wind Energy Market Outlook 2025” report released by the Global Wind Energy Council and Make Intelligence in June 2021, how much GW of wind energy capacity will India install during 2021 – 2025 ?

(a) 20 GW (b) 45 GW (c) 15 GW (d) 30 GW

Answer—(a)

related facts

- According to the “India Wind Energy Market Outlook 2025” report released by the Global Wind Energy Council and Make Intelligence in June 2021, India will install 20 GW of wind energy capacity during 2021 – 2025.
- A new report, India Wind Energy Market Outlook 2025, jointly released on June 10 by the Global Wind Energy Council (GWEC) and MEC Intelligence (MEC+) finds that India, the world’s fourth-largest wind power market, is expected to add nearly 20.2 GW of new wind power capacity between 2021-2025.
- This would increase the country’s 39.2 GW wind market by nearly 50% and is a clear signal that the market is beginning to bounce back after a slow-down in recent years.
- Although 2020 was originally forecasted to be a break-out year for wind power in India with a large pipeline and multiple policy interventions to ease bottlenecks, the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic was much more severe than anticipated.
- Forecasts expected the country to install 3.3 GW of wind power in 2020, but ultimately only 1.1 GW was installed, with the remaining capacity either being pushed into 2021 or dropped by developers.
- However, the report finds that the pace of new installations is likely to double over the next two to three years compared to the average annual installations since 2017 when the market began to slow down.
- India currently has a pipeline of projects of 10.3 GW in both central and state tenders, which are expected to drive installations until 2023.
- The market post-2023 will likely be driven by nearly 10 GW of new capacity awarded to wind projects, mainly through hybrid projects which are becoming increasingly important for the country’s ‘round-the-clock’ power initiative.
- Going forward, greater consensus and coordination between central and state governments around wind targets, supply chain utilisation, and the definition of a clear market roadmap are some of the key actions needed to put India on a pathway to meet its decarbonisation and renewable energy goals.

Link:

<https://gwec.net/indias-wind-market-set-to-bounce-back-with-nearly-50-growth-over-next-five-years/>

India and World Bank signs USD 32 million loan

Question: Government of India has signed a \$32 million loan agreement with World Bank for improving Healthcare Systems in which north-eastern state?

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

Answer: (a)

Related facts:

- The Government of India, along with the Government of Mizoram has signed a \$32 million loan agreement with World Bank for Mizoram Health Systems Strengthening Project.
- The project aims to improve the management capacity and quality of health services in Mizoram, particularly for the benefit of under-served areas and vulnerable groups.
- **Project benefits:**
 - The project will strengthen the governance and the management structure of the Department of Health and Family Welfare (DoHFW) and its subsidiaries, improve the quality and coverage of services delivered by the state government health systems, and invest in a comprehensive Quality Assurance program which would enable quality certification of health facilities.
 - The Mizoram Health Systems Strengthening Project will benefit the people across all eight districts of the state.
 - It will also benefit health sector staff, specifically at the secondary and primary levels, by strengthening their planning and management capacity along with building their clinical skills and competencies.



THE WORLD BANK

Links:

<https://www.worldbank.org/en/news/press-release/2021/03/31/new-world-bank-project-to-improve-healthcare-services-in-mizoram-india>

Cochin airport gets global award for quality of service

Question: Which Indian airport has won Airport Council International's Roll of Excellence honour?

(a) Indira Gandhi International Airport (b) Cochin International Airport
(c) Chaudhary Charan Singh Airport (d) Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj International Airport

Answer: (b)

Related facts:

- On 23 June 2021, Cochin International Airport Ltd (CIAL) has won the Airport Council International Roll of Excellence honour.
- CIAL has been recognized for delivering the quality of service. It has won multiple Airport Service Quality awards over five years during the past 10 years.
- CIAL is one of the six airports worldwide to receive the recognition this year.
- **About ACI:**
 - Airports Council International (ACI) is a global body of airport operators founded in 1991.
 - ACI has its headquarters in Montreal, Canada.



Links:

<https://www.hindustantimes.com/india-news/cochin-airport-gets-global-award-for-quality-of-service-101624504124913.html>

Ashirbad Scheme

Question: Which state has launched a new scheme 'Ashirbad' for the education and health of Covid orphans?

(a) Madhya Pradesh (b) Uttar Pradesh (c) Uttarakhand (d) Odisha

Answer: (d)

Related facts:

- Chief Minister of Odisha Naveen Patnaik announced a new scheme 'Ashirbad' for the education, health and maintenance of Covid orphans.
- As per scheme Rs 2500 per month will be deposited in the bank accounts of family members who have taken the responsibility for the children after the death of their parents.
- The assistance will be provided till 18 years of age of the child or till such a date if somebody adopts him.
- Children who lost their parents or the main earning person of the family on April 1, 2020, or thereafter to Covid-19 will be eligible to be covered under the scheme.
- Such children under distress have been divided into three categories. Those who have lost both their parents, those who have lost either father or mother and those whose main earning member of the family, either father or mother have died.

**Links:**

<https://www.newindianexpress.com/states/odisha/2021/jun/20/odisha-cm-launches-ashirbad-for-education-and-health-of-covid-orphans-2318958.html>

NSDC partners WhatsApp to launch digital skill programme for youth

Question-Which of the following digital platform has tied – up with NSDC to launch the 'Digital Skill Champions Program'?

(a) WhatsApp (b) Facebook (c) Amazon (d) Twitter

Ans. (a)

Related Facts-

- The National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC), apex body to manage Central backed Skill India or the National Skills Development Mission of India campaign has announced a tie-up with global digital platform, WhatsApp, to launch the 'Digital Skill Champions Program' to train youth on digital skills, and make them employment ready.
- According to NSDC, through this programme, school and university students would be coached to imbibe digital and online skills that would culminate with WhatsApp and NSDC awarding a 'Digital Skill Champions' certification to these students.
- It aims to empower youth with new-age skills to make them employable and more productive in their work environment.
- The course will be based on a module-format and will target campuses across tier 3 and 4 towns and cities throughout the country.



- WhatsApp said as part of the WhatsApp Digital Skills Academy, young adults from tier 3 and 4 cities will be trained on critical aspects of digital safety and online privacy.
- The initiative will initially begin with a pilot across 50 campuses in five states including Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu and Karnataka.
- Under the programme to be conducted digitally, WhatsApp will conduct sessions for Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Kendra trainers about the WhatsApp Business app.
- The training will cover modules on leveraging the WhatsApp Business app and to make small business entrepreneurship 'aspirational'.

Reference- <https://government.economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/technology/nsdc-partners-whatsapp-to-launch-digital-skill-programme-for-youth/83808659>.

Cabinet approves Deep Ocean Mission

Question – On 16 June 2021, the Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs approved the “Deep Ocean Mission”. With reference to this, consider the following statements:

- (i) The Ministry of Science and Technology will be the nodal ministry to implement this ambitious multi-institutional campaign.
- (ii) The estimated cost of implementing this campaign in a phased manner over a period of 5 years would be Rs 4,077 crore.
- (iii) This project will be a mission based project to support the blue economy initiative of the Government of India.

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

- (a) only (ii) and (iii) (b) only (i) and (ii) (c) only (i) and (iii) (d) all of the above

Answer—(a)
related facts

- On 16 June 2021, the Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs approved the ‘Deep Ocean Mission’.
- It is aimed to explore deep ocean for resources and develop deep sea technologies for sustainable use of ocean resources.
- The Ministry of Earth Sciences will be the nodal ministry to implement this multi-institutional ambitious mission.
- The estimated cost of implementing this campaign in a phased manner over a period of 5 years would be Rs 4,077 crore.
- This project will be a mission based project to support the blue economy initiative of the Government of India.



Link:

<https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1727525>

Awareness campaign on Single Use plastics

Question- On which date did Union Environment Minister Prakash Javadekar launch the awareness campaign on single-use plastic?

- (a) June 5, 2021 (b) June 6, 2021 (c) June 8, 2021 (d) June 10, 2021

Answer—(c)
related facts

- Union Environment Minister Prakash Javadekar launch the awareness campaign on single-use plastic on June 8, 2021.
- This campaign will run for 2 months.



- On this occasion, Prakash Javadekar announced 'India Plastic Challenge-Hackathon 2021' to tackle plastic waste pollution and promote innovation and entrepreneurship in the field of elimination of single plastics.
- The awareness campaign is being conducted by the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Government of India in association with GIZ, United Nations Environment Program (UNEP) and FICCI.

Link:

<https://pib.gov.in/PressReleaselframePage.aspx?PRID=1725458>

Announcement of the decision to extend coverage under the ESIC

Question- Under which ministry does the Employees' State Insurance Corporation (ESIC) work?

- (a) Ministry of Home Affairs (b) Ministry of Labor and Employment
(c) Ministry of Finance (d) Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions

Answer—(b)

Related facts

- Ministry of Labour & Employment has recently (June 2021) announced the decision to extend coverage under the Employees' State Insurance Act, 1948 (ESI Act) to all casual and contractual workers working in the municipal bodies in the country.
- The ESI Corporation has been directed to take up the matter with the States/ UTs, being the appropriate Government(s) under the ESI Act, for issue of notification for coverage of casual and contractual workers in the Municipal Corporation(s)/ Council(s) in their respective jurisdictions.
- For National Capital Region of Delhi, the Central Government being the appropriate government under the ESI Act, the Ministry of Labour and Employment has already issued intention notification dated 7 June, 2021 for coverage under the ESI Act of casual and contractual employees working with Municipal Corporations/ Council in the NCT of Delhi.
- It is notable that various municipal bodies in different States and Union Territories in the country employ a large number of casual and contractual workers.
- However, not being regular employees of the Municipal Corporations/Municipal councils, these workers remain out of the social security net making them a vulnerable lot.
- Once notifications for ESI coverage are issued by the respective States/ UTs, the casual and contractual workers working with municipal bodies will be able to avail the full gamut of benefits available under the ESI Act such as sickness benefit, maternity benefit, disablement benefit, dependent's benefit, funeral expenses etc.
- In addition and importantly, these workers will be eligible to avail medical services through vast network of ESI facilities i.e. 160 hospitals and over 1500 dispensaries all over the country.



Link:

<https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1725955>

NTPC adjudged Great Place to Work

Question: Which of the following Public Sector Undertaking has been adjudged Great Place to Work among top 50 companies by the Great Place to Work Institutes?

- (a) Bharat Heavy Electricals Limited (b) Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited
(c) NTPC Limited (d) Oil & Natural Gas Corporation Limited

Answer: (c)
Related facts:

- National Thermal Power Corporation (NTPC), a Maharatna CPSU (Central Public Sector Undertaking) under Ministry of Power has been adjudged Great Place to Work for the 15th year in a row by the Great Place to Work Institute.
- NTPC is the only PSU to consistently feature in India's Top 50 Best Workplaces.
- This year NTPC ranked 38th up from 47th position last year. It also won its first-ever recognition of India's Best Employers among Nation-Builders 2021.
- NTPC also won the CII HR Excellence Role model award in the month of March 2021, the highest award in the field of People Management in the country.
- **Great Place to Work Certification:**
 - Great Place to Work Certification is the most definitive 'Employer-of-Choice' recognition that organizations aspire to achieve.
 - The Certification is recognized world over by employees and employers alike and is considered the 'Gold Standard' in identifying and recognizing Great Workplaces with High Trust and High Performance Cultures.



Links

<https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1728529>

Mukhya Mantri Udyami Yojana

Question: Which state has launched Mukhya Mantri Yuva Udyaymi Yojna in June 2021?

(a) Bihar (b) Uttar Pradesh (c) Madhya Pradesh (d) Jharkhand

Answer: (a)

Related facts:

- On 18 June 2021, Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar has launched two ambitious schemes 'Mukhya Mantri Yuva Udyaymi Yojna' and the 'Mukhya Mantri Mahila Udyami Yojana'.
- The schemes aim to promote entrepreneurship among youth and women of all sections under the state's 'Mukhya Mantri Udyami Yojana' scheme.
- Earlier, Mukhya Mantri Udyami Yojna was started in 2018 and limited to the members of SC, ST and the extremely backward classes (EBCs).
- Youth and Women-irrespective of caste and creed, wishing to start entrepreneurship, will get a loan of Rs 10 lakh, in which Rs 5 lakh would be a grant from the state government and the rest Rs 5 lakh will come as a loan, refundable in 84 instalments.
- He also launched a portal on which youth and women from all sections can register themselves for availing of the loan from the government.



Links:

<https://www.newindianexpress.com/nation/2021/jun/19/bihar-government-extends-mukhya-mantriudyaymi-yojna-scheme-to-all-women-and-youth-2318539.html>

Expert Group on Minimum Wages

Question: Who is the Chairman of the Expert Group constituted to recommend on fixation of Minimum Wages and National Floor Wages to the Government?

(a) Ajit Mishra (b) Rajiv Kumar (c) Sanjeev Gupta (d) Rajneesh Kumar

Answer: (a)

Related facts:

- The Central Government has constituted an Expert Group under the Chairmanship of Professor Ajit Mishra, a renowned economist.
- The group will provide technical inputs and recommendations on fixation of Minimum Wages and National Floor Wages to the Government.
- The tenure of the Expert Group is three years.



Links:

<https://pib.gov.in/PressReleaselframePage.aspx?PRID=1728499>

World's first genetically modified rubber planted in Guwahati

Question- In which of the following states the world's first genetically modified (GM) rubber plant has planted?

(a) West Bengal (b) Nagaland (c) Assam (d) Mizoram

Ans. (c)

Related Facts-

- On June 22, 2021, the world's first genetically modified (GM) rubber plant was planted on the outskirts of Guwahati, Assam.
- Developed at the Kerala-based Rubber Research Institute of India (RRII), the sapling was planted at the board's farm in Sarutari near Guwahati.
- The GM rubber plant, the first of its kind developed exclusively for the northeast, is expected to thrive in the climatic conditions of the region.
- The plant, which has additional copies of gene MnSOD (manganese containing superoxide dismutase) in it, is expected to revolutionise natural rubber production in India.
- The plant is expected to tide over severe cold conditions during winters, a major factor affecting the growth of young plants as natural rubber is a native of warm humid Amazon forests and is not naturally suited for cold conditions in the northeast.



Reference- <https://www.hindustantimes.com/india-news/worlds-first-genetically-modified-rubber-planted-in-guwahati-101624429542403.html>.

Gujarat CM e-launches Agricultural Diversification Scheme-2021

Question- Which of the following state has launched the 'Agricultural Diversification Scheme', 2021?

(a) Maharashtra (b) Gujarat (c) Uttar Pradesh (d) Madhya Pradesh

Ans. (b)

Related facts-

- On June 22, 2021, in Gujarat, Chief Minister Vijay Rupani e-launched Agricultural Diversification Scheme-2021 benefiting vanbandhu- farmers in tribal areas.
- The scheme will benefit more than 1.26 lakh farmers from 14 tribal districts of the state.



- Under this scheme tribal farmers will get fertilizer-seed assistance of Rs. 31 crores in which 45 kg of urea, 50 kg of NPK and 50 kg of ammonium sulphate will be provided.
- Seeds of crops like maize, Bitter Melon (karela), Calabash (dudhi), tomato, millet, etc. are provided under this scheme.
- In order to enable the tribal farmers to cultivate on their own and not to be deprived of water, the state government has undertaken massive works to deliver irrigation water at high altitudes through various lift irrigation schemes in the hilly areas of the tribal district.

Reference- <https://newsonair.gov.in/News?title=Gujarat-CM-Vijay-Rupani-e-launches-Agricultural-Diversification-Scheme-2021&id=420212>.

Mukhyamantri COVID-19 Pariwar Aarthik Sahayata Yojana

Question: Which Indian state/UT has launched a scheme “Mukhyamantri COVID-19 Pariwar Aarthik Sahayata Yojana” to provide financial assistance to families of those who have lost people due to Covid -19?

a) Delhi b) Kerala c) Punjab d) Uttar Pradesh

Ans: a

Context

- Delhi government has recently notified a scheme to provide financial assistance to families of those who have lost people due to Covid -19.
- **Facts**
- The scheme – Mukhya Mantri Covid-19 Pariwar Aarthik Sahayata Yojana – will offer a monthly financial assistance of ₹2,500 to the families of those who have lost their earning member.
- It will also offer a one-time compensation of ₹50,000 if a member has died due to Covid-19.
- These benefits will be in addition to the ongoing social welfare scheme of the Delhi government such as old-age pension and widow pension.
- Government will also consider single member of affected family to be enrolled as civil defence volunteer.
- Government will also look after health and education needs of dependent children.
- To get the ex-gratia, death should be certified as COVID-19 death or death within one month of testing positive with Covid-19 and the dependent should be from Delhi.



Reference: <https://www.hindustantimes.com/cities/others/delhi-govt-s-scheme-to-provide-financial-aid-to-families-of-covid-19-victims-notified-101624385380033.html>

New Green Tariff Policy

Question: Consider the following statements;

i) India is planning a new green tariff policy for electricity discoms.

ii) It will help electricity distribution companies (discoms) supply electricity generated from clean energy projects at a cheaper rate as compared to power from conventional fuel sources such as coal.

Which of the above statements are correct?

a) only i b) only ii c) both i and ii d) none of the above

Ans: c

Context

- Union Government is planning to introduce new green



tariff policy for greener power sector.

- It will improve India's green credential at global stage.

- **Facts**

- This future new policy will help electricity distribution companies (discoms) supply electricity generated from clean energy projects at a cheaper rate as compared to power from conventional fuel sources such as coal.
- Large corporate who are looking to procure only green power, they can contract such power from a clean energy developer as it is done in commercial and industrial (C&I) segment.
- Presently, discoms purchase renewable energy as part the renewable purchase obligations (RPO).
- Once the mechanism is in place, discoms can exclusively buy green electricity and supply it at 'green tariff'.
- Green Tariff will be the weighted average tariff of green energy that consumer will have to pay and this tariff will be slightly lower than tariff from conventional fuel sources.
- If an industry wants only green power from a developer, the open access applications will have to be approved within a fortnight.
- **Open Access Application**
- Open access allows large users of energy, consuming over 1 megawatt of power, to buy energy from open market, instead of depending on expensive grid.

Reference: <https://www.livemint.com/industry/energy/india-working-on-a-green-tariff-policy-11624353691425.html>

Yellow watermelon variety introduced by Bayer in India

Question- Consider the following statements about Yellow Gold 48-Watermelon

(1) The yellow watermelon variety has been commercially introduced in India

(2) Yellow Gold 48 variety is best suited for cultivation from October to February and for harvest from April onwards

Select the correct answer using the code given below-

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

Ans. (d)

Related facts-

- On June 21, 2021 German agrochemicals major Bayer has launched the first-ever yellow watermelon variety Yellow Gold 48 under Seminis brand in India.
- This yellow watermelon has been developed from superior germplasm as part of Bayer's global research and development efforts.
- The yellow watermelon variety has been commercially introduced in India following two years of local trials. With Yellow Gold 48, watermelon growers can benefit from enhanced yield potential, better disease and pest tolerance, and higher returns.
- Yellow Gold 48 variety is best suited for cultivation from October to February and for harvest from April onwards and will be available in the market until mid-July.
- Yellow Gold 48 with its high yield and income potential will empower watermelon growers to diversify into new categories and meet the growing demand for exotic fruits.



Reference- <https://www.livemint.com/industry/agriculture/yellow-watermelon-variety-introduced-by-bayer-in-india-11624287647051.html>.

Odisha emerges as only state as home to all three species of crocodiles

Question- Which of the following state has emerged as only state as home to all three species of crocodiles?

(a) Tamil Naidu (b) Odisha (c) Kerala (d) West Bengal

Ans. (b)

Related Facts-

- Odisha has emerged the only state to have all the three species of the reptile freshwater Gharials at Satakosiya in Mahanadi, muggers in Bhitarkanika National park and saltwater crocodiles.
- Gharial eggs need incubation for 70 days, and the hatchlings stay with their mothers for several weeks or even months.
- For the first time since they were introduced in its rivers back in 1975, Odisha has seen the natural nesting of Gharials, a critically endangered species.
- As many as 28 hatchlings were spotted towards the end of May in the Mahanadi, in the Baladamar area near the Satkosia range.
- Gharials, being different from muggers, do not harm humans. But many people mistake them for crocodiles and consider them harmful.
- Gharials were granted full protection by law and listed in Schedule 1 of the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972.



Reference- <https://www.hindustantimes.com/trending/odisha-emerges-as-only-state-as-home-to-all-three-species-of-crocodiles-101624331791103.html>.

Yuva Shakti Corona Mukti Abhiyan launched by Madhya Pradesh

Question-Which of the following state has launched the ‘Yuva shakti Corona Mukti Aabhyan’?

(a) Madhya Pradesh (b) Uttar Pradesh (c) Punjab (d) Bihar

Ans. (a)

Related Facts-

- The Madhya Pradesh Government has launched ‘Yuva Shakti Corona Mukti Abhiyan’ involving youth to make the people aware of the COVID-19 pandemic and covid appropriate behavior.
- About 10 lakh students of the colleges of the state will play an important role in the eradication of Corona.
- In the second phase of the Yuva Shakti Corona Mukti Abhiyan’ about 8 lakh students of private colleges will be given training.
- Chief Minister also launched a mobile app ‘Covi-Sandesh’ designed for real time monitoring of the campaign.
- All the students told that they have got themselves and their families vaccinated and are motivating others to get the vaccine too. Their slogan is ‘I have got the vaccine, you should also get the vaccine and protect yourself and your family from corona.’
- Yuva Shakti Corona Mukti Abhiyan is being run in the state. Under the campaign, work is being done to ensure covid friendly behavior and society’s participation in covid vaccination through students studying in government colleges and universities of the Department of Higher Education and Technical Education.



Reference- <https://www.mpinfo.org/News/TodaysNews.aspx?newsid=20210618N31&LocID=1>.

India organizing Green Hydrogen summit of BRICS nation

Question- Which of the following country is going to host Green Hydrogen summit of BRICS nation?

(a) India (b) Brazil (c) Russia (d) China

Ans. (a)

Related Facts-

- India is scheduled to host a two-day summit on green hydrogen, with countries like Brazil, Russia, China and South Africa set to take part in it.
- The summit, scheduled to start on 22 June, is being organised by state-run NTPC Ltd, that recently floated a global expression of interest (EoI) for setting up two pilot projects to produce hydrogen—a standalone fuel cell-based backup power system and a microgrid system.
- Hydrogen, when produced by electrolysis using renewable energy, is known as green hydrogen which has no carbon footprint.
- This gives hydrogen the edge over other fuels to unlock various avenues of green usage.
- However, challenges lie in terms of technology, efficiency, financial viability and scaling up which the summit will aim to address.



Reference- <https://www.livemint.com/news/india/india-organizing-green-hydrogen-summit-of-brics-nations-11624178470063.html>.

Divyangta Khel Kendras

Question: Which ministry has decided to set up Divyangta Khel Kendras at 5 different places in the country?

a) Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports b) Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment
c) Ministry of Health and Family Welfare d) None of the above

Ans: b

Facts

- On 20th June 2021, Union Minister for Social Justice and Empowerment Thaawarchand Gehlot, announced setting up of five 'Divyangta Khel Kendras' in different parts of country.
- These centres are being opened to work towards interest of Divyangjans in sports and their good performance in Paralympics.
- First such kendra would be open in Ahmedabad City.
- This scheme was announced while virtually addressing 'Samajik Adhikarita Shivar' in Gujarat.
- Samajik Adhikarita Shivar**
- This shivar was organised to distribute aids and assistive devices to 'Divyangjan' under ADIP Scheme (Scheme of Assistance to Disabled Persons) of Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment. It was organized by Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities (DEPWD) in association with ALIMCO & District Administration Jamnagar.



Reference: <https://www.timesnownews.com/sports/others/article/govt-announces-setting-up-of-five-divyangta-khel-kendras/773394>

Ministry of Tribal Affairs and NCERT come together on a joint mission for NISHTHA

Question: Consider the following statements:

a) Ministry of Tribal Affairs (MoTA) and NCERT has signed a pact to improve academic quality in Eklavya Model Residential Schools (EMRSs).

b) NISHTHA is a national flagship program of NCERT.

Which of the above statements are correct?

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

Ans: c

Context

- MoTA has recently collaborated with National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT) to provide trainings to 120 Eklavya Model Residential Schools (EMRSs) teachers and principals from 3 states under NISHTHA initiative.
- **Facts**
 - To fulfill the long-standing vision of Ministry of Tribal Affairs (MoTA) to achieve academic excellence in Eklavya Model Residential Schools (EMRSs), 120 EMRS teachers and principals from 3 states completed a 40 days' NISHTHA-National initiative for School Heads' and Teachers' Holistic Advancement Program, on 19th June 2021.
 - NISHTHA is a national flagship program of NCERT .
 - **About NISHTHA**
 - NISHTHA is a capacity building programme for "Improving Quality of School Education through Integrated Teacher Training".
 - It aims to build competencies among all the teachers and school principals at the elementary stage.



Reference: <https://www.pib.gov.in/PressReleaseDetailm.aspx?PRID=1728867>

mYOGA App

Question: mYOGA app was launched by PM Narendra Modi on the occasion of International Yoga Day on 21st June 2021. With which of the following organisation's cooperation App has been launched?

a) NITI Aayog b) Patanjali c) World Health Organisation(WHO) d) World Bank

Ans: c

Context

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi has launched mYoga app on the occasion of international day of Yoga and gave the mantra of "Yog se Sahyog Tak".
- **Facts**
 - App has been launched by Ministry of Ayush on the occasion of International Yoga Day 2021 with the cooperation of WHO.
 - App aims to educate users about yoga with the help of audio and video clips.
 - The app is safe and secure, collecting no data from users at all, and can be used as a daily yoga companion for persons aged 12-65 years.
 - App is Currently available in English, Hindi and French languages. It will be launched in other UN languages soon.
 - It is based on the "Common Yoga Protocol" (CYP) that was selected for the app by the "international expert group and is practiced by millions of people around the world every year.



- This app is projected to play a great role in expanding yoga worldwide.

Reference: <https://www.who.int/initiatives/behealthy/who-myoga-app>

Tamil Nadu to form economic advisory council to CM

Question: Which of the following personalities will be the part of economic advisory council to CM being formed by Tamil Nadu government?

a) Esther Duflo b) Raghuram Rajan c) Dr Arvind Subramanian d) All of above

Ans : d

Context

- Tamil Nadu government has formed an Economic Advisory Council to the Chief Minister recently.
- **Facts**
- This committee will advise Tamil Nadu government on the issues of Economic policy development in the state and based on these advises government will formulate its policies so that benefits of economic growth reach all segments of society.
- **Members of committee include :**
- Nobel laureate Esther Duflo of Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) in USA,
- Former Reserve Bank of India governor, Raghuram Rajan,
- Former chief economic advisor to central government, Dr Arvind Subramanian,
- Development economist, Jean Dreze and
- Former Union finance secretary Dr S Narayan.



Reference: <https://www.thehindubusinessline.com/news/dmk-govt-ropes-in-raghuram-rajan-and-arvind-subramanian-in-advisory-council/article34879056.ece>

Gujarat to soon get National Maritime Heritage Complex to show maritime history, coastal traditions

Question- Which of the following state is going to set up 'National Maritime heritage Complex' to show maritime history?

(a) Gujarat (b) Maharashtra (c) Odisha (d) Kolkata

Ans. (a)

Related Facts-

- In order to showcase the maritime heritage and history of India, a National Maritime Heritage Complex (NMHC) will be developed in Lothal region of Gujarat.
- For this, the Union Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways has signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the Ministry of Culture and together, they will cooperate in making of this heritage complex.
- NMHC will be dedicated to the maritime heritage of India and this will showcase India's rich as well as diverse maritime glory.
- The National Maritime Heritage Complex will be made within the ASI site of Lothal that is located 80 kms away from Ahmedabad in Gujarat.
- The project, once completed, will be made an international tourist destination in India where people from across the countries can take a look at the maritime heritage of India from ancient to modern times.



- The government is aiming to showcase this via an edutainment approach where the latest technology would be adopted to spread awareness.
- The development will be done in an area expanding 400 acres.
- The complex will have many offerings including National Maritime Heritage Museum, Heritage Theme Park, and LightHouse Museum.
- There will also be Museum Themed Hotels as well Maritime themed eco-resorts, and Maritime Institute. All these are expected to be developed in a phased manner.

Reference- <https://www.financialexpress.com/lifestyle/travel-tourism/gujarat-to-soon-get-national-maritime-heritage-complex-to-show-maritime-history-coastal-traditions/2273180/>.

Flag Satyagraha, Jabalpur (M.P.)

Question- Which of the following state has organized the programme to observe the Flag Satyagraha?

(a) Jabalpur(M.P.) (b) Prayagraj(U.P.) (c) Bhopal(M.P.) (d) Indore(M.P.)

Ans.(a)

Related facts-

- The Minister of State (IC) for Culture and Tourism Shri Prahlad Singh Patel led the programme organised to observe the Flag Satyagraha in Jabalpur, Madhya Pradesh on June 18, 2021.
- The programme was organised by Union Culture Ministry and IGNCA as part of Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav being celebrated to commemorate 75 years of Country's independence.
- The program started with a cultural satyagraha padyatra from Kamaniya Gate in the city to Gandhi Bhawan, the Town Hall complex.
- Shri Prahlad Patel hoisted the flag at Gandhi Bhavan, reminiscing the historic moments of the Jhanda Satyagraha held in Jabalpur in 1923 when the immortal martyrs first unfurled the flag at the Town Hall with great courage.
- The families of the satyagrahis were felicitated during the programme.
- According to the records, the outline of the Jhanda Satyagraha was prepared in the year 1922 in a meeting held in the Town Hall of Jabalpur.
- Despite the deployment of heavy police force, ignoring the orders of the British government, the brave immortal martyrs of Jabalpur had hoisted the flag in Victoria Town Hall without caring for their lives. The news of flag hoisting in Jabalpur spread like fire in the country and after flags were hoisted at several places across the country.



Reference- <https://pib.gov.in/PressReleaseIframePage.aspx?PRID=1728339>.

Indian Navy and European Naval Force hold first joint exercise

Question- IN-EUNAVFOR joint naval exercise is held between-

(a) Indian Navy and European Union Naval Force (b) Indian navy and Germany Navy
(c) Indian Navy and Russian Navy (d) Indian navy and Britain navy

Ans.(a)

Related Facts-

- In a first, the Indian Navy is participating in a joint exercise with the European Union Naval Force (EUNAVFOR).
- The exercise is conducted in Gulf of Aden from 18th June to 19th June 2021.
- Stealth frigate INS Trikanth, will participate in the



two-day exercise in Gulf of Aden as it is already deployed in the region on anti-piracy operations.

- The joint exercise will see “high tempo-naval operations at sea, including advanced air defence and anti-submarine exercises, cross deck helicopter operations, tactical manoeuvres, boarding operations, underway replenishment, Search & Rescue, Man Overboard drills, and other maritime security operations”.
- The other countries participating in the exercise are-Italy, Spain and France.
- At the same time, a virtual information sharing exercise is also being conducted between the Indian Navy Information Fusion Centre – Indian Ocean Region (IFC-IOR) and Maritime Security Centre-Horn of Africa on June 18, 2021.
- The Navy and EUNAVFOR “converge on multiple issues including counter piracy operations and protection of vessels deployed under the charter of World Food Programme (UN WFP),” the Navy mentioned, adding that it also has regular interactions with EUNAVFOR through Shared Awareness and De-confliction (SHADE) meetings held annually at Bahrain.

Reference- <https://indianexpress.com/article/india/indian-navy-and-european-naval-force-hold-first-joint-exercise-7365847/>.

IIT Bombay Hosts Conference of BRICS Network Universities

Question- Which of the following institution has hosted conference of BRICS Network Universities/

(a) IIT Bombay (b) IIT Kanpur (c) IIT Delhi (d) IIT Madras

Ans. (a)

Related Facts-

- Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Bombay is hosting a three-day virtual conference of BRICS (Brazil, Russia, India, China, and South Africa) network universities that was started on 16th June 2021.
- The conference on the theme of electric mobility is a part of the engagements that India is hosting under the education stream during its chairship of the 13th BRICS Summit this year.
- Eighteen experts from Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa will talk about various aspects of electric mobility like traffic management, hydrogen technology, hybrid vehicles, lithium-ion batteries and linkage between e-mobility and livelihoods in the conference.
- Nitin Gadkari, Union Minister for Road Transport and Highways, and Micro Small and Medium Enterprises, in his address to the conference, highlighted the growing use of biofuels in the transportation sector, and progress in the development low-cost battery technology.
- BRICS Network University is a union of higher education institutions of the five BRICS member countries, formed with the objective of enhancing educational cooperation in general, and for research and innovation. IIT Bombay is the lead institution of India for the BRICS network university.



Reference- <https://www.aninews.in/news/national/general-news/brics-network-universities-conference-begins-at-iit-bombay20210616234214/>.

Kerala SilverLine Project

Question- Consider the following statements about Kerala Silverline Project-

(1) It links Kerala's southern end and state capital



Thiruvananthapuram with its northern end of Kasaragod.

(2) The line is proposed to be 529.45 kms long, covering 11 districts.

(3) The project is being executed by the Kerala Rail Development Corporation Limited (KRDCL).

Select the correct answer using the code given below-

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

Ans. (d)

Related facts-

- It is Kerala's flagship a semi high-speed railway corridor through the state linking its southern end and state capital Thiruvananthapuram with its northern end of Kasaragod.
- The line is proposed to be 529.45 kms long, covering 11 districts through 11 stations.
- When the project is realised, one can travel from Kasaragod to Thiruvananthapuram in less than four hours on trains travelling at 200 km/hr. The current travel time on the existing Indian Railways network is 12 hours.
- The deadline for the project, being executed by the Kerala Rail Development Corporation Limited (KRDCL), is 2025. KRDCL, or K-Rail, is a joint venture between the Kerala government and the Union Ministry of Railways.
- The project, estimated to cost Rs 63,940 crore, is billed as one of the biggest infrastructure enterprises being pushed by the ruling Left Democratic Front (LDF) government.
- The project will have trains of electric multiple unit (EMU) type with preferably nine cars and extendable to 12 cars each.
- A nine-car rake can seat a maximum of 675 passengers in business and standard class settings.
- The trains can run at a maximum speed of 220 kmph on standard gauge track, completing journeys in either direction in under four hours.

Reference- <https://indianexpress.com/article/explained/kerala-silverline-high-speed-railway-project-7360214/>.

Desertification and land Degradation Map released by ISRO

Question- Which of the following organization has released the Desertification and land Degradation map?

(a) ISRO (b) NASA (c) ESA (d) CSA

Ans. (a)

Related Facts-

- It has been published by Space Application Centre, ISRO, Ahmedabad.
- The Atlas provides state wise area of degraded lands for the time frame 2018-19.
- It was released on the occasion of the World Day to Combat Desertification and Drought, observed on 17 June.
- The theme for 2021 is "Restoration. Land. Recovery. We build back better with healthy land".
- Desertification and land degradation are major threats to agricultural productivity in our country.



Reference- <https://www.isro.gov.in/desertification-and-land-degradation-atlas-released>.

Marketing collaboration for movie 'Sherni'

Question : Which state's tourism board has announced a collaboration for marketing of Hindi movie 'Sherni' ?

a. MP b. Maharashtra c. Tamil Nadu d. Kerala

Ans. a.

Related facts

- MP tourism board has recently(June 2021) announced a collaboration for marketing of Hindi movie 'Sherni'.
- The film has been shot in the enchanting forests of Madhya Pradesh, Kanha National Park, Bhoot Palasi in Raisen and the surrounding areas of Balaghat.
- Given the showcasing that the film provides to the state of Madhya Pradesh, its flora & fauna as well as to the objectives of boosting tourism in the state, Madhya Pradesh Tourism Board is working closely with the producers of the film to launch a symbiotic marketing and promotional campaign.

Link:

<https://www.dailypioneer.com/2021/state-editions/mp-tourism-announces-marketing-collaboration-for—sherni—.html>

Mandatory gold hallmarking from June 16, 2021, initially in 256 districts: Government

Question- Government will implement mandatory hallmarking of gold jewellery and artefacts from.....?

(a) June 16, 2021 (b) June 18, 2021 (c) June 21, 2021 (d) June 14, 2021

Ans. (a)

Related Facts-

- Hallmarking on gold jewellery and other related items will become mandatory from June 16, 2021, said the Union ministry of consumer affairs, food and public distribution.
- The government has said that the guidelines will be initially implemented in 256 districts as part of a phase-wise plan.
- According to a government release, jewellers with annual turnover up to ₹40 lakh will be exempted from the mandatory hallmarking rule.
- "Export and re-import of jewellery as per Trade Policy of Government of India – Jewellery for international exhibitions, jewellery for government-approved B2B domestic exhibitions will be exempted from mandatory hallmarking,"
- Gold of additional carats 20, 23 and 24 will also be allowed for hallmarking.
- Gold hallmarking is a purity certification of the precious metal and is voluntary in nature at present.



Reference- <https://www.livemint.com/news/india/gold-hallmarking-mandatory-from-today-but-what-happens-to-your-old-jewellery-check-guidelines-here-11623800837475.html>.

Multi-disciplinary India Interagency Expert Committee (IEC) on Malaria and Climate

Question: Which of the following organizations have joined hands to form an Interagency Expert Committee (IEC) on Malaria and Climate to help find

malaria
NO MORE

weather based solutions to eradicate malaria?

- a) India Meteorological Department (IMD) b) Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR)
c) Malaria No More ,NGO d) All of the above

Ans: d

Context

- IMD & ICMR launched an expert Interagency Expert Committee (IEC) to explore and advance climate-based solutions to eliminate malaria in India, in collaboration with “Malaria NO More” which is a Non-Governmental organization.
- **Facts**
 - A pilot project has been initiated in Odisha.
 - This initiative aims to explore and advance climate-based solutions for accelerating the elimination of the vector-borne disease from the country.
 - IMD will provide weather data to help in predicting potential areas for malarial outbreak.
 - The “Malaria NO More” NGO’s has provided weather-based forecasting model, designed to produce data-driven solutions to guide the planning of national malaria prevention campaigns, test and treatment interventions, advanced positioning of medical products, and the deployment of community health workers.
 - ICMR will provide scientific information to develop robust and scalable use cases to combat vector borne diseases.
 - The relations between vector born diseases like malaria and the climate variables have been extensively studied in the past and this initiative attempts to apply evidence from these studies to design programmatic solutions to accelerate the country’s progress against these diseases.

Reference: <https://www.livemint.com/news/india/imd-to-give-weather-data-for-forecasting-malaria-11623680432226.html>

GI certified ‘Jardalu’ mangoes

Question: Which state has Geographical Indicator (GI) tag for ‘Jardalu’ mangoes?

- a) Bihar b) Uttar Pradesh c) Maharashtra d) None of the above

Ans: a

Context

- Recently Bihar has exported the first commercial consignment of GI certified Jardalu mangoes from Bhagalpur to the United Kingdom.
- **Facts**
 - Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority, (APEDA) in collaboration with Bihar government, Indian High Commission & Invest India, exported Jardalu mangoes.
 - Mangoes were packed and treated at APEDA packhouse in Lucknow.
- **About APEDA**
 - Agriculture and processed food production export Development Authority (APEDA) is an apex body that promotes export trade of agricultural products in India.
 - It was Set-up by the ministry of Commerce and Industry, Government of India, under the act passed by parliament in December 1985. The act came into the effect from 13th February 1986.
 - APEDA is responsible for export promotion of Fresh Fruits & Vegetables, Processed Food products, Livestock products and Cereals. It provides the crucial interface between farmers, storehouses, packers, exporters, surface transport, ports, Railways, Airways, all others engaged in export trade and finally to the international market.

- APEDA has initiated measures to boost mango exports from non-traditional regions. It has been conducting virtual buyer-seller meets and festival in a bid to promote mango exports.
- It organised mango festival in Berlin, Germany and in Japan in collaboration with Indian embassies.
- It also organised a week-long Indian mango promotion programme in Bahrain in which 16 varieties of Mango including three GI certified varieties (Khirsapati & Lakshmanbhog from West Bengal and Jardalu from Bihar) were displayed.

Reference: <https://www.thehindubusinessline.com/economy/agri-business/india-exports-gi-certified-jardalu-mangoes-to-uk/article34814698.ece>

Govt panel confirms first death in India after covid vaccination

Question: Consider the following statement:

- The National Adverse Event Following Immunisation (NAEFI) committee has confirmed first death after covid vaccination in India.
- The National Adverse Event Following Immunisation (NAEFI) committee is set up to look into the adverse event post Covid vaccination in Indian population.

Which of the above are correct?

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

Ans: c

Facts

- National AEFI (Adverse Events Following Immunisation) panel has confirmed first death linked to covid-19 vaccine.
- A 68-year-old man died due to anaphylaxis after he was administered a coronavirus vaccine.
- The results of the causality assessment of 31 cases were approved by the National AEFI Committee on February 5 (five cases), March 9 (eight cases) and March 31, 2021 (18 cases) after thorough review and deliberations.
- As per Panel assessment 31 cases out of which, 18 were having inconsistent causal association to vaccination, 7 cases were indeterminate, 3 were vaccine-product related, 1 was anxiety-related reaction while 2 were unclassifiable.
- The National Adverse Event Following Immunisation (NAEFI) committee is set up to look into the adverse event post Covid vaccination in Indian population.



Reference: <https://www.livemint.com/news/india/govt-panel-confirms-first-death-in-india-after-covid-vaccination-11623744956111.html>

Govt simplifies registration process for MSMEs

Question: Consider the following statements:

- Only PAN and Aadhar will be required now for registering an MSME.
- It was announced by Minister for Road Transport & Highways and Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises, Nitin Gadkari.

Which of the above are correct?

- a) Only I b) only ii c) both i and ii d) none of the above

Ans: c

Context



- Recently Minister for Road Transport & Highways and Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises, Nitin Gadkari has announced simplification in rules for the registration of the MSMEs.
- **Facts**
- As per the simplified rule only PAN and Aadhaar will be required to register the MSME.
- Once the msme gets registered, it can avail multiple financial benefits provided by government under various schemes.
- **About MSMEs**
- Any manufacturing enterprise and enterprise rendering services will be categorized in MSMEs as per following criterion:-
- Micro : Investment in Plant and Machinery or Equipment:
- Not more than Rs.1 crore and Annual Turnover ; not more than Rs. 5 crore
- Small: Investment in Plant and Machinery or Equipment:
- Not more than Rs.10 crore and Annual Turnover ; not more than Rs. 50 crore
- Medium: Investment in Plant and Machinery or Equipment:
- Not more than Rs.50 crore and Annual Turnover ; not more than Rs. 250 crore

Reference: <https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/small-biz/sme-sector/govt-simplifies-registration-process-for-msmes/articleshow/83551195.cms?from=mdr>

Exports of Jackfruits from Tripura

Question – To which country has the consignment of jackfruit been exported from Tripura recently ?

(a) Chicago (b) Sydney (c) London (d) Tokyo

Answer—(c)

Related facts

- In a major step towards harnessing exports potential of agricultural and processed food products from north-eastern region, a shipment of 1.2 metric tonne (MT) of fresh jackfruit was today(21 May 2021) exported from Tripura to London.
- Jackfruits were sourced from the Tripura based Krishi Sanyoga Agro Producer Company Ltd.
- The consignment was packed at APEDA assisted pack-house facility of Salt Range Supply Chain Solution Ltd and exported by Kiega EXIM Pvt Ltd.
- This was the first APEDA assisted pack house for exports to European Union, which was approved in May 2021.
- APEDA regularly carries out promotional activities to bring the North- Eastern states on the export map of India.
- **Other exports**
- Recently, the first consignment of 'red rice' was sent to the USA from Assam.
- Iron rich 'red rice' is grown in Brahmaputra valley of Assam, without the use of any chemical fertilizer.
- The rice variety is referred as 'Bao-dhaan', which is an integral part of the Assamese food.



Link:

<https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1720682>

The Sustainable Development Report 2021

Question-Which of the following country has topped the Sustainable Development report 2021?

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



(a) Finland (b) Norway (b) Denmark (d) Switzerland

Ans. (a)

Related facts-

- Sustainable Development Report was prepared and released by experts from UN Sustainable Development Solution Network (SDSN). The index compares how countries implement 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.
- The SDG Index is an assessment of each country's overall performance on the 17 SDGs, giving equal weight to each Goal. The score signifies a country's position between the worst possible outcome (0) and the best, or target outcome (100). For example, Finland's overall index score (85.9) suggests it is, on average, 86 percent of the way to the best possible outcome across the 17 Goals.
- This year's SDG Index and Dashboards introduces six new global bringing the total to 91 for all countries (up from 85 last year) as well as an additional 30 indicators for OECD countries.
- Three Nordic countries top the 2021 SDG Index: Finland (1st), Sweden (2nd), and Denmark (3rd). All countries in the top 20 apart from Croatia are OECD countries.
- India ranked 120th in SDR report 2021.

Reference- <https://s3.amazonaws.com/sustainabledevelopment.report/2021/2021-sustainable-development-report.pdf>.

‘WeShare’ drive/campaign

Question : Odisha government has recently(June 2021) launched a campaign, ‘Weshare’ in a virtually-held event. Of which organization is it a initiative ?

- a. Indian Chamber of Commerce's Women Entrepreneurship Committee
b. Indian Merchants Chamber c. Assocham d. None of the above

Ans. a.

Related facts

- Odisha government has recently(June 2021) launched a campaign, ‘Weshare’ in a virtually-held event.
- ‘Weshare’, a vocal for local initiative of the Indian Chamber of Commerce's Women Entrepreneurship Committee (IWEC).
- The WeShare is a complete digital initiative that is reaching out to business owners and small enterprises, facing challenges of decreasing revenues and mounting liabilities during Covid-19 pandemic.
- The noble initiative provides support in terms of design, promotion, reach, and awareness.
- Noted actress Varsha Priyadarshini has been appointed as official brand ambassador for the campaign.

Link:

<https://www.dailypioneer.com/2021/state-editions/minister-launches—weshare—drive.html>

Two key railway projects in Uttarakhand

Question : Union Railway minister Piyush Goyal has recently(June 2021) granted approval in principle to the 2 key railway projects in Uttarakhand. Which of the following is one of that ?

- a. Delhi-Ramnagar Corbett eco train b. Delhi-Haldwani route c. Delhi-Lalkua route
d. None of the above

Ans. a.

Related facts



- Union Railway minister Piyush Goyal has recently(June 2021) granted approval in principle to the 2 key railway projects in Uttarakhand.
- Projects —**
- Delhi-Ramnagar Corbett eco train(Railway minister Piyush Goyal granted approval in principle and it will be started soon).
- The other is the approval of railway line survey from Doiwala to Gangotri-Yamunotri and Tanakpur-Bageshwar.

Link:

<https://www.dailypioneer.com/2021/state-editions/min-ok—s-2-key-railway-projects-in-u—khand.html>

Solar based irrigation system

Question : JTDS has recently(June 2021) announced to provide Solar based irrigation system in 14 districts of Jharkhand in near future. Which one of the following district is that ?

a. Deoghar b. Jamtara c. Giridih d. Sahebganj

Ans. b.

Related facts

- JTDS(Jharkhand Tribal Development Society) has recently(June 2021) announced to provide Solar based irrigation system in 14 TSP districts of Jharkhand in near future.
- TSP refers to Tribal Sub Plan.
- The project will be completed by the month of the September this year.
- The system is being planned so that farmers in the area can do farming in all seasons.
- Total 64 units will be provided in different blocks.
- Each block will be provided 2 numbers of units.
- Installation cost of one such system will be around Rs 10 lakh. It will help the farmers to get better irrigation facilities.
- Fourteen districts —**
- The areas where the Solar based irrigation system to be provided to the farmers are in Ranchi – Bundu, Tamar, Angara, Khunti – Karra, Arki, Simdega – Sadar, Kurdeg, Latehar – Barwadih, Manika, Gumla – Sisai, Bharno, Lohardaga – Bhandra, Kairo, East Singhbhum – Potka, Dumaria, West Singhbhum – Tonto, Sonua, Khutpani, Goelkera, Dumka – Masalia, Gopikander, Godda – Sunderpahari, Boarijore, Pakur – Amrapara, Littipara, Sahibganj – Borio, Taljhari, Jamtara – Sadar, Fatehpur and in Saraikela Kharsawan – Kuchai, Saraikela, Rajnagar.



Link:

<https://www.dailypioneer.com/2021/state-editions/jtts-to-provide-solar-based-irrigation-system-in-14-districts.html>

India Is 14th Most Charitable Country As Per World Giving Index 2021

Question-Consider the following statements-

(1) World giving Index 2021 is released by Charities Aid Foundation

(2) As per report, India is 14th most charitable country

(3) As per report, 61 percent of Indians helped stranger

Select the correct answer using the code given below-

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



Ans. (c)

Related Facts-

- According to World Giving Index 2021 report, India is 14th most charitable country across the world.
- World Giving Index (WGI) 2021 is released by the Charities Aid Foundation's (CAF), this year's survey highlights the impact of lockdowns on charitable giving, as the USA, Canada, Ireland, the UK, and the Netherlands — all fell out of the highest rankings.
- India is now in the Top 20 most generous countries in the world, at 14. This is up from the 10-year global rank of 82.
- Only Australia and New Zealand, where the survey was undertaken in the weeks before the first wave of the pandemic took hold, maintained their top 10 rankings.
- The improvement in India is seen across all the age groups and amongst both men and women. 61% of Indians helped strangers; 34% volunteered; and 36% donated money.
- Indonesia remains in the first place, followed by Kenya.
- Four African nations now sit in the top 10 — three of them (Nigeria, Ghana and Uganda) for the first time. Most of the western countries which are usually in the Top 10 have fallen far down the ranking.

Reference- https://www.cafonline.org/docs/default-source/about-us-research/cafworldgivingindex2021_report_web2_100621.pdf.

Raja Parba- Festival celebrating womanhood commences in Odisha

Question-In which of the following state Raja Parba festival is celebrated?

(a) Nagaland (b) Odisha (c) Uttar Pradesh (d) Madhya Pradesh

Ans. (b)

Related Facts-

- Raja Parba festival has started being celebrated in Odisha on June 14, 2021. It is a 3-day festival that celebrates womanhood.
- It is believed that, during this period Mother Earth menstruates and prepares herself for future agricultural activities as the monsoon arrives.
- This festival is synonymous with varieties of cakes (pithas). Thus, Odisha Tourism Development Corporation (OTDC) has also launched a special programme named 'Pitha on Wheels'.
- Women don't work during these 3 days.
- Raja Parba is also known as Mithuna Sankrant.



Reference- <https://www.hindustantimes.com/lifestyle/festivals/raja-parba-odisha-s-3-day-festival-celebrating-menstruation-commences-101623641828717.html>.

GI certified Jalgaon banana

Question : A consignment of fibre and mineral rich GI certified Jalgaon(Tandalwadi village) banana has recently(June 2021) exported to Dubai. What is Indian banana export stats in 2019-20 ?

- a. 1.95 lakh metric tonne valued at Rs 660 crore
- b. 1.85 lakh metric tonne valued at Rs 560 crore
- c. 1.65 lakh metric tonne valued at Rs 460 crore
- d. 1.45 lakh metric tonne valued at Rs 360 crore



Ans. a.
Related facts

- A consignment of fibre and mineral rich GI certified Jalgaon(Tandalwadi village) banana has recently(June 2021) exported to Dubai.
- It is a major step toward boost to exports of Geographical Indications (GI) certified agricultural produce.
- In 2016, Jalgaon Banana got GI certification which was registered with Nisargraja Krishi Vigyan Kendra (KVK) Jalgaon.
- India's banana export has been rising sharply because of adoption of farm practices as per the global standards.
- **Data —**
- India's banana exports grew both in terms of volume as well as value from 1.34 lakh metric tonne valued at Rs 413 crore in 2018-19 to 1.95 lakh metric tonne valued at Rs 660 crore in 2019-20.
- During 2020-21 (April-February), India has exported banana worth of 1.91 lakh tonne valued at Rs 619 crore.
- India is the world's leading producer of bananas with a share of around 25% in total output.
- Andhra Pradesh, Gujarat, Tamil Nadu, Maharashtra, Kerala, Uttar Pradesh, Bihar and Madhya Pradesh contribute more than 70% of the country's banana production.
- APEDA promotes exports of agricultural & processed food products by providing assistance to the exporters under various components of its scheme such as Infrastructure Development, Quality Development and Market Development.

Link:

<https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1727440>

Operation Olivia

Question- In which of the following state the 'Operation Olivia' has been started?

(a) Odisha (b) Maharashtra (c) Punjab (d) Tamil Naidu

Ans. (a)

Related facts-

- Indian Coast Guard have enforced laws and started operation Olivia to protect Olive Ridley turtles in Odisha.
- Operation Olivia was started by the Indian Coast Guard (ICG), first in early 1980s.
- This operation helps in protecting Olive Ridley turtles every year when they start nesting along Odisha coast for breeding in months of November to December.
- Under it, round-the-clock surveillance is conducted from November till May through Coast Guard assets like Fast patrol vessels, Interceptor craft, Air cushion vessels and Dornier aircraft.
- Olive Ridley turtles are listed as vulnerable under International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) Red List.
- Sea turtles found in India have been included in Schedule I of Indian Wildlife Protection Act, 1972. They are also listed in Appendix I of Convention of International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES) of Wild Fauna and Flora.
- Their mass nesting is called as arribada.



Reference- <https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/operation-olivia-to-the-rescue-of-olive-ridleys/article34799480.ece>.

At \$605 billion, India ties with Russia as fourth largest forex reserves holder

Question- Consider the following statements-

(1) India's foreign exchange reserves crossed \$600 for the first time.

(2) India equals to Russia as the fourth largest reserve holder in the world.

Select the correct answer using the code given below-

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

Ans.(b)

Related Facts-

- India's foreign exchange reserves crossed \$600 for the first time.
- As on June 4, the foreign exchange reserves stood at \$605 billion, almost tying with Russia as the fourth largest reserve holder in the world.
- While India's forex reserve was \$605.008 billion, Russia's was \$605.2 billion.
- It took just about a year for the reserves to rise by \$100 billion.
- The huge accumulation of reserves has also improved India's import cover substantially.
- The reserves are invested in foreign assets, such as US treasury bonds. However, in a low yield environment, the RBI is also struggling to generate enough returns on its investments.
- The annual report for 2020-21 showed that the rate of earnings on foreign currency assets was at 2.1 per cent in FY21, compared with 2.65 per cent a year ago.



Reference- https://www.business-standard.com/article/economy-policy/at-605-bn-india-ties-with-russia-as-fourth-largest-forex-reserves-holder-121061101316_1.html.

Namaste Yoga' mobile App launched in curtain raiser event for 7th International Day of Yoga

Question- Which of the following ministry has launched 'Namaste Yoga' mobile app?

(a) Ministry of Ayush (b) Ministry of Foreign Affairs (c) Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (d) Ministry of Defence

Ans. (a)

Related facts-

- During the curtain raiser event for 7th International Day of Yoga (IDY) on June 11, 2021, a mobile application called "Namaste Yoga" was launched.
- This app is devoted to Yoga.
- Event was organised by Ministry of Ayush in association with Morarji Desai National Institute of Yoga (MDNIY).
- Namaste Yoga app is designed as an information platform for public. It was launched with the aim of raising awareness about yoga and make it accessible for larger community.
- IDY is observed on 21st June every year. In the year 2021, IDY will be celebrated under theme- "Yoga at home and Yoga with Family". In 2020, theme for the day was 'Yoga for Health – Yoga at Home'.



Reference- <http://newsonair.com/2021/06/12/namaste-yoga-mobile-app-launched-in-curtain-raiser-event-for-7th-international-day-of-yoga/>.

Budgetary support to Innovations for Defence Excellence (iDEX)- Defence Innovation Organisation (DIO)

Question: On 13th June 2021 , Defence Minister announced budgetary support to Defence Excellence (iDEX)-Defence Innovation Organisation (DIO). What was the amount announced as the support?

a) Rs 498.8 crore b) Rs 490.8 crore c) Rs 488.8 crore d) none of the above

Ans: a

Facts

- Defence Minister Rajnath Singh has approved the budgetary support of Rs 498.8 crore to Innovations for Defence Excellence (iDEX)-Defence Innovation Organisation (DIO)
- This budget is allocated for the next five years.
- It has been done to make India a hub of defence manufacturing by providing financial support to nearly 300 start-ups/MSMEs/individual innovators and 20 partner incubators under the DIO framework.
- **iDEX–DIO**
 - iDEX–DIO has the primary objective of self-reliance and indigenisation in the defence and aerospace sector.
 - DIO was established by the Department of Defence Production (DDP) under it iDEX framework was created.
 - iDEX–DIO aims at creating an ecosystem to foster innovation and technology development in the defence and aerospace sector and creation of channels for innovators to engage and interact with the Indian defence production industry.
- **Past initiative done by government to boost self reliance in Defence and aerospace sector**
 - Last August, India announced to stop the import of 101 weapons and military platforms like transport aircraft, light combat helicopters, conventional submarines, cruise missiles and sonar systems by 2024 so that they can be purchased from local industry giving make in India in defence sector a boost.
 - Subsequently a second negative list was also released.
 - In May last, the government announced increasing the FDI limit from 49 per cent to 74 per cent under the automatic route in the defence sector.
- **Need for indigenisation in defence sector for India**
 - India was second largest arms importer during 2016-20.
 - This puts a huge burden on Indian economy and also costs huge amount of foreign reserves to India.
 - This is why government now wants to reduce dependence on imported military platforms and has decided to support domestic defence manufacturing.



Reference: <https://indianexpress.com/article/india/rajnath-singh-approves-budgetary-support-of-nearly-rs-499-crore-for-innovations-in-defence-sector-7356887/>

New Policy for Declassification of War Histories

Question: On 12th June 2021, Defence Minister Shri Rajnath Singh has approved a new policy on archiving, declassification and compilation/publication of war/operations histories by the Ministry of Defence. What is the time frame that has been set to ordinarily declassify military records under this policy?

a) 20 years b) 21 years c) 25 years d) 30 years



Ans: c
Context

- On 12th June 2021, Defence Minister Shri Rajnath Singh has approved a new policy on archiving, declassification and compilation/publication of war/operations histories by the Ministry of Defence.
- **Facts**
- Policy sets a clear timeline for compilation, publication, archiving and declassification of the histories of India's wars and operations.
- As per the policy each organisation under the Ministry of Defence (MoD) such as Services, Integrated Defence Staff, Assam Rifles and Indian Coast Guard, will transfer the records, including war diaries, letters of proceedings & operational record books, etc., to the History Division of Ministry of Defence (MoD) for proper upkeep, archival and writing the histories.
- **Process prescribed in the Policy**
- A committee headed by Joint Secretary, MoD and comprising of representatives of the Services, MEA, MHA and other organisations and prominent military historians (if required), will be formed for compilation of war/ operations histories.
- This committee should be formed within 2 years of completion of war/operations. Thereafter, collection of records and compilation should be completed in three years and disseminated to all concerned.
- The History Division of MoD will be responsible for coordination with various departments while compiling, seeking approval and publishing of war/operations histories.
- Although the responsibility for declassification of records rests with the respective organisations as specified in the Public Record Act 1993 and Public Record Rules 1997, as amended from time to time but this policy dictates that, records should ordinarily be declassified in 25 years.
- Records older than 25 years should be appraised by archival experts and transferred to the National Archives of India once the war/operations histories have been compiled.
- However government will continue to have discretionary powers over withholding any records it finds sensitive.
- **Need of the Policy**
- The requirement of having war histories written with a clear-cut policy on declassification of war records was recommended by the Kargil Review Committee headed by K Subrahmanyam as well as the N N Vohra Committee.
- Post Kargil War, GoM recommendations on national security also mentioned the desirability of authoritative war history.
- Having authoritative war history helps in analyzing lessons learnt from past and prevent future mistakes.

Reference: <https://pib.gov.in/PressReleaseDetailm.aspx?PRID=1726446>

UNDP report on Aspirational Districts Programme

Question: consider the following statements:

i) United Nation Development Programme (UNDP) has lauded Indian government's Aspirational Districts Programme (ADP) and has recommended it as a "best practice" for other countries where regional disparities in development status persist for many reasons.

ii) ADP was launched by government of India in January 2018.

Which of the above statements are correct?

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



Ans: c
Context

- On 11th June 2021, a report Aspirational Districts Programme: An Appraisal, was presented by UNDP India Resident Representative Shoko Noda to NITI Aayog Vice-Chairman Rajiv Kumar and CEO Amitabh Kant.
- **Facts**
- Report is appraisal of India's Aspirational District Programme which was launched in 2018.
- Through the report The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) has lauded the Indian government's Aspirational Districts Programme (ADP), saying that it should serve as a "best practice" for other countries where regional disparities in development status persist for many reasons.
- As per the report UNDP has lauded, ADP as a very successful model of local area development which is aligned to the principle of "leave no one behind" – the vital core of the SDGs."
- Report has analysed 5 key sectors of the ADP—health and nutrition; education; agriculture and water resources; basic infrastructure; and skill development and financial inclusion and has found that the programme has acted as a catalyst for expediting development in these districts.
- **About Aspirational District Programme**
- It was launched by the Hon'ble PM in January 2018, the 'Transformation of Aspirational Districts' programme aims to quickly and effectively transform selected districts which lag behind in various development parameters.
- The broad contours of the programme are Convergence (of Central & State Schemes), Collaboration (of Central, State level 'Prabhari' Officers & District Collectors), and Competition among districts driven by a mass Movement.

Reference: <https://indianexpress.com/article/india/un-body-lauds-success-of-centres-aspirational-districts-programme7355453/>

TRAI released new framework for broadcasting & cable services

Question: Consider the following statements:

- On 11th June 2021, the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) released an amendment to interconnection regulations of 2017.
- Part of Interconnection Regulation of 2017 which got amended provides for a framework for technical compliance of conditional access system (CAS) and subscriber management system (SMS) for the broadcasting and cable sector.

Which of the above are correct?

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

Ans: c

Context

- On 11th June 2021, the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) released an amendment to interconnection regulations of 2017.
- **Facts**
- Regulation of 2017 provides a framework for technical compliance of conditional access system (CAS) and subscriber management system (SMS) in broadcasting and cable sector.



- Framework is incorporated as schedule IX in Interconnection Regulations, 2017.
- This framework is amended and new framework is being provided.
- **Key Points regarding New Framework**
- This new technical framework is the first step to define an indigenous set of specifications in line with international standards.
- It is expected to bring “several important benefits” to the television broadcasting sector as well as the consumers.
- “A tightly synchronized working of the CAS and SMS, as specified by the framework will enable factual reporting of subscriber base which will reduce the revenue loss to stakeholders on account of erroneous subscription reporting.
- Better revenue assurance to content creators and other stakeholders will bring better quality of content for consumers on their cable network.
- It is also supposed to increase the security of entire broadcasting network, thus preventing hacking attempts and loss of data and revenues.
- **About CAS**
- CAS is a digital mode of transmitting TV channels using a set-top box. These transmission signals are encrypted and viewers are required to buy a set-top box to receive and decrypt signal. TRAI is pushing for adoption of India specific CAS encryptions. Currently Prasar Bharti’s DTH network is available with India specific CAS encryption called i-CAS.
- **About SMS**
- SMS is a customer-centric care and billing solution which helps multi-play operators to beat competition and meet information technology challenges of serving full needs.

Reference: <https://government.economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/technology/tra-releases-new-technical-framework-for-broadcasting-and-cable-services/83454048>

‘State of Working India 2021: One Year of Covid-19’

Question: With reference to the report ‘State of Working India 2021: One Year of Covid-19’ released by Azim Prem Ji University in May 2021, consider the following statements-

- (a) This report outlines the effects of COVID-19 on employment, income inequality and poverty in India over a period of one year.
- (b) This report also examines the effectiveness of the policy measures that have been taken so far to provide relief and assistance.
- (c) The data in this report pertains to the period between January 2019 and May 2021.
- (d) The monthly income of workers has declined by an average of 32 per cent during the pandemic.

Considering the above given statements choose the true statement-

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

Answer—(c)
related facts

- A report titled ‘State of Working India 2021: One Year of COVID-19’ has been published by Azim Premji University, Center for Sustainable Employment, Bangalore in May 2021.
- **Key points of the report are given below —**
- As the pandemic and the eventual lockdowns wreaked havoc on the economy and livelihoods, around 23 crore Indians have been pushed into poverty during the past one year.



- The number of individuals who lie below the national minimum wage threshold (Rs 375 per day as recommended by the Anoop Satpathy committee) increased by 230 million during the pandemic.
- It noted that though incomes fell across the board, the pandemic has taken a far heavier toll on poorer households. In April and May, the poorest 20 per cent of households lost their entire incomes.
- In contrast, the richer households suffered losses of less than a quarter of their pre-pandemic incomes. Over the entire eight-month period (March to October), an average household in the bottom 10 per cent lost Rs 15,700, or just over two months' income.
- About 1.5 crore workers remained out of work by the end of 2020. About 10 crore people lost jobs during the nationwide April-May 2020 lockdown.
- Incomes also remained depressed. Average monthly household income per capita in October 2020 (Rs 4,979) was still below its level in January 2020 (Rs 5,989).

Link:

https://www.business-standard.com/article/economy-policy/230-million-indians-pushed-into-poverty-amid-covid-19-pandemic-report-121050600751_1.html

Effort to defeat corona in villages

Questions. On June 2, 2021, the Maharashtra government announced the launch of Corona-free village contest in the state. Which of the following is not correct in the option regarding this competition?

- (a) This competition is part of the 'My Village Corona Free' initiative recently announced by Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray.
- (b) Under this competition, 3 villages of each revenue district will be given prizes up to Rs 50 lakh.
- (c) The first prize will be Rs 50 lakh, the second will be Rs 25 lakh and the third will be Rs 15 lakh.
- (d) The participating villages will be assessed on the basis of 12 criteria by the constituted committee.

Answer—(d)

Related facts

- On June 2, 2021, the Maharashtra government announced the launch of Corona-free village contest in the state.
- This competition is part of the 'My Village Corona Free' initiative recently announced by Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray.
- Under this competition, 3 villages of each revenue district will be given prizes up to Rs 50 lakh.
- The first prize will be Rs 50 lakh, the second will be Rs 25 lakh and the third will be Rs 15 lakh.
- The participating villages will be assessed on the basis of 22 criteria by the constituted committee.



Link:

<https://www.hindustantimes.com/cities/mumbai-news/maharashtra-announces-corona-free-village-contest-winners-to-get-50-lakh-101622661006225.html>

First CAR-T cell therapy

Question : DBT supported the first CAR-T cell therapy has recently(June 2021) conducted at ACTREC, Tata Hospital in Mumbai. On which patients is CAR-T cell therapy

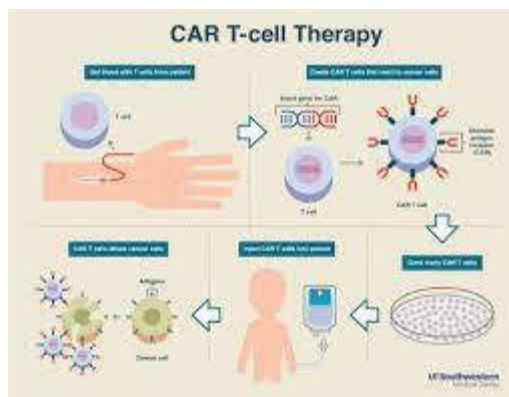
effective?

- a. Last stage blood cancer b. Last stage breast cancer c. Colon cancer
d. None of the above

Ans. a.

Related facts

- DBT supported the first CAR-T cell therapy has recently(June 2021) conducted at ACTREC, Tata Hospital in Mumbai. CAR-T cell therapy carried out for the first time in India.
- It is notable that this therapy is very effective on last stage blood cancer.
- Each patient's CAR-T cell therapy costs 3-4 crore (INR). The challenge, therefore, is to develop this technology in a cost-effective manner and make it available for the patients.
- The central government's National Biopharma Mission-BIRAC has approved 19.15 Cr crore to the team for conducting a first-in-human phase-1/2 clinical trial of the CAR-T cells.
- The first CAR-T cell treatment (a type of gene therapy) was performed in the Bone Marrow Transplant unit at Advanced Centre for Treatment, Research and Education in Cancer (ACTREC), Tata Memorial Center in Mumbai on June 4, 2021, making it a momentous day for TMH, IIT Bombay, and cancer care in India.
- **DBT**
- Under the Ministry of Science and Technology, the Department of Biotechnology (DBT) supports and accelerates the development of biotechnology in India, including its growth and use in agriculture, healthcare, animal sciences, environment, and industry.



Link:

<http://newsonair.com/2021/06/08/dbt-supported-the-first-car-t-cell-therapy-conducted-at-actrec-tata-hospital-in-mumbai/>

Delhi & Hyderabad airport

Question : Which of the following airport has been received ACI Asia-Pacific Green Airports recognition ?

- A. Delhi & Hyderabad airport B. Chennai airport C. Mumbai airport & Kolkata airport
D. Bengluru airport

Ans. A.

Related facts

- Delhi & Hyderabad airport have recently(June 2021) been received ACI Asia-Pacific Green Airports recognition.
- It is notable that GMR Airports-run Delhi and Hyderabad airports have been felicitated by the Airports Council International (ACI) Asia-Pacific Green Airports Recognition 2021 for their environment sustainable initiatives under the below 25 Million Passengers Per Annum (MPPA) category.
- The award was decided by a distinguished global panel that highly praised DIAL's Green taxiing initiatives at IGI Airport based on TaxiBots.
- This is the fifth consecutive year where DIAL(Delhi International Airport Limited) has been appreciated and awarded for its sustainable initiatives.



- GHIAL (GMR Hyderabad International Airport Limited)has received Gold Recognition for the fourth times in a row for its sustainable airport operations for effective Air Quality Management.

Link:

<http://ddnews.gov.in/national/delhi-hyderabad-airports-receive-aci-asia%E2%80%9393pacific-green-airports-recognition>

India's largest e-pharma company

Question : Match the following —

List 1.	List 2.
1. Estimate of R&D Investment(FY 2020) by top 10 Indian Pharma companies(% of sales)	W. 16.3
2. Pharmaceutical Export from India in billion dollar(FY 2020)	X. 8.4
3. Government Expenditure on Health in India in billion dollar(FY 2020)	Y. 42.0
4. Indian Pharmaceutical Market size in 2021(billion dollar)	Z. 46.0

A. 1 X, 2W, 3Z, 4Y B. 1 Y, 2 Z, 3 W, 4 X C. 1 W, 2 X, 3 Y, 4 Z D. 1 Z, 2 Y, 3 X, 4 W

Ans. A.

Related facts

- PharmEasy has recently announced the acquisition of Medlife.
- The deal will make it India's largest healthcare delivery platform(e-pharma company).
- It is noteworthy that PharmEasy is providing its service to more than 20 lakh families every month.
- PharmEasy has said that Medlife will close its operations and it will be merged with PharmEasy's platform from May 25.
- Medlife customers and retail partners will be brought on FarmEasy's platform.
- Indian Pharmaceutical Industry at a glance(Key points) —
- Estimate of R&D Investment(FY 2020) by top 10 Indian Pharma companies(% of sales) – 8.4
- Pharmaceutical Export from India in billion dollar(FY 2020) – 16.3
- Government Expenditure on Health in India in billion dollar(FY 2020) – 46.0
- Indian Pharmaceutical Market size in 2021(billion dollar) – 42.0



- In February 2021, the government approved a production-linked incentive (PLI) scheme for the pharmaceuticals sector from FY21 to FY29.
- The scheme is expected to attract investments of Rs. 15,000 crore (US\$ 2.07 billion) into the sector.

Link:

https://www.business-standard.com/article/technology/pharmeasy-buys-medlife-becomes-largest-e-pharma-firm-with-2-mn-customers-121052501055_1.html

Drinking water projects in Odisha

Question : Nabard has recently(June 2021) sanctioned Rs 254 crore for setting up of two mega piped drinking water supply projects in Odisha. Name the two districts where projects will set up ?

a. Jaipur & Puri b. Mayurbhanj & Kendujhar c. Cuttack & Bargarh d. Balangir & Angul

Ans. a.

Related facts

- Nabard has recently(June 2021) sanctioned Rs 254 crore for setting up of two mega piped drinking water supply projects in Odisha.
- The two mega projects will set up in Jaipur district (covering Badachana and Dharmasala blocks) and Puri district (covering Brahmagiri and Krushnaprasad block).
- These projects are expected to provide clean and safe drinking water to 8.78 lakh rural population across 1.37 lakh household in 565 villages of the state on completion.
- The mega piped drinking water supply projects are intended for providing 70 litre per capital per day (LPCD) clean, safe hygienic portable drinking water at the consumer end through functional household tape connection (FHTC) with eight hours of supply in the project area.
- These projects will contribute in achieving the goal of provision of drinking water to the rural population by 2022.



Link:

<https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/india/nabard-sanctions-rs-254-crore-for-drinking-water-projects-in-odisha/articleshow/83170312.cms?from=mdr>

World's 1st Nano Urea Introduced by IFFCO in India for the Farmers Across the World

Question- Which company has introduced the world's first 'Nano Liquid Urea'?

(a) IFFCO (b) National Fertilizers Limited (c) Chambal fertilizers
(d) Rashtriya chemicals and fertilizers

Ans. (a)

Related facts-

- World's 1st Nano Urea Liquid is introduced for the farmers across the world by Indian Farmers Fertiliser Cooperative Limited (IFFCO).
- It is a patented technology of IFFCO developed at its Nano Biotechnology Research Center in Kalol, Gujarat.
- IFFCO Nano Urea is a product of the 21st century and it is the need of hour to keep the environment soil, air and water, safe for future generations while securing food for all.



- According to IFFCO, the process of construction of nano urea plants at Kalol (in Gujarat) and Aonla and Phulpur (in Uttar Pradesh) has already been initiated.
- On benefits of this new product, IFFCO nano urea liquid is environmental friendly, smart fertilizer with high nutrient use efficiency and a sustainable solution for curtailing pollution and reduction in global warming in the long run as it reduces the emissions of nitrous oxide and doesn't contaminate soil, air and water bodies.
- IFFCO explained that the size of one nano urea particle is 30 nanometre and when compare to the conventional urea it has about 10,000 times more surface area to volume size when compare to granular urea.

Reference- <https://www.livemint.com/companies/news/iffco-begins-commercial-production-of-nano-urea-liquid-11622987605932.html>.

May records second highest rainfall in 121 years- IMD

Question- Which of the following month of 2021 is received highest rainfall?

(a) June (b) May (c) March (d) April

Ans. (b)

Related Facts-

- As per Indian Meteorological Department (IMD), May 2021 received second highest rainfall in 121 years.
- The highest rainfall attributed to two back-to-back cyclones and western disturbances for the record precipitation.
- IMD said at 34.18 degrees Celsius, the average maximum temperature over India this May was the fourth lowest since 1901.
- The lowest ever temperature recorded for May was 32.68 degrees Celsius in 1917. The temperature was lowest since 1977 when it was of 33.84 degrees Celsius.
- Rainfall over India as a whole for May month of 2021 was recorded as 107.9 millimetres which is 74 percent more than its Long Period Average (LPA) of 62 mm.
- Highest ever rainfall was occurred in year 1990 with recorded rainfall of 110.7mm.
- Tauktae formed over the Arabian Sea and developed into an 'extremely severe cyclonic storm'. It hit the Gujarat coast on May 17 after battering states along the western coast.
- Cyclone 'Yaas' developed over the Bay of Bengal and intensified into a 'very severe cyclonic storm'. It hit the Odisha coast on May 26 and also affected West Bengal.
- These two systems brought rainfall not only over the states along the western and eastern coasts but also to other parts of the country. For instance, as Cyclone 'Tauktae' weakened, it headed towards north India and brought rains over several parts of north India.
- Similarly, 'Yaas' brought rains over east India including Jharkhand, Bihar as it weakened.



Reference- <https://www.indiatoday.in/india/story/may-records-second-highest-rainfall-in-121-years-imd-says-1813450-2021-06-11>.

Education Ministry releases AISHE report 2019-20

Question- Consider the following statements-

(1) Ministry of Education has released AISHE report 2019-20

(2) The number of PhDs has increased by 60 per cent in the last five years.

(3) As per the AISHE report 2018-19, BTech and MTech programmes had seen a dramatic

fall.

Select the correct answer using the code given below-

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

Ans. (d)

Related facts-

- The Ministry of Education on June 10, 2021 released the All Indian Survey of Higher Education (AISHE) report 2019-20.
- The report revealed that the number of Institutes of National Importance (INIs) have increased from 75 in 2015 to 135 in 2020. The number of PhDs has also increased by 60 percent in the last five years.
- Gender parity Index has also improved.
- As per the AISHE report 2018-19, BTech and MTech programmes had seen a dramatic fall. This led to an overall dip in enrolment in professional courses, which hit a four-year low.
- Students pursuing a Master's degree in technology had decreased by more than half in the last five years alone, from 2,89,311 in 2014-15 to 1,35,500 in 2018-19, according to AISHE 2018-19.
- B.Tech enrolment fell by 11 per cent in the same period, from 42,54,919 to 37,70,949.
- However, some professional programmes such as MBA, MBBS, BEd and LLB continued to attract more students.
- The number of students pursuing an MBA, for instance, grew from 4,09,432 in 2014-15 to 4,62,853 in 2018-19. Similarly, enrolment in B.Ed. jumped by almost 80 per cent, from 6,57,194 in 2014-15 to 11,75,517 last year.



Reference- <https://indianexpress.com/article/education/education-ministry-releases-aishe-report-2019-20-number-of-phds-increased-60-in-last-five-years-7352559/>.

India's agriculture exports have beaten the pandemic by registering a growth

Question: What figure India's agriculture exports have recently achieved in terms of cost according to the declaration of commerce ministry?

a) \$ 41.25 billion b) \$ 51.25 billion c) \$ 1.25 billion d) \$ 44.25 billion

Answer: (a)

Related Facts:

- As per the 10 June 2021; declaration of commerce ministry, India's agriculture exports (including marine and plantation products) jump to \$ 41.25 billion in 2020-21.
- India's agriculture exports have beaten the pandemic by registering a growth of 17.34 per cent in 2020-21.
- It has been observed that excellent growth of Agri exports in FY21 has come after it remained stagnant for the past three years.
- Agri exports in India remained USD 38.43 billion in 2017-18, USD 38.74 billion in 2018-19 and USD 35.16 billion 2019-20.
- In rupee terms, the increase is 22.62 per cent with exports during 2020-21 amounting to Rs 3.05 lakh crore as compared to Rs 2.49 lakh crore during 2019-20.
- India's agricultural and allied imports during 2019-20 were USD 20.64 billion, and the corresponding figures for 2020-21 are USD 20.67 billion.



- Despite COVID-19, the balance of trade in agriculture has improved by 42.16% from USD 14.51 billion to USD 20.58 billion.
- For agriculture products (excluding marine and plantation products), the growth is 28.36% with exports of USD 29.81 billion in 2020-21 as compared to USD 23.23 billion in 2019-20.
- India has been able to take advantage of the increased demand for staples during the COVID-19 period.

Links:-

<https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/economy/agriculture/indias-agriculture-exports-jump-to-41-billion-despite-pandemic-disruptions/articleshow/83400113.cms>

Dehing Patkai Wildlife Sanctuary

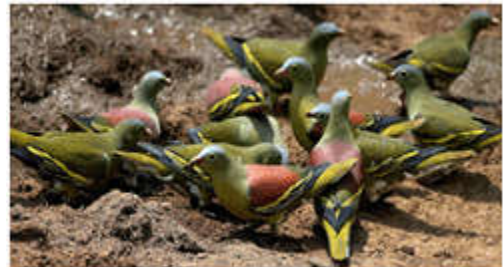
Question: in which of the following state Dehing Patkai Wildlife Sanctuary is located?

a) Meghalaya b) Assam c) Arunachal Pradesh d) Himachal Pradesh

Answer: (b)

Related Facts:-

- On June 9, 2021. The government of Assam decided to declare Dehing Patkai Wildlife Sanctuary as the seventh national park in the state.
- It should be known that Assam got its 7th National Park within two weeks, just after the Raimona National Park.
- Raimona National Park was notified as the sixth national park on World Environment Day on June 5, 2021.
- Raimona National Park is located in the Bodoland Territorial Region.
- The newest national park, commonly known as Dehing Patkai Rainforest, has unique flower and animal diversity.
- In 2004, 111.19 square kilometers of the area was designated as Dehing Patkai Wildlife Sanctuary, which was recognized by the state government.
- The Sanctuary is home to various kinds of animals as Homo-browed gibbons, elephants, slow loris, tigers, leopards, etc.
- It also gives shelter to the clouded leopards, golden cats, fishing cats, marble cats, sambar, pig deer, sloth bears and several species of birds.
- Among the different species of birds there is the endangered state bird, White-winged wood duck.
- The state now has the second most national parks in the country. Madhya Pradesh and Andaman and Nicobar Islands each have nine national parks.



Links:-

<https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/guwahati/assam-declares-dihing-patkai-as-national-park/articleshow/83391411.cms>

All India Survey on Higher Education 2019-2020

Question: Consider the following statements regarding All India Survey on Higher Education 2019-2020?

- On 10th June 2021, Union Education Minister Shri Ramesh Pokhriyal 'Nishank' released the report of All India Survey on Higher Education 2019-20.
- As per the report in last five years from 2015-16 to 2019-20, there has been a growth of 11.4% in the student enrolment.
- Gender Parity Index (GPI) in Higher Education in 2019-20 is 1.01 against 1.00 in 2018-19.

Which of the above statements are correct?

a) i, ii b) ii, iii c) All of the above d) None of the above

Ans: c

Context

- On 10th June 2021, Union Education Minister Shri Ramesh Pokhriyal 'Nishank' released the report of All India Survey on Higher Education 2019-20.

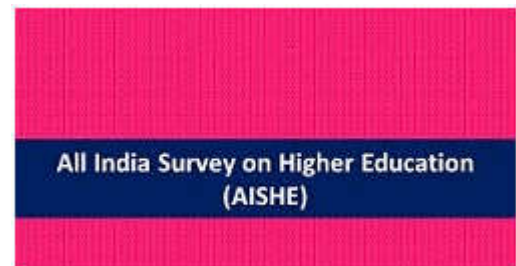
- About Survey**

- This is the 10th edition of report which is released annually by Department of Higher Education, Ministry of Education.
- It covers all institutions of Higher Education in the country, registered with AISHE code in AISHE portal www.aishe.gov.in. Institutions are categorized in 3 broad Categories; University, College and Stand-Alone Institutions

- Facts**

- Important points from the report**

- In last five years from 2015-16 to 2019-20, there has been a growth of 11.4% in the student enrolment.
- The rise in female enrolment in higher education during the same period of 2015-16 to 2019-20 is 18.2%.
- Total Enrolment:** Total enrolment in Higher Education stands at 3.85 crore in 2019-20 as compared to 3.74 crore in 2018-19, registering a growth of 11.36 lakh (3.04 %). Total enrolment was 3.42 crore in 2014-15.
- Gross Enrolment Ratio (GER):** GER i.e. the percentage of students belonging to the eligible age group i.e. for 18-23 years of age group, enrolled in Higher Education, in 2019-20 is 27.1% against 26.3% in 2018-19 and 24.3% in 2014-2015.
- GER for male population is 26.9 and for female, it is 27.3. For Scheduled Castes, it is 23.4 and for Scheduled Tribes, it is 18.0 as compared to the national GER of 27.1.
- Pupil Teacher Ratio:** Ratio of Number of students per teacher in Higher Education in 2019-20 is 26.
- Gender Parity Index (GPI) in Higher Education in 2019-20 is 1.01 against 1.00 in 2018-19. This suggests improvement in the relative access to higher education for females of eligible age group compared to males.
- Number of students pursuing PhD in 2019-20 is 2.03 lakh against 1.17 lakh in 2014-15.
- The Total Number of Teachers stands at 15,03,156 comprising of 57.5% male and 42.5% female.



Reference: <https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1725914>

Global House Price Index 2021

Question: What is the position of India on the Global Housing Price Index 2021 (for Q1 of 2021) recently released by Knight Frank?

a) 56th b) 55th c) 43rd d) None of the above

Ans: a

Context

- London based real estate consultancy Knight Frank has released Global House Price Index 2021 for the first quarter of 2021.
- Facts**



- Knight Frank's Global House Price Index is a means of benchmarking average prices across 56 countries and territories.
- Index value has increased by 7.3% from start of the year to March 2021, indicating increase in global housing property values.
- As per the Index, Turkey has occupied top position, followed by New Zealand, Luxemburg and United States.
- India has been ranked at 55th position during Q1 2021, while it was ranked at 43rd position during Q1 2020 in terms of property prices.
- India has experienced 1.6% reduction in the home prices on a year on year basis. This is mostly associated to lockdown measures adopted to curb Covid pandemic.

Reference: <https://content.knightfrank.com/research/84/documents/en/global-house-price-index-q1-2021-8146.pdf>

Centre announces hike in MSP for Kharif Crops

Question: What is the new Minimum Support Price (MSP) for paddy announced by central government for kharif season of crops for year 2021-22?

a) Rs 1940 per quintal b) Rs 1868 per quintal c) Rs 1800 per quintal d) None of the above

Ans: a

Context

- Central government has recently announced increase in MSP of kharif crops for year 2021-22.
- **Facts**
 - Central government has increased the minimum support price of paddy marginally by Rs 72 per quintal to Rs 1,940 for the 2021-22 crop year.
 - There has been substantial increase in MSPs of pulses, oilseeds and cereals.



Kharif crops: Old vs New MSP

Crop	Old MSP	New MSP	Increase
Paddy (Common)	1,868	1,940	72
Paddy (GradeA)^	1,888	1,960	72
Jowar (hybrid)	2,620	2,738	118
Jowar (Maldandi)	2,640	2,758	118
Bajra	2,150	2,250	100
Ragi	3,295	3,377	82
Maize	1,850	1,870	20

Crop	Old MSP	New MSP	Increase
Tur (Arhar)	6,000	6,300	300
Moong	7,196	7,275	79
Urad	6,000	6,300	300
Groundnut	5,275	5,550	275
Sunflower Seed	5,885	6,015	130
Soyabean (yellow)	3,880	3,950	70
Sesamum	6,855	7,307	452
Nigerseed	6,695	6,930	235
Cotton (Medium Staple)	5,515	5,726	211
Cotton (Long staple)	5,825	6,025	200

Minimum Support Price

- It is an agricultural product price, set by the Government of India to purchase directly from the farmer.
- This rate is provided to safeguard the farmer to a minimum profit for the harvest, if the open market has lesser price than the cost incurred. The Indian government sets the price for 23 commodities twice a year.
- This is not enforceable by law.
- MSP is fixed on the recommendations of the Commission for Agricultural Costs and Prices (CACP) since 2009.

Reference: <https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/india/centre-announces-new-msps-of-kharif-crops-hike-favours-nutri-cereals-oilseeds-and-pulses/articleshow/83368964.cms>

Costs of Climate Change in India report

Question: As per the report, 'Costs of Climate Change in India' released by London-based global think tank Overseas Development Institute on 8th June 2021, what may be loss the India's GDP by 2100 because of climate impacts?

a) 3%-10% b) 3%-12% c) 4%-15% d) 20%

Ans: a

Context



- On 8th June 2021, London-based global think tank Overseas Development Institute has released a report titled, 'Costs of Climate Change in India'.
- Report deals with the impact of climate change on the Indian Economic Development.
- **Facts**
- Report predicts the economic costs of climate-related risks in the country and points to the possibility of increased inequality and poverty.
- Report states that although India has made rapid progress in boosting incomes and living standards over the last three decades, but without rapid global action, climate change may reverse development gains of recent decades.
- Report predicts that India may lose anywhere around 3 to 10 per cent of its GDP annually by 2100 due to climate change.
- It also predicts that India's poverty rate may rise by 3.5 per cent in 2040.

Reference: <https://indianexpress.com/article/india/india-may-lose-3-10-gdp-annually-by-2100-due-to-climate-change-says-report-7350318/>

Black Carbon Deposits Accelerating Snow melting in Himalayan Glaciers

Question: Which of the following world organization has recently published the report, Glaciers of the Himalayas: Climate Change, Black Carbon, and Regional Resilience?

a) UNESCO b) World Bank c) UNEA d) None of these

Answer: (b)

Related Facts:

- On 03 June; 2021 World Bank published the report, Glaciers of the Himalayas: Climate Change, Black Carbon, and Regional Resilience.
- The report says that Black carbon deposits due to human activities are accelerating glaciers and snow melt in the fragile Himalayan ranges.
- The World Bank said in a major study that Black carbon deposits are also the cause of changing temperatures and precipitation patterns.
- According to the report glaciers in the Himalayas are melting faster than the global average ice mass.
- The study running into nearly 140 pages presents scenarios through to 2040 to align with a reasonable policy-making time horizon.
- The report included coverage of the Himalayas, Karakoram, and Hindu Kush (HKHK) mountain ranges.
- Black Carbon (BC) is a pollutant with a short lifetime.
- It is the second largest cause of global warming after carbon dioxide (CO₂).
- Unlike other greenhouse gas emissions, BC is quickly washed out of the atmosphere and can be eliminated if emissions are reduced.
- It is generated by human activity both inside and outside South Asia.
- It is part of a larger basket of aerosols that impact climate change directly and indirectly.
- The study Glaciers of the Himalayas provides new evidence on the extent to which black carbon reduction policies.
- These policies by South Asian countries have an impact on glacier formation and melt in the Himalaya, Karakoram, and Hindu Kush mountain ranges.
- It also examines the extent of water resources and the potential impact of this loss of glaciations on downstream river basins.



- The study running into nearly 140 pages presents scenarios through to 2040 to align with a reasonable policy-making time horizon.

Links:-

<https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/international/world-news/black-carbon-deposits-are-accelerating-glaciers-and-snow-melt-in-himalayan-ranges-says-world-bank/articleshow/83204876.cms>

India's Sunil Chhetri passes Lionel Messi in international goals

Question- Which of the following Indian football player has surpassed Lionel Messi goal record?

(a) Sunil Chhetri (b) Gurpeet Singh Sandhu (c) Rahul Bheke (d) Manvir Singh

Ans. (a)

Related facts-

- Sunil Chhetri has surpassed Argentina's Lionel Messi and has become second-highest active international goal-scorer with 74 strikes.
- Chhetri now leads Barcelona star Messi by two goals and is placed above Ali Mabkhout of UAE, who is at third place with 73 strikes.
- Portugal striker Cristiano Ronaldo tops the international list among active players, with 103 goals.
- He achieved this feat against Bangladesh in joint preliminary qualifying round match for 2022 FIFA World Cup and 2023 AFC Asian Cup.
- Indian professional footballer plays as striker or winger and is captain of both Indian Super League side Bengaluru FC and Indian national football team.
- He is popularly known as Captain Fantastic.
- Following Cristiano Ronaldo, Chhetri is the second-highest international goal scorer among active players while 10th highest of all time.



Reference- <https://www.thehindubusinessline.com/news/sports/sunil-chhetri-passes-lionel-messi-in-international-goals/article34760133.ece>.

Two species of Monals sighted together in Arunachal Pradesh

Question- Consider the following statements-

(1) Monals is a colour pheasant

(2) Recently, Sclater's Monal and Himalayan Monal were sighted in Arunachal Pradesh

Select the correct code from the given option-

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

Ans. (a)

Related facts-

- The Sclater's Monal (*Lophophorus Sclateri*) and Himalayan Monal (*Lophophorus Impejanus*) were sighted at the Mount Eko Dumbing that lies between Yingkiong and Singga in Upper Siang district.
- Sclater's Monal is endemic to high mountain ridges of northeast India, southern China, and northern Myanmar. Listed as 'vulnerable' by the International Union of Conservation of Nature (IUCN) due to habitat loss and hunting, such sightings help in understanding the species' distribution.



- Himalayan Monal, a colourful bird, is more widely distributed from Afghanistan to Northeast India in the Himalayan ranges. A male and female were sighted at Bomeh at an altitude of 3,700 metres above MSL.
- Monal bird belongs to genus Lophophorus of pheasant family called Phasianidae.
- Male birds have colourful, iridescent plumage with plump physique. They prefer like roots, bulbs and insects as diet. Males are polygamous during mating. They mate with several females.
- Females only mate with selected male and enter into monogamous relationship. They are listed as vulnerable due to habitat destruction and hunting.

Reference- <https://www.eastmojo.com/arunachal-pradesh/2021/06/08/sclaters-monal-and-himalayan-monal-sighted-in-arunachals-upper-siang/>.

Pandemic propels Auckland to top of EIU's most liveable cities ranking

Question- As per the latest The Economist Intelligence Units(EIU) annual survey report which of the following city is the most liveable cities in the world?

(a) Auckland (b) Vienna (c) Hong Kong (d) Wellington

Ans. (a)

Related facts-

- Auckland came out on top on The Economist Intelligence Unit's Global Liveability Index of 140 cities around the world because of its success in containing the pandemic quickly, enabling restrictions to be lifted early on.
- It is followed by Osaka & Tokyo in Japan, Adelaide in Australia and Wellington in New Zealand. All these countries had swift response to pandemic.
- According to the report, metropolises in Australia, Japan and New Zealand leaping ahead of metropolises in Europe.
- Life remains most difficult in Damascus because of Syria's ongoing civil war.
- Most notable rise was by Honolulu, Hawaii in United States. It came to 14th position by moved up 46 places. Ranking improved because of its containment measures and fast vaccination programme.
- The annual list did not go ahead in 2020, but Austria's Vienna, number one in both 2018 and 2019, has completely dropped out of the top 10 after being heavily effected by Covid and now sits in 12th place.
- Damascus remains the world's least liveable city and most of the previous ten least liveable cities remain in the bottom ten this year, including Dhaka and Karachi in the Asia-Pacific region.



Reference- https://www.business-standard.com/article/international/economist-report-ranks-dhaka-karachi-in-world-s-ten-least-liveable-cities-121060900455_1.html.

Anup Chandra Pandey takes charge as Election Commissioner of India

Question-Who is appointed as the new Chief Election Commissioner of India?

(a) Sunil Arora (b) Rajiv Gauba (c) Ajoy J Mehta (d) Anup Chandra Pandey

Ans. (d)

Related facts-

- The Union government on June 9,2021 picked 1984-batch IAS officer Anup Chandra Pandey, the former chief secretary of Uttar Pradesh, as an



- election commissioner, taking the Election Commission of India to its full strength.
- Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) Sushil Chandra and Election Commissioner Rajiv Kumar are the other two members of the poll panel, which saw a vacancy after CEC Sunil Arora demitted office in April, 2021 .
- He will serve the office for around three years and will retire in February 2024.

Reference- <https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/anup-chandra-pandey-takes-charge-as-election-commissioner/article34770324.ece>.

India elected to UN Economic and Social Council

Question: Consider the following statements;

i) India was elected to the United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) for 2022-2024 term.

ii) India was elected in the Asia-Pacific States category along with Afghanistan, Kazakhstan and Oman in the elections held on 7th June 2021.

Which of the above statements are correct?

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

Ans: c

Context

- India was elected to the United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) for 2022-2024 term in the elections held in United Nations on 7th June 2021.
- Facts**
 - India was elected in the Asia-Pacific States category along with Afghanistan, Kazakhstan and Oman.
 - Elected African countries are- Cote d'Ivoire, Eswatini, Mauritius, Tunisia, and United Republic of Tanzania.
 - Among eastern European states Croatia and Czech Republic were elected.
 - Belize, Peru and Chile are among elected Latin American and Caribbean states.
- About United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC)**
 - It is a 54-member Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) and is at the heart of the United Nations system to advance the three dimensions of sustainable development – economic, social and environmental.
 - It is also responsible for the follow-up to major UN conferences and summits.



Reference: <https://www.livemint.com/news/india/india-elected-to-un-economic-social-council-for-202224-11623120193435.html>

Surakshit Hum Surakshit Tum Abhiyaan

Question: Which of the following organizations has launched 'Surakshit Hum Surakshit Tum Abhiyaan' on June 8, 2021 to look after the asymptomatic Covid-19 patients in the 112 aspirational districts?

a) NITI Aayog b) Piramal Foundation c) Tata Trust d) All of the above

Ans: a and b both

Context

- On 8th June 2021, NITI Aayog and Piramal Foundation launched 'Surakshit Hum Surakshit Tum Abhiyaan' in 112 Aspirational Districts of the country to provide home care support to asymptomatic Covid-19 patients.



- **Facts**

- The campaign will provide covid home-care support to 20 lakh citizens by assisting district authorities.
- The Abhiyaan is part of a special initiative in which local leaders, civil societies and volunteers work with district administrations to address emerging problems across key focus areas of the Aspirational Districts Programme.
- District Magistrate will lead the campaign in partnership with local NGOs.
- NGOs will enlist and train over one lakh volunteers to connect with patients through inbound and outbound calls.
- Piramal Foundation will work with district magistrates to support the training of NGOs and volunteers.
- Volunteers will be trained to support 20 affected families each by educating caretakers to follow COVID protocols, provide psycho-social support and timely updates about patients to the administration.
- Campaign will also create awareness about correct uses of oxygen concentrator provided to families by district authorities.
- **Aspirational District Programme**
- It was Launched by the Hon'ble PM in January 2018,.
- The 'Transformation of Aspirational Districts' programme aims to quickly and effectively transform these districts.
- The broad contours of the programme are Convergence (of Central & State Schemes), Collaboration (of Central, State level 'Prabhari' Officers & District Collectors), and Competition among districts driven by a mass Movement.

Reference: <http://newsonair.com/2021/06/08/niti-aayog-and-piramal-foundation-launch-surakshit-hum-surakshit-tum-abhiyaan-for-home-care-support-to-asymptomatic-covid-patients/>

Assam to provide awards similar to Bharat Ratna and Padma Awards

Question: Which state on 8th June has decided to replicate Bharat Ratna and Padma like awards to be given in the state?

a) Assam b) Nagaland c) Delhi d) None of the above

Ans: a

Context

- Assam government has constituted annual awards on the lines of Bharat Ratna and Padma awards entailing a slew of benefits for the awardees.

- **Facts**

- Asom Ratna will be presented every year to one person who has made a significant contribution to society
- The Asom Bibhushan will be presented to three, the Asom Bhushan to two and the Asom Shree to 10 persons every year.
- While Asom Ratna awardee will be given Rs 5lakh cash reward , Asom Bibhushan, Asom Bhushan and Asom shree will have Rs 3 lakh, Rs 2 lakh and Rs 1 lakh respectively as award money.
- Other benefits include free treatment for critical illness, free stay at Assam Bhawans across the country and free travel in State Transport Corporation buses etc.
- **Other Decisions taken by government**
- Literary Pension will be conferred in the name of litterateur Dr Homen Borgohain on his birthday (December 7).
- Sports Pension will be given in the name of Arjun Bhogeswar Barua on his birthday (September 3) while



- Artiste Award will be given on January 17 every year.

Reference: <https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/other-states/assam-to-replicate-bharat-ratna-padma-awards/article34760540.ece>

Kashmir village is India's first to inoculate all adults against COVID-19

Question- Which of the following village has become India's first village to achieve 100% vaccination of its adult population?

(a) Weyan, Bandipora (J &K) (b) Mahi (Rajasthan) (c) Lakhimpur (U.P) (d) Kulgam (J&K)

Ans. (a)

Related facts-

- Weyan, a remote village in Bandipora district of Jammu & Kashmir became India's first village to vaccinate all its adult population against COVID-19.
- Officials have said that vaccination in Weyan village was covered under the J&K model, a 10-point strategy to inoculate everyone who is eligible for the shots at a faster pace.
- The Union territory has achieved 70 per cent vaccination for those in the 45+ age group despite the initial vaccine hesitancy, almost double the national average.



Reference- <https://indianexpress.com/article/cities/srinagar/jk-hamlet-first-village-india-100-vaccination-adult-population-7349325/>.

Haryana to create 80 acres of 'Oxi-van'

Question: Which state has launched Vayu Devta Pension Scheme (PVDPS) and Oxy Van (Oxygen Forest) scheme recently?

a) Madhya Pradesh b) Haryana c) Uttarakhand d) Himanchal Pradesh

Ans: b

Context

- Haryana government on the occasion of World Environment Day on 5th June 2021 has launched Vayu Devta Pension Scheme (PVDPS) and Oxy Van (Oxygen Forest) scheme.
- **Facts**
Vayu Devta Pension Scheme (PVDPS)
 - All the trees which are older than 75 years will be identified in the state and they will be looked after by the government by the participation of local people.
 - For maintenance of trees older than 75 years, a "pension amount" of Rs 2,500 would be given per year in the name of PVDPS. This 'tree pension' shall continue to increase every year, on lines similar to the Old Age Samman Pension Scheme in the state.
 - The pension shall be given by the Urban Local Bodies department for the upkeep of the trees, installing plates, grilles etc.
- **Oxy Van (Oxygen Forest) scheme**
 - Oxy Van are identified pieces of land, on which as many as 3 crore trees would be planted. The Oxy Vans will occupy 10 per cent of the 8 lakh hectares of land across Haryana.
 - So far Oxy Van are launched in Karnal and Panchkula district of Haryana.

Reference: <https://indianexpress.com/article/explained/what-is-haryana-cms-scheme-for-pension-for-trees-oxygen-forests-to-avoid-shortages-in-future-7345557/>

Raimona National Park

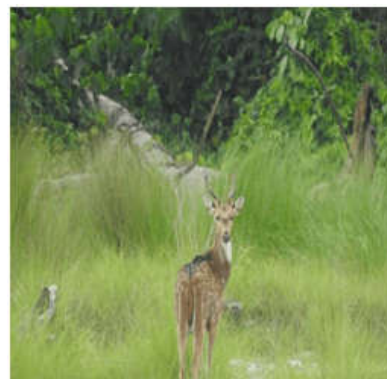
Question: Recently declared as National Park, Raimona National Park is situated in which state of India?

a) Nagaland b) Assam c) Odisha d) Madhya Pradesh

Ans: b

Facts

- Raimona in Kokrajhar district of Assam has become Assam's sixth national park.
- This forest comes under Bodoland Territorial Region (BTR) across the border with Bhutan.
- The five national parks that existed prior to the Raimona are Kaziranga, Manas, Nameri, Orang and Dibru-Saikhowa National Parks.
- **About Raimona National Park**
 - This 422 sq. km national park of Assam is located in Gossaigaon subdivision of Kokrajhar district under BTR. It is bounded on the west by the Sonkosh river along the Assam-West Bengal border running southward from the India-Bhutan border and the Saralbhangra river on the east till it touched the India-Bhutan border on the north and the southern part of the Ripu Reserve Forest.
 - It is home to golden langur, tigers, Asian elephants, clouded leopards, wild buffalo, Indian gaur, hornbill, spotted deer, 170 species of birds, 150 species of butterflies and 380 varieties of plants & orchids.



Reference: <https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/raimona-becomes-assams-sixth-national-park/article34736719.ece>

Ministry of Education releases Performance Grading Index 2019-20

Question: Which state/UT has achieved highest grade point in the Performance Grading Index 2019-20 released by Ministry of Education on 6th of June 2021?

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

Ans: a

Context

- On 6th June 2021, Ministry of Education has released Performance Grading Index (PGI) 2021 for with reference year as 2019-20.
- **Facts**
 - **About Index**
 - It was first launched in the year 2019 with reference year base as 2017-18 .
 - Index is a tool to measure status of education in states and UTs including key levers that drive the performance and areas of improvement vis-à-vis education system in these states and UTs. At the same time it also acts as a good source of information for best practices followed by States and UTs which can be shared.
 - This index helps states and UTs to pinpoint gaps in their education system and hence to take multi dimensional interventions to bring optimal changes in their educational system.



▪ PGI 2019-20

- It awards maximum 1000 grade points based on 2 categories (Outcomes, and Governance & Management) and 70 Indicators. And based on these grade is awarded to the state/UT.
- The information on the indicators are drawn from data available with the Department of School Education and Literacy (DoSEL) from the Unified District Information System for Education (UDISE), National Achievement Survey (NAS) of NCERT, Mid Day Meal website, Public Financial Management System (PFMS) and the information uploaded by the States and UTs on the Shagun PortalEL.
- Effective governance and management will go a long way in improving the school education system and PGI has been conceptualised as a tool to encourage States and UTs to ensure that the outcomes included in the Index are delivered.
- Index grades the States and UTs, as opposed to ranking. Grading, by allowing several States and UTs to be considered at the same level, eliminates the phenomenon of one improving only at the cost of others, thereby casting a stigma of underperformance on the latter, though, in effect they may have maintained status quo or even done better than earlier.

▪ Results of Index

- 5 states & union territories namely Punjab (929), Chandigarh (912), Tamil Nadu (906), Kerala (901) and Andaman & Nicobar Islands and attained highest grade (Grade I++) for 2019-20.
- Ladakh was graded for first time and was placed in Grade VII with lowest score of 545.
- Meghalaya attained score of 601-650 which is Grade VI.
- Andaman & Nicobar Islands, Punjab and Arunachal Pradesh improved their score by 20%.
- 11 states or UTs have improved their score by 10% – 20%.
- 10 states including Karnataka & Delhi have improved their score by 5% to 10%.
- In comparison to previous year, report has improved across most of the states.
- UP was placed in Grade I category with score range of 801-850.

Reference: <http://pgi.seshagun.gov.in/#/about/catalysing>

One year of INDIAai report

Question : On which date has INDIAai celebrated its first anniversary ?

a. 28 MAY 2021 b. 26 MAY 2021 c. 24 MAY 2021 d. 22 MAY 2021

Ans. a.

Related facts

- The 'National AI Portal (<https://indiaai.gov.in>)', celebrated its first anniversary on May 28, 2021, in a virtual event attended by nearly 400 participants and dignitaries.
- The National AI Portal is a joint initiative by Ministry of Electronics and IT (MeitY), National e-Governance Division (NeGD) and NASSCOM and serves as a central hub for AI related news, learning, articles, events and activities etc., in India and beyond.
- The portal was launched on May 30, 2020.
- **AI PeCharcha and report**
- The anniversary event covered Launches, Fireside Chat Session, and 'AI PeCharcha', wherein key leaders from MeitY, NeGD, NASSCOM and knowledge partner Infosys conducted discussion on how India can become a global AI leader and explored ideas around implementing trustworthy AI solutions.



- To mark completion of one year of operations, INDIAai showcased its achievements through a video, which was followed by the release of a report titled 'One year of INDIAai'.
- A new look of the website homepage was also unveiled at the event.
- In the past year, INDIAai has covered 550+ Articles, conducted 10 Webinars, 34 Podcasts, listed over 250 Start-ups, 23 Investment funds, 30 Colleges, 76 AI Case Studies, 75 Central and 30 State initiatives, and 48 Research Reports.

Link:

<https://pib.gov.in/PressReleaseFramePage.aspx?PRID=1722559>

Kerala launches 'Knowledge Economy Mission'

Question: Which state has launched 'Knowledge Economy Mission' on 4th June 2021 during its budget presentation?

a) Kerala b) Tamil Nadu c) Maharashtra d) Andhra Pradesh

Ans: a

Facts

- Kerala government has launched 'Knowledge Economy Mission' during the presentation of state budget on 4th June 2021.
- It is launched to boost job prospects in the state by supporting knowledge workers.
- It will be spearheaded by Kerala Development and Innovation Strategic Council (K-DISC) and they will submit a comprehensive project report before July 15.
- Through the project employment will be provided to educated people and support will be given to 'knowledge workers' under a single programme.
- A plan will be made to provide basic facilities and social security system for knowledge workers who are working close to their homes and interacting with employers.
- For implementation and funding purposes, 'knowledge economy fund' will be created.

Reference: <https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/kerala/knowledge-economy-mission-to-boost-job-prospects/article34724542.ece>

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 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 75 followed by Himachal Pradesh and Tamil Nadu with 74 points. Further, Andhra Pradesh, Goa, Karnatak, Uttrakhand shared the third spot with each state scoring 72 on the Index.
- Bihar has emerged as the worst performer with the lowest score of 52. Jharkhand, Assam and Uttar Pradesh are also some of the worst-performing states on the index.
- **Union Territories:**
- Chandigarh has topped the list with the score of 79 followed by Puducherry, Delhi, Lakshadweep with 68 points.
- At national level India’s composite score improved from 60 in 2019 to 66 in 2020-21 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

Senior Care Ageing Growth Engine (SAGE) Initiative

Question: Which of the following ministry has launched a start-up promotion program SAGE for developing elderly care products?

- a) Ministry of Health and Family Welfare b) Ministry of Science and Technology
c) Ministry of Social Justice d) None of the above

Ans: c

Context

- Ministry of Social Justice has launched the SAGE (Seniorcare Aging Growth Engine) initiative and SAGE portal for elderly persons on 4th June 2021.
- The Minister of Social Justice and Empowerment, Shri Thaawarchand Gehlot virtually launched the initiative in the presence of Minister of State for Social Justice and Empowerment Shri Ramdas Athawale.
- **Facts**
Need of the Initiative
 - As per a United Nation report, the percentage of people above age 60 will reach 20% of total population by 2050. India will also become home of largest number of elderly after 2050 in the world.
 - That's why it is imperative for the government to formulate better welfare services for the elderly as they require specialised services.
 - It is important that elderly should remain happy, healthy, and financially and physically active for which a Senior Citizen Welfare Fund was started in 2016.
- **About SAGE Initiative**
 - SAGE programme and SAGE portal aims to help such persons who are interested in entrepreneurship in the field of providing services for elderly care.
 - A committee will be set up to choose the start-up and allocate upto Rs 1 crore to start up for creative elderly care solution.
 - The start-ups selected under SAGE will be those which will provide new innovative products and services to elderly persons in various areas like health, travel, finance, legal, housing, and food among others.
 - SAGE portal will be a "one-stop access" of elderly care products and services by credible start-ups.
 - Government has also allocated an amount of Rs 100 crore for the promotion of the silver economy, especially after the Covid-19 pandemic had huge burden on elderly population physically, mentally and economically.
- **Silver Economy**
 - Silver economy is the system of production, distribution and consumption of goods and services aimed at using the purchasing potential of older and ageing people and satisfying their consumption, living and health needs.



Reference: <https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/india/start-ups-for-elderly-care-to-get-a-big-push/articleshow/83159711.cms>

PROVISIONAL ESTIMATES OF ANNUAL NATIONAL INCOME 2020-21

Question : "Provisional Estimates of Annual National Income 2020-21" released on May 31, 2021. Accordingly, How much India's GDP would contract in 2020-21 ?



a. 7.3% b. 6.9% c. 7.6% d. 8.2%

Ans. a.

Related facts —

- “Provisional Estimates of Annual National Income 2020-21” released on May 31, 2021.
- **Key points —**
- Real GDP or Gross Domestic Product (GDP) at Constant (2011-12) Prices in the year 2020-21 is now estimated to attain a level of ₹135.13 lakh crore, as against the First Revised Estimate of GDP for the year 2019-20 of ₹145.69 lakh crore, released on 29th January 2021.
- The growth in GDP during 2020-21 is estimated at -7.3 percent as compared to 4.0 percent in 2019-20.
- GDP at Current Prices in the year 2020-21 is estimated to attain a level of ₹197.46 lakh crore, as against the First Revised Estimates of ₹203.51 lakh crore in 2019-20, showing a change of -3.0 percent as compared to 7.8 percent in 2019-20.

Link:

http://mospi.nic.in/sites/default/files/press_release/Press%20Note_31-05-2021.pdf

First NFT marketplace in India

Question : Which crypto exchange recently launched the first NFT marketplace in India ?

a. WazirX b. Shah1 c. RustamV d. SultanX

Ans. a.

Related facts

- WazirX has recently launched the first NFT marketplace in India.
- It is notable that WazirX is one of the largest crypto exchange in India.
- About the new launch
- The platform, which will be used to trade Non-Fungible Tokens (NFTs), is run on the Binance Smart Chain, a blockchain platform created by Binance, one of the largest crypto exchanges in the world, which acquired WazirX back in 2019.
- The marketplace currently has 15 creators, and WazirX has received over 15000 applications from creators and collectors already.
- It will have no listing price and “minimal gas fees” of \$1 for transactions. The marketplace will initially host works from visual artist Vimal Chandran, anonymous street artist Tyler, wall mural artist Sneha Chakraborty, Montreal-based mixed media artist Ishita Banerjee, and automotive photographer Arjun Menon amongst others.
- WazirX will be open to everyone who wants to buy or sell the NFT and will use WazirX’s own WRX token for trading.



Link:

<https://www.livemint.com/technology/tech-news/indias-largest-crypto-exchange-launches-country-s-first-nft-marketplace-11622485513239.html>

Road upgradation project in Sikkim

Question : ADB & Government of India has recently(June 2021) signed an agreement to support preparation of road upgradation project in Sikkim. For this purpose, both party signed a 2.5 million dollar PRF loan. What does PRF mean ?

a. Project readiness financing b. Precautionary rehabilitation



financing

c. Protection readiness financing d. None of the above

Ans. a.

- ADB & Government of India has recently(June 2021) signed an agreement to support preparation of road upgradation project in Sikkim.
- For this purpose, both party signed a 2.5 million dollar PRF loan.
- PRF stands for — project readiness financing.
- The PRF will support the state government's priority in improving road connectivity in the hill state through planning and designing of major district and other roads and bridges that will help boost the state's economy and improve accessibility for people in remote villages.
- The PRF project aims to ensure implementation readiness through feasibility studies, preparing detailed engineering designs of selected subprojects and building capacity of state agencies so that the ensuing project gets completed in a timely manner.
- It is notable that ADB-funded North Eastern State Roads Investment Program launched in 2011 had earlier supported road improvements in Sikkim.

Link:

<https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1724010>

Marine Import-Export data 2020-21

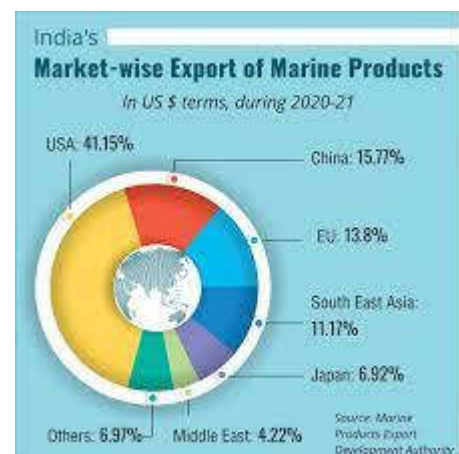
Question : Ministry of Commerce & Industry released marine import-export data on June 3, 2020-21. Accordingly, how much amount of marine products India exported during 2020-21 ?

a. 11,49,341 MT b. 65,46,000 MT c. 21,39,441 MT d. 30,50,000 MT

Ans. a.

Related facts

- Ministry of Commerce & Industry(MoCI) released marine import-export data on June 3, 2020-21.
- Marine Products Export Development Authority(MoCI) is responsible for compiling these data.
- The COVID pandemic and sluggish overseas markets cast their shadow over India's resurgent seafood sector as the country exported 11,49,341 MT of marine products worth Rs 43,717.26 crore (US\$ 5.96 billion) during FY 2020-21, registering a contraction of 10.88 per cent as compared to a year earlier.
- USA, China and the European Union were the leading importers, while frozen shrimp retained its position as the major export item, followed by frozen fish.
- In 2019-20, India exported 12,89,651 MT of seafood worth Rs 46,662.85 crore (US\$ 6.68 billion), marking a decline of 6.31 per cent in rupee terms and 10.81 per cent in dollar value in 2020-21.
- Frozen shrimp contributed 51.36 per cent in quantity and 74.31 per cent of the total dollar earnings.
- USA remained its largest importer (2,72,041 MT), followed by China (1,01,846 MT), EU (70,133 MT), Japan (40,502 MT), South East Asia (38,389 MT), and the Middle East (29,108 MT).
- Frozen fish, with a share of 16.37 per cent in quantity and 6.75 per cent in dollar earnings, retained the second position in exports basket though its shipments plummeted by 15.76 per cent in quantity and 21.67 per cent in dollar terms.



- Frozen squid and frozen cuttlefish exports declined in volume by 30.19 per cent and 16.38 per cent, respectively. However, dried items showed an increase of 1.47 per cent and 17 per cent in quantity and rupee value, respectively.
- Shipments of chilled items and live items, which were negatively affected due to the reduced air cargo connectivity in the pandemic situation, fell by 16.89 per cent and 39.91 per cent in volume, respectively.
- Capture fisheries contribution reduced from 56.03 per cent to 53.55 per cent in quantity and from 36.42 per cent to 32.01 per cent in dollar value.
- However, tilapia and ornamental fish performed well with 55.83 per cent and 66.55 per cent increase in quantity and an uptick of 38.07 per cent and 14.63 per cent in dollar earnings, respectively.
- Tuna showed 14.6 per cent increase in quantity, but its dollar earnings downed by 7.39 per cent. Crab and scampi exports reduced both in quantity and value.

Link:

<https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1724011>

Inauguration of Mega Food Park at Raipur

Question : Match the column X with column Y and choose correct option from the code given below —

X (Mega food park)	Y (Venue)
1. Indus Best Mega Food Park	a. Ajmer
2. Integrated Mega Food Park	b. Fazilka
3. International Mega Food	c. Tumkur
4. Greentech Mega Food park	d. Raipur

Code —

- (A) 1.(d), 2.(c), 3.(b), 4.(a)
 (B) 1.(c), 2.(b), 3.(a), 4.(d)
 (C) 1.(b), 2.(d), 3.(c), 4.(a)
 (D) 1.(b), 2.(a), 3.(d), 4.(c)

Ans. (A)

Related facts

- Union Minister Narendra Singh Tomar has virtually inaugurated Indus Best Mega Food Park at Raipur, Chhattisgarh on June 3, 2021.
- **Salient features —**
- It has been set up in 63.8 acres of land at a project cost of Rs. 145.5 crore.
- The park will prove to be a big boost to the growth of the food processing sector in the State of Chhattisgarh
- About 5000 people will get employment and about 25000 farmers will be benefited
- The state-of-the-art infrastructure and processing facilities developed at Indus Best Mega Food Park, will



not only reduce wastage of agricultural produce but will also ensure value addition.

- This will also provide an opportunity to farmers, Self Help Groups (SHGs) and micro-entrepreneurs to undertake processing operations on plug and operate basis and create huge job opportunities in the catchment area of the Park. It will also contribute to doubling farmers' income and will also help in bringing more investments in Chhattisgarh.
- **Facilities at Indus Best —**
- The facilities created by the Implementing Agency at Central Processing Centre (CPC) of this Mega Food Park include Cold Storage – 3,745 MT, Pack House – 10 MT/Hr, Dry warehouse – 12,000 MT, Boiler – 8 MT, Aseptic Pulping & Packaging Line – 6 MT/Hr for mango and 12MT for tomato, IQF and deep Freeze 2MT/hr and 1500 MT, Food Testing Lab besides state of art enabling infrastructure.
- **About Mega Food Park Scheme —**
- The Scheme of Mega Food Park aims at providing a mechanism to link agricultural production to the market by bringing together farmers, processors and retailers so as to ensure maximizing value addition, minimizing wastage, increasing farmers income and creating employment opportunities particularly in rural sector.
- The Mega Food Park Scheme is based on “Cluster” approach and envisages creation of state of art support infrastructure in a well-defined agri / horticultural zone for setting up of modern food processing units in the industrial plots provided in the park with well-established supply chain.
- Mega food park typically consist of supply chain infrastructure including collection centers, primary processing centers, central processing centers, cold chain and around 25-30 fully developed plots for entrepreneurs to set up food processing units.
- At present 22 Mega Food Parks are operational.

Link:

<https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1724026>

RDSO becomes first standards body to join ‘One Nation, One Standard’ scheme

Question- Which of the following institution has declared as Standard Developing Organization (SDO)?

- (a) Research Design and Standards Organization(RDSO)
(b) Institution of Food and Technology (c) ICAR (d) AIIMS

Ans.(a)

Related facts-

- Lucknow-based RDSO, which sets standards for the railway sector, has become the first standards body in the country to join the central government's 'One Nation, One Standard' scheme that aims to ensure quality products to Indian consumers.
- The Research Design and Standards Organisation (RDSO) has now been recognised as a 'Standard Developing Organisation' by the Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS), which is implementing the scheme.
- The partnership will help RDSO, the sole R&D wing of the railways ministry, to realign its standard formulation procedures as per the code of good practices mentioned under the WTO-Technical Barriers to Trade (WTO-TBT).
- The recognition will be valid for three years.
- The objective of the government's 'One Nation, One Standard' scheme, launched in 2019, is to ensure there is a synergy and no overlap in the standardisation work in the country, thereby building a 'Brand India' identity in the long run.



Low-chilling apple variety developed by Himachal farmer spreads far & wide

Question-HRMN 99 was sometimes seen in the news. Which of the following clearly explains it?

- (a) It is a self pollinating apple variety that does not require long chilling hours for flowering and fruit setting
(b) It's a new type of orange variety that resist all types of crop disease
(c) A new variety of dwarf mango (d) A new variety of banana

Ans. (a)

Related facts-

- 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.
- 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.
- 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.
- Shri Hariman Sharma, a progressive farmer, hailing from Paniala village of Bilaspur district, Himachal Pradesh, who developed this innovative apple variety – HRMN 99 has become a source of inspiration not only for thousands of farmers in the region but also for horticulturists of Bilaspur and other lower hill districts in the State –areas which earlier could never dream of growing apples.
- MACS-1407-is a high-yielding and pest-resistant variety of soybean. It is suitable for cultivation in the states of Assam, West Bengal, Jharkhand, Chhattisgarh and North-Eastern states.
- Sadabahar is a new type of dwarf mango variety that bear fruits around the year. The fruit is resistant to most major diseases and common mango disorders.
- Beema or Bheema is a superior clone selected from Bambusa balcooa. It is a higher biomass yielding bamboo species. Beema Bamboo is said to be the best 'carbon sink' to mitigate carbon dioxide emissions.



Reference- <https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1722642>.

Goa CM launches solar-based electrification programme for remote villages

Question- Which state has recently launched a solar-based electrification programme for its rural households?

- (a) Uttar Pradesh (b) Odisha (c) Goa (d) Maharashtra

Ans. (c)

Related Facts-

- Goa Chief Minister Pramod Sawant on May 31, 2021 launched solar-based electrification programme for rural households in the state. This project will bring electricity through renewable energy to areas in Goa where grid connectivity is not feasible.



- This project is CESL's first off-grid electricity engagement that will install and maintain solar PV systems for five years under the Remote Village Electrification (RVE) programme of the Government of Goa.
- CESL will undertake the project across villages and hamlets of Goa in coordination with Gram panchayats.
- A 100 percent owned subsidiary of EESL – Convergence Energy Services Limited (Convergence), a new energy company is focused on delivering clean, affordable, and reliable energy. Convergence focuses on energy solutions that lie at the confluence of renewable energy, electric mobility, and climate change.

Reference- <https://energy.economictimes.indiatimes.com/amp/news/renewable/goa-cm-launches-solar-based-electrification-programme-for-remote-villages/83104075>.

Corona-Free Village Competitions

Question: Which state has launched Corona-Free Village Competitions?

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

Ans: c

Context

- Maharashtra government on 2nd June 2021 has launched Corona-Free Village Competitions.
- **Facts**
- This is an innovative way proposed by government of Maharashtra to make sure that all Covid-19 precaution norms are followed in the villages of the state of Maharashtra.
- This help in creating awareness about Covid-19 and its management in the villages and also will help in arresting the spread of Covid -19 in rural areas.
- The rural development department (RDD) will award three village panchayats for doing good work in Covid-19 management in each of the six revenue divisions under the competition.
- First prize is ₹50 lakh, second is ₹25 lakh and third is ₹15 lakh. There are a total of six revenue divisions in Maharashtra. Thus, 18 prizes will be given with total prize money of ₹5.4 crore.
- Participating villages will be judged on the basis of 22 criteria by a committee set up for the purpose.
- Villages that will win the contest will also get another incentive in the form of additional amount equivalent to the prize money as encouragement which will be utilised for development works in those villages.



Reference: <https://www.hindustantimes.com/cities/mumbai-news/maharashtra-announces-corona-free-village-contest-winners-to-get-50-lakh-101622661006225.html>

Goa Institution for Future Transformation (GIFT)

Question: Which state has recently launched a think tank on the lines of NITI Aayog?

a) Goa b) Maharashtra c) Uttar Pradesh d) Tamil Nadu

Ans: a

Context

- Goa government has approved the constitution of a think tank "Goa Institution for Future Transformation (GIFT)" on the lines of Niti Aayog.



▪ Facts

- Just like NITI Aayog, purpose of GIFT is also to assist, advise and guide state government on policy making, its formulation and implementation.
- It will monitor and guide the government in the progress of achieving Sustainable Development Goals and government's Vision 2030.
- It will also work at doubling the per capita income by 2025.
- Announcement to constitute GIFT was made by CM of Goa Pramod Sawant in his budget speech. GIFT was earlier named as "State Institution for Transforming Goa (SIT-Goa)".
- It will be an autonomous independent body that will help, advise and guide state government in policy forming and implementation.

Reference: <https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/goa/state-gives-go-ahead-for-setting-up-govt-think-tank/articleshow/82921593.cms>

Government approves Model Tenancy Act

Question: Consider the following statements regarding Model Tenancy Act approved by the government on 2nd June 2021:

- i) These are model acts circulated by central government for all state and union territories for their reference in setting up/amending their own set of rules for the house renting system in their states/UTs.
- ii) These rules aim to bring house renting into formal markets.
- iii) Rules also mention participation of private entities in house renting market.

Which of the above are correct?

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

Ans: c

Facts

- Central government has approved Model Tenancy Act on 2nd June 2021 for the circulation to all States / Union Territories and for adaptation by way of enacting fresh legislation or amending existing rental laws suitably.
- Act aims to overhaul overall renting regulation framework in the country.
- It is passed with the aim of creating a vibrant, sustainable and inclusive rental housing market in the country.
- It will enable creation of adequate rental housing stock for all the income groups thereby addressing the issue of homelessness.
- It also proposes institutionalisation of rental housing by gradually shifting it towards the formal market.
- It will also unlock vacant houses for renting purposes and also involve private sector in house renting as business model.
- **Model Tenancy Act**
 - Ministry of Housing and Urban affairs first floated the Model Tenancy Act in 2019. It proposed to establish an independent authority in every state and Union Territory for registration of tenancy agreements and even a separate court to take up all tenancy-related disputes.
 - It seeks to replace archaic rental laws of India and to solve housing availability deficit.



Reference: <https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1723636#:~:text=The%20Union%20Cabinet%2C%20chaired%20by,amending%20existing%20rental%20laws%20suitably.>

NFSA ration cards

Question : Under which Act the 'One Nation-One Ration Card' policy allows the beneficiaries to lift their entitled quota of food grains from any Fair Price Shop (FPS) of their choice anywhere in the country ?

- a. National Food Security Act (NFSA), 2013 b. National Food Security Act (NFSA), 2011
c. National Food Security Act (NFSA), 2010 d. National Food Security Act (NFSA), 2009

Ans. a.

Related facts

- The Department of Food and Public Distribution has issued an advisory on 2nd June, 2021 to all States/UTs to launch a special drive to reach out, identify & issue NFSA ration cards to the most vulnerable and economically weakest sections of the population in urban and rural areas, by utilizing the available coverage under their respective NFSA limits.
- National Food Security Act (NFSA), 2013**
- 'Food security' law must insure all people, at all times, should get access to the basic food for their active and healthy life and is characterized by availability, access, utilization and stability of food.
- NFSA Act legally entitles more than 70% of the rural population and 50% of the urban population to receive subsidized foodgrains under the Targeted Public Distribution System.
- Under National Food Security Act (NFSA), 2013, 'One Nation-One Ration Card' policy allows the beneficiaries to lift their entitled quota of food grains from any Fair Price Shop (FPS) of their choice anywhere in the country.

राष्ट्रीय खाद्य सुरक्षा अधिनियम (NFSA) की पात्रता सूची
(21/03/2015 तक: 02/53 244 तक की मिली)

क्र.	राज्य का नाम	ग्राम पंचायत	अवधि	अवधि	अवधि
1	Andhra Pradesh	1603761	3042143	10637	146032
2	Assam	398705	3508450	24594	49712
3	Bihar	441146	3992299	10017	32259
4	Chhattisgarh	278740	1487204	60907	391037
5	Goa	265545	1175754	70174	293601
6	Gujarat	314201	1292503	20231	85940
7	Haryana	189718	827136	51506	22501
8	Himachal Pradesh	618246	3000500	105281	430020
9	Jharkhand	170832	899566	7083	35093
10	Karnataka	321179	2286204	22022	394772
11	Kerala	481070	2113504	104701	226605
12	Madhya Pradesh	290390	1408822	26725	172292
13	Manipur	202382	1735738	48319	130230
14	Mizoram	514692	2199342	113001	431030
15	Nagaland	265730	1955463	39687	390310
16	Northeast	312185	1425261	89622	455691
17	Odisha	370294	2679522	20635	85900
18	Punjab	450126	2139119	45221	194626
19	Rajasthan	320320	2001294	26402	105602
20	Tamil Nadu	252377	1463863	52075	217919
21	Uttar Pradesh	1046118	7948100	33734	674602

Link:

<https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1723953>

Cabinet approves India-Japan memorandum of cooperation on urban development

Question-Which of the following countries has signed a MoC on urban development?

- (a) India- Japan (b) India- China (c) India-US (d) India-Germany

Ans. (a)

Related Facts-

- The Union Cabinet on June 2, 2021 approved a memorandum of cooperation with Japan in the field of sustainable urban development which is expected to create employment opportunities.
- The memorandum of cooperation (MoC) will be signed between the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs and the Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism, Japan in supersession of an existing MoU of 2007 on urban development.
- The MoC is expected to create employment opportunities in the areas of sustainable urban development, including urban planning, smart cities development, affordable housing, urban flood management, sewerage and wastewater management, urban transport -including intelligent transport management system — transit-oriented development and multimodal integration and disaster resilient development.



Reference- <https://www.deccanherald.com/national/cabinet-approves-india-japan-memorandum-of-cooperation-on-urban-development-992941.html>.

Justice Arun Mishra takes charge as new chairperson of NHRC

Question- Who is appointed as new chairperson of NHRC?

- (a) Justice Arun Mishra (b) Justice Tarun Kumar (c) Justice Mahesh Mittal Kumar
(d) Justice Uday U. Lalit

Ans.(a)

Related facts-

- Former Supreme Court judge Justice Arun Mishra took office as Chairperson of the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) on June 2, 2021 .
- As Chairperson of NHRC, his tenure will be for five years or till he attains the age of 70, whichever is earlier.
- Justice Mishra is learnt to have been appointed on the recommendation of a high-powered committee comprising Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Home Minister Amit Shah, Deputy Chairman of the Rajya Sabha, Harivansh, Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla and the Leader of the Opposition in the Rajya Sabha, Mallikarjun Kharge.
- Kharge has, however, put on record his disagreement with the committee's recommendation as he had requested appointing a person belonging to Scheduled Caste or Scheduled Tribe as NHRC Chairperson or even as a member of NHRC in the light of increasing atrocities against the community.
- Justice H L Dattu was the former chairperson of NHRC, who was retired in December 2020.



Reference- <https://indianexpress.com/article/india/justice-arun-mishra-nhrc-chairman-7340811/>

‘Bell of faith’ launched for senior citizens by kerala government.

Question- Which of the following state has launched ‘Bell of Faith’ scheme for senior citizens?

- (a) Kerala (b) Goa (c) Jharkhand (d) Odisha

Ans. (a)

Related Facts-

- The ‘Bell of Faith’ scheme will now be implemented for senior citizens staying alone in villages. Scheme to cover 250 houses in city in the first phase.
- It is a safety project conceived under Kerala’s Community Policing Scheme.
- It will help elderly citizens attract the attention of their neighbours using a loud, remote-controlled alarm in emergencies.
- It has been under implementation in Kerala since 2018.
- A welfare fund of ₹3.5 crore sanctioned by the State government would be used for the initiative that gives preference to those staying alone in their houses.
- In the first phase, around 250 houses selected by the local Janamaithri scheme coordinators will be covered under the scheme.

Reference- <https://www.thehindu.com/news/cities/kozhikode/bell-of-faith-launched-for-senior-citizens/article28220703.ece>.

TCS opens its first European innovation centre

Question: In which city Tata Consultancy Services has opened its first European innovation centre?

- (a) Amsterdam, Netherland (b) Paris, France (c)
Berlin, Germany (d) Rome, Italy



Answer: (a)

Related facts:

- Tata Consultancy Services has launched TCS Pace Port Amsterdam, a co-innovation and advanced research center designed to help customers successfully navigate their growth and transformation journeys.
- The company will bring universities, businesses, startups and government together at its latest innovation hub in Amsterdam to help use digital technology to solve sustainability challenges.
- It will focus on sustainability challenges faced by organisations and becomes the first in a network of hubs in Europe.
- About 70 universities globally, more than 2,000 startups, large tech companies such as Amazon and Microsoft, enterprise customers and governments are engaged with the TCS Pace Port network.
- TCS Pace Port Amsterdam is the third co-innovation center by TCS, after New York and Tokyo.

Links:

https://www.business-standard.com/article/news-cm/tcs-establishes-its-first-european-pace-port-in-amsterdam-121052101480_1.html#:~:text=Tata%20Consultancy%20Services%20has%20launched,their%20growth%20and%20transformation%20journeys.

World Milk Day

Question- What is the theme of 'World Milk day 2021'?

- (a) "Sustainability in the dairy sector with messages on nutrition".
(b) Drink milk daily (c) Enrich your nutrition (d) Save cows

Ans. (a)

Related facts-

- World is celebrating "World Milk Day" on June 1, 2021 under the theme- "sustainability in the dairy sector with messages on nutrition".
- The day is celebrated since 2001. It was established by Food and Agriculture Organisation of United Nations.
- The day is observed to appreciate dairy farmers and dairy sector. It recognises the importance of milk as global food.
- India is one among the largest producer of milk in world. Dairy sector supports livelihoods of millions of people in country.
- White Revolution in India was started by Dr Verghese Kurein in 1970. He is therefore known as "Father of the White Revolution" in India.



Reference- <https://worldmilkday.org/>.

UAE grants Golden Visa to Sanjay Dutt

Question- Which of the following actor has got Golden visa from UAE?

- (a) Sharukh Khan (b) Amir Khan (c) Salmaan Khan (d) Sanjay Dutt

Ans. (d)

Related Facts-

- Sanjay Dutt was granted golden visa from UAE government.



- In 2019, the United Arab Emirates (UAE) implemented a new system for long-term residence visas, thereby enabling foreigners to live, work and study in the UAE without the need of a national sponsor and with 100 per cent ownership of their business.
- The Golden Visa system essentially offers long-term residency (5 and 10 years) to people belonging to the following groups: investors, entrepreneurs, individuals with outstanding talents the likes of researchers, medical professionals and those within the scientific and knowledge fields, and remarkable students.

Reference- <https://indianexpress.com/article/explained/uaes-golden-visa-what-is-it-and-who-is-eligible-to-apply-7333143/>.

SB Energy's green portfolio acquired by Adani Green Energy

Question : Adani Green Energy, has recently(May 2021) signed SPA for the acquisition of SB Energy from SoftBank Group and Bharti Group. What does SPA mean ?

- a. Share Purchase Agreement b. Share Procurement Agreement c. Stake Purchase Agreement
d. None of the above

Ans. a.

Related facts

- Adani Green Energy Ltd(AGEL), has recently(May 2021) signed share purchase agreements for the acquisition of SB Energy India from SoftBank Group (80%) and Bharti Group (20%).
- It is notable that SB Energy India has a total renewable portfolio of 4,954 MW spread across four States in India.
- The transaction marks the largest acquisition in the renewable energy sector in India.
- Transaction value
- The transaction values SB Energy India at an enterprise valuation of approximately \$3.5 billion.
- Portfolio
- The portfolio consists large scale utility assets with 84% solar capacity (4,180 MW), 9% wind-solar hybrid capacity (450 MW) and 7% wind capacity (324 MW).
- It also comprises of 1,400 MW operational solar power capacity and a further 3,554 MW is under construction.
- Result
- With this acquisition, AGEL will achieve total renewable capacity of 24.3 GW (1) and operating renewable capacity of 4.9 GW.
- This acquisition will make AGEL's one of the largest renewable energy platforms in the world.



Link:

<https://www.thehindu.com/business/adani-green-energy-to-acquire-sb-energy-india-from-softbank-bharti-in-35-billion-deal/article34592811.ece>

LIC increases stake in Union Bank

Question – In May ,2021, LIC has decided to increase its stake in which bank from 3.09 percent to 5.06 percent?

- (a) State Bank of India (b) Bank of Baroda (c) Union Bank of India (d) Kotak Mahindra Bank

Answer—(c)

Related facts



- In May ,2021, LIC has decided to increase its stake in Union Bank of India from 3.09 percent to 5.06 percent.
- It is notable that LIC held 3.09 per cent stake in UBI earlier, representing 19,79,23,251 equity shares of the bank.
- It has now increased to 5.06 per cent (34,57,64,764 shares).

Link:

https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/business/india-business/lic-ups-stake-in-union-bank-of-india-to-over-5/articleshow/82829609.cms?utm_source=contentofinterest&utm_medium=text&utm_campaign=cppst

HIT Covid App

Question : HIT Covid App has been launched on May 17, 2021. Which state has launched this app for the purpose of monitoring the patients living in isolation at home ?

(a) Madhya Pradesh (b) Bihar (c) Haryana (d) Karnataka

Answer—(b)

Related facts

- HIT Covid App has been launched on May 17, 2021.
- Bihar CM Nitish Kumar has launched this app for the purpose of monitoring the patients living in isolation at home.
- 'HIT' stands for home isolation tracking.
- Significance & implementation method
- The 'HIT Covid App' will help the health workers in regular monitoring of home isolated patients.
- The health workers will visit the patients' home every day and feed data in the app after measuring their temperature and oxygen level.
- These data will be monitored at the district level. If the oxygen level of a home isolated patient will be found below 94 during the monitoring, the concerned patients will be shifted to the nearby dedicated covid health centre for proper treatment.



Link:

<https://www.newindianexpress.com/nation/2021/may/19/impressed-with-bihars-hit-covid-app-pm-narendra-modi-seeks-details-for-countrywide-use-2304710.html>

FIRST Institution to be declared SDO under one “One Nation One Standard”

Question : Match the following

List 1	List 2
BIS(Bureau of Indian Standards)	(a) Works under the aegis of the Ministry of Railway
Research Design & Standards	(b) Works under the aegis of the Ministry of

Organization	Consumer Affairs
ISO	(c) September, 2019
'One Nation One Standard' Mission	(d) 1947

- A. 1. (b) 2. (a) 3. (d) 4. (c)
 B. 1. (d) 2. (c) 3. (a) 4. (b)
 C. 1. (c) 2. (a) 3. (b) 4. (d)
 D. 1. (a) 2. (d) 3. (c) 4. (b)

Ans. A.

Related facts

- RDSO (Research Design & Standards Organization) of Indian Railways has recently become the FIRST Institution to be declared SDO under “One Nation One Standard” mission on BIS (Bureau of Indian Standards) which is Institution under Department of Consumer Affairs.
- This unique initiative of two organizations under GOI is going to set a template for all the rest of leading research and standard development organizations in the country to follow and adapt World Class Standards.
- SDO (Standard Developing Organization)
- It may be noted that to attain “Nation One Standard” vision of Govt. of India, Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS), the National Standards Body, has launched a scheme which provides for “Recognition of SDO”.
- Through this scheme, BIS aims at aggregating and integrating the existing capabilities and dedicated domain specific expertise available with various organizations in the country engaged in standards development in their specific sectors, and enable convergence of all standard development activities in the country resulting in “One National Standard for One Subject”.
- RDSO
- Research Designs & Standards Organization (RDSO), Lucknow, which is the sole R&D Wing of Ministry of Railways, is one of India’s leading Standard formulating Body undertaking standardization work for railway sector.
- BIS, after reviewing the Standard Making Procedures of RDSO, has granted recognition to RDSO on 24th May 2021 as SDO (Standard Developing Organization).
- With this recognition, RDSO becomes the first Standard Developing Organization in the country to be granted recognition under the BIS SDO Recognition Scheme.
- “One Nation One Standard” mission
- The ‘One Nation One Standard’ Mission was first deliberated in September, 2019.
- The purpose is to converge multiple standards with the BIS which is a recognised national body for standardisation in India.
- Other recognised international body for standardization
- ISO (International Organization for Standardization) is an Recognised international body for standardization.
- In London, in 1946, 65 delegates from 25 countries meet to discuss the future of International Standardization. In 1947, ISO officially comes into existence with 67 technical committees (groups of experts focusing on a specific subject).

Link:

<https://www.pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1723360>

‘Amrit Vahini’ website, app and chatboat

Question – On May 7, 2021 Amrit Vahini website, app and chatbot has been launched. It has been launched to provide better treatment and necessary medical resources to the Covid infected patients through online. Which state launched it ?

(a) Jharkhand (b) Chhattisgarh (c) Madhya Pradesh (d) Haryana

Answer—(a)

Related facts

- On May 7, 2021 Amrit Vahini website, app and chatbot has been launched.
- It has been launched by Jharkhand to provide better treatment and necessary medical resources to the Covid infected patients through online.
- Background & Significance
- It is notable that state government is constantly making efforts to control the spread of Corona Virus. Till now many effective arrangements have been made in this direction.
- ‘Amrit Vahini’ is another step by the state government in this direction. Through this web portal and mobile app and chatboat, one can get all information about the availability of ICUs with oxygen beds and ventilators in the hospitals and even booking of a bed can be done online.
- Several other facilities could be availed easily by anybody through this App. Also, through Chatboat, one may get all information related to Corona Virus, be it the medicines prescribed for it, recommended diet for the patients, or even free consultation with expert doctors.



Link:

http://prdi.jharkhand.in/iprd/view_press_release_photo.php?prid=28713

IBF to be renamed as Indian Broadcasting and Digital Foundation

Question: Consider the following statements:

(a) Indian Broadcasting Foundation (IBF) is being renamed Indian Broadcasting and Digital Foundation

(b) IBF has expanded its purview to cover digital platforms to bring all digital (OTT) players under one roof

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 Indian Broadcasting Foundation (IBF), the apex body of broadcasters, is being renamed as Indian Broadcasting and Digital Foundation (IBDF).
- The IBDF has expanded its purview to cover digital platforms to bring all digital (OTT) players under one roof.
- IBDF is in the process of forming a new wholly-owned subsidiary to handle all matters pertaining to digital media.
- IBDF will also form a Self-Regulatory Body (SRB), as per the Information Technology (Intermediary Guidelines and Digital Media Ethics Code) Rules, 2021 as notified by the Government of India on 25th February 2021.



Links:

<https://brandequity.economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/media/the-ibf-to-be-renamed-as-indian-broadcasting-and-digital->

International

China Certified as Malaria free

Question: Which country has been certified malaria free recently by WHO?

a) China b) India c) Pakistan d) Bangladesh

Ans: a

Context

- China was certified Malaria free by Who on 30 June 2021.
- **Facts**
 - Malaria, a completely preventable and treatable disease, is also deadly. In 2019, it cost 409,000 lives globally.
 - In early 70s China reported over 24 million cases but it has reported zero indigenous malaria cases since 2017.
- **Which Nation can get Malaria Free status?**
 - The end goal for all malaria-endemic countries is certification of malaria elimination, the official recognition by WHO of a country's malaria-free status.
 - WHO grants the certification when a country has proven that the chain of indigenous malaria transmission has been interrupted nationwide for at least the past three consecutive years.
 - A country must also demonstrate the capacity to prevent the re-establishment of transmission.
- **Status of China**
 - China has become 40th territory to get malaria-free status by WHO. Four other countries that gained the status recently were El Salvador in 2021, Algeria & Argentina in 2019, and Paraguay & Uzbekistan in 2018.
- **India and Malaria**
 - **As per World Malaria Report 2020 :**
 - India is the only high endemic country which has reported a decline of 17.6% in 2019 as compared to 2018.
 - The Annual Parasite Incidence (API, the number of new infections per year per 1000 population) reduced by 18.4% in 2019 as compared to 2018.
 - India achieved a reduction of 83.34% in malaria morbidity and 92% in malaria mortality between the year 2000 and 2019, thereby achieving Goal 6 of the Millennium Development Goals.



Reference : <https://www.who.int/china/news/commentaries/detail/china-certified-as-malaria-free-by-who>

Philippines in FATF Grey List

Question: Which Southeast Asian country has been recently included in FATF Grey List?

(a) Brunei (b) Cambodia (c) Timor-Leste (d) Philippines

Answer: (d)

Related facts:



- Philippines has been included in the grey list of the Financial Action Task Force (FATF).
- In addition to the Philippines, Haiti, Malta, and South Sudan have also been added to the grey list.
- Now, these jurisdictions will be required to submit progress reports to the FATF thrice a year.
- The Philippines was removed from the blacklist of FATF in 2005. It was previously included in FATF's blacklist in 2000.
- FATF has removed Ghana from its increased monitoring process (Grey List).
- **About FATF:**
 - The Financial Action task Force (FATF) is a global watchdog. It was established by G7 countries in 1989 to curb the money laundering.
 - However it included tackling terror financing its objective after the 9/11 attacks.
 - It maintains two list-Black and Grey.
 - Till now, only two countries Iran and North Korea have been blacklisted.
 - Currently, total 39 countries are members of FATF.
 - India became the member of FATF in 2010.

Links:

<https://www.trtworld.com/business/global-financing-watchdog-fatf-adds-malta-philippines-others-to-grey-list-47829>

World's Second-biggest Hydroelectric Dam

Question: Which of the following country recently turned on the Baihetan Dam, world's second-biggest hydroelectric dam?

a) Germany b) Russia c) China d) Norway

Answer: (c)

Related Facts:-

- On 28 June 2021; China turned on the World's biggest hydropower dam in the southwestern region of the country.
- According to the Chinese government announcement, first two generating units of the world's second-biggest hydroelectric dam were officially turned on.
- This dam, named as Baihetan Dam is built upon the Jinsha River, a tributary of the Yangtze, is part of Chinese efforts to curb surging fossil fuel demand.
- Plans call for the 289-m-tall Baihetan Dam to have 16 generating units with a capacity of 1 million kilowatts each.
- It should be known that China is building more hydropower capacity even at a time when dams have fallen out of favor in other countries due to environmental complaints.
- The announcement comes ahead of the ruling Communist Party's celebration this week of the official 100th anniversary of its 1921 founding.



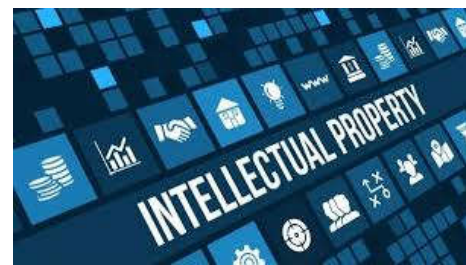
Links:-

<https://www.thehindu.com/news/international/china-turns-on-second-biggest-dam-in-world/article35024748.ece>

International Intellectual Property Index

Question: Consider the following statements with reference to International Intellectual Property Index:

(a) The International Intellectual Property Index- 2020 is released by U.S Chamber of Commerce's Global Innovation Policy Center (GIPC).



(b) In this group of 53 countries, India has been ranked at 40th.

Choose the correct statement:

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

Answer: (c)

Related facts:

- The U.S Chamber of Commerce's Global Innovation Policy Center (GIPC) has released the International Intellectual Property Index- 2020.
- The index maps the Intellectual Property (IP) ecosystem in 53 global economies representing over 90% of global GDP.
- It uses 50 unique indicators which span across nine categories of protection namely patents, copyrights, trademarks, design rights, trade secrets, commercialization of IP assets, enforcement, systemic efficiency and membership and ratification of international treaties.
- **Important facts:**
 - The US, the UK, Sweden, France and Germany remained the top five economies on the index.
 - India has been ranked at 40th out of 53 countries in the index.
 - It was placed at 36th position among 50 countries in 2019.

Links:

<https://www.financialexpress.com/economy/india-slips-to-40th-position-on-international-intellectual-property-index/1857611/>

Dadasaheb Phalke International Film Festival 2020

Question: Who has been conferred the Best Actor Award at the Dadasaheb Phalke International Film Festival- 2020?

(a) Hrithik Roshan (b) Ayushman Khurana (c) Vicky Kaushal (d) Raj Kumar Rao

Answer: (a)

Related facts:

- The Dadasaheb Phalke International Film Festival Awards- 2020 was held on February 20, 2020, in Mumbai.
- **Awardees:**
 - Best Film – Super 30
 - Best Actor – Hrithik Roshan
 - Most Promising Actor – Kiccha Sudeep
 - Best Actor in Television Series – Dheeraj Dhoopar
 - Best Actress in Television – Divyanka Tripathi
 - Most Favorite Television Actor – Harshad Chopda
 - Most Favorite Jodi in Television Series – Sriti Jha and Shabbir Ahluwalia (Kumkum Bhagya)
 - Best Reality Show – Bigg Boss 13
 - Best Television Series – Kumkum Bhagya
 - Best Playback Singer Male – Armaan Malik



Links:

<https://www.dpiiff.in/event/dadasaheb-phalke-international-film-festival-awards-mumbai-2020/>

Mobile World Congress 2021

Question- Which of the following country as hosted the 'Mobile World Congress 2021'?



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

(a) Barcelona, Spain (b) Madrid, Spain (c) Tokyo, Japan (d) New Delhi, India

Ans. (a)

Related facts-

- Mobile World Congress (MWC), the world's biggest mobile event of the year, will begin on June 28 in Barcelona, Spain.
- Unlike last year when the event got cancelled due to the growing cases of Covid-19, one of the biggest tradeshows is returning this year in a hybrid form.
- Brands like Goggle, Nokia, Xiaomi, Facebook, and Sony aren't attending this year's in-person event, though it's not clear if they have plans to announce new products even virtually.
- Mobile World Congress, better known as MWC Barcelona, is an annual event focused on innovations in the telecom industry.
- Hosted by GSMA, the flagship event is attended by the major telecom operators, smartphone companies, component manufacturers, trade insiders, media, and representatives from telecom ministries around the world.
- GSMA had to postpone MWC 2021 due to the global pandemic, which was originally set to take place from March, to June.
- This year's MWC is scheduled from June 28 to July 1.
- **What is GSMA**
- GSMA is also called as Global System for Mobile Communications.
- It is an industry organisation representing the interests of mobile network operators across the world. About 750 mobile operators are full GSMA members while 400 companies are associate members.
- GSMA represents its members through industry programmes, working groups and industry advocacy initiatives.
- Mats Granryd is the present Director General of GSMA.

Reference- <https://indianexpress.com/article/technology/mobile-tabs/mobile-world-congress-2021-what-to-expect-7377682/>.

World's first Green rating system for High Speed Rail

Question : World's first Green rating system for High Speed Rail has recently(June 2021) been launched. What is the benefit of this rating system ?

- a. Low energy consumption during the design and construction of new high speed rail stations
- b. Development of better rail communication
- c. Development of better rail wagons
- d. None of the above

Ans. a.

Related facts —

- The world's first exclusive Green rating system for High Speed Rail has been launched, with the Indian Green Building Council (IGBC) undertaking its formulation in collaboration with the National High Speed Rail Corporation Ltd (NHSRCL).
- This rating system will be a tool to enable new High Speed Rail (HSR) stations to apply energy efficient concepts during design and construction, so as to further reduce adverse environmental impacts that are measurable.
- This is a system developed to meet requirements of UN Sustainable Development Goals.
- The objective of the IGBC Green HSR Rating is to ensure environmental sustainability, while enhancing commuter experience.



Link:

<https://www.jagran.com/business/top15-indian-railways-achievement-worlds-first-exclusive->

First bullet train in Tibet

Question: On which date China operationalised its first fully electrified bullet train in the remote Himalayan region of Tibet ?

(a) 25 June 2021 (b) 23 June 2021 (c) 20 June 2021 (d) None of the above

Answer – (a)

Related facts —

- China on June 25 operationalised its first fully electrified bullet train in the remote Himalayan region of Tibet, connecting the provincial capital Lhasa and Nyingchi, a strategically located Tibetan border town close to Arunachal Pradesh.
- **Inauguration —**
- The 435.5-km Lhasa-Nyingchi section of the Sichuan-Tibet Railway has been inaugurated ahead of the centenary celebrations of the ruling Communist Party of China (CPC) on July 1.
- **Background —**
- In November, Chinese President Xi Jinping had instructed officials to expedite construction of the new railway project, connecting Sichuan Province and Nyingchi in Tibet, saying the new rail line would play a key role in safeguarding the border stability.



Link:

<https://indianexpress.com/article/world/china-launches-first-bullet-train-in-tibet-close-to-indian-border-7374907/>

International Day against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking

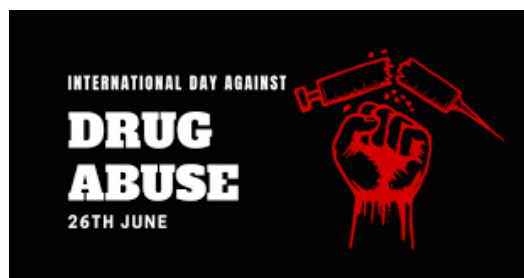
Question : On which date “International Day against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking” Observed?

(a) 26 June (b) 25 June (c) 24 June (d) 23 June

Answer : (a)

Related facts—

- The International Day against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking, or World Drug Day, is marked on 26 June every year, to strengthen action and cooperation in achieving the goal of a world free of drug abuse.
- **Theme of the 2021 —** “Share Facts On Drugs, Save Lives”.
- **What UNODC Does —**
- Every year, UNODC (United Nations Office on Drugs & Crime) issues the World Drug Report, full of key statistics and factual data obtained through official sources, a science-based approach and research.



Link:

<https://www.unodc.org/unodc/en/drugs/index-new.html>

Renewable Power Generation Costs in 2020: IRENA

Question- Which of the following organization has released the Renewable Power Generation Costs In 2020, report?

(a) IRENA (b) WTO (c) ISA (d) WEF

Ans. (a)

Related Facts-

- Recently, the International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA) has released the 'Renewable Power Generation Costs in 2020' report.
- **Key Findings-**
 - 38% of the total global energy capacity now has higher operating costs than new utility-scale photovoltaics and onshore wind energy.
 - Replacing this expensive coal power with renewables will save operators USD 32 billion a year and reduce annual carbon dioxide emissions by around three billion tonnes.
 - The year 2020 was a record year for renewables deployment despite the Covid-19-pandemic, with 261 GW installed.
 - Around 162 GW or 62% of total renewable power capacity added last year had lower costs than the cheapest new fossil fuel option.
 - The International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA) is an intergovernmental organisation that supports countries in their transition to a sustainable energy future, and serves as the principal platform for international cooperation, a centre of excellence, and a repository of policy, technology, resource and financial knowledge on renewable energy.
 - IRENA promotes the widespread adoption and sustainable use of all forms of renewable energy, including bioenergy, geothermal, hydropower, ocean, solar and wind energy in the pursuit of sustainable development, energy access, energy security and low-carbon economic growth and prosperity.



Reference- <https://www.irena.org/newsroom/pressreleases/2018/Jan/Onshore-Wind-Power-Now-as-Affordable-as-Any-Other-Source>.

International Day against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking 2021

Question-What is the theme of the International day against drug and Illicit trafficking 2021?

(a) Share Facts on Drug, Save Lives (b) Health of Justice, Justice for health
(c) Health is Wealth (d) Better knowledge for Better Care

Ans. (a)

Related Facts-

- June 26 every year is observed as International Day against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking or World Drug Day to create awareness about issues related to drugs and seek international cooperation to combat its effects on health, society, and governance.
- This year, the theme is 'Share Facts on Drugs, Save Lives'.
- According to the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), the motive is to combat misinformation by sharing real facts on drugs — from health risks and solutions for the world drug problem to evidence-based prevention, treatment, and care.
- The day June 26 was chosen by the UN General Assembly, on December 7, 1987, as International Day against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking by its resolution 42/112.



- The assembly made the decision to observe this day as an expression of its resolution to make international society free of drug abuse.

Reference- <https://indianexpress.com/article/lifestyle/life-style/international-day-against-drug-abuse-and-illicit-trafficking-2021-significance-theme-date-and-history-7376638/>.

Development and Globalization: Facts and Figures 2021(UNCTAD's report)

Question : The 2021 edition of UNCTAD's Development and Globalization: Facts and Figures report, released on 10 June, highlights the numerous strengths and challenges of —

- a. Small Island Developing States b. Small Landlock Countries c. Desertified Small Countries
d. None of the above

Ans. a.

- The 2021 edition of UNCTAD's Development and Globalization: Facts and Figures report, released on 10 June, highlights the numerous strengths and challenges of Small Island Developing States(SIDS).
- SIDS face an uphill battle as they strive to recover from the impact of the COVID-19 crisis amid vulnerabilities worsened by the pandemic.
- UNCTAD's 15th quadrennial ministerial conference —
- The report is published ahead of UNCTAD's 15th quadrennial ministerial conference to be held online from 3 to 7 October, hosted by Barbados, one of the SIDS. The contributions and vulnerabilities of SIDS will be key elements of the discussions at the conference.
- **Key points —**
 - While SIDS are a diverse group of countries, they share many socioeconomic and environmental challenges. SIDS are highly vulnerable to external economic and financial shocks, at least 35% more than other developing countries, according to the report.
 - It also analyses the concepts of smallness, and islandness as a function of remoteness or isolation.
 - It says 2020 was a particularly challenging year for SIDS.
 - In the wake of the pandemic, SIDS experienced an estimated fall in GDP of 9% in 2020, compared with a 3.3% decline in other developing countries based on IMF projections data.
 - Services exports contribute on average 25% to SIDS' GDP and almost half of their exports consist of travel services.
 - In the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic, SIDS suffered an estimated 70% drop in travel receipts in 2020.
 - The UN World Tourism Organisation estimates that it could take up to four years for international tourism, an essential source of jobs and livelihoods, to recover to levels observed in 2019.
 - SIDS import more goods than they export – 24 of them had a negative trade balance in goods of more than 55% of imports in 2020.
 - Many SIDS have built strong service economies. The service sector accounted for over 70% of SIDS' GDP in 2019, compared with 66% in 2005.
 - On average, two in three people work in services in the island economies, half of men and three in four women, often in jobs related to tourism.
 - From 2016 to 2019, many SIDS ran large current account deficits and the collapse of tourism due to the COVID-19 pandemic was expected to widen these deficits in 2020.



- GDP per capita varies greatly across SIDS. In 2019, it was \$11,561 (in current prices) in the Caribbean, three times more than in the Pacific SIDS and 1.6 times more than in the Atlantic and Indian Ocean SIDS. Half of the top 10 SIDS in terms of total GDP are also Caribbean.
- Despite suffering acutely from the impacts of climate change, SIDS emitted only 0.2% of global CO2 emissions in 2016.
- SIDS score close to the global average in Human Development Index, and 60% of SIDS receive a very high or high score.
- In 2019, the Gender Inequality Index ranked most SIDS better than the world average, and all of them better than LDCs' average.
- However, the share of women and girls subjected to violence has been high in some SIDS, particularly in the Pacific.

Link:

<https://unctad.org/press-material/small-island-developing-states-face-uphill-battle-covid-19-recovery>

United States Innovation and Competition Act

Question : Question- Question- On 8 June 2021, the US Senate has passed a rare bipartisan law (United States Innovation and Competition Act) aimed at countering the growing influence of which country?

a. China b. Russia c. Iraq d. North Korea

Ans. a.

Related facts —

- On 8 June 2021, the US Senate has passed a rare bipartisan law (United States Innovation and Competition Act) aimed at countering the growing influence of China.
- This move is proposed an investment of more than 200 billion dollar.
- It is seen as a major political victory for Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer.
- The purpose of passing this law is to counter China's influence on the domestic and foreign fronts.
- In addition, funding for the activities of the National Science Foundation has also been increased through this law.
- It is notable that 52 billion dollar has been approved to increase US production and research in semiconductors.



Link:

<https://www.americanactionforum.org/insight/the-united-states-innovation-and-competition-act-usica-a-primer/>

Second-highest international goalscorer among active players

Question- Which footballer is on the second place in the list of highest goalscorers in international football on 7th June 2021?

(a) Sunil Chhetri (b) Neymar Jr. (c) Lionel Messi (d) Cristiano Ronaldo

Answer—(a)

related facts —



- Sunil Chhetri is on the second place in the list of highest goalscorers in international football on 7th June 2021.
- To achieve this feat, he has overtaken players like Messi and Mabkhout.
- It is notable that Sunil Chhetri scored 73rd and 74th international goals in the match against Bangladesh in the FIFA World Cup qualifiers on June 7, 2021.

Link:

<https://sportstar.thehindu.com/football/sunil-chhetri-overtakes-lionel-messi-mabkhout-international-goals-list-india-vs-bangladesh/article34755462.ece>

World Bank approves USD 191 million credit to Bangladesh

Question: To which country the World Bank has approved a credit of USD 191 million to set up South Asian Education portal?

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

Answer: (a)

Related facts:

- The World Bank approved a credit of USD 191 million to Bangladesh to set up South Asian Education portal.
- The portal will facilitate virtual mobility of students under its Higher Education Acceleration Transformation Project.
- This will mitigate the impact of the COVID 19 pandemic in the regions which has caused large scale drop outs and fewer enrolments.
- The project will allow National Research and Education networks (NRENs) and provide expanded access and connectivity for students.
- It will help upgrade the Bangladesh Research and Education Network (BdREN) and offer a subsidized connectivity package to students and the participating universities in BdREN.
- The project will build a network of women's universities and institutions, which will be initially anchored at the Asian University of Women in Chittagong, Bangladesh.
- The Higher Education Acceleration Transformation Project is the first WB supported regional education project in South Asia.

Links:

<https://newsonair.gov.in/News?title=World-Bank-provides-USD-191-million-credit-to-Bangladesh-to-set-up-South-Asian-Education-portal&id=420464>

Nikol Pashinyan

Question: Who has been recently elected the Prime Minister of Armenia?

(a) Nikol Pashinyan (b) Serzh Sargsyan (c) Andranik Margaryan (d) Robert Kocharyan

Answer: (a)

Related facts:

- Nikol Pashinyan, the acting prime minister of Armenia won the snap parliamentary election.
- Now, he will lead the country as Prime Minister.
- Nikol Pashinyan has won 53.9% of the vote in the parliamentary polls while his rival Robert Kocharyan came second with 21% votes.
- The vote was called to defuse a political crisis after Armenia's defeat in a war with Azerbaijan over the disputed Nagorno-Karabakh region.



Links:

<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2021/jun/21/armenian-pm-claims-victory-parliamentary-election-rival-alleges>

NSA Ajit Doval attends SCO meet in Dushanbe

Question- Which of the following country has hosted the Shanghai Corporation Organization meeting of National Security Advisors?

(a) Hainan, China (b) Dushanbe, Tajikistan (c) New Delhi, India (d) Mexico, Russia

Ans. (b)

Related Facts-

- On June 24, 2021, National Security Advisor Ajit Doval attended a meeting of the top security officials from the member nations of the Shanghai Corporation Organisation (SCO) in Tajikistan capital Dushanbe.
- Tajikistan, the current president of the SCO, is hosting the meeting of the top national security officials of the eight-nation grouping on June 23 and 24.
- Pakistani National Security Advisor Moeed Yusuf and Afghan NSA Hamdullah Mohib are among the participants at the in-person meeting that is discussing key regional security issues including the evolving situation in Afghanistan.
- The SCO, seen as a counterweight to NATO, is an eight-member economic and security bloc and has emerged as one of the largest transregional international organisations.
- India and Pakistan became its permanent members in 2017.
- SCO was founded at a summit in Shanghai in 2001 by the Presidents of Russia, China, Kyrgyz Republic, Kazakhstan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan.
- India has shown keen interest in deepening its security-related cooperation with the SCO and its Regional Anti-Terrorism Structure (RATS) which specifically deals with issues relating to security and defence.



Reference- <https://www.indiatoday.in/india/story/nsa-ajit-doval-attends-shanghai-corporation-organisation-meet-dushanbe-1818644-2021-06-24>.

Former Kerala Health Minister K K Shailaja bags prestigious European award

Question-Who has been awarded the Central European University (CEU) open society prize?

(a) K K Shailaja (b) Aadra Deshmukh (c) Dr Ritu Biyani (d) Vidya Rattan Sharma

Ans. (a)

Related facts-

- Former Kerala Health Minister K K Shailaja has been awarded the prestigious Central European University (CEU) Open Society Prize in recognition of her commitment to public health services.
- The Open Society Prize, awarded annually to persons of exceptional distinction who serve the ideals of an open society, was announced during the 30th graduation ceremony which was held online recently.



- President and Rector of CEU, Michael Ignatieff, announced the award for “Shailaja Teacher” and said the prize is awarded this year to an “extraordinary public servant” from the developing world.
- As minister of public health in the Indian state of Kerala, during the COVID-19 pandemic, K K Shailaja Teacher and the dedicated staff of the public health service, demonstrated to the world that determined leadership, community-based public health and effective communication can save lives.

Reference- <https://www.livemint.com/news/india/former-kerala-health-minister-k-k-shailaja-bags-prestigious-european-award-11624181305727.html>.

UNODC World Drug Report 2021

Question- Consider the following statements regarding UN World Drug report 2021-

- (1) As per the report, 36 million people suffered from drug use disorders
- (2) 275 million people used drugs across the world in 2020
- (3) In last 24 years, cannabis potency had increased by four times in some parts of the globe

Select the correct answer using the code given below-

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

Ans. (d)

Related Facts-

- World Drug Report 2021 was published by United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC).
- As per the report, 275 million people used drugs across the world in 2020.
- While over 36 million people suffered from drug use disorders in 2020.
- The Report further noted that in the last 24 years cannabis potency had increased by as much as four times in parts of the world.
- Percentage of adolescents who perceived drug as harmful has reduced by 40 per cent.
- Rise in the use of cannabis during the pandemic has been reported by most countries.
- The latest global estimates say, about 5.5 per cent of the population between 15 and 64 years have used drugs at least once in the past year.
- Over 11 million people globally are estimated to inject drugs – half of them have Hepatitis C.
- Opioids continue to account for the largest burden of disease-linked to drug abuse.
- The theme of this year’s International Day against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking is “Share facts on drugs. Save lives”, emphasizing the importance of strengthening the evidence base and raising public awareness.
- According to the Report, the percentage of Δ^9 -THC – the main psychoactive component in cannabis – has risen from around six per cent to more than 11 per cent in Europe between 2002-2019.
- The 2021 World Drug Report provides a global overview of the supply and demand of opiates, cocaine, cannabis, amphetamine-type stimulants and new psychoactive substances (NPS), as well as their impact on health, taking into account the possible effects of the COVID-19 pandemic.



Reference- <https://news.un.org/en/story/2021/06/1094672>.

China launches first electric train close to Arunachal Pradesh border in Tibet

Question- Which of the following country is going to run first electric train in Tibet?



(a) India (b) China (c) Bhutan (d) Nepal

Ans. (b)

Related Facts-

- China is all set to operationalise the first electric train in the remote Himalayan region of Tibet, connecting the provincial capital Lhasa with Nyingchi – a strategically located Tibetan border town close to Arunachal Pradesh.
- The 435.5-km Lhasa-Nyingchi section of the Sichuan-Tibet Railway is expected to be inaugurated ahead of the centenary celebrations of the ruling Communist Party of China (CPC) on July 1.
- The Sichuan-Tibet Railway will be the second railway into Tibet after the Qinghai-Tibet Railway.
- It will go through the southeast of the Qinghai-Tibet Plateau, one of the world's most geologically active areas.
- Nyingchi is prefecture level city of Medog which is adjacent to the Arunachal Pradesh border.

Reference- https://www.business-standard.com/article/international/china-all-set-to-operationalise-the-first-electric-train-in-tibet-121062500045_1.html.

China plans to send its first crewed mission to Mars in 2033 and build a base there

Question-Consider the following statements-

(1) China aims to send its first crewed mission to Mars in 2033

(2) China is planning regular crewed missions to the Red Planet and wants to build a base there.

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

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

Ans. (c)

Related Facts-

- China aims to send its first crewed mission to Mars in 2033, with regular follow-up flights to follow, under a long-term plan to build a permanently inhabited base on the Red Planet and extract its resources.
- The ambitious plan, which will intensify a race with the United States to plant humans on Mars, was disclosed in detail for the first time after China landed a robotic rover on Mars in mid-May in its inaugural mission to the planet.
- China has earmarked 2033, 2035, 2037, 2041 and 2043 for such missions and said it will explore technology to fly astronauts back to Earth.
- Before the crewed missions begin, China will send robots to Mars to study possible sites for the base and to build systems to extract resources there.
- The US space agency NASA has been developing technology to get a crew to Mars and back sometime in the 2030s.
- China's Mars plan envisages fleets of spacecraft shuttling between Earth and Mars and major development of its resources.
- To shorten the travel time, spacecraft would have to tap energy released from nuclear reactions in the form of heat and electricity, in addition to traditional chemical propellants.
- China is also planning to set up a base in the south pole of the Moon and is deploying robotic expeditions to asteroids and Jupiter around 2030.



Acquisition of Mphasis Ltd.

Question : BCP Topco is a private limited company, incorporated under the laws of —

a. Singapore b. Japan c. South Korea d. Malaysia

Ans. a.

Related facts

- CCI approves acquisition by BCP Topco IX Pte. Ltd.(BCP Topco), Waverly Pte Ltd. (GIC Investor) and Platinum Owl C 2018 RSC Limited(ADIA Investor)(‘Acquirers’) of Mphasis Limited (‘Target’) under Section 31(1) of the Competition Act, 2002, today(8 June 2021).
- The proposed transaction pertains to the acquisition of up to 75% shareholding in the Target by BCP Topco through a series of inter-connected transactions.
- BCP Topco is a private limited company, incorporated under the laws of Singapore.
- It has not been engaged in providing any products / services and / or performing the business of investment holding in India or worldwide, since its incorporation.
- GIC Investor is a special purpose vehicle organised as a private limited company in Singapore that is part of a group of investment holding companies managed by GIC Special Investments Private Limited.
- Platinum Owl is acting in its capacity as trustee for Platinum Jasmine Trust, and Abu Dhabi Investment Authority (ADIA) is the sole beneficiary and settlor of the Platinum Jasmine Trust.
- Target is a public limited company, registered under the Companies Act, 1956, listed on National Stock Exchange of India Limited and BSE Limited.
- It is a global information technology (IT) service provider specialising in providing cloud and cognitive services, including application development and maintenance, infrastructure management services, knowledge processing services, service/technical helpdesk, transaction processing services and customer service, business process management / business process outsourcing (BPO) and infrastructure services, globally through a combination of technology knowhow, domain and process expertise.
- **CCI**
- Competition Commission of India is the competition regulator in India.
- It is a statutory body of the Government of India responsible for enforcing The Competition Act, 2002 and promoting competition throughout India and to prevent activities that have an appreciable adverse effect on competition in India.



Link:

<https://www.pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1725360>

New President of Iran

Question: Who has been elected the President of Iran in the elections held on 18 June 2021?

(a) Hassan Rouhani (b) Ebrahim Raisi (c) Mohsen Rezaee (d) Mohammad Abbasi

Answer: (b)

Related facts:

- Ebrahim Raisi won the 2021 Iranian presidential election.
- Elections were held on June 18 2021.



- This was the thirteenth quadrennial presidential election in Iran since the establishment of the Islamic Republic.
- The 60 year old Ebrahim Raisi has won 61.95 percent of the vote. He will replace the incumbent President Hassan Rouhani.
- **About Ebrahim Raisi :**
 - Iranian conservative Ebrahim Raisi was born in Mashhad in northeastern Iran, a major city and a religious centre for Shia Muslims.
 - He began his judicial career as a prosecutor in the city of Karaj.
 - From 2004 to 2014, he was the First Deputy Chief Justice in Iranian Judiciary.
 - In 2014, he was named the Attorney-General of Iran, a position which he held until 2016.
 - In 2019, Ebrahim Raisi was appointed the Chief Justice of Iranian Judiciary. His appointment oversaw unrest in Iran because of his involvement in the mass executions of thousands of political prisoners in 1988 after the Iran-Iraq war.
 - Human Rights organization Amnesty International has called for the leader to face charges of crimes against humanity.
 - Ebrahim Raisi had also contested the 2017 presidential elections, but lost to Hassan Rouhani.

Links:

<https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2021/6/19/who-is-ebrahim-raisi-irans-next-president>

International Vaccine Institute

Question: Which South Asian country has recently announced to set up international institute for vaccine production?

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

Answer: (a)

Related facts:

- Bangladesh will set up an international institute for vaccine production including for COVID 19.
- Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina stated that the government will sign an agreement with South Korea to set up the vaccine institute in Bangladesh.
- She told parliament that a vaccine developed by one of the Bangladeshi companies Globe Biotech Ltd is now in the trial stage.



Links:

[http://newsonair.com/2021/06/16/bangladesh-to-set-up-international-vaccine-institute-prime-minister-](http://newsonair.com/2021/06/16/bangladesh-to-set-up-international-vaccine-institute-prime-minister-hasina/#:~:text=Bangladesh%20will%20set%20up%20an,the%20vaccine%20institute%20in%20Bangladesh.)

[hasina/#:~:text=Bangladesh%20will%20set%20up%20an,the%20vaccine%20institute%20in%20Bangladesh.](http://newsonair.com/2021/06/16/bangladesh-to-set-up-international-vaccine-institute-prime-minister-hasina/#:~:text=Bangladesh%20will%20set%20up%20an,the%20vaccine%20institute%20in%20Bangladesh.)

Suicide Worldwide in 2019: WHO

Question- Consider the following statements-

- (1) The report titled- Suicide worldwide in 2019-is published by WHO
- (2) As per the report 703,000 people or one in a 100, died by suicide in 2019
- (3) Suicide is the 4th leading cause of death in 15-19 years olds

Select the correct answer using the code given below-

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

Ans. (d)

Related Facts-



- On June 17, 2021 the report titled- Suicide worldwide in 2019 has published by World Health Organization (WHO).
- It shows that some 703,000 people or one in a 100, died by suicide in 2019.
- More than 700 000 people die due to suicide every year.
- For every suicide there are many more people who attempt suicide. A prior suicide attempt is the single most important risk factor for suicide in the general population.
- Suicide is the fourth leading cause of death in 15-19-year-olds.
- 77% of global suicides occur in low- and middle-income countries.
- But, three WHO regions — Africa, Europe and South-East Asia — recorded suicide rates higher than the global average.
- This number was highest in the WHO Africa region (11.2) followed by Europe (10.5) and South-East Asia (10.2).
- The report noted that in 20 years (2000-2019), the global suicide rate had decreased by 36 per cent.
- The decrease ranged from 17 per cent in the Eastern Mediterranean Region to 47 per cent in the European Region and 49 per cent in the Western Pacific Region.
- The Region of the Americas recorded a substantial 17 per cent increase in the suicide rate during the same period and has been an exception.
- Ingestion of pesticide, hanging and firearms are among the most common methods of suicide globally.
- The SDGs call on countries to reduce premature mortality from non-communicable diseases by a third, by 2030 through prevention and treatment and to promote mental health and well-being (target 3.4, indicator 3.4.2).
- The WHO had published new LIVE LIFE guidelines to help countries reduce the global suicide mortality rate by a third by 2030. These are:
 - Limiting access to the means of suicide, such as highly hazardous pesticides and firearms.
 - Educating the media on responsible reporting of suicide.
 - Fostering socio-emotional life skills in adolescents.
 - Early identification, assessment, management and follow-up of anyone affected by suicidal thoughts and behaviour.

Reference- <https://www.who.int/news-room/fact-sheets/detail/suicide>.

Reuters Digital News Report 2021

Question- Consider the following statements regarding Reuters Digital News report 2021-

(1) India was ranked at 31st position in the category of “trust in news” out of 46 media markets that were surveyed by Reuters.

(2) As per report, 73 per cent of respondents in India use smartphones to access news while 82 per cent source news online using social media.

(3) 63 per cent of the respondents are acquiring information from social media platforms like WhatsApp and YouTube only.

Select the correct answer using the code given below-

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

Ans. (d)

Related Facts-

- On June 23, 2021 the tenth edition of our Digital News Report, based on data from six continents and 46 markets has published.
- Report is published by Reuters Institute for Study of Journalism (RISJ).
- Aims of the report is to cast light on the key issues that face the industry at a time of deep uncertainty and rapid change.
- Reuters more global sample, which includes India, Indonesia, Thailand, Nigeria, Colombia, and Peru for the first time, provides a deeper understanding of how differently the news



environment operates outside the United States and Europe and we have tried to find new ways to reflect this, whilst recognising that differences in internet penetration and education will make some comparisons less meaningful.

- India was ranked at 31st position in the category of “trust in news” out of 46 media markets that were surveyed by Reuters.
- Asian College of Journalism (ACJ) provided logistical support to survey Indian market.
- Study focused on trust in news and featured India for the first time in its main report this year.
- As per report, 73 per cent of respondents in India use smartphones to access news while 82 per cent source news online using social media.
- 63 per cent of the respondents are acquiring information from social media platforms like WhatsApp and YouTube only.
- 38 percent of the respondents in India trusted news overall.
- Finland, with 65%, has highest levels of overall trust in news.
- USA, with 29 %, has the lowest levels of trust.

Reference- <https://reutersinstitute.politics.ox.ac.uk/digital-news-report/2021/dnr-executive-summary>.

International Olympic day 2021

Question- In which of the following date the International Olympic day is observed?

(a) June 23 (b) June 22 (c) June 21 (d) June 24

Ans. (a)

Related facts-

- World Olympic Day or International Olympic Day is celebrated on June 23 all around the world.
- The day embraces all through pure Olympic values. Athletes from every nation participate in sports activities, such as runs, exhibitions, music, and educational seminars on this day.
- Olympic Day is based on three pillars-



-Move

-Learn

-Detect

- World Olympic Day was introduced in 1948 to commemorate the birth of the modern Olympic Games on June 23, 1894, at the Sorbonne in Paris.
- The goal of celebrating Olympic Day was to promote participation in sport across the globe regardless of age, gender, or athletic ability.
- The Olympic Games are an international sports event, held every four years featuring summer and winter sports competitions. Thousands of athletes from around the world take part in a variety of competitions.

Reference- <https://www.indiatoday.in/information/story/international-olympic-day-2021-date-significance-history-and-quotes-from-olympic-athletes-1818333-2021-06-23>.

Weightlifter Laurel Hubbard will be first transgender athlete to compete at Olympics

Question- Who is going to become first transgender athlete to compete at an Olympic Games?

(a) Laurel Hubbard (b) Ted Morgan (c) Lydia Ko (d) Nick Wills



Ans. (a)
Related Facts-

- Weightlifter Laurel Hubbard will become the first transgender athlete to compete at the Olympics after being selected by New Zealand for the women's event at the Tokyo Games, a decision set to reignite a debate over inclusion and fairness in sport.
- Hubbard will compete in the super-heavyweight 87+kg category, her selection made possible by an update to qualifying requirements in May.
- The 43-year-old, who will be the oldest lifter at the Games, had competed in men's weightlifting competitions before transitioning in 2013.
- Hubbard has been eligible to compete at Olympics since 2015, when the International Olympic Committee (IOC) issued guidelines allowing any transgender athlete to compete as a woman provided their testosterone levels are below 10 nanomoles per litre for at least 12 months before their first competition.
- Some scientists have said the guidelines do little to mitigate the biological advantages of those who have gone through puberty as males.

Reference- <https://scroll.in/field/998101/new-zealands-laurel-hubbard-set-to-become-first-transgender-olympian-heres-all-you-need-to-know>.

Mizoram minister announces incentives for having more children

Question: Which Indian state has announced an incentive for having maximum number of children on 20 June 2021 (father's day)?

a) Mizoram b) Uttar Pradesh c) Sikkim d) Haryana

Ans: a

Facts

- Sports Minister Robert Romawia Royte of Mizoram has announced an incentive of Rs 1lakh to a living parent with the highest number of children in his constituency of Aizawl East-2 .
- This is announced at the times when most of the states in the country are pushing for population control measures.
- It has been done to encourage population growth among the demographically small Mizo communities.
- Person will also get a certificate and a trophy.
- Cost of the incentive will be borne by a construction consultancy firm which is owned by Royte's son.
- **Reason for the announcement**
 - Infertility rate and the decreasing growth rate of the Mizo population has become a serious concern.
 - Mizoram is far below the optimum number of people to attain development in various fields because of the gradual decline in its population. Low population is a serious issue.
 - About 52 persons live in area of per square kilometre in Mizoram. It has the second lowest population density in India, next to Arunachal Pradesh. National average is 382 per sq km.



Reference: <https://www.tribuneindia.com/news/nation/on-fathers-day-mizoram-minister-announces-rs-1-lakh-cash-prize-for-having-maximum-number-of-children-272354>

ZyCoV-D set to become world's first DNA Covid vaccine

Question: Gujarat-based Zydus Cadila has recently sought approval from government of India for emergency



uses of its Covid-19 vaccine, ZyCoV-D. This vaccine production uses which method to make the vaccine?

a) mRNA b) Live attenuated virus c) DNA d) Dead Virus

Ans: c

Context

- Indian pharmaceutical company Zydus Cadila may approach drugs regulator DCGI for emergency approval of its Covid-19 vaccine Zycov-D.
- **Facts**
- ZyCoV-D will be the first first DNA-based Covid vaccine in the world if it gets approved by the regulator.
- It is a three-dose vaccine. According to Zydus Cadila, the three doses of Zycov-D are to be administered at day 0, day 28 and day 56.
- The company is also working on a two-dose vaccine.
- If approved this will become the fourth vaccine to be administered in the country after Serum Institute's Covishield, Bharat Biotech's Covaxin and Russia's Sputnik V. It will also be the second indigenous vaccine after Bharat Biotech's Covaxin.
- **How ZyCoV-D is different from other vaccines**
- A DNA vaccine carries into the body the genetic code for that part of a virus that triggers the immune system of the body.
- The message is decoded using the host cell's own machinery to produce that antigen and stimulate the immune system.
- When later on an actual infection occurs and the SARS-CoV2 enters the body, the immune system is already prepped to recognise it and knows what are the most effective ways to fight it.
- Other vaccines like ones made by Pfizer and Moderna also uses this method to produce vaccines what is known as "nucleic acid vaccines". But the difference is that they use messenger RNA while ZyCoV-D uses plasmid — a DNA fragment capable of surviving outside of the nucleus of a cell.

Reference: <https://theprint.in/health/indias-zycov-d-set-to-become-worlds-first-dna-covid-vaccine-as-govt-approval-likely-soon/680204/>

IPCC has warned serious consequences of Global Warming

Question: UN body known as Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) will publish its report in-

a) January 2022 b) February 2023 c) February 2022 d) None of these

Answer: (c)

Related Facts:-

- A latest report by the United Nations (UN) has warned serious consequences of global warming if continue unchecked.
- This report is prepared by a UN body known as Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC)
- The report says that consequences of unchecked global warming for billions of humans as well upon other natural forms will be catastrophic.
- It should be known that earlier climate models suggested it would take nearly another century of unabated carbon pollution to spawn heatwaves exceeding the absolute limit of human tolerance.



- Now the updated projections by Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) warn of unprecedented killer heatwaves on the near future.
- According to the news agency AFP, the IPCC has prepared a 4,000-page report, which will be released in February 2022.
- The report said that if the world warms by 1.5 degrees Celsius – 0.4 degrees above today's level – 14% of the population will be exposed to severe heatwaves at least once every five years .
- Worst hit will be megacities in the developing world that generate additional heat of their own from Karachi to Kinshasa, Manila to Mumbai, Lagos to Manaus.
- It is easier to survive a high temperature day if the air is bone-dry than it is to survive a lower temperature day with very high humidity, according to the report.
- That steam-bath mix has its own yardstick, known as wet-bulb temperature.

Links:-

<https://www.deccanherald.com/science-and-environment/after-covid-the-next-big-killer-could-be-heatwaves-un-1000507.html>

World Refugee Day, June 20

Question- What is the theme of 'World refugee day' 2021?

- (a) Together we heal, learn and shine (b) Together we can make a better future
(c) Together we can help each other (d) Every action counts

Ans. (a)

Related Facts-

- World Refugee Day is observed every year on June 20, by the United Nations to honor refugees around the globe.
- It celebrates the strength and courage of people who have been forced to flee their home country to escape conflict or persecution.
- World Refugee Day is an occasion to build empathy and understanding for their plight and to recognize their resilience in rebuilding their lives.
- Refugees are the people forced to flee their country because of conflict, war, or persecution.
- The theme of World Refugee Day 2021 is "Together we heal, learn and shine."
- World Refugee Day was held globally for the first time on June 20, 2001, commemorating the 50th anniversary of the 1951 Convention relating to the Status of Refugees.
- It was originally known as Africa Refugee Day, before the United Nations General Assembly officially designated it as an international day in December 2000.



Reference- <https://www.indiatoday.in/information/story/world-refugee-day-2021-theme-history-significance-and-all-you-need-to-know-1817160-2021-06-20>.

India and U.S launch a hydrogen task force in clean energy push

Question- Consider the following statements about India-U.S Hydrogen Task Force-

- (1) It has been launched under the aegis of Strategic Clean Energy Partnership (SCEP).
(2) Task Force represents industry and government stake holders to assess technology status, study innovative policy options, and make recommendations.

Select the correct answer using the code given below-

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

Ans. (b)

Related Facts-



- The United States Department of Energy (DOE), India's Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE) and the US India Strategic Partnership Forum (USISPF) have jointly launched a US-India Hydrogen Task Force.
- This is under the US-India Strategic Clean Energy Partnership (SCEP).
- India and US had decided to revamp their strategic partnership to focus on clean energy sectors such as biofuels and hydrogen.
- Task Force represents industry and government stake holders to assess technology status, study innovative policy options, and make recommendations.
- The formation of this task force was first announced in April 2021 by US Deputy Secretary of Energy, David M Turk.
- The US and India can help solve the climate crisis by finding ways to scale up access, affordability, and deployment of critical hydrogen technologies.
- The U.S. India Hydrogen Task Force will help scale up technologies to produce hydrogen from renewable energy and fossil fuel sources and bring down the cost of deployment for enhanced energy security and sustainability.
- The Hydrogen Task Force will be organized into a Steering Committee at the Government level, an Industry council, and working groups or subcommittees in identified priority areas. The focus will be on strengthening cooperation on hydrogen between industry and institutions from both countries.

Reference- https://www.business-standard.com/article/economy-policy/us-india-hydrogen-task-force-launched-121061801149_1.html.

World's third largest diamond unearthed in Botswana

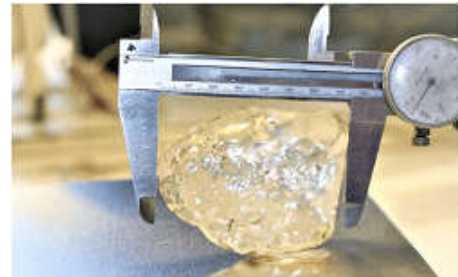
Question- In which of the following country the world's third largest diamond is unearthed?

(a) Botswana (b) Kenya (c) Rwanda (d) Nigeria

Ans. (a)

Related facts-

- A diamond believed to be the third-largest ever to be mined has been unearthed in Botswana, as per a joint venture between Anglo American's De Beers and the government.
- The 1098-carat diamond was shown to Botswana President Mokgweetsi Masisi on June 16, 2021, two weeks after the diamond firm Debswana discovered it.
- The large gem-quality stone, which measures 73mm long, 52mm wide and 27mm thick, is slightly less heavy than the world's second-largest diamond 'Lesedi La Rona' which was also found in Botswana in 2015.
- The largest diamond unearthed to date, 3106 carat Cullinan stone, was recovered in South Africa in 1905.
- This is the largest diamond to be recovered by Debswana in its history of over 50 years in operation.



Reference- <https://www.hindustantimes.com/world-news/diamond-believed-to-be-world-s-third-largest-unearthed-in-botswana-101623920970460.html>.

UNDRR report on Drought 2021

Question- Consider the following statements-

(1) "Global Assessment Report on Disaster Risk Reduction: Special Report on Drought 2021" was published by UNDRR

(2) As per the report, Drought is a hidden global crisis which can become "the next pandemic"

(3) About 1.5 billion people are directly affected by drought this century.

Select the correct answer using the code given below-

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

Ans. (d)

Related facts-

- The report titled “Global Assessment Report on Disaster Risk Reduction: Special Report on Drought 2021” was published on June 18, 2021 by UNDRR (United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction).
- It will be a part of discussions at vital UN climate talks called Cop26, scheduled to take place in Glasgow in November 2021.
- Drought is a hidden global crisis that risks becoming “the next pandemic” if countries do not take urgent action on water and land management and tackling the climate emergency, as per the report.
- At least 1.5 billion people have been directly affected by drought this century, and the economic cost over roughly that time has been estimated at \$124bn (£89bn).
- The report estimated the “impact of severe droughts on India’s GDP to be about 2-5% per annum despite decreasing contribution of agriculture in the country’s expanding economy.
- The Deccan region sees the highest frequency (of more than 6%) of severe droughts in all of India.
- Reason of Drought-Changing rainfall patterns because of climate breakdown are key driver of drought. However, report identifies inefficient use of water resources, degradation of land under intensive agriculture and poor farming practices also plays crucial role.
- Deforestation, overuse of fertilizers & pesticides, overgrazing & over-extraction of water for farming are some other factors.



Reference- <https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2021/jun/17/the-next-pandemic-drought-is-a-hidden-global-crisis-un-says>.

India maintains 43rd rank on IMD’s World Competitiveness Index

Question- Consider the following about World Competitiveness Index report 2021-

(1) India was ranked at 43rd position among 64 countries.

(2) World Competitiveness Index compiled by the Institute for Management Development (IMD)

Select the correct answer using the code given below-

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

Ans. (c)

Related facts-

- India maintained 43rd rank on an annual World Competitiveness Index compiled by the Institute for Management Development (IMD) that examined the impact of COVID-19 on economies around the world this year.
- Switzerland has topped the list and is followed by Sweden (2nd), Denmark (3rd), Netherlands (4th) and Singapore (5th).
- Taiwan was ranked at 8th position, reaching among top-10 for the first time in 33 years.
- UAE (9th) and USA (10th) maintains the same spots as in 2020.
- Top performing Asian economies include Singapore (5th), Hong Kong (7th), Taiwan (8th) and China (16th).
- Among the BRICS nations, India is ranked second after China (16), followed by Russia (45th), Brazil (57th) and South Africa (62th).



- India's improvements in the government efficiency factor are mostly due to relatively stable public finances (despite difficulties brought by the pandemic, in 2020 the government deficit stayed at 7 per cent) and to the positive feedbacks we registered among Indian business executives with respect to the support and subsidies provided by the government to the private companies.
- The IMD World Competitiveness Ranking ranks 64 economies and assesses the extent to which a country promotes the prosperity of its people by measuring economic well-being through hard data and survey responses from executives.
- This year, the rankings expose the economic impact of the pandemic across the globe.

Reference- https://www.business-standard.com/article/economy-policy/india-maintains-43rd-rank-on-imd-s-world-competitiveness-index-121061701110_1.html.

Global Mayors Challenge 2021

Question : Which city has been elevated to the final round among 50 champion cities in the 2021 Global Mayors Challenge, a worldwide innovation competition organised by the Bloomberg Philanthropies ?

a. Rourkela b. Dibrugarh c. Pudukkottai d. Suryapet

Ans. a.

Related facts

- Rourkela has been elevated to the final round among 50 champion cities in the 2021 Global Mayors Challenge, a worldwide innovation competition organised by the Bloomberg Philanthropies.
- Rourkela found the place as one of the finalists in India apart from Pune in 5 Asia-Pacific countries for urban innovations.
- The Bloomberg Philanthropies named it among top 50 cities for supporting solar-powered cold storage plus women entrepreneurship to reduce food waste.
- Focus area
- This year's programme focuses on identifying the unique innovations by residents of cities in response to global Covid-19 pandemic.
- **Criteria —**
- The 50 cities from 29 countries were selected based on four criteria — vision, potential from impact, feasibility and transferability.
- The Mayors from 631 cities in 99 countries had submitted their most promising ideas for consideration and from those, a committee of global experts has selected the 50 most innovative urban solutions to emerge in the wake of Covid-19 to advance in the competition.
- These 50 finalists are icon in the face of the pandemic's enormous challenges, these cities are rising to meet them with bold, innovative, and ambitious ideas.



Link:

<https://bloombergcities.jhu.edu/mayors-challenge>

NATO leaders declare China a global security challenge

Question: Consider the following statements:

i) NATO leaders on 14th June 2021, declared China a constant security challenge and said the Chinese are working to undermine global order.

ii) NATO leaders decided to include cyber security under article 5 of the Washington Treaty.

Which of the above are correct:



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

Ans: c

Context

- NATO summit was held on 14th June 2021 in which all major NATO leaders were present.
- **Facts**
- During the summit NATO leaders released a joint statement declaring China a constant security challenge to the rules-based international order and to areas relevant to Alliance security.
- During the Summit leaders affirmed their commitment to NATO's founding Washington Treaty, including that an attack against one Ally shall be considered an attack against us all, as enshrined in Article 5."
- It included language about updating Article 5 to include major cyberattacks, which have become a significant and growing concern.
- **About NATO**
- The North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) also called the North Atlantic Alliance, is an intergovernmental military alliance between 30 European and North American countries.
- The organization implements the North Atlantic Treaty that was signed on 4 April 1949.
- It is headquartered at Brussels, Belgium.

Reference: <https://indianexpress.com/article/world/nato-summit-takes-on-challenges-from-russia-china-climate-change-7359074/>

Dahla Dam

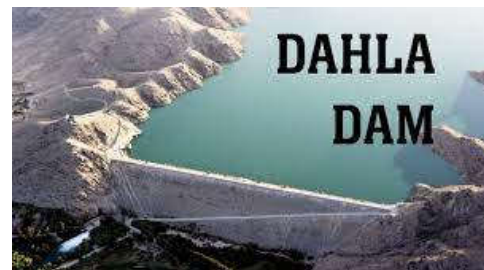
Question : Dahla Dam has recently come into news. In which country it situated ?

(a) Iraq (b) Iran (c) Pakistan (d) Afghanistan

Answer—(d)

related facts

- In May 2021, the Taliban captured the Dahla Dam after months of fighting in their former stronghold of Kandahar.
- This dam is the second largest dam located in Afghanistan.
- Dahla Dam is also known as Arghandab Dam.
- The dam provides drinking water for the city of Kandahar as well as irrigation facilities to farmers through a network of canals.
- This dam was constructed about 70 years ago in the year 1952 on the Arghandab river by America to provide water for irrigation in about 7 districts of Kandahar.



Link:

<https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2021/5/6/taliban-captures-key-afghan-dam-as-fighting-rages>

UNESCO Science Report

Question- What is the theme of 'UNESCO Science Report, 2021'?

- (1) Race against time for smarter development (2) Science for humanity
(3) Science for development (4) Science for

110

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



Ans. (1)

Related Facts-

- UNESCO Science Report (USR) was published on June 11, 2021 which is entitled as “race against time for smarter development”.
- USR is a flagship publication of UNESCO which is published once every five years.
- It is a report on science, technology and innovation (STI).
- According to report, India has not adopted industry 4.0 technologies and job losses due to automation is not a serious threat now.
- Report highlights, despite some efforts only a few Indian states have made progress on meeting renewable energy targets. USR suggests for incentives to promote use of electric and hybrid vehicles. Report is silent about policies on biofuels or on hydrogen as a source of energy.
- On employment report highlights, job opportunities for science, technology, engineering & medicine (STEM) graduates have not increased. However, employability of STEM graduates has increased to 49% in 2019 from 34% in 2014. It is serious issue because every other graduate is unemployable.
- India has one of the lowest GERD/GDP ratios among the BRICS nations, according to the report.
- The gross domestic expenditure on research (GERD) has been stagnant at 0.7% of the GDP for years, although, in absolute terms, research expenditure has increased.
- India's research intensity has been declining since 2014.
- United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) is a specialized agency of the United Nations (UN). It seeks to build peace through international cooperation in Education, the Sciences and Culture.

Reference- <https://www.unesco.org/reports/science/2021/en>.

World's First Wooden Satellite Aims to Reach Space by End of 2021

Question- Which of the following space agency will launch world's first wooden satellite?

(a) ESA (b) NASA (c) ISRO (d) CNSA

Ans. (a)

Related Facts-

- European Space Agency (ESA) will launch world's first wooden satellite called WISA Woodsat in Earth's orbit by the end 2021.
- The WISA Woodsat is a 4-inch (10-centimeter) square satellite that's scheduled for a fall launch on a Rocket Lab Electron rocket in New Zealand.
- Getting to orbit is only part of the adventure. Once there, the team will monitor the little cube to see how its plywood build stands up to cold, heat, radiation and the vacuum of space.
- Woodsat is the brainchild of Jari Makinen, co-founder of CubeSat replica kit company Arctic Astronautics.
- The European Space Agency, or ESA, is providing a suite of sensors to track the satellite's performance and will also help with pre-flight testing.
- Satellite will orbit at around 500-600 km altitude in polar Sun-synchronous orbit.
- It is a 10x10x10 cm nano satellite which was built up using standardised boxes and surface panels of plywood, which is usually found in hardware store and are used to make furniture. Wood have been placed in a thermal vacuum chamber to keep dry when it is in space.
- Thin layer of aluminium oxide has been applied to it to minimise vapour coming from wood and to protect it from erosive effects of atomic oxygen. T



- The non-wooden external parts of satellite are corner aluminium rails which will be used for its deployment into space and a metal selfie stick.

Reference- <https://www.cnet.com/news/worlds-first-wooden-satellite-aims-to-prove-plywood-can-survive-space/>.

‘Report it, Don’t share it!’ initiative

Question : ‘Report it, Don’t share it!’ is an initiative aimed at protecting children online. Which online social media and social networking service launched this initiative ?

a. Facebook b. YouTube c. Instagram d. Weixin/WeChat

Ans. a.

Related facts

- Facebook has recently(June 2021) launched an initiative named ‘Report it, Don’t share it!’.
- It encourages users to report and not share child abuse content on its platform.
- This initiative is is being undertaken in collaboration with civil society organisations like Aarambh India Initiative, Cyber Peace Foundation, and Arpan.
- Facebook users can report content where a child may be at risk by calling 1098 and reporting it to the Childline India Foundation.
- Additionally, if the content is on Facebook’s family of apps, it can be reported on fb.me/onlinechildprotection.
- **Other initiative —**
- Facebook has also partnered with Bollywood actress Neha Dhupia who runs the “Freedom to Feed” community on Instagram, which is a safe space for women to discuss breastfeeding and the challenges associated with it.

Link:

<https://www.moneycontrol.com/news/technology/facebook-launches-new-initiative-aimed-at-protecting-children-online-7042031.html>

European Space Agency’s launched EnVision mission to Venus

Question-Which of the following space agency Will launch the Envision mission to Venus in 2030 ?

(a) European Space Agency (b) NASA (c) ISRO (d) Russian Space Agency

Ans. (a)

Related Facts-

- Following NASA’s footsteps, the European Space Agency (ESA) on June 10, 2021 announced that it has selected EnVision as its next orbiter that will visit Venus sometime in the 2030s.
- NASA selected two missions to the planet Venus, Earth’s nearest neighbour. The missions called DAVINCI+ and VERITAS have been selected based on their potential for scientific value and the feasibility of their development plans.
- NASA is expected to allot \$500 million to each of these missions that will launch between 2028-2030.
- EnVision is an ESA led mission with contributions from NASA. It is likely to be launched sometime in the 2030s. The earliest launch opportunity for EnVision is 2031, followed by 2032 and 2033.
- Once launched on an Ariane 6 rocket, the spacecraft will take about 15 months to reach Venus and will take 16 more months to achieve orbit circularisation.



- The spacecraft will carry a range of instruments to study the planet's atmosphere and surface, monitor trace gases in the atmosphere and analyse its surface composition. A radar provided by NASA will help to image and map the surface.
- EnVision will follow another ESA-led mission to Venus called 'Venus Express' (2005-2014) that focussed on atmospheric research and pointed to volcanic hotspots on the planet's surface. Other than this, Japan's Akatsuki spacecraft has also been studying the planet's atmosphere since 2015.

Reference- <https://indianexpress.com/article/explained/explained-european-space-agencys-envision-mission-to-venus-7354821/>.

Indian IFS officer K Nagaraj Naidu named to lead UN bureaucracy for a year

Question- Who is appointed as the Chef du cabinet of 76th United Nations General Assembly (UNGA)?

(a) K Nagaraj Naidu (b) Vikas Swaroop (c) Arvind kumar (d) Kamlesh Sharma

Ans. (a)

Related facts-

- Indian Foreign Service (IFS) officer K Nagaraj Naidu was named chef de cabinet on June 9, 2021 by the incoming UN general assembly president, Maldivian foreign minister Abdulla Shahid, for the duration of his one-year tenure.
- Naidu is India's deputy permanent representative to the UN, and he will be on loan from the Indian government to the United Nations for a position that is comparable to the Indian prime minister's principal secretary, who oversees the cabinet bureaucracy also something like the chief of staff to the US president.
- Naidu will probably be the first Indian diplomat to be named to this position, and as such, his appointment bears testimony to India's growing influence in the world body.



Reference- <https://www.hindustantimes.com/world-news/indian-ifs-officer-k-nagaraj-naidu-named-to-lead-un-bureaucracy-for-a-year-101623298993519.html>.

Naftali Bennett takes oath as Israel's new Prime Minister.

Question- Who is elected as the new Prime Minister of Israel?

(a) Naftali Bennett (b) Benjamin Netanyahu (c) Benny Gantz (d) Yair Lipid

Ans. (a)

Related Facts-

- Naftali Bennett was on June 12, 2021 sworn in as Israel's new Prime Minister, ousting Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu from power after an uninterrupted 12 years at the helm of affairs.
- Bennett, the 49-year-old leader of the right-wing Yamina party, took oath of office after parliament (Knesset) voted on June 12, 2021 on the new government led by him.
- The new government – an unprecedented coalition of ideologically divergent political parties drawn from the Right, the Left and the Centre, along with an Arab party – has a razor-thin majority in a 120-member house.



Reference- https://www.business-standard.com/article/international/naftali-bennett-takes-oath-as-israel-s-new-prime-minister-ousts-netanyahu-121061300950_1.html.

International Albinism Awareness Day

Question – When is the ‘International Albinism Awareness Day’ observed ?

(a) 10 June (b) 9 June (c) 13 June (d) June 5

Answer—(c)

related facts

- International Albinism Awareness Day is observed by the United Nations on June 13 every year.
- 2021 Theme – Strength Beyond All Odds —
- “Strength Beyond All Odds” is the theme for this year’s International Albinism Awareness Day.
- **The theme was chosen to:-**
 - Highlight the achievements of people with albinism around the world.
 - Show that people with albinism can defy all odds.
 - Celebrate how people with albinism worldwide meet and exceed expectations in all domains of life.
 - Encourage everyone during this time of a global pandemic to join the global effort to #BuildBackBetter
- **About Albinism —**
 - Albinism is a rare, non-contagious, genetically inherited difference present at birth.
 - In almost all types of albinism, both parents must carry the gene for it to be passed on, even if they do not have albinism themselves.
 - The condition is found in both sexes regardless of ethnicity and in all countries of the world.
 - Albinism results in a lack of pigmentation (melanin) in the hair, skin and eyes, causing vulnerability to the sun and bright light.
 - As a result, almost all people with albinism are visually impaired and are prone to developing skin cancer.
 - There is no cure for the absence of melanin that is central to albinism.



Link:

<https://www.un.org/en/observances/albinism-day>

Fifth edition of VivaTech

Question : Of which area is VivaTech a one of the largest digital and startup event ?

A. Europe B. Africa C. Asia – Pacific D. South Asia

Ans. A.

- VivaTech is one of the largest digital and startup events in Europe, held in Paris every year since 2016.
- It is jointly organized by Publicis Groupe – a prominent advertising and marketing conglomerate and Les Echos – a leading French media group.
- The 5th edition of VivaTech is scheduled to be held between 16-19 June 2021.
- Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi will deliver the keynote address at the 5th edition of VivaTech on 16th June 2021.



Link:

<https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1727187>

World Day Against Child labour2021

Question- Consider the following statements regarding 'World Day Against Child Labour'-

(1) It is observed on June 12 every year

(2) This year's theme is 'Act now: End child labour'.

(3) It was launched by the International Labour Organization (ILO), an agency of the United Nations, in 2002.

Select the correct answer using the code given below-

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

Ans. (b)

Related facts-

- World Day Against Child Labour is observed on June 12 every year in almost 100 countries all around the globe.
- It aims to spread awareness about the illegal employment practice and also talk about the ways to eradicate it completely.
- This year's theme is 'Act now: End child labour'.
- It was launched by the International Labour Organization (ILO), an agency of the United Nations, in 2002.
- According to the latest report by the ILO and Unicef, child labour has soared to 160 million worldwide, the first increase in 20 years.



Reference- <https://www.firstpost.com/world/world-day-against-child-labour-2021-theme-this-year-is-act-now-end-child-labour-9709661.html>.

Rebeca Grynspan appointed as UNCTAD's secretary-general

Question-Who is appointed as the first women Secretary-general of UNCTAD?

(a) Rebeca Grynspan (b) Isabelle Durant (c) Mukhisa Kituyi (d) Marina Linchen

Ans. (a)

Related Facts-

- Rebeca Grynspan of Costa Rica will be the new head of UNCTAD, the United Nations trade and development body.
- Her nomination to the post by UN Secretary-General António Guterres was approved on 11 June by the UN General Assembly.
- Ms. Grynspan, the first woman and Central American to be appointed as UNCTAD's secretary-general, is an economist and current Ibero-American secretary-general.
- Ms. Grynspan has had a career spanning many years and has held several high-level positions including, among others, former under secretary-general of the UN and associate administrator of the UN Development Programme (UNDP).
- **About UNCTAD**
 - UNCTAD is the part of the United Nations Secretariat dealing with trade, investment, and development issues.
 - The organization's goals are to: "maximize the trade, investment and development opportunities of developing countries and assist



them in their efforts to integrate into the world economy on an equitable basis”.

- UNCTAD was established by the United Nations General Assembly in 1964 and it reports to the UN General Assembly and United Nations Economic and Social Council.
- UNCTAD has 195 member states and is headquartered in Geneva, Switzerland.

Reference- <https://unctad.org/news/rebeca-grynspan-appointed-unctads-secretary-general>.

World's best banks 2021

Question : Which bank was ranked number 1 out of 30 domestic and international banks in India for the second consecutive year ?

a. DBS b. CSB Bank c. ICICI Bank d. HDFC Bank

Ans. a.

- DBS was ranked number 1 out of 30 domestic and international banks in India for the second consecutive year.
- CSB Bank ranked second whereas ICICI Bank and HDFC Bank ranked third & fourth respectively.
- This ranking was released by Forbes under the title “The World’s Best Banks 2021”.
- This is the third edition of the ‘World’s Best Banks’ list by Forbes, conducted in partnership with market research firm Statista.



Link:

<https://www.forbes.com/worlds-best-banks/#423d07c01295>

World's first CO2 neutral cement plant

Question : In which country has HeidelbergCement planned world's first CO2 neutral cement plant ?

a. Sweden b. Germany c. UK d. Israel

Ans. a.

Related facts

- HeidelbergCement has recently(June 2021) planned world's first CO2 neutral cement plant in Sweden by 2030.
- It is notable that following the planned retrofit, which will cost at least 100 million euros (\$122 million), the plant will be able to capture up to 1.8 million tonnes of carbon dioxide per year, which corresponds to the site's total emissions.
- **Cement : World review**
- The cement production in 2019 was estimated at 4,100 million tonnes which decreased slightly by 1% from the preceding year.
- China (2,200 million tonnes) was the largest producer of cement in the world, contributing about 54% to the world output, followed by India (320 million tonnes) 8%, USA (89 million tonnes) 2%, Turkey (95 million tonnes) 2%, Vietnam (95 million tonnes) 2%, Republic of Korea (55 million tonnes) 1%, Russia (57 million tonnes) 1%, Japan (54 million tonnes) 1%, and Brazil (55 million tonnes) 1%.



Link:

<https://energy.economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/renewable/heidelbergcement-plans-worlds-first-co2-neutral-cement-plant-in-sweden/83193079>

PM Modi to attend outreach sessions of G7 summit

Question- What is the theme of G-7 summit 2021?

(a) Build Back Better (b) Sustainable Economy (c) Digital Technology (d) Healthy Infrastructure

Ans. (a)

Related Facts-

- At the invitation of UK Prime Minister Boris Johnson, Prime Minister Narendra Modi will participate in the Outreach Sessions of the G7 Summit on June 12 and June 13, in virtual format.
- The theme for the summit is 'Build Back Better' and the UK has outlined four priority areas for its presidency.
- The G7 comprises the US, UK, France, Germany, Italy, Canada and Japan. The UK currently holds the presidency of the G7 and has invited India, along with Australia, Republic of Korea and South Africa, as guest countries for the Summit. The meetings will be held in hybrid mode.
- The leaders are expected to exchange views on the way forward for the world amid the pandemic with focus on health and climate change.
- Since 2014, this is the second time PM Modi will be participating in a G7 meeting.
- India had been invited by the G7 French Presidency in 2019 to the Biarritz Summit as a "Goodwill Partner" and the Prime Minister participated in the Sessions on 'Climate, Biodiversity and Oceans' and 'Digital Transformation'.
- Russia was indefinitely suspended in March 2014 after the annexation of Crimea, reducing the count of the G8.



Reference- <https://indianexpress.com/article/explained/explained-the-g-7-agenda-this-year-india-7353336/>.

Operation Pangea” of Interpol targets counterfeit and illicit health products

Question- The term ‘Operation Pangea XIV’ is seen sometimes in news, related to-

(a) Operation Pangea XIV is an international effort to target the online sale of counterfeit and illicit health products (b) It's a bilateral military exercise between India and US (c) It's a computer virus (d) It's a disease

Ans. (a)

Related facts-

- INTERPOL has conducted Operation Pangea XIV to target the sale of counterfeit and illicit medicines and medical products.
- Operation Pangea is an international effort to target the online sale of counterfeit and illicit health products. It also aims to raise public awareness of the potential dangers of buying medicines online.
- The first time Operation Pangea was conducted was in 2008.
- The operation is coordinated by INTERPOL. It involved police, customs and health regulatory authorities from 92 countries.
- Indian agencies also participated in the operation. The Central Bureau of Investigation(CBI) is the nodal body for Interpol in the country.
- The operation resulted in around 1 lakh web links



including websites and online marketplaces being closed down or removed.

- Moreover, more than half of all medical devices seized during the operation were fake and unauthorized COVID-19 tests.

Reference- <https://www.thehindu.com/news/international/over-1-lakh-web-links-removed-in-global-crackdown-on-illegal-medical-trade/article34762765.ece>.

Miraculous' mosquito hack cuts dengue by 77%

Question- Consider the following statements-

(1) It cuts dengue fever by 77 percent

(2) They used mosquitoes infected with “miraculous” bacteria that reduce the insect’s ability to spread dengue.

Select the correct option from the given code –

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

Ans.(a)

Related facts-

- Dengue fever cases fell by 77 per cent in Indonesia after mosquitoes were infected with a “miraculous” bacteria that limits their ability to spread the disease.
- The “groundbreaking” trial in Yogyakarta city is now being rolled out further in the hope of eradicating dengue, which is commonly known as break-bone fever because it causes severe pain in muscles and joints.
- It is a mosquito-borne tropical disease caused by dengue virus (DENV).
- A slow-burning pandemic of dengue fever has resulted in up to 400 million infections a year worldwide.



Reference- <https://www.bbc.com/news/health-57417219>.

World Employment and Social Outlook: Trends 2021

Question : “World Employment and Social Outlook: Trends 2021” report released on June 2, 2021. Accordingly, which one of the following statement is correct ?

1. **Global unemployment rate will be 5.7% in 2022**
 2. **In 2020, an estimated 8.8 per cent of total working hours were lost**
 3. **Relative to 2019, total employment fell by 114 million**
- A.Only 1 B.Only 2 C.Only 3 D.All of the above

Ans. D.

Related facts

- The latest ILO flagship report released on June 2, 2021.
- The report titled “World Employment and Social Outlook: Trends 2021” examines global and regional trends in employment, unemployment, labour force participation and productivity, as well as dimensions of job quality such as employment status, informal employment and working poverty.
- **Key points**
- The COVID-19 pandemic is an employment as well as a health crisis. This ILO flagship report details its effects on the world of work.
- The global unemployment rate will be 5.7% in 2022 with estimated 205 million unemployed people around the world.
- This will continue to be higher than the pre Covid numbers of 187 million in 2019.

- Further, compared to 2019, an additional 108 million workers worldwide are now categorized as poor or extremely poor which means that the five years of progress towards the eradication of working poverty have been undone rendering the achievement of the UN Sustainable Development Goal of eradicating poverty by 2030 even more elusive.
- Relative to 2019, total employment fell by 114 million.
- The employment growth will be insufficient to make up for the losses suffered until at least 2023.
- In 2020, an estimated 8.8 per cent of total working hours were lost – the equivalent of the hours worked in one year by 255 million full-time workers.
- The total working-hour losses have translated into a sharp drop in labour income and an increase in poverty.
- Global labour income, which does not include government transfers and benefits, was US\$3.7 trillion (8.3 per cent) lower in 2020 than it would have been in the absence of the pandemic.
- Had there been no pandemic, the world would have created an estimated 30 million new jobs in 2020.
- Taken together, these losses mean that the global shortfall in employment increased by 144 million jobs in 2020, drastically exacerbating the shortage of employment opportunities that already existed prior to the pandemic.
- The report projects the global crisis-induced ‘jobs gap’ to reach 75 million in 2021 before falling to 23 million in 2022.
- The related gap in working-hours, which includes the jobs gap and those on reduced hours, will amount to the equivalent of 100 million full-time jobs in 2021 and 26 million full-time jobs in 2022.
- The COVID-19 crisis has made pre-existing inequalities worse by hitting vulnerable workers harder, including women whose employment declined by 5% in 2020 compared to 3.9% for men.
- A greater proportion of women also fell out of the labour market, becoming inactive.
- Further, global youth employment fell 8.7% in 2020 compared with 3.7% for adults, with the most pronounced fall seen in middle-income countries.

Link:

<https://www.ilo.org>

El Salvador becomes first country to adopt Bitcoin as legal tender

Question-Which of the following country has become World’s first country to make ‘Bitcoin’ legal tender?

(a) El Salvador (b) USA (c) Hong Kong (d) China

Ans.(a)

Related Facts-

- El Salvador became the first country in the world to adopt Bitcoin as a legal tender after Congress approved President Nayib Bukele’s proposal to embrace cryptocurrency.
- Bitcoin will become legal tender, alongside the US dollar, in 90 days.
- The new law means every business must accept Bitcoin as legal tender for goods or services, unless it is unable to provide the technology needed to do the transaction.
- Bitcoin- It is decentralized digital currency which lacks central bank or single administrator. It is sent from user to user on peer-to-peer bitcoin network. It does not need any intermediaries.



World Environment day 2021

Question- What is the theme of 'World Environment Day 2021'?

- (a) Reimagine. Recreate. Restore (b) Sustainable agriculture (c) Restore environment
(d) Reduce carbon emission

Ans. (a)

Related facts-

- The United Nations designated 5 June as World Environment Day to highlight that the protection and health of the environment is a major issue, which affects the well-being of peoples and economic development throughout the world.
- The United Nations Assembly established World Environment Day in 1972, which was the first day of the Stockholm Conference on the human environment.
- The theme of World Environment Day this year is 'Reimagine. Recreate. Restore' and its focal point is ecosystem restoration.
- "Ecosystem restoration means preventing, halting and reversing this damage- to go from exploiting nature to healing it".
- According to the UN, Pakistan will be the global host and UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration (2021-2030) will also be launched on June 5, 2021.
- The UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration is "a global mission to revive billions of hectares, from forests to farmlands, from the top of mountains to the depth of the sea."



Reference- <https://www.un.org/en/observances/environment-day>.

Foreign Minister of Maldives elected next General Assembly President

Question- Who is elected as new President of 76th session of the UN General Assembly (UNGA)?

- (a) Abdulla Shahid (b) Mir Kasim (c) Cyril Ramaphosa (d) Zalmay Rassoul.

Ans. (a)

Related Facts-

- The Maldives' Foreign Minister Abdulla Shahid was on June 8, 2021 elected as the new President of the UN General Assembly (UNGA), winning a three-fourth majority against contender Afghanistan's former foreign minister Zalmay Rassoul.
- Shahid garnered 143 votes while Rassoul received 48 votes out of the 191 votes polled.
- The election to the UNGA presidential post is held on an annual basis, rotated amongst various regional groupings. The 76th UNGA session (2021-22) was the turn of the Asia-Pacific group.
- This is the first time the Maldives will be occupying the office of the President of the UNGA.
- India announced its support for Abdulla during the visit of Foreign Secretary Harsh Shringla to the Maldives in November 2020.



Reference- <https://news.un.org/en/story/2021/06/1093532>.

INTERPOL launches "I-Familia" to identify missing persons

Question-Which of the following organization has launched 'I- Familia' to identify missing persons?

(a) INTERPOLE (b) WEF (c) Indian Government (d) UN Human rights Commission

Ans. (a)

Related Facts-

- The Interpol has launched a new global database named "I-Familia" to identify missing persons through family DNA and help the police solve cold cases in member countries.
- I-Familia is a global database launched to identify missing persons through family DNA. It will help the police to solve cases in member countries.
- I-Familia has three components:
 - a. Dedicated global database to host the DNA profiles provided by relatives. It is held separately from any criminal data;
 - b. DNA matching software called Bonaparte developed by Dutch company Smart Research; and
 - c. Interpretation guidelines developed by Interpol.
- The Interpol said the processing of DNA data was carried out via secure communication channels.
- "Family members must give their consent for their data to be used for international searching. There is no nominal data attached to the profile, which is submitted in the form of an alphanumeric code."



Reference- <https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/global-database-to-identify-missing-persons-launched/article34740859.ece>.

World Oceans Day 2021

Question- What is the theme of The "World Oceans day 2021"?

(a) 'The Ocean: Life and Livelihoods' (b) Save the Ocean (c) Sustainable Ocean
(d) Gender and Ocean

Ans.(a)

Related facts-

- World Oceans Day is observed every year on 8 June to create awareness among human beings of the benefits it has enjoyed from the ocean so far.
- The day highlights the need and necessity to protect oceans from further deterioration.
- The United Nations (UN) declared World Oceans Day as an official occasion in 2008. The UN has also hosted different themes each year to celebrate the day.
- The theme for World Oceans Day 2021 is 'The Ocean: Life and Livelihoods'.
- As the ocean is home to most of the earth's biodiversity, we as humans must create a new balance and build a connection that is inclusive, innovative, and useful for the ocean and the life inside it.
- The oceans cover approximately 70 percent of the earth's surface, including plants, animals, and other organisms.
- The ocean areas fill several basins on the Earth's surface that keep the planet warm by providing 50 percent of the planet's oxygen.



- The idea of World Oceans Day was first proposed in 1992 at the Earth Summit in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. The idea was proposed to celebrate the ocean and human's connection to the sea.
- After raising awareness about the crucial role the ocean plays in our lives, the UN division for ocean affairs introduced important ways people can help protect it.

Reference- <https://www.un.org/en/observances/oceans-day>.

Twitter owner's firm launches solar powered bitcoin mining facility in U.S.

Question- In which of the following country a solar powered bitcoin mining facility has set up?

(a) U.S. (b) Russia (c) China (d) Japan

Ans. (a)

Related Facts-

- The owner of Twitter, Jack Dorsey, his payments venture Square will partner with blockchain technology firm Blockstream Mining in a bid to build an open-source, solar-powered bitcoin mining facility in United States.
- Launch of solar-powered bitcoin mining facility aims to drive adoption and efficiency of renewables within the bitcoin ecosystem. The partnership seeks to demonstrate how bitcoin mining along with renewable energy can help in driving clean energy transition.
- This partnership comes after CEO of Tesla Elon Musk established a council along with American crypto miners to promote a sustainable bitcoin mining. Both Dorsey & Musk have great interest in development of cryptocurrency. They believe bitcoin will become world's largest single currency of internet soon.
- \$5 million will be invested by Square in solar-powered bitcoin mining facility.



Reference- <https://www.thehindu.com/sci-tech/technology/twitter-owners-firm-launches-solar-powered-bitcoin-mining-facility-in-us/article34749807.ece>.

AIRINC Global 150 Cities Index financial attractiveness ranking

Question : Which city has topped the globally-recognised “AIRINC Global 150 Cities Index financial attractiveness ranking” ?

a. Manama b. Georgetown c. Zurich d. Geneva

Ans. a.

Related facts

- AIRINC Global 150 Cities Index comprises three different types of ranks.
- These ranks are — Overall attractiveness ranking, lifestyle ranking & financial ranking of cities.
- **Financial ranking —**
- The rankings evaluate the salary levels, cost of living, and taxes in a particular market in order to create an overall score for financial attractiveness.
- Manama has topped the “AIRINC Global 150 Cities Index financial attractiveness ranking” for the third straight year.
- Top 5 cities under this segment are as it is — Manama(Bahrain) at first, Georgetown(Cayman Islands) at number two and Zurich, Geneva and Riyadh are at number three, four and five respectively.



- Manama is the capital and largest city of Bahrain and is one of the seven MENA cities included in the top 16 in this segment.
- Other MENA(Middle East and North Africa) cities ranked included Riyadh, Kuwait City, Amman and Abu Dhabi.
- Bottom 5 cities under this segment are as it is — Port Moresby(P.N.G.) at 150th place, Kiev(Ukraine) at number 149th and Port au Prince(Haiti), Blantyre(Malawi) and Maputo(Mozambique) are at number 148th, 147th and 146th respectively.

Link:

<https://airshare.air-inc.com/airinc-global-150>

CENTER FOR WORLD UNIVERSITY RANKINGS

Question : Centre for World University Rankings (CWUR) 2021-22 released on April 26, 2021. Accordingly which of the following statement is correct ?

1. **For the tenth year in a row, Harvard is the top university worldwide**
2. **19788 institutions were ranked**
3. **IIM-Ahmedabad has bagged 415th rank**
A. Only 1 B. Only 2 C. Only 3 D. All of the above

Ans. D.

Related facts —

- Centre for World University Rankings (CWUR) 2021-22 released on April 26, 2021.
- The Center for World University Rankings (CWUR) is a leading consulting organization providing policy advice, strategic insights, and consulting services to governments and universities to improve educational and research outcomes.
- CWUR publishes authoritative global university rankings, known for objectivity, transparency, and consistency, which are trusted by students, academics, university administrators, and governments from around the world.
- **CWUR 2021-22 —**
- **There are 68 Indian institutions ranked in the CWUR 2021-22 rankings. Accordingly, Top 10 Indian Institutes with their ranking are given below —**
- Indian Institute of Management Ahmedabad(415)>Indian Institute of Science(459)>Tata Institute of Fundamental Research(543)>Indian Institute of Technology Madras(557)>Indian Institute of Technology Bombay(567)>University of Delhi(571)>Indian Institute of Technology Delhi(623)>Indian Institute of Technology Kharagpur(708)>Panjab University(709)>Indian Institute of Technology Kanpur(818).
- For the tenth year in a row, Harvard is the top university worldwide according to the “Global 2000 List by the Center for World University Rankings”.
- This year, the global top-10 is as follows (with last year’s rankings in parentheses):
 1. Harvard University (1)
 2. Massachusetts Institute of Technology (2)
 3. Stanford University (3)
 4. University of Cambridge (4)
 5. University of Oxford (5)
 6. Princeton University (7)
 7. Columbia University (6)
 8. University of Chicago (9)



9. University of Pennsylvania (8)
10. Yale University (12)

Link:

<https://cwur.org/2021-22.php>

<https://cwur.org/media.php>

Litoria Mira, real life version of chocolate frog found

Question- Litoria Mira was sometimes seen in the news. Which of the following clearly explains it?

- (a) A newly discovered coral species (b) A newly discovered snake species
(c) A newly discovered frog species (d) A newly discovered butterfly species

Ans. (c)

Related fact-

- A species of frog lives in the rainforests of New Guinea that appears to be made from chocolate — just like the magical sweets popular in the wizarding world of J K Rowling's Harry Potter.
- Litoria is the genus of the common tree frog, and mira comes from Latin mirum, which means strange or surprised. Compared to other tree frogs, known for their green skin, Litoria Mira is brown in colour.
- The closest known relative of Litoria Mira is the Australian green tree frog. The two species look similar except one is usually green, while the new species usually has a lovely chocolate colouring."
- Today, the island of New Guinea is separated from the 'horn' of Queensland by the Torres Strait.
- New Guinea is dominated by rainforest, and northern Australia by the savannah.



Reference- <https://indianexpress.com/article/explained/litoria-mira-frog-species-7338983/>.

World's first Human case of H10N3 Bird Flu

Question: which country has reported World's first Human case of H10N3 Bird Flu recently?

- a) China b) India c) Japan d) USA

Ans: a

Facts

- First Human case of H10N3 bird flu was reported in eastern province of Jiangsu in China.
- A 41 year old man was admitted to hospital in eastern province of Jiangsu in China and he was confirmed as the first human case of infection with the H10N3 strain of bird flu.
- **H10N3 Bird Flu**
 - H10N3 is a low pathogenic, or relatively less severe, strain of the virus in poultry and the risk of it spreading on a large scale is very low.
 - Only around 160 isolates of the virus were reported in the 40 years to 2018, mostly in wild birds or waterfowl in Asia and some limited parts of North



America, and none had been detected in chickens so far.

- **Avian Influenza/Avian Flu/Bird flu**

- Avian influenza refers to the disease caused by infection with avian (bird) influenza (flu) Type A viruses. These viruses occur naturally among wild aquatic birds worldwide and can infect domestic poultry and other bird and animal species. Avian flu viruses do not normally infect humans. However, sporadic human infections with avian flu viruses have occurred.

Reference: <https://indianexpress.com/article/world/china-reports-first-human-case-of-h10n3-bird-flu-7339371/>

BRICS Foreign Ministers hold virtual meeting

Question: Which country hosted the BRICS Foreign Ministers virtual meeting held on 1st June 2021?

a) India b) Brazil c) China d) None of the above

Ans: a

Context

- External affairs minister S. Jaishankar chaired BRICS foreign minister meet held on 1st June 2021 in virtual mode.
- **Facts**
 - Issues like new global multilateral system and world order, reforms in UN Security Council, strengthening of BRICS platform, Covid-19 response etc. were discussed during the meet.
 - External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar highlighted international law and the UN Charter that recognises the sovereign equality of all states, and respects their territorial integrity.
 - **Key takeaways from the meet:**
 - BRICS foreign ministers for the first time have agreed on a common, standalone joint statement on reforming the multilateral system.
 - They have agreed that such reform has to cover all key multilateral institutions, including the UN and its principal organs (UN Security Council, General Assembly, ECOSOC, the Secretariat, etc); international financial architecture (IMF, World Bank); multilateral trading system (WTO, UNCTAD); and the global health governance system with the WHO at its core.
 - Special emphasis was given on the reform of UN Security Council and its process of placing sanctions on terrorism.
 - **Chair of the meet**
 - BRICS meeting was hosted by India in its capacity as chair of BRICS. It was attended by Foreign Minister of Russia, Sergey Lavrov; Foreign Minister of China, Wang Yi; Minister of International Relations of South Africa, Grace Naledi Mandisa Pandor; and Foreign Minister of Brazil, Carlos Alberto Franco.
 - **About BRICS**
 - BRICS is grouping of 5 major economies of the world. It consist of Brazil, Russia, India, China, and South Africa.
 - First formal summit of BRIC happened in June 2009, South Africa joined in 2010 and group took its current form and became BRICS.
 - Brics brings together five major emerging economies comprising 41 per cent of the world's population, having 24 per cent of the global GDP and around 17 per cent of the share in world trade.
 - It is headquartered in Shanghai, China.



- **Key Deliverable put forward by India during the Summit**
- India put forward four key deliverables including, reform of multilateral system, use of digital and technological solutions to achieve SDGs, counter-terrorism cooperation and enhancing people-to-people cooperation apart from BRICS cooperation on COVID-19 pandemic.

Reference: <https://indianexpress.com/article/india/brics-foreign-ministers-hold-virtual-meeting-discuss-covid-19-challenge-7340319/>

The State of Ransomware 2021 report

Question- Which of the following statement/statements is/are correct regarding ‘the State of Ransomware 2021 report’?

- (1) 68 percent of Indian organizations were hit by ransomware in last 12 months.
- (2) India tops list of top 30 countries for ransomware attacks
- (3) 72 percent of Indian organisations admitted, data was encrypted in most significant ransomware attack.

Select the given code below-

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

Ans. (d)

Related facts-

- Global Cybersecurity firm, Sophos, published it “the State of Ransomware 2021 report”.
- It finds, 68% of Indian organisations were hit by ransomware in last 12 months.
- India tops list of top 30 countries for ransomware attacks.
- 72 percent of Indian organisations admitted, data was encrypted in most significant ransomware attack.
- 67 per cent of Indian organisations, whose data was encrypted, paid ransom to recover as opposed to global average of 32 percent.
- 86 per cent of Indian organisations are of view that, cyberattacks are now too complex for their own IT team to handle.
- Survey highlights, average total cost of recovery from a ransomware attack was more than double in a year.
- It increased from \$7,61,106 in 2020 to \$1.85 million in 2021 across the world. However, In India, recovery cost from tripled in a year, \$1.1 million in 2020 to \$3.38 in 2021.



Reference- <https://secure2.sophos.com/en-us/content/state-of-ransomware.aspx>.

Chinese climber becomes first blind Asian to scale Everest

Question-Who is the first blind Asian to scale Mt. Everest?

- (a) Zhang Hong (b) Lee Paul (c) Dong Hong (d) Wang Chen

Ans. (a)

Related Facts-

- A Chinese climber Zhang Hong became the first blind Asian to scale Mount Everest.
- Zhang Hong, 44, is also the third blind climber internationally to reach the world’s highest peak.
- Following his guides and Sherpas, he reached the summit on May 24 and returned safely to Kathmandu.



- He said that he was inspired by a blind American climber, Eric Weihenmayer, who scaled Everest in 2001. A climber from Austria was the second blind person to reach the peak.

Reference- <https://www.newindianexpress.com/world/2021/may/31/chinese-climber-becomes-first-blind-asian-to-scale-everest-2309950.html>.

China's new ocean observation satellite

Question – Which of the following country has recently launched a new ocean monitoring satellite named Haiyang-2D?

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

Answer—(c)

- On 19 May 2021, China launched a new ocean monitoring satellite named Haiyang-2D into orbit.
- It is the part of China's effort to build an all-weather and round-the-clock dynamic ocean environment monitoring system which would provide early warning on marine disasters.
- Carrier of the Haiyang-2D
- The satellite was launched by a Long March-4B rocket carrying the Haiyang-2D (HY-2D) satellite from the Jiuquan Satellite Launch Centre in northwest China.
- **Key points**
- It is noteworthy that China is preparing a constellation of satellites with the help of three satellites of the Haiyang series, HY-2B, HY-2C and HY-2D.
- It is to build an all-weather and round-the-clock dynamic ocean environment monitoring system of high frequency and medium and large scale, Xinhua reported.
- The constellation will support the country's early warning and prediction of marine disasters, sustainable development and utilisation of ocean resources, effective response to global climate change as well as ocean research.



Link:

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

2021 Syrian Presidential Election

Question: Who has been elected the President of Syria in elections held on 26 May 2021?

(a) Bashar al-Assad (b) Jamal Suliman (c) Mahmoud Ahmad Marei
(d) Abdullah Sallum Abdullah

Answer: (a)

Related facts:

- Bashar al-Assad has been re-elected the President of Syria for the fourth straight 7-year term.
- The 2021 Syrian Presidential Elections were held on 26 May 2021.
- Bashar al-Assad has won 95.1 per cent of the total votes cast.
- The 55-year-old Assad is serving as the 19th President of Syria since 17 July 2000.



Links:

<https://www.reuters.com/world/middle-east/syrias-president-bashar-al-assad-wins-fourth-term-office-with-951-votes-live-2021-05-27/>

Amnesty International Day

Question: When is the Amnesty International Day observed?

(a) 23 May (b) 18 May (c) 15 May (d) 28 May

Answer: (d)

Related facts:

- Amnesty International Day is observed every year on May 28.
- The day marks the foundation of Amnesty International, a non-governmental organization headquartered in London.
- Amnesty International is a non-governmental organization that focuses on the protection of human rights, by working to prevent abuses to human rights, fight for justice for those whose rights have been violated, expand and enforce human rights protections in international law, by lobbying governments and other powerful groups and publicizing their violations.
- The organisation has won the 1977 Nobel Peace Prize for its “defence of human dignity against torture,” and the United Nations Prize in the Field of Human Rights in 1978.



Links:

<http://newsonair.com/News?title=Amnesty-International-Day-being-observed-today&id=418164>

Economics

Cash is king, but digital is divine

Question: Which bank has launched the new motto ‘Cash is King, But Digital is Divine to promote digital transactions in the country?

(a) State Bank of India (b) Reserve Bank of India
(c) Central Bank of India (d) Punjab National Bank

Answer: (b)

Related facts:

- On February 24, 2020, the Reserve Bank of India launched a new slogan Cash is King, but Digital in Divine to promote digital transactions in the country.
- According to the Reserve Bank, after demonetisation there has been over Rs 3.5 lakh crore reduction in the notes in circulation (NIC).
- During the last 5 years, overall digital payments in the country have witnessed a growth (CAGR) of 61 per cent and 19 per cent in terms of volume and value.
- Notes in Circulation (NIC) increased at an average rate of 14 per cent between October 2014 and October 2016.
- NIC, however, was Rs 22,31,090 crore, indicating that digitalization and reduction in cash usage helped reduce NIC by over Rs 3.5 lakh crore.



Links:

<https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/industry/banking/finance/banking/rbis-new-moto-cash-is-king-but-digital-is-divine/articleshow/74288195.cms?from=mdr>

India Ratings and Research revises India’s GDP growth rate

Question: What is the GDP growth rate estimated by India Ratings and Research for India for the financial year 2021-22?

(a) 9.6 per cent (b) 10.5 per cent (c) 10.2 per cent (d) 11.5 per



cent

Answer: (a)

Related facts:

- India Ratings and Research (Ind-Ra) has slashed the GDP growth rate of India for fiscal year FY22 (2021-22) at 9.6 per cent.
- Earlier this was estimated at 10.1 per cent by the rating agency.
- This rate is, however, contingent upon India vaccinating its entire adult population by December 31, 2021.

Links:

[https://www.business-standard.com/article/economy-policy/ind-ra-lowers-fy22-gdp-growth-forecast-to-9-6-due-to-covid-20-121062600428_1.html#:~:text=Home-.Ind%2DRa%20lowers%20FY22%20GDP%20growth%20forecast%20to%209.6%25%20due,to%20scale%20of%20Covid%202.0&text=India%20Ratings%20and%20Research%20\(Ind.and%20scale%20of%20Covid%202.0.](https://www.business-standard.com/article/economy-policy/ind-ra-lowers-fy22-gdp-growth-forecast-to-9-6-due-to-covid-20-121062600428_1.html#:~:text=Home-.Ind%2DRa%20lowers%20FY22%20GDP%20growth%20forecast%20to%209.6%25%20due,to%20scale%20of%20Covid%202.0&text=India%20Ratings%20and%20Research%20(Ind.and%20scale%20of%20Covid%202.0.)

Issuance of norms for dividend distribution by NBFCs

Question : RBI issued norms for declaration of dividends by NBFCs on June 24, 2021. The guidelines also prescribe ceilings on dividend payout ratios for NBFCs. Accordingly, Match the following —

W	Capital Adequacy	1	60%
X	Net NPA	2	should have maintained a minimum CRAR of 20 per cent
Y	Maximum dividend payout ratio for Core Investment Company	3	shall be less than 6 per cent in each of the last three years
Z	Maximum dividend payout ratio for NBFCs that do not accept public funds	4	No ceiling specified

Options —

- A. W 2, X 3, Y 1, Z 4
- B. W 3, X 2, Y 1, Z 4
- C. W 4, X 3, Y 1, Z 2
- D. W 2, X 1, Y 3, Z 4

Ans. A.

Related facts —

- RBI issued norms for declaration of dividends by NBFCs on June 24, 2021. The guidelines also prescribe ceilings on dividend payout ratios for NBFCs.
- These guidelines shall be effective for declaration of dividend from the profits of the financial year ending March 31, 2022 and onwards.
- NBFCs shall comply with the following minimum prudential requirements to be eligible to declare dividend:

Parameter	Requirement
Capital Adequacy	NBFCs (other than Standalone Primary Dealers) shall have met the applicable regulatory capital requirement for each of the last three financial years including the financial year for which the dividend is proposed. Standalone Primary Dealers (SPDs) should have maintained a minimum CRAR of 20 per cent for the financial year (all the four quarters) for which dividend is proposed.
Net NPA	The net NPA ratio shall be less than 6 per cent in each of the last three years, including as at the close of the financial year for which dividend is proposed to be declared.
Other criteria	NBFCs shall comply with the provisions of Section 45 IC of the Reserve Bank of India Act, 1934. HFCs shall comply with the provisions of Section 29 C of The National Housing Bank Act, 1987. NBFCs shall be compliant with the prevailing regulations/ guidelines issued by the Reserve Bank. The Reserve Bank or the NHB (for HFCs) shall not have placed any explicit restrictions on declaration of dividend.

- The ceilings on dividend payout ratios for NBFCs eligible to declare dividend are as under:

Type of NBFC	Maximum Dividend Payout Ratio (percentage)
NBFCs that do not accept public funds and do not have any customer interface	No ceiling specified
Core Investment Company	60
Standalone Primary Dealers	60
Other NBFCs	50

Link:

<https://www.rbi.org.in/scripts/NotificationUser.aspx?Id=12118&Mode=0>

Share of central banks surplus transfers

Question : RBI recently released (June 2021) 'State of the Economy' report in which India ranked second in terms of central banks surplus transfers. Which country is ahead of India ?

a. Malaysia b. Sweden c. Kenya d. Turkey



Ans. d.
Related facts —

- RBI released 'State of the Economy' report on June 15, 2021.
- Report shows the rank of India is second only to Turkey in share of central bank surplus transfers.
- The State of the Economy report published by the RBI said that the surplus transfer ratio was low enough to enable the central bank to conduct monetary policy free of fiscal dominance.
- The report said that the surplus transfer ratio was a measure of seigniorage — a term used to describe profits the government makes by printing currency.

Transfer of surplus from central banks to governments(as % of GDP) —

2020		2021	
Singapore	1.13	Turkey	0.5
Russia	1.0	India	0.44
Turkey	0.78	Malaysia	0.26
India	0.29	Sweden	0.13
US	0.26	Kenya	0.04

Link:

https://rbidocs.rbi.org.in/rdocs/Bulletin/PDFs/01AR_16062021A1516AE949174BE49D86724A51AE50D4.PDF

Global Economic Prospects, 2021

Question: With reference to the “Global Economic Prospect Report 2021” released by the World Bank Group in June 2021, consider the following statements—

(i) According to the report, the global economy is projected to grow by 5.6 percent in the year 2021.

(ii) According to this, India's growth rate is estimated to be 8.3 percent in the year 2021.

(iii) India's growth rate in the year 2020 was estimated at -9.6 percent.

Which of the above statement(s) 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

- “Global Economic Prospect Report 2021” released on June 2021.
- This policy report of the World Bank Group presents an estimate of the medium-term prospects of the world economic system.
- **Key points —**
- The world economy is experiencing an exceptionally strong but highly uneven recovery.

- Global growth is set to reach 5.6 percent in 2021—its strongest post-recession pace in 80 years—in part underpinned by steady but highly unequal vaccine access.
- Growth is concentrated in a few major economies, with most emerging market and developing economies (EMDEs) lagging behind: while about 90 percent of advanced economies are expected to regain their pre-pandemic per capita income levels by 2022, only about one-third of EMDEs are expected to do so.
- India's growth rate is estimated to be 8.3 percent in the year 2021.
- Which is forecast to be 7.5 percent in 2022.
- Whereas in the year 2020, India's growth rate was estimated at -7.3 percent.

Link:

<https://openknowledge.worldbank.org>

S&P revises India's Growth Forecast

Question: What is the GDP growth rate estimated by S&P Global Ratings for India for the financial year 2021-22?

(a) 9.5 per cent (b) 10.5 per cent (c) 10.2 per cent (d) 11.5 per cent

Answer: (a)

Related facts:

- S&P Global Ratings has slashed India's growth forecast for FY 2021-22 to 9.5 per cent.
- Earlier, it has estimated India's GDP growth rate to 11 per cent.
- The agency has also projected India's growth at 7.8 per cent in the FY 2022-23.
- The agency lowered the growth outlook saying that a severe second COVID-19 outbreak in April and May led to lockdowns imposed by states and a sharp contraction in economic activity.



Links:

<https://www.thehindu.com/business/Economy/sp-cuts-indias-fy22-growth-forecast-to-95/article34956635.ece>

Moody's Investors Service revises India's Growth

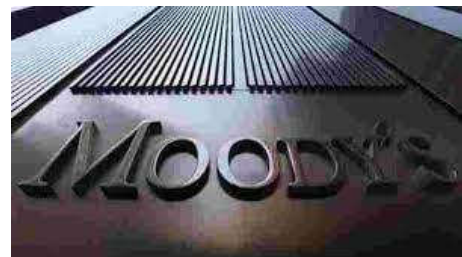
Question: What is the GDP growth rate estimated by Moody's Investors Service for India for the financial year 2021-22?

(a) 9.6 per cent (b) 10.5 per cent (c) 10.2 per cent (d) 11.5 per cent

Answer: (a)

Related facts:

- Moody's Investors Service has slashed India's growth projection to 9.6 per cent for the 2021 fiscal.
- Earlier growth rate estimated by Moody's was 13.9 per cent.
- GDP growth is projected at 7 per cent for FY 2022-23.
- In its report titled 'Macroeconomics India: Economic shocks from second COVID wave will not be as severe as last year's, Moody's said high-frequency economic indicators show that the second wave of COVID-19 infections hit India's economy in April and May.



Links:

<https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/economy/indicators/moodys-cuts-india-growth-forecast-for-2021-to-9-6/articleshow/83772155.cms>

CII projects FY22 GDP growth

Question: What is the GDP growth rate estimated by Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) for India for the financial year 2021-22?

(a) 9.5 per cent (b) 10.5 per cent (c) 10.2 per cent (d) 11.5 per cent

Answer: (a)

Related facts:

- The Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) has estimated the gross domestic product (GDP) of India to grow at 9.5 per cent in the financial year 2021-22.
- The report states that rising medical expenditure has squeezed incomes and demand. But recovery is on the cards. Global growth and macroeconomic stability will support trade and investment flows.
- The Confederation of Indian Industry is a non-governmental trade association and advocacy group that work to create and sustain an environment conducive to the development of India, partnering industry, Government, and civil society, through advisory and consultative processes.

**Links:**

https://www.business-standard.com/article/economy-policy/confederation-of-indian-industry-projects-fy22-gdp-growth-at-9-5-121061700595_1.html

India receives \$64 billion FDI in 2020

Question: As per the report by UN what was the position of India in terms of receiving FDI in 2020 in the world?

a) 6th b) 5th c) 4th d) 1st

Ans: b

Context

- As per the World Investment Report 2021 by the UN Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), India received USD 64 billion in foreign direct investments (FDI) in 2020.
- **Facts**
 - India has emerged the fifth largest recipient of FDI inflows across the world.
 - As per report in India, FDI increased 27 per cent to USD 64 billion in 2020 from USD 51 billion in 2019, pushed up by acquisitions in the information and communication technology (ICT) industry.
 - The pandemic boosted demand for digital infrastructure and services globally.
 - The report noted that the second wave of the COVID-19 outbreak in India weighs heavily on the country's overall economic activities.
 - India has been ranked 18 among world's top 20 economies for FDI outflows.



Reference: <https://www.indiatoday.in/business/story/india-receives-64-billion-fdi-in-2020-5th-largest-recipient-of-inflows-in-world-un-1817445-2021-06-21>

GI certified 'Jardalu' mangoes

Question: Which state has Geographical Indicator (GI) tag for 'Jardalu' mangoes?

a) Bihar b) Uttar Pradesh c) Maharashtra d) None of the above

Ans: a

Context

- Recently Bihar has exported the first commercial consignment of GI certified Jardalu mangoes from Bhagalpur to the United Kingdom.
- **Facts**
- Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority, (APEDA) in collaboration with Bihar government, Indian High Commission & Invest India, exported Jardalu mangoes.
- Mangoes were packed and treated at APEDA packhouse in Lucknow.
- **About APEDA**
- Agriculture and processed food production export Development Authority (APEDA) is an apex body that promotes export trade of agricultural products in India.
- It was Set-up by the ministry of Commerce and Industry, Government of India, under the act passed by parliament in December 1985. The act came into the effect from 13th February 1986.
- APEDA is responsible for export promotion of Fresh Fruits & Vegetables, Processed Food products, Livestock products and Cereals. It provides the crucial interface between farmers, storehouses, packers, exporters, surface transport, ports, Railways, Airways, all others engaged in export trade and finally to the international market.
- APEDA has initiated measures to boost mango exports from non-traditional regions. It has been conducting virtual buyer-seller meets and festival in a bid to promote mango exports.
- It organised mango festival in Berlin, Germany and in Japan in collaboration with Indian embassies.
- It also organised a week-long Indian mango promotion programme in Bahrain in which 16 varieties of Mango including three GI certified varieties (Khirsapati & Lakshmanbhog from West Bengal and Jardalu from Bihar) were displayed.

Reference: <https://www.thehindubusinessline.com/economy/agri-business/india-exports-gi-certified-jardalu-mangoes-to-uk/article34814698.ece>

Enhancement of overseas investment limit for individual fund houses

Question : Up to how much has SEBI increased the foreign investment limit for mutual fund houses ?

a. Up to 1 billion dollar b. Up to 2 billion dollar c. Up to 3 billion dollar d. Up to 4 billion dollar

Ans. a.

- Recently(June 2021) the SEBI has increased the foreign investment limit for mutual fund houses upto 1 billion dollar.
- This limit was earlier at 600 million dollars.
- The overall mutual fund industry limit is capped at USD 7 billion, the Securities and Exchange Board of India (Sebi) said in a circular.
- The increase in the limit would allow mutual funds to allocate a higher share of their corpus for foreign securities.



Link:

https://www.sebi.gov.in/legal/circulars/jun-2021/circular-on-enhancement-of-overseas-investment-limits_50415.html

The amendments to the FAME-II electric vehicle policy

Question: Consider the following statements:

i) The amendments to the FAME-II electric vehicle policy was announced on 12th June by government of India.

ii) Government has decided to increase subsidy for electric two wheeler made in the country , by 50 per cent under the FAME II scheme.

Which of the above are correct?

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

Ans: c

Context



- The amendments to the FAME-II electric vehicle policy was announced on 12th June by government of India.
- **Facts**
 - As per the amended policy, subsidy rate for electric two-wheelers manufactured in India has been increased to Rs 15,000/kWh, from the earlier Rs 10,000/kWh.
 - This will help electric two-wheeler manufacturers to offer their product at almost 40% lesser cost to their consumers which help in increasing adoption of EVs in the country.
 - This will bring down the prices of electric two-wheelers nearer to the IC (internal combustion engine) vehicles and remove one of the biggest blockades in EV adoption in the country i.e. high sticker price of electric two-wheelers.
- **About Fame Scheme**
 - FAME India is a part of the National Electric Mobility Mission Plan. Main thrust of FAME is to encourage electric vehicles by providing subsidies.
- **Two phases of the scheme:**
 - **Phase I:** started in 2015 and was completed on 31st March, 2019.
 - **Phase II:** started from April, 2019. Outlay of ₹10,000 crore has been made for three years till 2022 for FAME 2 scheme.
- **Monitoring Authority:** Department of Heavy Industries, the Ministry of Heavy Industries and Public Enterprises.

Reference: <https://www.thehindubusinessline.com/news/revision-to-fame-ii-subsidies-to-be-game-changer-for-eco-friendly-vehicles/article34796172.ece>

‘Medicines from the Sky’ project

Question: Consider the following statements:

i) ‘Medicine from the Sky’ which is drone delivery initiative of medicines in remote area will be spearheaded by E-Commerce giant Flipkart.

ii) This project will be implemented in the remote areas of state of Telangana.

Which of the above are correct?

a) only I b) only ii c) both i and ii d) none of the above

Ans: c

Context

- E-commerce giant Flipkart will lead a consortium tasked with development and execution of drone deliveries to remote areas under the ‘Medicines from the Sky’ project in Telangana.
- **Facts**
 - Flipkart will use its learning from its tech-enabled supply chains to use drones to deliver medicines and vaccines in remote areas of Telangana.

- Technologies such as geo mapping, routing of shipments and track and trace of location, developed by the company over the years will be used to conduct Beyond Visual Line of Sight (BVLOS) deliveries in the remote areas of Telangana where road and other infrastructure is still in poor state.
- The pilot project is expected to be conducted for over six days and will be tested out for delivering thousands of vaccines while keeping in mind all the safety and efficiency parameters.

Reference: <https://www.thehindu.com/news/cities/Hyderabad/flipkart-to-lead-consortium-on-drone-delivery-of-medicines/article34793194.ece>

PM Modi launches E-100 project

Question: Consider the following statements regarding E-100 project;

i) It was launched by PM Modi on 5th June 2021 on the occasion of World Environment Day 2021.

ii) It has been launched as pilot project from Pune.

iii) It aims to create production and distribution infrastructure for ethanol across the country.

Which of the above are correct?

a) i, ii b) ii,iii c) i,ii,iii d) None of the above

Ans: c

Context

- Prime Minister, Narendra Modi, launched E-100 pilot project on the occasion of World Environment Day on 5th June 2021 in Pune.
- Facts**
 - Project has been launched as pilot project from Pune, Maharashtra.
 - It aims to create production and distribution infrastructure for ethanol across the country.
 - Ethanol can be blended with convention petrol to reduce vehicular emission. India is aiming to achieve 20% ethanol blending in petrol by 2025. For this to happen this project can be a game changer. Currently India has about 8.5% of ethanol blending in petrol.
 - Ethanol blending will not just reduce carbon emission from vehicular emissions as Ethanol molecule comprises oxygen which allows engine to completely combust fuel. This result in fewer emissions and reduces environmental pollution, but will also be helpful for farmers as ethanol can be produced not just as by product from sugar industry but also from number of other farm produce and farm wastes .
 - Currently ethanol is produced mostly in 4-5 states having sugar manufacturing industries. With this project government aims to establish food grain based distilleries across the country to make ethanol.
 - On this occasion 'Report of the Expert Committee on Road Map for ethanol Blending in India 2020-2025' was also released.



Reference: <https://www.livemint.com/news/india/pm-modi-launches-e-100-project-to-produce-distribute-ethanol-across-india-11622886227525.html>

Fiscal deficit for 2020-21

Question : How much the fiscal deficit as a percentage of GDP for 2020-21 ?

a. 9.3 percent b. 9.5 percent c. 9.7 percent d. 8.3 percent

Ans. a.

Related facts



- Revenue-expenditure data of the Union government for 2020-21 released on May 31, 2021.
- Accordingly, fiscal deficit stood at 9.3 percent of the gross domestic product (GDP) in the financial year 2020-21.
- It was earlier estimated 9.5 percent by the Finance Ministry in the revised Budget estimates.
- The revenue deficit at the end of the fiscal was 7.42 per cent.
- In absolute terms, the fiscal deficit works out to be Rs 18,21,461 crore.
- For this financial year, the government had initially pegged the fiscal deficit at Rs 7.96 lakh crore or 3.5 per cent of the GDP in the budget presented in February 2020.
- The government in the revised estimates in the Budget for 2021-22 forecast a higher fiscal deficit of 9.5 per cent of the GDP or Rs 18,48,655 crore for the fiscal ended in March due to a rise in expenditure on account of the outbreak of COVID-19 and moderation in revenue during this fiscal year.

Link:

<https://indianexpress.com/article/business/economy/indian-economy-fiscal-deficit-gdp-covid-surge-7338178/>

RBI Monetary Policy 2021

Question: In its bimonthly monetary policy statement released on 4th June , what is the growth projection of India's GDP as projected by RBI?

a) 10.9% b) 11.9% c) 9.5% d) 10.5%

Ans: c

Facts

- In its bimonthly report RBI has kept the rates unchanged.
- Repo rate: 4%, Reverse repo rate: 3.35%, MSF rate: 4.25%, Bank Rate: 4.25%
- Monetary policy opened a Rs 15,000-crore liquidity window for contact-intensive sectors such as hotels and tourism.
- On the liquidity front, it announced securities purchases of Rs 40,000 crore in June quarter while Rs 1.2 lakh crore in September under G-SAP 1.0 to revive the growth.
- **What is G-SAP 1.0**
- It is Government Security Acquisition Programme 1.0 announced by RBI for orderly evolution of yield curve in Financial Year 2022. Under it, RBI will purchase government bonds of worth Rs 1 trillion.



Reference: <https://www.moneycontrol.com/news/business/economy/rbi-monetary-policy-2021-live-updates-repo-rate-unchanged-shaktikanta-das-6983411.html>

HDFC Bank to turn carbon neutral by 2031-32

Question : Which bank has recently announced that it will go carbon neutral by 2031-32 ?

a) SBI b) ICICI c) HDFC d) City Bank

Ans: c

Facts

- HDFC has proposed to go carbon neutral by 2031-32.
- **HDFC has planned to,**
- Decrease absolute emissions and energy consumed from current level of 315,583 MT CO2 emissions;
- Increase rooftop solar capacity in large offices.
- Convert 50% of the total sourced electricity to renewable energy.

- Create single-use plastic free corporate offices.
- Plant 2.5 million trees.
- Reduce water consumption by 30%.

Reference: https://www.business-standard.com/article/companies/hdfc-bank-announces-plans-to-become-carbon-neutral-by-2031-32-121060300934_1.html

Govt sets up Expert group on Fixation of Minimum wages

Question: Who is appointed as the head of expert group formed on 3rd June 2021 for the fixation of minimum wages by the central government?

a) Ajit Mishra b) Anoop Satpathy c) Tarika Chakraborty d) Anushree Sinha

Ans: a

Context

- Centre has appointed an expert panel group on the fixation of Minimum wages on 3rd June 2021.
- **Facts**
- It is set up by Labour and Employment Ministry to provide technical inputs and recommendations on fixation of National Floor Level Minimum Wages(NFLMW)
- Expert panel consist of Ajit Mishra, Director, Institute of Economic Growth as head of the group, Tarika Chakraborty, IIM Calcutta; Anushree Sinha, Senior Fellow, NCAER; Vibha Bhalla, Joint Secretary; H Srinivas, Director General, VVGNI as the members and DPS Negi, Senior Labour and Employment Advisor as the Member Secretary.
- It is second committee formed for deciding minimum wages in last two years. Earlier committee was formed in 2018 under the chair of Anoop Satpathy and recommended Rs 375/day as national floor wage which was rejected by the government.
- Current committee is will look into the international best practices on wages and evolve a scientific criterion and methodology for the fixation on minimum wages.
- **National Floor level Minimum Wages**
- The NFLMW is a non-statutory measure so state governments are persuaded to fix or revise state minimum wage levels to ensure that they are not less than the NFLMW in respect of all scheduled employment, including in agriculture.
- Minimum wage is that amount of wage given per hour or per day to a scheduled employee in any organisation , below which they can't be offered a job at the organisation.
- Scheduled employees are specified as per the minimum wages act, 1948.



Reference: <https://indianexpress.com/article/india/centre-sets-up-expert-panel-to-fix-minimum-wages-7342680/>

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>

OECD Economic Outlook projections

Question : Latest OECD Economic Outlook projections released on May 31, 2021. Accordingly, India is projected to be the fastest-growing G20 economy in 2021. How much India's gdp growth estimated in 2021 ?

a. 9.9% b. 8.2% c. 9.2% d. 8.7%

Ans. a.

Related facts

- Latest OECD Economic Outlook projections released on May 31, 2021.
- The Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) cut its growth projection for India for 2021 to 9.9 per cent from 12.6 per cent estimated in March.
- This is due to the second wave of coronavirus infections has paused economic recovery in Asia's third largest economy.



- OECD said while India is projected to be the fastest-growing G20 economy in 2021, it will also be the one which is the furthest away from its pre-crisis GDP trend.
- It is notable that OECD has revised up its growth projections across the world's major economies since its last full Economic Outlook in December 2020.
- It now sees global GDP growth at 5.8 per cent this year (compared with 4.2 per cent projected in December), helped by a government stimulus-led upturn in the US, and at 4.4 per cent in 2022 (3.7 per cent in December).

Link:

<https://www.oecd.org/newsroom/oecd-sees-brighter-economic-prospects-but-an-uneven-recovery.htm>

Seed Minikit Programme

Question: On 2nd June 2021 which ministry has launched Seed Minikit Programme to provide high-yielding varieties seeds of oilseeds and pulses to farmers?

- a) Ministry of Agriculture and Farmer Welfare b) Ministry of Commerce
c) Ministry of Science and Technology d) None of the above

Ans: a

Context

- On 2nd June 2021 Union Agriculture Minister Sh. Narendra Singh Tomar launched Seed Minikit Programme.
- **Facts**
- The programme is launched to provide high yielding variety of seeds of oilseed and pulses to farmers to increase the production of oilseeds and pulses in the country.
- Seed Minikit Programme is considered as a major tool for introducing new varieties of seeds in the farmers fields and is instrumental for increasing the seed replacement rate.
- The mini kits are being provided by the Central Agencies National Seeds Corporation (NCS), NAFED and Gujarat State Seeds Corporation.
- Government of India through the National Food Security Mission is funding the mission.
- The distribution of seeds will continue till 15th June 2021 so that the seeds reach the farmers before the Kharif sowing commences.
- **Pulses and oilseed production in India**
- Central government in collaboration with states has been implementing various activities to enhance production and productivity of pulses and oilseeds under the National Food Security Mission.
- Oilseeds production has increased from 27.51 million tonnes in 2014-15 to 36.57 million tonnes in 2020-21 (3rd advance estimates), while pulses production has increased from 17.15 million tonnes in 2014-15 to 25.56 million tonnes in 2020-21 (3rd advance estimates).
- Government has formulated strategies to increase production through area expansion, productivity through HYVs, MSP support and procurement.



Reference: <https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1723864>

OECD cuts India growth forecast for FY22

Question: What is the new estimate of India's GDP growth for FY22 as per the OECD?

a) 7.9% b) 8.9% c) 9.9% d) None of the above

Ans: c

Facts

- Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) has cut India's growth projection to 9.9 % for Financial Year 2022.
- In March, it estimated growth of India's GDP to 12.6%.
- This decline is projected because of severe 2nd wave of Covid-19 in India.
- As per the OECD India is projected to be the fastest-growing G20 economy in 2021 but it will also be the one which is the furthest away from its pre-crisis GDP trend.
- OECD sees global GDP growth at 5.8 per cent this year (compared with 4.2 per cent projected in December), helped by a government stimulus-led upturn in the US, and at 4.4 per cent in 2022 (3.7 per cent in December).
- **Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD)**
- The Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) is a group of 37 member countries that discuss and develop economic and social policy. OECD members are typically democratic countries that support free-market economies. Members of this group are richest and most developed countries of the world.

Reference : https://www.business-standard.com/article/economy-policy/second-covid-19-wave-oecd-cuts-india-growth-forecast-to-9-9-for-fy22-121060100006_1.html

SBI revises FY22 GDP projection to 7.9%

Question: Consider the following statements;

i) State Bank of India's Economic research department has released its "Ecowrap 2021" report recently.

ii) SBI has revised its real GDP projection for India for FY22 to 7.9 per cent from 10.4 per cent earlier.

Which of the above statements are correct?

a) only i b) only ii c) both i and ii d) none of the above

Ans: c

Context



- State Bank of India's Economic research department has released its "Ecowrap 2021" report recently.
- **Facts**
- Report has revised India's real GDP projection for FY22 to 7.9 per cent from 10.4 per cent earlier.
- This revision has happened because of devastating impact of 2nd wave of Covid-19 in the country.
- Report analysis predicts that Covid-19 2nd wave impact on economy is disproportionately larger than the earlier predicted as the rural areas are also affected and they are not as resilient as the urban area and hence the pent up demand will not be sufficient enough to pull up the GDP at earlier proposed higher level for FY22.
- **Third Wave**
- Report suggests that international experiences has shown that intensity of third wave is as severe as the second wave. However it is also observed that in third wave, if better prepared, the decline in serious case rate will lead to less number of deaths.
- The department's analysis shows that if serious cases decline from 20 per cent to 5 per cent (due to better health infrastructure and rigorous vaccination) in the third wave, then

the number of deaths in the third wave could significantly reduce to 40,000 as compared to current deaths of more than 1.7 lakh.

Reference: <https://www.thehindubusinessline.com/money-and-banking/sbis-ecowrap-revises-fy22-gdp-projection-to-79-from-104/article34696412.ece>

SDG India Index and Dashboard 2020–21

Question: Which of the following statement/s is/are correct regarding SDG India Index, 2020-21 ?

- (1) It is published by NITI Aayog.
- (2) It includes the performance of Indian states on various SDGs (Sustainable Development Goals).
- (3) The report measures the progress of Union and its States towards SDGs of 2017.
- (4) The index will help the States/UT (Union Territories) to assess their progress against national targets and identify their priority areas.

Options —

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

Answer: (d)

Related facts

- The third edition of the SDG India Index and Dashboard 2020–21 released by NITI Aayog on June 3, 2021.
- **SDG India Index and Dashboard**
- It is published by NITI Aayog.
- It includes the performance of Indian states on various SDGs (Sustainable Development Goals).
- The index will help the States/UT (Union Territories) to assess their progress against national targets and identify their priority areas.
- **Key Points**
- The SDG India Index 2020–21, developed in collaboration with the United Nations in India, tracks progress of all States and UTs on 115 indicators that are aligned to MoSPI's National Indicator Framework (NIF).
- From covering 13 Goals with 62 indicators in its first edition in 2018, the third edition covers 16 Goals on 115 quantitative indicators, with a qualitative assessment on Goal 17, thereby reflecting our continuous efforts towards refining this important tool.
- **States and Union Territories are classified as below based on their SDG India Index score:**
- Aspirant: 0–49
- Performer: 50–64
- Front-Runner: 65–99
- Achiever: 100
- **The top-five and bottom-five States in SDG India Index 2020–21:**
- **Top 5 with their score —**
- Kerala(75)>Himachal Pradesh, Tamil Nadu(74)>Andhra Pradesh, Goa, Karnataka & Uttarakhand(72)>Sikkim(71)>Maharashtra(70)
- **Bottom 5 with their score —**
- Chhattisgarh, Nagaland, Odisha(61)>Arunachal Pradesh, Meghalaya, Rajasthan & Uttar Pradesh(60)>Assam(57)>Jharkhand(56)>Bihar(52)
- **Goal wise top States/UTs**

Goal	States/UTs
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One(No Poverty)	Tamil Nadu, Delhi
Two(zero Hunger)	Kerala, Chandigarh
Three (Good Health & Well-being)	Gujarat, Delhi
Four(Quality Education)	Kerala, Chandigarh
Five(Gendar Equality)	Chhattisgarh, Andman & Nicobar Islands
Six (Clean water & sanitation)	Goa, Lakshadweep
Seven(Affordable & Clean energy)	Andhra Pradesh,Goa,Haryana,Himachal Pradesh,Karnataka,Kerala,Maharashtra,Mizoram,Punjab,Rajasthan,Sikkim,Tamil Nadu,Telangana,Uttarakhand,UP, A&N Islands,Chandigarh,Delhi,J&K,Ladakh
Eight(Decent work & Economic growth)	Himachal Pradesh, Chandigarh
Nine(Industry,Innovation & Infrastructure)	Gujarat, Delhi
Ten(Reduced Inequality)	Meghalaya, Chandigarh
Eleven(Sustainable Cities & Communities)	Punjab, Chandigarh
Twelve(Responsible consumption & production)	Tripura, J&K, Ladakh
Thirteen(Climate action)	Odisha, A&N Islands

Fourteen (Life below water)	Odisha
Fifteen(Life on land)	Arunachal Pradesh, Chandigarh
Sixteen(Peace,Justice & Strong Institutions)	Uttarakhand, Puducherry

Top fast moving states —

Uttarakhand(change in score : 8)>Haryana(change in score : 10)>Mizoram(change in score : 12)

Link:

<https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1723952>

Reserve Bank of India imposes Rs 10 crore penalty on HDFC Bank

Question: Recently Reserve Bank of India has imposed a fine of Rs 10 crore on which bank for deficiencies in regulatory compliance?

(a) HDFC Bank (b) ICICI Bank (c) Punjab National Bank (d) Axis Bank

Answer: (a)

Related facts:

- The Reserve Bank has imposed a penalty of Rs 10 crore on HDFC Bank for deficiencies in regulatory compliances with regard to its auto loan portfolio.
- The fine was imposed for contraventions of the provisions of section 6(2) and section 8 of the Banking Regulation Act, 1949.
- HDFC Bank is India's largest private sector bank by assets and by market capitalisation.
- Currently, Sashidhar Jagdishan is Managing Director & Chief Executive Officer of HDFC Bank.



Links:

<https://indianexpress.com/article/business/reserve-bank-imposes-rs-10-crore-penalty-on-hdfc-bank-7335173/>

Scientific

Defense/Science Short Notes

Exercise Indra Dhanush-2020

Question: Indra Dhanush is a joint military training exercise between India and which country?

(a) United Kingdom (b) Russia (c) Iran (d) Japan

Answer: (a)

Related facts:



- The 5th edition of the Exercise Indra Dhanush commenced on 24th February, 2020 and it will formally conclude on the 29th of February, 2020.
- It is a joint air force exercise between the Indian Air Force and the Royal Air Force of the United Kingdom.
- The Exercise was held in Hindan Air Force Station located in Ghaziabad, Uttar Pradesh.
- Exercise Indra Dhanush seeks to strengthen bilateral relationships & enhance operational capabilities to counter terror threats to their installations.
- The focus of this edition of the exercise is Base Defence and Force Protection.
- Around 36 specialized combatants of the Royal Air Force participated in the exercise. From the Indian side, 42 combatants of Garud Commando Force participated in the exercise.

Link:

<https://pib.gov.in/PressReleaseDetail.aspx?PRID=1604402>

DRDO successfully test-fires enhanced Pinaka rocket

Question: Consider the following statements:

(1) Pinaka is a multiple rocket launcher produced in India and developed by the Defence Research and Development Organisation.

(2) Pinaka Rocket System can destroy targets at distances up to 45 kilometer.

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:

- Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) has successfully test fired extended range version of indigenously developed Pinaka rocket from a Multi-Barrel Rocket Launcher at Integrated Test Range, Chandipur off the coast of Odisha.
- Twenty-five Enhanced Pinaka Rockets were launched in quick succession against targets at different ranges. All the mission objectives were met during the launches.
- The enhanced range version of Pinaka Rocket System can destroy targets at distances up to 45 kilometer.
- The DRDO also successfully test fired enhanced range versions of indigenously developed 122mm Caliber Rocket from a Multi-Barrel Rocket Launcher at Integrated Test Range, Chandipur.
- Four enhanced range version of 122mm rockets were test fired with full instrumentation and they met the complete mission objectives.
- These rockets have been developed for Army applications and can destroy targets up to 40 km.
- **Importance of Pinaka:**
- Pinaka rocket system is named after Lord Shiva's bow.
- Pinaka are long range artillery systems used for attacking the adversary targets prior to the close quarter battles which involve smaller range artillery, armoured elements and the infantry.



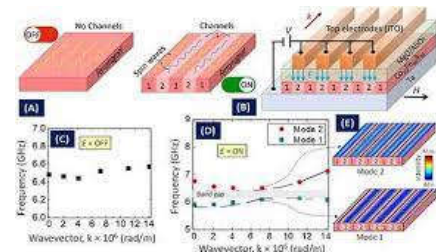
Links:

<https://newsonair.gov.in/News?title=DRDO-successfully-test-fires-enhanced-Pinaka-rocket-off-Odisha-coast&id=420476>

Electrically Configured Nanochannels

Question: Researchers from which of the following institute have developed electrically configured nanochannels that can promise wave-based computing?

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



a) IIT Delhi b) IIT Ropar c) SNBNCBS d) None of these

Answer: (c)

Related Facts:-

- Scientists have developed electrically configured nanochannels that can eliminate unwanted energy waste and promise wave-based computing.
- Research regarding such nanochannels has been done by Professor Anjan Barman and co-workers from the S. N. Bose National Centre for Basic Sciences.
- S. N. Bose National Centre for Basic Sciences is an autonomous institute under the Department of Science and Technology (DST), Government of India.
- This can revolutionize on-chip data communication and processing in future.
- Conventional electronics is composed of logic circuits having a large number of transistors interconnected by metallic wires.
- Basis of electrically configured nanochannels is Spintronics, which is also known as spin electronics, or the study of the intrinsic spin of the electron and its associated magnetic moment.
- Spintronics is now newly developed method through which information can be carried in the form of amplitude, phase, wavelength, and frequency without any physical motion of particles
- We all know that data carried by electric charges suffer undesirable heating limiting its integration density.
- Spintronics, in addition to its fundamental electronic charge, in solid-state devices offer to harness electron spins.
- It helps in eliminating unwanted energy waste and promising wave-based computing.
- Professor Anjan Barman and his team have done this by periodically tailoring the property that confers a preferred direction on the spin of a system.
- This technique is also called anisotropy using the electric field technically called the principles of voltage-controlled magnetic anisotropy.
- This work has been published in the journal Science Advances.
- In the recent research, spin-waves were efficiently transferred through these nanochannels.
- This could also be switched ON and OFF and its magnitude altered by a meagre voltage of few volts.
- The team believes that in future, these nanochannels can be engineered further to transfer specific bands of frequencies through designed parallel channels towards development of on-chip multiplexing devices.

Links:-

<https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1730912>

World's first Physically Disabled Astronaut to be Launched in 2022

Question: which of the following space agency announced that it will launch the world's first physically disabled astronaut?

a) ISRO b) ESA c) NASA d) CNSA

Answer: (b)

Related Facts:

- On 25 June 2021 The European Space Agency (ESA) head Josef Aschbacher announced that ESA will launch the world's first physically disabled astronaut.
- It should be noted that several hundred would-be para-astronauts have already applied for the role.
- Mr Aschbacher told that the 22-member space programme has just closed its latest decennial recruitment call for astronauts and received 22,000 applicants.



- He said that we would like to launch an astronaut with a disability, which would be the first time ever.
- It would be a happy moment for ESA because it shows that space is for everyone.
- The ESA, whose Ariane rocket once dominated the market for commercial satellite is now, facing ever stiffer competition from tech-funded upstarts.
- These new upstarts are Jeff Bezos's Blue Origin and Elon Musk's SpaceX.

Links:-

<https://www.indiatoday.in/science/story/-space-is-for-everyone-europe-s-space-agency-to-hire-first-disabled-astronaut-1819567-2021-06-26>

Genetically Modified (GM) Rubber

Question: in which of the following state first genetically modified (GM) rubber has recently planted?

a) Kerala b) Assam c) Karnataka d) None of these

Answer: (b)

Related Facts:-

- On 22 June 2021; first genetically modified (GM) rubber has been planted in Assam, India.
- Rubber Board India has planted this GM rubber plant at its Sarutari research farm in Guwahati.
- Rubber Research Institute of India has developed the GM rubber plant.
- The new plant is expected to grow well under the climatic conditions of the North-East.
- It should be noted that additional copies of the gene MnSOD (manganese-containing superoxide dismutase) inserted in this GM rubber.
- Equipped with new gene MnSOD, GM rubber plant is expected to tide over the severe cold conditions during winter.
- Point to be noted that cold winter is a major factor affecting the growth of young rubber plants.



Links:-

<https://www.thehindubusinessline.com/markets/commodities/first-ever-genetically-modified-rubber-planted-in-assam/article34913748.ece>

Induction of Advanced Light Helicopters (ALH) Mk-III in Indian Coast Guard (ICG)

Question- Which of the following organization has manufactured advanced Light Helicopters (ALH MK-III) recently inducted into the Indian Coast Guard?

(a) DRDO (b) HAL (c) ISRO (d) none of these

Answer—(b)

Related facts —

- In line with Atmanirbhar Bharat vision of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, Defence Secretary Dr Ajay Kumar inducted Advanced Light Helicopters (ALH) Mk-III in Indian Coast Guard on June 12 2021.
- It is notable that HAL has manufactured Advanced Light Helicopters MK-III(ALH MK-III).
- **Customization —**



- The ALH Mk-III marine version has been designed and developed with in-house customisation of 19 additional equipment by HAL to meet ICG requirements.
- The HAL will supply 16 ALH Mk-III to the ICG by mid next year.
- The helicopters are capable of undertaking embarked operations from ships which will enhance Coast Guard capabilities towards sea-air co-ordinated search, interdiction capabilities, coastal security, search and rescue operations, medical evacuation, humanitarian missions, pollution response missions, etc.
- **Significance —**
 - On induction, the 16 ALH Mk-III will be positioned at four Coast Guard squadrons at Bhubaneswar, Porbandar, Kochi and Chennai.
 - The shared maritime boundaries with littoral states are highly susceptible to illegal activities and the regions are prone to frequent cyclones.
 - These squadrons with embarked operations will ensure seamless surveillance and provide assistance to fishermen in distress at sea.

Link:

<https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1726510>

EUNAVFOR Exercise

Question: Between which of the following navies, Naval exercise named as EUNAVFOR is being held from 18 June 2021 in the Gulf of Aden?

- a) Indian navy and European Union Naval Force b) Indian navy and US Navy
c) Indian navy and Naval Force of Japan d) None of these

Answer: (a)

Related Facts:-

- On June 18 2021; the maiden Indian Navy and European Union Naval Force (EUNAVFOR) exercise began.
- This Naval exercise between Indian Navy and European Union Naval Force was started in the Gulf of Aden.
- According to Indian Navy sources a total of five warships from four navies were participating in the two-day exercise.
- Ships of the four navies will endeavour to enhance and hone their war-fighting skills.
- Indian Navy sources informed that in this exercise the navies will also test their ability as an integrated force to promote, peace, security and stability in the maritime domain.
- A virtual Information sharing Exercise was conducted between the Indian Navy's Information Fusion Centre for Indian Ocean Region and Maritime Security Centre-Horn of Africa on Friday.
- INS Trikanth, mission deployed for anti-piracy operations, is participating in the exercise.
- Other warships include Italy's ITS Carabiniere, the Spanish Navy's ESPS Navarra, and FS Tonnerre and FS Surcouf of France.
- **The exercise would see high tempo-naval operations at sea which include—**



Advanced air defence and anti-submarine exercises.

Cross-deck helicopter operations.

Tactical manoeuvres.

Boarding operations.

Underway replenishment.

Search and rescue.

Man overboard drills and other maritime security operations.

- According to the Navy the EUNAVFOR and the Indian Navy converged on multiple issues.
- These issues include counter-piracy operations and protection of vessels deployed under the charter of World Food Programme.
- The two sides also have regular interaction through SHADE (Shared Awareness and De-confliction) meetings held annually in Bahrain.
- This engagement underscores the shared values as partner navies, in ensuring freedom of seas and commitment to an open, inclusive and a rules-based international order

Links:-

<https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/first-indian-navy-eu-naval-force-exercise-on-in-gulf-of-aden/article34851905.ece>

World sickle cell awareness day 2021

Question- World Sickle Cell Awareness day is observed on-

(a) June 19 (b) June 18 (c) June 20 (d) June 21

Ans.(a)

Related facts-

- World Sickle Cell Awareness Day is observed every year on June 19 to increase awareness and understanding of the disease and the challenges faced by its patients and their families.
- Sickle cell disease causes patients to have sickle-shaped red blood cells that can stick together and block blood flow and oxygen from reaching all parts of the body.
- It is an inherited blood disorder.
- People who have the disease can experience pain, anemia, infection and other serious health complications that may require care by a professional healthcare provider, according to the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).
- The Minister of Tribal Affairs, Shri Arjun Munda has virtually inaugurated the Second National Sickle Cell Conclave on 'Sickle Cell Disease'.
- The Conclave is being organised by Ministry of Tribal Affairs, GoI, in collaboration with the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce & Industry (FICCI), Novartis, Apollo Hospitals, Piramal Foundation, GASCDO and NASCO.
- Sickle cell disease (SCD), which is widespread amongst many tribal population groups in India, posing a considerable health burden in several states.
- The disease in India is prevalent predominantly in Jharkhand, Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, western Odisha, eastern Gujarat and in pockets of the Nilgiri Hills in north Tamil Nadu and Kerala.



Reference- <https://www.hindustantimes.com/health/world-sickle-cell-awareness-day-2021-all-you-need-to-know-101624067777914.html>.

QCI launches Indian Certification of Medical Devices (ICMED) Plus scheme

Question-Which of the following organization has launched the 'Indian Certification of Medical Devices (ICMED) Plus' scheme?

(a) Quality Council of India (b) CSIR (c) Indian Medical Association (d) AIIMS

Ans. (a)

Related Facts-

- The Quality Council of India (QCI) and the Association of Indian Manufacturers of Medical



Devices (AiMeD) have added further features to the ICMED, the scheme that was launched for certification of medical devices in 2016.

- The ICMED 13485 PLUS, as the new scheme has been christened, will undertake verification of the quality, safety and efficacy of medical devices.
- The ICMED 13485 PLUS scheme was launched digitally.
- ICMED 13485 Plus has been designed to integrate the quality management system components and product-related quality validation processes through witness testing of products with reference to the defined product standards and specifications.
- This is the first scheme around the world in which quality management systems, along with product certification standards, are integrated with regulatory requirements.
- This scheme will be an end-to-end quality assurance scheme for the medical devices sector in India.

Reference- <https://www.expresshealthcare.in/news/qci-launches-indian-certification-of-medical-devices-icmed-plus-scheme/429782/>.

Monoclonal antibodies & Covid

Question- Consider the following statements about Monoclonal antibodies-

(1) Monoclonal antibodies are artificial antibodies that mimic the activity of our immune systems.

(2) They are produced through a process that involves extracting specific antibodies from human blood and then cloning them.

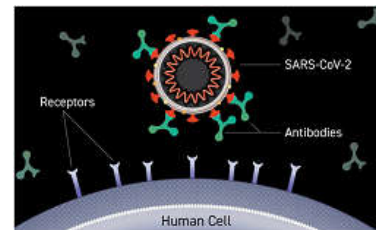
Select the correct answer using the code given below-

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

Ans. (c)

Related Facts-

- An experimental monoclonal antibody cocktail, REGEN-COV2, has been found to be a life-saving treatment for some of the most severely affected Covid-19 patients, results of a clinical trial in the UK have shown.
- To fight a viral infection, our bodies create proteins known as antibodies. Monoclonal antibodies are artificial antibodies that mimic the activity of our immune systems.
- They are produced through a process that involves extracting specific antibodies from human blood and then cloning them.
- These monoclonal antibodies are designed to target a virus or a specific part of one- for instance, REGEN-COV2 is a cocktail of two monoclonal antibodies developed to target the SARS-CoV-2 spike protein.
- The monoclonal antibodies bind to specific parts of the spike protein, blocking its ability to infect healthy cells.
- Besides Covid-19, monoclonal antibodies have been used in the treatment of cancers as well as Ebola and HIV.
- The University of Oxford said last week that its RECOVERY trials found that for hospitalised patients with severe Covid-19 “who have not mounted a natural antibody response of their own”, Regeneron’s monoclonal antibody cocktail reduces the risk of death by a fifth compared to those who had received standard care. “Thus, for every 100 such patients treated with the antibody combination, there would be six fewer deaths.
- REGEN-COV2 is available in India through a tie-up between Swiss drug giant Roche and Indian company Cipla.
- The therapy, a combination of monoclonal antibodies casirivimab and imdevimab, had received the Central Drugs Standard Control Organisation’s restricted emergency use permission in May.



Defence Minister Rajnath Singh addressed ASEAN Defence Ministers' Meeting Plus

Question- Which of the following country has chaired the 8th ASEAN Defence Ministers' Meeting Plus?

(a) Brunei (b) China (c) India (d) Japan

Ans. (a)

Related facts-

- The 8th ASEAN Defence Ministers Meeting (ADMM) Plus was held on June 16, 2021.
- Brunei is the Chair of the ADMM Plus forum this year.
- The ADMM Plus is an annual meeting of Defence Ministers of 10 ASEAN (Association of Southeast Asian Nations) countries and eight dialogue partner countries – Australia, China, India, Japan, New Zealand, Republic of Korea, Russia and the United States.
- Defence Minister Rajnath Singh stressed on “peaceful resolutions of disputes through dialogue and adherence to international rules and laws.
- India has strengthened its cooperative engagements in the Indo-Pacific based on converging visions and values for promotion of peace, stability and prosperity in the region.
- Premised upon the centrality of ASEAN, India supports utilization of ASEAN-led mechanisms as important platforms for implementation of our shared vision for the Indo-Pacific.
- Defence Minister stressed that the emerging challenges to international peace and security cannot be addressed with outdated systems designed to deal with trials of the past.
- He also reiterated India's support to freedom of navigation, over-flight and unimpeded commerce for all in international waters in accordance with the UN Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS).



Reference- <https://pib.gov.in/PressReleaseIframePage.aspx?PRID=1727467>.

First wooden satellite

Question: Which of the following space agency has proposed to send first wooden satellite, named as WISA Woodsat, into the space?

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

Answer: (c)

Related Facts:-

- WISA Woodsat will be the world's first wooden satellite to sent to space by European Space Agency (ESA).
- European Space Agency (ESA) has planned to put the WISA Woodsat on Earth's orbit by the end of this year.
- The mission of the satellite is to test the applicability of wooden materials like plywood in spacecraft structures and expose it to extreme space conditions.
- The satellite will be tested in extreme space conditions as heat, cold, vacuum and radiation, for an extended period of time.
- It will be launched to space by the end of 2021 with a Rocket Lab Electron rocket from the Mahia Peninsula launch complex in New Zealand.



- The satellite, designed and built in Finland will orbit at around 500-600 km altitude in a roughly polar Sun-synchronous orbit.
- WISA Woodsat is a 10x10x10 cm nano satellite built up from standardised boxes and surface panels made from plywood.
- Designers have placed the wood in a thermal vacuum chamber to keep dry when its in space.
- They have also added a very thin aluminium oxide layer to minimise vapour coming from the wood and to protect it from erosive effects of atomic oxygen.
- Woodsat's only non-wooden external parts are corner aluminium rails used for its deployment into space and a metal selfie stick.
- The selfie stick with its camera can take pictures of the satellite and look how the plywood is behaving.

Links:-

<https://www.thehindu.com/sci-tech/technology/worlds-first-wooden-satellite-to-be-launched-from-new-zealand/article34819907.ece>

What is PASIPHAE

Question- Which of the following statements is/are correct about PASIPHAE?

- (1) PASIPHAE is an international collaborative sky surveying project.
- (2) Scientists aim to study the polarization in the light coming from millions of stars.
- (3) The name is inspired from Pasiphae, the daughter of Greek Sun God Helios, who was married to King Minos.

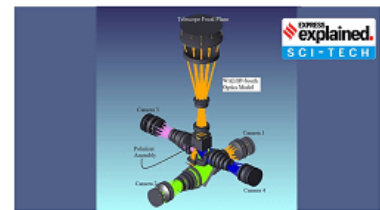
Select the correct answer using the code given below-

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

Ans. (d)

Related facts-

- Polar-Areas Stellar-Imaging in Polarisation High-Accuracy Experiment (PASIPHAE) is an international collaborative sky surveying project.
- Scientists aim to study the polarisation in the light coming from millions of stars.
- The name is inspired from Pasiphae, the daughter of Greek Sun God Helios, who was married to King Minos.
- The survey will use two high-tech optical polarimeters to observe the northern and southern skies, simultaneously.
- It will focus on capturing starlight polarisation of very faint stars that are so far away that polarisation signals from there have not been systematically studied. The distances to these stars will be obtained from measurements of the GAIA satellite.
- By combining these data, astronomers will perform a maiden magnetic field tomography mapping of the interstellar medium of very large areas of the sky using a novel polarimeter instrument known as WALOP (Wide Area Linear Optical Polarimeter).
- Scientists from the University of Crete, Greece, Caltech, USA, Inter-University Centre for Astronomy and Astrophysics (IUCAA), India, the South African Astronomical Observatory and the University of Oslo, Norway, are involved in this project, steered by the Institute of Astrophysics, Greece.



Reference- <https://indianexpress.com/article/explained/explained-how-pasiphae-will-peep-into-the-unknown-regions-of-the-sky-7357628/>.

Jivan Vayu

Question: Which of the following Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) has developed Jivan Vayu a device for patients suffering from breathing problems?



a) IIT madras b) IIT Mumbai c) IIT Ropar d) None of these

Answer: (c)

Related Facts:-

- The Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Ropar has developed a device known as Jivan Vayu, which can be used in place of CPAP machine.
- It should be known that Continuous Positive Airway Pressure (CPAP) machine used for patients suffering from breathing problems and sleep apnea.
- Jivan Vayu, developed by (IIT) Ropar, is the machine which can deliver high flow oxygen up to 60 Litres per Minute (LPM).
- Traditionally, CPAP machines use mild air pressure to keep airways open.
- The CPAP therapy helps in ensuring that the airways do not collapse while you breathe during sleep.
- The therapy is also used to treat infants whose lungs have not fully developed.
- The new device is the first to be designed in India that functions even without electricity.
- Jivan Vayu is adapted to both kinds of oxygen generation units like CO2 cylinders and oxygen pipelines.
- It is designed to maintain the concentration of oxygen in the gas mixture above 40 per cent along with a viral filter.
- Researchers told that nowadays there is an urgent need to develop such a device as a high number of Covid patients succumbing due to the lack of oxygen.
- Once manufactured on a large scale, the device can find application in areas that have more electricity outages, especially in rural India.

Links:-

<https://www.indiatoday.in/science/story/iit-ropar-designs-electricity-free-cpap-device-jivan-vayu-capable-to-delivering-high-flow-oxygen-1814977-2021-06-15>

Beijing-3

Question: What is Beijing-3?

a) Computer program b) Super computer c) Satellite d) A city center in China

Answer: (c)

Related Facts:-

- On 11 June, 2021; China sent four satellites into the planned orbits.
- Name of these four satellites are as follows- Beijing-3 (BJ-3), HISEA-2 (HS-2), Yangwang-1 (YW-1) and Tianjian (TJ).
- These satellites were launched by a Long March-2D rocket from the Taiyuan Satellite Launch Center in northern Shanxi Province.
- These satellite have been Developed by China Spacesat Co. Ltd..
- The commercial remote-sensing satellite BJ-3 can provide services in the fields of resources survey, city management, environmental monitoring and disaster relief.
- The HS-2 satellite will be used by Xiamen University to study the ecological environment of the near shore and shallow sea.
- The YW-1 satellite will be used by Shenzhen-based Origin Space Technology Co., Ltd. for asteroid resource exploration and research.
- The TJ satellite will be used by universities for teaching and training on in-orbit services.
- This was the 373rd flight mission of the Long March rocket series, the launch center said.



Links:-

http://www.xinhuanet.com/english/2021-06/11/c_1310003061.htm

India – Thailand CORPAT Exercise

Question: Consider the following statements;

i) Indian Navy and Thailand Navy are conducting 31st edition of Coordinated Patrols or CORPAT from June 8 to June 11, 2021.

ii) The two navies have been undertaking CORPAT bi-annually along their International Maritime Boundary Line (IMBL) since 2005.

Which of the above are correct?

a) only I b) only ii c) both i and ii d) None

Ans: c

Facts

- CORPAT is being conducted for reinforcing maritime links between the two countries and with an aim of keeping the Indian Ocean safe and secure for international trade.
- It builds up understanding and interoperability between both the navies.
- It facilitates measures to prevent & suppress unlawful activities such as Illegal Unreported Unregulated (IUU) fishing, maritime terrorism, drug trafficking, armed robbery and piracy.
- It also helps in enhancing operational synergy by exchanging information to prevent smuggling, illegal immigration and to conduct SAR operations at sea.
- This is part of Indian government's SAGAR initiative.
- **About SAGAR**
- Mission SAGAR was launched in 2015 by government of India.
- It is India's strategic vision for the Indian Ocean i.e. Security and Growth for All in the Region (SAGAR).
- Through SAGAR, India seeks to deepen economic and security cooperation with its maritime neighbours and assist in building their maritime security capabilities. For this, India would cooperate on the exchange of information, coastal surveillance, building of infrastructure and strengthening their capabilities.

Reference: <https://www.indiatoday.in/india/story/indian-navy-conducts-coordinated-patrol-with-thai-navy-1812697-2021-06-09#:~:text=According%20to%20a%20statement%2C%20Indian,are%20participating%20in%20the%20CORPAT.>

Important life Ingredient in Deep Space Discovered

Question: In a recent new discovery, which of the following molecule, an important life Ingredient 100,000 light years away, found in a cold molecular cloud G+0.693-0.027, in Deep Space?

a) Ethanolamine b) Methylamine c) Glycol d) Uric acid

Answer: (a)

Related Facts:-

- In a recent new discovery, astronomers spotted important life Ingredient in Deep Space.
- They have found spectral signature of a molecule called ethanolamine in a molecular cloud near the center of our galaxy.
- Ethanolamine is part of the heads of those phospholipids found in the membranes around our cells.
- Simulations have shown that ethanolamine could help form an amino acid called glycine. Amino acids are the building blocks of proteins.



- Spanish-led team of Astronomers for this purpose used the data from the IRAM and Yerkes radio telescopes.
- This time an important life Ingredient, astronomers was able to draw out, is ethanolamine, an important component of cell walls.
- The presence of this important life ingredient suggests that the building blocks of life actually form in interstellar space.
- With this discovery now scientists think that it may already have been part of the mix when planets and asteroids started forming in our solar system.
- A spectrum of ethanolamine was spotted 100,000 light years away in a cold molecular cloud named as G+0.693-0.027.
- Astronomer observed that G+0.693-0.027 is one of the most chemically rich reservoirs of molecules in the galaxy.
- Slow collisions between masses of gas and dust triggered chemical reactions on the icy surfaces of dust grains.
- Those reactions gradually converted other, simpler combinations of nitrogen, hydrogen, oxygen, and carbon into ethanolamine.
- The fact that we are finding, , key prebiotic precursors present in interstellar molecular clouds is telling us that the simplest chemical pieces needed for life are likely spread across the Galaxy.
- This chemical feedstock will be available for the formation of new stars and planets, in which, under the right physical conditions, new forms of life might arise.

Links:-

<https://www.inverse.com/science/ethanolamine-found-in-space-cloud>

Experimental Advanced Superconducting Tokamak

Question: In which of the following country, the Experimental advanced superconducting Tokamak (EAST) reactor is located?

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

Answer: (c)

Related Facts:-

- On 4 June 2021; the latest experiment performed by Experimental advanced superconducting Tokamak (EAST) reactor.
- EAST which is also known as Chinese artificial sun set a new world record of achieving a plasma temperature of 120 million degrees Celsius for 101 seconds.
- This successful experiment is being considered as a key step toward the test running of a fusion reactor.
- Experimental Advanced Superconducting Tokamak (EAST) reactor is an advanced nuclear fusion experimental research device.
- EAST is located at the Institute of Plasma Physics of the Chinese Academy of Sciences (ASIPP) in Hefei, China.
- The breakthrough was announced by Gong Xianzu, a researcher at the Institute of Plasma Physics of the Chinese Academy of Sciences (ASIPP).
- Gong Xianzu is in charge of the experiment conducted in Hefei, capital of east China's Anhui Province.
- The Chinese artificial sun or the EAST also realized a plasma temperature of 160 million degrees Celsius, lasting for 20 seconds.
- The ultimate goal of EAST, located at ASIPP in Hefei, is to create nuclear fusion like the Sun.



- Deuterium abundant in the sea has been used in this experiment to provide a steady stream of clean energy.
- It is estimated that the deuterium in one liter of seawater can produce, through fusion reaction, the amount of energy equivalent to 300 liters of gasoline.
- Around 300 scientists and engineers mobilized to support the operation of the doughnut-shaped experiment facility.
- Experiment facility includes a vacuum system, RF wave system, laser scattering system, and microwave system.
- Preparation and upgrading work for the experiment started about a year ago, the institute said.
- It's a huge achievement in China's physics and engineering fields.
- The experiment's success lays the foundation for China to build its own nuclear fusion energy station,
- Raw materials required for the artificial sun are almost unlimited on earth.
- Nuclear Fusion Energy Stations have great advantages over fossil fuels such as coal, oil, and natural gas, which are in danger of being exhausted and pose a threat to the environment.
- Therefore, fusion energy is considered the ideal ultimate energy with the potential to help China realize carbon neutrality.
- Fusion energy, one of the greatest frontiers of today's physics, requires not only top scientific research ability but also massive experimental instruments.

Links:-

http://www.xinhuanet.com/english/2021-05/28/c_139975997_2.htm

Artemis Accords

Question: Establishment of Artemis Accords by the NASA is chiefly related to which of the following exploration?

a) Lunar exploration b) Earth exploration c) Atmosphere Research d) None of these

Answer: (a)

Related Facts:-

- On 24 May 2024; The Republic of Korea has signed on the Artemis Accords.
- Artemis Accords is a practical set of principles to guide space exploration cooperation among nations participating in NASA's 21st century lunar exploration plans.
- It should be known that NASA, in coordination with the U.S. Department of State, announced the establishment of the Artemis Accords in 2020.
- The Republic of Korea became the 10th country to sign the Artemis Accords.
- South Korean Minister of Science and ICT Lim Hyesook signed the Artemis Accords for the country in the Seoul.
- With this signature South Korea, whose official name is the Republic of Korea, joined the group of other 9 countries who have already joined the Artemis Accords.
- These 9 countries are Australia, Canada, Italy, Japan, Luxembourg, the United Kingdom, the United Arab Emirates, Ukraine, and the United States
- NASA Administrator Sen. Bill Nelson hailed the Republic of Korea which has committed to the Artemis Accords.
- He said that, their signature demonstrates the strong momentum worldwide in supporting our Moon to Mars exploration approach.
- Mr Nelson was optimistic as partnering in deep space will ensure for missions to be carried out in accordance with important, universal principles.
- These universal principles are transparency, safety, and peaceful exploration, which are critical to ensuring a safe and prosperous future in space for all.



- With the signing of the Artemis Accords, Korea would be able to strengthen cooperation with nations participating in the Accords in exploring the outer space.
- It is critical to implement space development activities transparently and responsibly for successful space exploration.
- NASA is in the opinion that responsible and successful space exploration can be successfully done in collaboration with the international community.
- NASA continues to work with its international partners to establish a safe, peaceful, and prosperous future in space.
- In the months and years ahead additional countries will join the Artemis Accords.
- Working with emerging space agencies, as well as existing partners and well-established space agencies, will add new energy and capabilities to ensure the entire world can benefit from our journey of exploration and discovery.

Links:-

<https://www.nasa.gov/feature/republic-of-korea-joins-list-of-nations-to-sign-artemis-accords>

Squid and microorganisms sent to Space

Question: For which of the following place in space, on 3 June 2021; A SpaceX rocket launched to carry the squid and microorganisms?

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

Answer: (a)

Related Facts:-

- On 3 June 2021; A SpaceX rocket launched to carry the squid and virtually indestructible microorganisms called tardigrades to the International Space Station (ISS).
- SpaceX launched the Dragon-2 Capsule this time carrying supplies for scientific experiments, including squid and tardigrades to ISS.
- The Falcon 9 Rocket, leased by NASA, launched from Launch Pad-39A Kennedy Space center Florida.
- The Dragon capsule detached from the Falcon 9 rocket about 12 minutes after take-off and docked with the ISS on June 5, 2021.
- Young specimens of the species Euprymna scolopes, known as bobtail squid, are on board for the trip.
- Scientists are keen to study the effect of zero gravity on the interactions between bacteria and their host organisms.
- Some of the squid will be exposed to bacteria once on board the ISS, while others will be left alone.
- After 12 hours, the specimens are preserved until their return to Earth, where they will be studied.
- It should be known that animals, including humans, rely on our microbes to maintain a healthy digestive and immune system and scientists want to know that how space flight alters these beneficial interactions.
- The experiment could help scientists in the future to develop techniques to protect the health of astronauts taking part in long-duration missions in space.
- Tardigrades, also known as water bears, are microscopic organisms that can withstand extreme radiation, sizzling heat, the coldest temperatures of the universe and decades without food.



Links:-

<https://www.scmp.com/news/world/united-states-canada/article/3135975/spacex-rocket-carrying-baby-squid-and-water-bears>

Fengyun-4B weather satellite

- It will make precise measurements of noble gases and other elements to understand why Venus' atmosphere is a runaway hothouse compared the Earth's.
- In addition, DAVINCI+ will return the first high resolution pictures of the unique geological features on Venus known as Tesserae.
- These features may be comparable to Earth's continents, suggesting that Venus has plate tectonics.
- **VERITAS**
- VERITAS is Venus Emissivity, Radio Science, InSAR, Topography, and Spectroscopy
- VERITAS will map Venus' surface to determine the planet's geologic history to understand why it developed so differently than Earth.
- Orbiting Venus with synthetic aperture radar, VERITAS will chart surface elevations over nearly the entire planet.
- It will create 3D reconstructions of topography and confirm whether processes such as plate tectonics and volcanism are still active on Venus.
- VERITAS also will map infrared emissions from Venus' surface to map its rock type, which is largely unknown.
- It will also determine whether active volcanoes are releasing water vapor into the atmosphere.

Links:-

<https://www.jpl.nasa.gov/news/nasa-selects-2-missions-to-study-lost-habitable-world-of-venus>

First Ever Asia-Pacific Cyber Security Council

Question: Who has recently launched the First Ever Asia-Pacific Cyber Security Council?

a) Microsoft b) Pentagon c) Apple corporation d) None of these

Answer: (a)

Related Facts:-

- Microsoft has launched the first Asia Pacific Public Sector Cyber Security Executive Council.
- It has been launched with the aim of building a strong communications channel for addressing cyber threats
- It will also work for sharing best practices across the participating countries.
- The Security Executive Council will take the active role in bringing together a coalition of policy makers from government and state agencies, as well as technology and industry leaders.
- The council comprises 15 policy makers from Brunei, Indonesia, Korea, Malaysia, Philippines, Singapore, and Thailand.
- It has also been supported by cyber security professionals from Microsoft.
- This collective marks a significant commitment towards accelerating public-private partnerships in cyber security.
- Council will promote a broader sharing of threat intelligence to be better positioned to respond in the event of attacks.
- At the forefront of the council's vision is the drive to build a community where threat intelligence, technology, and resources can be shared in a timely and open manner.
- The council is set to meet virtually on a quarterly basis to maintain a continuous exchange of information on cyber threats and cyber security solutions.



Links:-

<https://news.microsoft.com/apac/2021/05/31/microsoft-launches-first-asia-pacific-public-sector-cyber-security-executive-council-across-seven-markets-in-the-region/>

INS Sandhayak

Question : On which date would INS Sandhayak be decommissioned ?

a. 04 Jun 21 b. 06 Jun 21 c. 08 Jun 21 d. 10 Jun 21

Ans. a.

Related facts

- INS Sandhayak, the first of its class indigenously designed and built Hydrographic Survey Ship of Indian Navy, will be decommissioned on Friday, 04 Jun 21.
- It has been serving the nation since 40 years.
- The ship, during her commissioned service, has undertaken approximately 200 major Hydrographic Surveys and numerous minor surveys in both East and West coasts of the country, the Andaman seas and the neighbouring countries too.
- Apart from Survey Missions, the ship has been an active participant in many significant operations such as Op Pawan – assisting the Indian Peace Keeping Force in Sri Lanka in 1987, Op Sarong, Op Rainbow – rendering humanitarian assistance post Tsunami of 2004 and participation in maiden joint INDO-US HADR Exercise 'Tiger-Triumph'.



Link:

<https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1723980>

A new species of cricket found

Question: Recently Zoologists discovered, a new species of cricket from the Kurra caves of Chhattisgarh. Which of the following name has been given to this species?

a) Jayanti b) Reeta c) Vibha d) Chitra

Answer: (a)

Related Facts:-

- In April 2021; Zoologists discovered, a new species of cricket.
- It was found by the team of biologists in the Kurra caves of Chhattisgarh.
- The team of zoologists was headed by Dr Ranjana Jaiswara of the Zoology Department of Panjab University, Chandigarh.
- The new species was named after Professor Jayant Biswas, one of the country's foremost cave explorers.
- This new species of cricket was discovered under the genus Arachnomimus Saussure.
- Arachnomimus is the genus name given by Swiss Entomologist Henri Louis Frédéric de Saussure in 1878 to crickets that resembled spiders.
- With the discovery of Jayanti in India it has been resulted in the creation of the new subgenus Indimimus.
- The males of the new Jayanti subgenus are unable to produce sound, and their females lack ears.



Links:-

<https://indianexpress.com/article/explained/spider-cricket-jayanti-discovery-chhattisgarh-explained-7334078/>

<https://www.caves.res.in/activities.php>

Sports

Tennis

Bad Homburg Open 2021

Question: Who has won the inaugural Bad Homburg Open 2021?

(a) Angelique Kerber (b) Katerina Siniakova (c) Petra Kvitova (d) Victoria Azarenka

Answer: (a)

Related facts:

- In tennis, Germany's Angelique Kerber won the inaugural Bad Homburg Open.
- She defeated Katerina Siniakova of the Czech Republic to clinch her 13th WTA career singles title.
- Bad Homburg Open is an extraordinary class and the first WTA tennis tournament held at the Bad Homburg Kurpark(Germany) between 20-26 June 2021.



Links:

<https://badhomburg-open.de/en/tournament/live-scores/#tab-id-7>

Barbora Krejcikova wins French Open women's title

Question- Who has won French open women's title 2021?

(a) Barbora Krejcikova (b) Anastasia Pavlyuchenkova (c) Maria Sharapova
(d) Serena Williams

Ans. (a)

Related Facts-

- Barbora Krejcikova won her first grand slam singles title on June 12, 2021, when she defeated Russian Anastasia Pavlyuchenkova 6-1, 2-6, 6-4 at Court Philippe Chatrier.
- She was formerly considered a doubles specialist.
- This was only the fifth major tournament in singles for Krejcikova, a 25-year-old from the Czech Republic.
- She is the third unseeded women's champion in the last five years at Roland Garros.
- The French Open known in Europe as Roland Garros, is a major tennis tournament held over two weeks at the Stade Roland-Garros in Paris, France, beginning in late May each year.
- The French Open is the premier clay court tennis championship tournament in the world. It is the second of the four annual Grand slam tournaments.



Reference- <https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/sports/barbora-krejcikova-wins-french-open-womens-title/articleshow/83463827.cms>.

World No.1 Novak Djokovic clinches his second French open Men's Singles title

Question- Who is winner of the the French Open Men's Singles title 2021?

(a) Rafael Nadal (b) Andy Murray (c) Stefanos Tsitsipas (d)
Novak Djokovic



Ans. (d)
Related Facts-

- In tennis, world No.1 Novak Djokovic clinched his second French open Men's Singles title after beating world No. 5 Stefanos Tsitsipas in the five-sets battle at Roland-Garros on June 13, 2021.
- Fighting back from two sets down, the 34-year-old Serb has won the match 6-7 (6-8), 2-6, 6-3, 6-2, 6-4 against 22-year old Tsitsipas to claim his 19th Grand Slam title.
- He is now one short of the men's 20 Grand Slam titles record of Rafael Nadal and Roger Federer. The Serbian world number one increased his Grand Slam tally to 19 titles, and is now one adrift of the men's record held by Roger Federer and Rafael Nadal.
- Djokovic has also become the first man in the Open era, and third overall, to win all four Majors at least twice.
- Djokovic reached his sixth French Open final after ending Nadal's four-year reign, while Tsitsipas edged past Alexander Zverev, becoming the first Greek player to reach in the Grand Slam final.

Reference- <http://newsonair.com/2021/06/14/world-no-1-novak-djokovic-clinches-his-second-french-open-mens-singles-title/>.

Football

2020–21 UEFA Champions League

Question: Which team has won the 2020–21 UEFA Champions League, a football championship?

(a) Chelsea Football Club (b) Real Madrid (c) Manchester City (d) Atletico Madrid

Answer: (a)

Related facts:

- Chelsea Football Club won the 2020–21 UEFA Champions League held at Porto, Portugal on 29 May 2021.
- Chelsea defeated Manchester City by 1–0 in the final.
- This is the second Champions League title for Chelsea, after winning the first won in 2012.
- The UEFA Champions League is an annual club football competition organised by the Union of European Football Associations (UEFA) and contested by top-division European clubs.



Links:

<https://www.indiatoday.in/sports/football/story/champions-league-2020-21-live-score-updates-manchester-city-vs-chelsea-porto-1808521-2021-05-29>

Chess

FTX Crypto Cup, 2021

Question – Who has won the title of FTX Crypto Cup 2021, a chess competition held on May 31, 2021?

(a) Wesley So (b) Magnus Carlsen (c) Timur Radzabov (d) Ian Nepponiacchi

Answer—(b)

related facts



- Magnus Carlsen has won the title of FTX Crypto Cup 2021, a chess competition held on May 31, 2021.
- Competition Result –
- Winner – Magnus Carlsen (Norway)
- Runner-up – Wesley So (USA)
- Russia's Ian Neponniachi defeated Azerbaijan's Teimur Radzabov to finish third.

Link:

<https://championschesstour.com/news/>

Global Chess League

Question: Which of the following is not correct in the option regarding the Global Chess League?

- (a) On June 4, 2021, the International Chess Federation (FIDE) announced a new partnership with Tech Mahindra Limited for the Global Chess League.
- (b) FIDE first proposed the project earlier this year.
- (c) Former world champion Viswanathan Anand will also be its official mentor and partner to give shape to this league.
- (d) Tech Mahindra first proposed the project earlier this year.

**Answer—(b)
related facts**

- On June 4, 2021, the International Chess Federation (FIDE) announced a new partnership with Tech Mahindra Limited for the Global Chess League.
- It is notable that Tech Mahindra first proposed the project earlier this year.
- Former world champion Viswanathan Anand will also be its official mentor and partner to give shape to this league.
- A new holding company will be formed to govern the operations of the Global Chess League, with the FIDE chairman as part of the board of directors.



Link:

<https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/sports/chess/vidit-gujrathi-qualifies-for-chess-world-cup-2021/articleshow/83204066.cms>

Formula One 2021 Styrian Grand Prix

Question: Who has won the 2021 Styrian Grand Prix?

- (a) Max Verstappen (b) Lewis Hamilton (c) Sergio Perez (d) Valtteri Bottas

Answer: (a)

Related facts:

- Max Verstappen (Netherlands-Red Bull) has won the 2021 Styrian Grand Prix.
- This race is the eighth round of the 2021 FIA Formula One World Championship and fourth Formula 1 race title of Max Verstappen of 2021 season.



- Now, Max Verstappen with 156 points is ahead Lewis Hamilton (138 points) in the Formula One drivers' title race.
- Lewis Hamilton (Britain-Mercedes) stood second while Valtteri Bottas (Finland- Mercedes) secured third spot.

Links:

<https://www.formula1.com/en/latest/article.verstappen-eases-to-styrian-grand-prix-victory-over-title-rival-hamilton.25uzXCuuzQKUSDizV67Z1I.html#:~:text=Max%20Verstappen%20claimed%20a%20second,third%20ahead%20of%20Sergio%20Perez.>

2021 French Grand Prix

Question: Who has won the 2021 French Grand Prix?

(a) Max Verstappen (b) Lewis Hamilton (c) Sergio Perez (d) Valtteri Bottas

Answer: (a)

Related facts:

- Max Verstappen (Netherlands-Red Bull) has won the 2021 French Grand Prix.
- This race is the seventh round of the 2021 FIA Formula One World Championship and third Formula 1 race title of Max Verstappen of 2021 season.
- Now, Max Verstappen with 131 points is ahead Lewis Hamilton (119 points) in the Formula One drivers' title race.
- Lewis Hamilton (Britain-Mercedes) stood second while Sergio Perez (Mexico- Red Bull) secured third spot.



Links:

<https://www.marca.com/en/f1/2021/06/20/60cf2e09e2704e305a8b459c.html>

Athletics

2020 Asian Wrestling Championships

Question: Consider the following statements:

- (1) India hosted the 2020 Asian Wrestling Championships
- (2) Sunil Kumar won Greco-Roman Asian Wrestling Championships gold after the gap of 27 years
- (3) India finished 3rd rank with 20 medals

Of the above correct statement/s is/are:

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

Answer: (d)

Related facts:

- The 2020 Asian Wrestling Championships, organized by the International Olympic Committee (IOC) and United World Wrestling (UWW), was held at the KD Jadhav Indoor Stadium, Indira Gandhi Arena, New Delhi, from February 18 – 23, 2020.
- The event had a total of 30 weight classes in action under 3 events: Men's freestyle, Men's Greco-Roman and Women's freestyle.
- Japan topped the medal tally with 16 medals (8 Gold, 4 Silver, 4 Bronze).
- Second rank was held by Iran with total of 17 medals including 7 gold, 3 silver and 7 bronze.



- India finished 3rd rank with 20 medals (5 Gold, 6 Silver, and 9 Bronze).
- Sunil Kumar became the first Indian wrestler in 27 years to win a Greco-Roman gold at the Asian Wrestling Championships .In 1993 Pappu Yadav won the gold medal in the 48 kg category.
- China was barred from entering into the competition due to the 2019–20 coronavirus outbreak.
- North Korea and Turkmenistan were unable to participate in the tournament due to circumstances stemming from the outbreak.
- **Indian winners:**

S.No	Player Name	Category	Medal
1	Ravi Kumar Dahiya	Men's freestyle- 57kg	Gold
2	Sunil Kumar	Men's Greco-Roman-87 kg	Gold
3	Pinki	Women's freestyle-55 kg	Gold
4	Sarita Mor	Women's freestyle- 59 kg	Gold
5	Divya Kakran	Women's freestyle- 68 kg	Gold
6	Bajrang Punia	Men's freestyle-65 kg	Silver
7	Jitender Kumar	Men's freestyle -74 kg	Silver
8	Gourav Baliyan	Men's freestyle -79 kg	Silver
9	Satyawart Kadian	Men's freestyle -97 Kg	Silver
10	Nirmala Devi	Women's freestyle -50Kg	Silver
11	Sakshi Malik	Women's freestyle -65 kg	Silver
12	Rahul Aware	Men's freestyle-61 kg	Bronze
13	Deepak Punia	Men's freestyle-86 kg	Bronze
14	Arjun Halakurki	Men's Greco-Roman-55 Kg	Bronze

15	Ashu	Men's Greco-Roman-67 Kg	Bronze
16	Aditya Kundu	Men's Greco-Roman-72 Kg	Bronze
17	Hardeep Singh	Men's Greco-Roman-97 Kg	Bronze
18	Vinesh Phogat	Women's freestyle- 53 kg	Bronze
19	Anshu Malik	Women's freestyle- 57 kg	Bronze
20	Gursharan Preet Kaur	Women's freestyle- 72 kg	Bronze

Links:

<https://unitedworldwrestling.org/database>

Rahi Sarnobat wins gold medal at ISSF World Cup

Question: Who has won the gold medal in the 25m pistol event at the International Shooting Sport Federation (ISSF) World Cup being held in Osijek, Croatia?

(a) Rahi Sarnobat (b) Elavenil Valarivan (c) Deepika Kumari (d) Manu Bhaker

Answer: (a)

Related facts:

- India's Rahi Sarnobat won the gold in 25m pistol event at the ISSF World Cup in Osijek, Croatia on June 28, 2021.
- This is India's first gold medal in 25m pistol event at the ongoing ISSF World Cup.
- She scored 39 points in the final with 8 points ahead of the silver medalist.
- In 2013, she was the first Indian shooter athlete who won the gold medal in the 25m pistol event at the ISSF World cup in Changwon, South Korea.



Links:

<https://sports.ndtv.com/shooting/issf-world-cup-rahi-sarnobat-wins-gold-in-womens-25m-pistol-2474268>

Kaylee McKeown breaks 100m backstroke world record

Question: Who has made the new world record in 100-meter backstroke swimming?

(a) Kaylee McKeown (b) Regan Smith (c) Janet Evans (d) Ian Thorp

Answer: (a)

Related facts:

- Australian swimmer Kaylee McKeown has broke the 100-meter backstroke swimming world record at the South Australian Aquatic Centre.
- She clocked 57.45 seconds to make the new record at Australia's Olympic trials in Adelaide.
- The previous record of 57.57 seconds was set by



American Regan Smith in 2019.

- Emily Seebohm finished second in 58.59 to qualify for her fourth Olympics.

Links:

<https://www.theguardian.com/sport/2021/jun/13/kaylee-mckeown-breaks-100m-backstroke-world-record-at-olympic-trials>

Shelly-Ann Fraser-Pryce becomes second-fastest woman of all time

Question: Shelly-Ann Fraser-Pryce has become the second-fastest woman sprinter in history. Which nation does she belong to?

(a) South Africa (b) USA (c) Hungary (d) Jamaica

Answer: (d)

Related facts:

- Jamaican sprinter Shelly-Ann Fraser-Pryce has become the second-fastest woman in history after running 10.63 seconds at Destiny Olympic Meet in Kingston.
- American legend Florence Griffith-Joyner holds the women's 100 m world record of 10.49, 10.61, and 10.62 seconds that she made in Indianapolis in 1988.
- Shelly-Ann Fraser-Pryce is the two-time Olympic 100-meters champion, one at the 2008 Beijing and another at the 2012 London Games.



Links:

<https://www.bbc.com/sport/athletics/57371076>

Vinesh Phogat clinched gold medal in Poland open

Question: Which Indian woman wrestler has won gold medal in the 53 kg category at the Poland Open?

(a) Vinesh Phogat (b) Sakshi Malik (c) Babita Kumari (d) Kavita Devi

Answer: (a)

Related facts:

- Indian woman wrestler Vinesh Phogat won the gold medal in the 53 kg category at the Poland Open.
- It is her third title of the season.
- Earlier, She had won gold at the Matteo Pellicone event (March) and Asian Championship (April).
- She defeated Ukraine's Khrystyna Bereza in the final.
- The 2021 Poland Open wrestling event was held from 8-13 June 2021 in Warsaw, Poland.



Links:

<https://www.aninews.in/news/sports/others/indian-wrestler-vinesh-phogat-clinches-gold-at-poland-open20210611232955/#:~:text=New%20Delhi%20%5BIndia%5D%2C%20June,Ukraine%208%2D0%20in%20Final.>

Sports Personality

England's most experienced test match cricketer

Question : Who is the England's most experienced test match cricketer ?

(a) Stuart Broad (b) James Anderson (c) Joe Root (d) San Billing

Answer—(b)

Related facts

- On June 10, 2021, England fast bowler James Anderson has become the cricketer to play the most Test matches for England.
- Anderson achieved this feat in the second Test against New Zealand at Edgbaston, Birmingham.
- This is Anderson's 162nd Test match.
- Earlier, the record of playing the most Test matches for England was held by former captain Alastair Cook, who has played 161 Test matches for England.
- Anderson is the only fast bowler in the history of Test cricket to have taken more than 600 wickets.
- Anderson has so far taken 617 wickets.



Link:

<https://www.espncriinfo.com/player/james-anderson-8608/bowling-batting-stats>

Short Notes

Personalities

Sanjeev Nandan Sahai

Question – In June 2021, who was appointed as the new chairman of the Petroleum and Natural Gas Regulatory Board ?

(a) Indu Shekhar Chaturvedi (b) Tarun Kapoor (c) Sanjeev Nandan Sahai (d) Gurmeet Singh

Answer—(c)

related facts

- In June 2021, retired IAS officer and former energy secretary Sanjeev Nandan Sahai appointed as the new chairman of the Petroleum and Natural Gas Regulatory Board (PNGRB).
- The search committee constituted under the chairmanship of NITI Aayog member VK Saraswat has approved his name.
- His appointment is subject to ACC approval.
- He will replace Dinesh K Sarraf in this post.
- **About PNGRB**
 - It is a statutory body.
 - It was formed on 31 March 2006 under the Petroleum and Natural Gas Regulatory Board Act, 2006.
 - Its headquarter is in New Delhi.



Link:

<https://energy.economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/oil-and-gas/former-power-secretary-sanjeev-sahai-picked-for-pngrb-chairman-post/83204656>

Sanjay Leekha

Question: Who took over as the new chairman of the Leather Export Council on June 17, 2021?

(a) Rajendra Jalan (b) Sanjay Leekha (c) Vinod Khosla (d) Rahul Bhatnagar

Answer—(b)
related facts

- Sanjay Leekha took over as the new chairman of the Leather Export Council on June 17, 2021.
- While Rajendra Jalan became the vice-president of this organization.
- Leather export & Council for Leather Exports(CLE) —
- CLE is a trade promotion organization for the leather and leather products industry.
- It works under the Ministry of Commerce and Industry, Government of India.
- Significantly, about 10 lakh people work in the leather industry of the country.
- India's share in global leather exports and imports is around 3 per cent.
- Leather exports declined by 26 per cent to \$2.44 billion in the financial year 2020-21.



Link:

<https://leatherindia.org/committee-of-administration/>

Suella Braverman appointed as the UK's new Attorney General

Question: Who has been appointed as the new Attorney General of United Kingdom?

(a) Suella Braverman (b) Geoffrey Cox (c) Sukhwinder Singh (d) Robert Buckland

Answer: (a)

Related facts:

- Indian-origin Suella Braverman was appointed Attorney General of United Kingdom on 13 February, 2020.
- Braverman will involve reviewing the work of the law officers' departments. It will include independent prosecuting authorities, the Crown Prosecution Service (CPS) and the Serious Fraud Office among others.
- She was previously Parliamentary Under Secretary of State at the Department for Exiting the European Union from January to November 2018.
- Suella was elected as the Conservative MP for Fareham in May 2015.



Links:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/people/braverman>

Hosni Mubarak passed away

Question: Hosni Mubarak which passed away recently was President of which of the following countries?

(a) Egypt (b) Turkey (c) Saudi Arabia (d) Mongolia

Answer: (a)

Related facts:

- Former President of Egypt, Hosni Mubarak, passed away in Cairo (capital of Egypt) on February 25, 2020. He was 91-years-old.
- Hosni Mubarak had served as the fourth President of Egypt from 1981 to 2011.
- He was appointed as the Vice President of Egypt on October 14, 1981 and eight days later, on October 22, he was sworn in as the President of Egypt after Islamist militants assassinated the ruling President Anwar Sadat during a military parade.
- Under Mubarak's reign, Egypt joined hands with the US to fight against Islamic terrorism. He had also sent troops as a part of the US-led coalition in the 1990-91 Gulf War. He had also made efforts to resolve the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.
- The Gulf war was led by United States against invasion of Iraq to annex Kuwait. The war was code named Operation Desert shield.
- After almost three decades in power, Mubarak, was forced to resign on February 11, 2011, following 18 days of protests around the country.
- Mubarak was later arrested and put on trial over the deaths of protesters during the 18-day revolt as well as for corruption. He was condemned to life in jail in 2012, but by 2017, he was cleared of all charges and released.
- Mubarak was Egypt's longest-serving ruler after Muhammad Ali Pasha, who had ruled the nation for 43 years from 1805 to 1848.



Links:

<http://ddnews.gov.in/international/egypts-former-president-hosni-mubarak-passes-away-91>

Srinivas Gowda- Kambala Event

Question: Which Indian competing in Kambala event has covered 100m in 9.55 seconds?

(a) Srinivas Gowda (b) Rupesh Chaudhary (c) Abhjeet Kumar (d) None of the above

Answer: (a)

Related facts:

- February 15, 2020, Srinivas Gowda competing in a Kambala event has covered 100m in 9.55 seconds ahead of Jamaican Usain Bolt's world record of 9.58 seconds.
- Kambala is an annual Buffalo Race festival celebrated in the Tulu Region of Dakshina Kannada district which is situated in the State of Karnataka.
- The festival involves the traditional buffalo race generally held from November to March.
- The buffaloes are made to race one after another in paddy fields as a thanksgiving to the Gods for protecting the animals from diseases.



Links:

<https://www.thehindu.com/sport/karnatakas-kambala-buffalo-jockey-srinivas-gowdas-run-draws-comparison-to-usain-bolt/article30828501.ece>

Youngest Indian cricketer to debut in all formats

Question: Who became the youngest Indian cricketer to make debut across all the formats?

(a) Shafali Verma (b) Gargi Banerji (c) Abdul Samad (d) Rajani Venugopal

Answer: (a)
Related facts:

- On 27 June 2021, Shafali Verma became the youngest Indian cricketer to make debut across all formats.
- He achieved this feat after being picked for the first ODI against England Women at County Ground, Bristol(England).
- Shafali Verma made her ODI debut at the age of 17 years and 150 days.
- Earlier,she made her T20Is debut at the age of 15 years and 239 days. Also, she played her first test match on 16-16 June 2021 against England.



Links:

<https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/sports/cricket/news/shafali-verma-becomes-youngest-indian-to-make-debut-in-all-formats/articleshow/83892061.cms>

Suresh N Patel

Question: Who has been recently appointed the acting Central Vigilance Commissioner (CVC) of India?

(a) Suresh N Patel (b) Rakesh Asthana (c) Dilbag Singh (d) Rajeev Kumar

Answer: (a)

Related facts:

- The incumbent Vigilance Commissioner, Suresh N Patel has been appointed as the acting Central Vigilance Commissioner (CVC) of India.
- He has been appointed in place of Sanjay Kothari, who completed his term on June 23, 2021.
- He will hold the post until the appointment of the new Central Vigilance Commissioner.
- **About Central Vigilance Commission:**
- The Central Vigilance Commission is a statutory body set up in February, 1964 on the recommendations of the Committee on Prevention of Corruption, headed by K. Santhanam, to advise and guide Central Government agencies in the field of vigilance.
- The Commission consists of a Central Vigilance Commissioner and Vigilance Commissioners not more than two.
- Currently, the post of two Vigilance Commissioners lies vacant after Suresh N Patel appointment as acting CVC.



Links:

<https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/vigilance-commissioner-suresh-patel-to-act-as-cvc/article34983785.ece>

RK Sabharwal

Question: Who has been honored with the highest civilian award of Mongolia The Order of Polar Star?

(a) RK Sabharwal (b) Suresh N Patel (c) Montek Singh Ahluwalia (d) Neena Gupta

Answer: (a)

Related facts:

- Engineers India Limited (EIL) Chairman & Managing Director (CMD), RK Sabharwal has been honored with the highest civilian award of Mongolia 'The Order of Polar Star'.
- The award came after the outstanding contribution made by RK Sabharwal towards the establishment of the first-ever oil refinery in Mongolia.
- The award was presented to him by Gonching Ganbold, Ambassador of Mongolia to India, on behalf of the Mongolian Government.
- **About the award:**
- The Order of Polar Star is bestowed by the President of Mongolia to individuals who have made an invaluable contribution to the prosperity of Mongolia and its friendship with other nations, as well for outstanding contributions in the fields of arts, culture, science and humanity.



Links:

<https://psuwatch.com/eil-cmd-rk-sabharwal-gets-highest-civilian-award-of-mongolia>

Kedar lele

Question- Which company has announced the appointment of Kedar Lele as Executive Director (Customer Development) in its management committee, on June 10, 2021?

(a) PepsiCo (b) Hindustan Unilever Ltd. (c) MasterCard (d) Samsung

Answer—(b)

related facts

- Hindustan Unilever Ltd has announced the appointment of Kedar Lele as Executive Director (Customer Development) in its management committee, on June 10, 2021.
- He will replace Sri Nandan Sundaram.
- He is currently the Chairman & Managing Director Unilever Bangladesh.
- His appointment will be effective from 1 July 2021.
- He will replace Sri Nandan Sundaram in this post.



Link:

<https://www.hul.co.in/news/press-releases/2021/announces-key-changes-to-the-management.html>

John McAfee

Question: John David McAfee who passed away recently was popularly known for

(a) antivirus software (b) astronomy (c) archery (d) calligraphy

Answer: (a)

Related facts:

- British-American Software pioneer, John David McAfee, the creator of the McAfee antivirus software, passed away on June 23 2021.
- John was found dead in his cell in a jail near Barcelona, where he had been since October 2020, for evading taxes.
- He was accused to have deliberately failed to file tax returns between 2014 and 2018, despite earning millions from consulting work, cryptocurrencies, among other things.



Links:

https://www.business-standard.com/article/international/john-mcafee-antivirus-software-pioneer-found-dead-in-prison-121062400103_1.html#:~:text=John%20McAfee%2C%20the%20creator%20of,tradet%20in%20extreme%20conspiracy%20theories.

Top Philanthropists of the Century

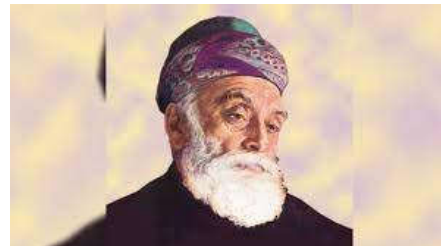
Question: Who is the top Philanthropist of the Century as of the first EdelGive Hurun Philanthropists of the Century list?

- (a) Jamsetji Tata (b) Bill & Melinda Gates
(c) Henry Wellcome (d) Warren Buffett

Answer: (a)

Related facts:

- Hurun Research and EdelGive Foundation have compiled a list titled Philanthropists of the Century.
- The list ranks world's 50 most generous individuals in the last century.
- According to the list, Jamsetji Nusserwanji Tata, Indian pioneer industrialist and founder of the Tata Group is the top Philanthropists of the Century.
- The total donations made by Jamsetji Tata is estimated at US\$102.4 billion. He is the only Indian among the top 10.
- Bill & Melinda Gates are ranked second with donations worth \$74.6 billion. They are followed by Henry Wellcome (\$56.7 billion), Howard Hughes (\$38.6 billion), and Warren Buffett (\$37.4 billion) respectively.
- The only other Indian in the top 50 list is Azim Premji, former chairman of Wipro. He is ranked at 12th position.
- The top 50 most generous individuals in the list belongs to five countries, and is led by the US with 38, followed by UK (5), China (3), India (2), Portugal (1) and Switzerland (1).
- The total donations from these philanthropists amounted to USD 832 billion.

**Links:**

<https://www.indiatoday.in/business/story/jamsetji-tata-top-philanthropist-of-last-century-with-donations-worth-102-billion-1818514-2021-06-23>

Karnam Malleswari

Question: Who has become the first Vice Chancellor of Delhi Sports University?

- (a) Karnam Malleswari (b) MC MaryKom (c) Leander Paes (d) Sunil Chhetri

Answer: (a)

Related facts:

- Karnam Malleswari has been appointed first Vice Chancellor of Delhi Sports University by the Delhi government.
- Karnam Malleswari is a former weightlifter Olympic medallist. She won the bronze medal at the Sydney Olympics Games in 2000.
- Karnam Malleswari is the first Indian woman to win a medal at Olympics.

**Links:**

<https://newsonair.gov.in/News?title=Former-Olympic-medalist-Karnam-Malleswari-becomes-1st-Vice-Chancellor-of-Delhi-Sports-University&id=420362>

Jasprit Bumrah

Question: Which sportsperson has been named the brand ambassador of OnePlus, a global technology brand?

(a) Jasprit Bumrah (b) Rohit Sharma (c) Virat Kohli (d) Risabh Pant

Answer: (a)

Related facts:

- OnePlus, the global technology brand has roped in cricketer Jasprit Bumrah as Brand Ambassador for its Wearables category.
- The OnePlus wearables category includes the OnePlus Watch and OnePlus Band.
- OnePlus Watch is the first global smart wearable from OnePlus that offers a premium design, seamless connection, smart fitness tracking and an incredible battery life.



Links:

<https://www.freepressjournal.in/business/oneplus-ropes-in-jasprit-bumrah-as-brand-ambassador-for-wearables>

First woman fighter pilot from J&K

Question: Who became the first woman fighter pilot from Jammu & Kashmir Union Territory?

(a) Mawya Sudan (b) Nadiya Nighat (c) Nusrat Jahan (d) Iqra Rasool

Answer: (a)

Related facts:

- Flying Officer Mawya Sudan has become the first woman from Jammu and Kashmir to become a fighter pilot in the Indian Air Force (IAF).
- She is the 12th female fighter pilot in the IAF.
- The 24-year-old Mawya has her roots in Lamberi village near the Line of Control (LoC) in Rajouri district of Jammu division.
- Mawya was commissioned as a fighter pilot on June 19, 2021, during the Combined Graduation parade ceremony in Hyderabad. She will now undergo rigorous fighter training for over a year to become 'fully operational' as a fighter pilot.



Links:

<https://www.hindustantimes.com/cities/chandigarh-news/mawya-sudan-becomes-iaf-s-1st-woman-fighter-pilot-from-jk-101624358499861.html>

Integrated Triservice Theatre Commands

Question: Who is the first chief of the defence staff (CDS) of India?

a) Gen Bipin Rawat b) Gen I V.K. Singh c) Gen Bikram Singh d) None of these

Answer: (a)

Related facts:-

- On 22 June 2021; the first Chief of Defence Staff (CDS) Gen Bipin Rawat chaired a meeting to iron out differences on rolling out theatre commands.
- Idea of integrated triservice theatre commands now gaining momentum in Indian Defence System.



- The theatre commands are being set up under a larger mandate of ensuring synergy among the three service chiefs to deal with future security challenges.
- Recently, a high-level committee has been formed for the consultations on the creation of integrated triservice theatre commands.
- All the issues related to the defence of the nation from external enemy will be examined by this committee.
- It will try to find a way forward before a formal note on their creation is sent to the Cabinet Committee on Security.
- The proposed Air Defence Command plans to integrate all air assets of the armed forces.
- On the other hand the Maritime Theatre Command plans to bring in all assets of Navy, Coast Guard as well as coastal formations of Army and Air Force under one umbrella.
- On land, the Army's Northern command and Western Command would be converted into 2-5 theatre commands.
- **Integrated Theatre Command**
 - Unified command of the three Services, under a single commander in an integrated theatre command.
 - Such an integrated theatre command would be envisaged for the geographical theatres (areas) that are of strategic and security concern.
 - The commander of such a force will be able to bear all resources at his disposal from the Army, the Indian Air Force, and the Navy.
 - The integrated theatre commander will not be answerable to individual Services.
 - Integration and jointness of the three forces will avoid duplication of resources. The resources available under each service will be available to other services too.

Links:-

<https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/high-level-committee-formed-for-consultations-on-theatre-commands/article34852286.ece>

Acting CJ of Allahabad High Court

Question : Who has been appointed as acting Chief Justice of Allahabad High Court on June 22, 2021 ?

- a. Justice Munishwar Nath Bhandari b. Justice K C Tayagi
c. Justice Umesh Nath d. Justice Sana Ullah

Ans. a.

Related facts

- Justice Munishwar Nath Bhandari has been appointed as acting Chief Justice of Allahabad High Court on June 22, 2021.
- **Background —**
- Justice Sanjay Yadav, the Chief Justice of the Allahabad High Court, demits office on June 25. He was appointed as the Chief Justice earlier this month.
- **Remarkable —**
- Chief Justices and Judges of the high courts retire at the age of 62.
- The retirement age of the chief justice of India and judges of the Supreme Court is 65 years.



Link:

<https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/other-states/justice-bhandari-appointed-acting-cj-of-allahabad-high-court/article34910452.ece>

Justice Bala Krishna Narayana

Question- In June 2021, which person was appointed as the new chairman of the Uttar Pradesh State Human Rights Commission?

- (a) Justice Govind Mathur (b) Justice B.K. Narayan (c) Justice Shivkirti Singh
(d) Justice Savinder Singh

Answer—(b)
related facts



- In June 2021, Justice B K Narayan appointed as the new chairman of the Uttar Pradesh State Human Rights Commission.
- Retired judge Bal Krishna Narayan came into the limelight after issuing orders for the release of the Talwars in the Noida Aarushi murder case.
- **Tenure**
 - Retired Judge Bal Krishna Narayan has been appointed as the Chairman of the Human Rights Commission for a period of three years.
 - During this, if his age reaches 70 years, then he will be relieved.
- **Introduction**
 - Retired judge BK Narayan was a well-known lawyer in civil, revenue and criminal cases of his time.
 - Judge Bal Krishna Narayan, who retired from Allahabad High Court last year, was sworn in as a judge of the High Court on May 5, 2008.

Link:

<https://www.indialegallive.com/top-news-of-the-day/news/justice-narayana-up-human-rights-commission-head/>

Upasana Kamineni

Question: Who has been named Ambassador of Forest Frontline Heroes by World Wide Fund for Nature-India in June 2021?

- (a) Upasana Kamineni (b) Neetu Gupta (c) Sugandha Mishra (d) Raveena Tandon

Answer: (a)

Related facts:

- Upasana Kamineni, Director, Apollo Hospitals, has been inducted as “Ambassador of Forest Frontline Heroes” by the World Wide Fund for Nature-India.
- He will support and draw attention of peoples to forest heroes conserving and restoring forests.
- World Wide Fund for Nature-India, is a conservation organization with the aim of reducing the degradation of Earth’s natural environment.
- WWF India was established as a Charitable Trust on 27 November, 1969.



Links:

https://www.wwfindia.org/news_facts/pres/?20222/Recognizing-the-efforts-of-forest-frontline-workers-as-caretakers-of-conservation

Tadang Minu

Question: Who has become the first Indian woman to be appointed a member of the Coaches Committee of the International Boxing Association (AIBA)?

- (a) Tadang Minu (b) Teli Kahi (c) MC MaryKom (d) Sarita Devi

Answer: (a)

Related facts:

- Dr Tadang Minu from Arunachal Pradesh has been appointed a member of the Coaches Committee of the International Boxing Association (AIBA).
- With this, she became the first women in the country and the second Indian to be appointed as a member in AIBA.
- International Boxing Association (AIBA) is the parent body for boxing in the world.
- Dr Tadang is currently the HOD of Physical Education at Rajiv Gandhi University(RGU) and is the chairman of the Boxing Federation of India's Women's Commission for two years.



Links:

<https://northeasternchronicle.in/news/arunachal-pradesh-dr-tadang-minu-becomes-first-indian-woman-to-be-appointed-as-international-boxing-associationaiba-coaches-committee-member/>

Satya Nadella

Question: Who has been named Chairman of the Microsoft Corporation recently?

(a) Satya Nadella (b) Steve Ballmer (c) John W Thompson (d) Mason Morfit

Answer: (a)

Related facts:

- On 16 June 2021, Microsoft Corp, named Chief Executive Officer, Satya Nadella as its new chairman.
- He will succeed John Thompson.
- Satya Nadella took over as Microsoft's CEO in 2014, succeeding Steve Ballmer.
- He is credited with bringing new energy to the company, founded in 1975.
- The company also appointed former chairman John Thompson as a lead independent director.



Links:

<https://www.thehindu.com/news/international/microsoft-names-ceo-satya-nadella-as-chairman/article34836724.ece>

Mukesh Sharma

Question: Which Indian has been appointed as an honorary member of the World Health Organisation's (WHO) Global Air Pollution and Health – Technical Advisory Group (GAPH-TAG)?

(a) Mukesh Sharma (b) Deepti Sharma (c) Manika Malhotra (d) Neetu Gupta

Answer: (a)

Related facts:

- Mukesh Sharma, a faculty at IIT Kanpur, has been appointed as an honorary member of the World Health Organisation's (WHO) Global Air Pollution and Health – Technical Advisory Group (GAPH-TAG).
- Members of the Technical Advisory Group are selected across the globe and appointed by the Director-General, WHO.
- Sharma, associated with the civil engineering department at IIT Kanpur and an air quality expert, has melded rigorous research with policy engagement.



▪ **About the Technical Advisory Group:**

- The Technical Advisory Group is an advisory body to provide technical guidance and inputs to support the WHO's efforts and work in the fields of air pollution and health issues.
- It also helps with how member countries could achieve the sustainable development goals (SDG) related to air pollution and health such as SDGs 3.9.1, 7.1.2 and 11.6.2.
- The United Nations adopted the SDGs in 2015 as an universal call to action to end poverty, protect the planet and ensure peace and prosperity for the people and the planet.

Links:

<https://www.hindustantimes.com/india-news/iit-kanpur-professor-mukesh-sharma-appointed-honorary-member-of-who-technical-advisory-group-101623508927097.html#:~:text=Mukesh%20Sharma%2C%20a%20faculty%20at,communique%20released%20by%20IIT%20Kanpur.>

Montek Singh Ahluwalia

Question: Which Indian economist has been named a member of a high-level Advisory Group formed by the World Bank and IMF?

(a) Montek Singh Ahluwalia (b) Abhijit Banerjee (c) Abhas Jha (d) Kaushik Basu

Answer: (a)

Related facts:

- Former Deputy Chairman of the Planning Commission, Montek Singh Ahluwalia has been named as a member of a High-Level Advisory Group (HLAG) formed by the World Bank and International Monetary Fund (IMF).
- The group is formed in the face of the dual crisis posed by the Covid-19 pandemic and climate change.
- The group will inform a response to help secure a strong recovery and set a path for green, resilient, and inclusive development over the coming decade.
- The group will also include Gita Gopinath. Gita Gopinath as an Economic Counsellor and Director of the Research Department at the IMF.



Links:

<https://www.imf.org/en/News/Articles/2021/06/14/pr21175-world-bank-imf-launch-hlag-sustainable-inclusive-recovery-growth>

Milkha Singh

Question: Consider the following statements:

(1) Milkha Singh is a four-time Asian Games champion and a Commonwealth Games Gold medallist.

(2) He is the only athlete to won gold in 400 metres race at Asian Games & Commonwealth Games.

(3) Milkha Singh was given the title of Flying Sikh by Pakistani General Ayub Khan.

Of the above correct statement/s is/are:

(a) Only (1) (b) Only (2) (c) Both (1) & (2) (d) All of the above

Answer: (d)

Related facts:

- Veteran Indian track and field sprinter Milkha Singh passed away on June 18, 2021. He was 91.
- He is a four-time Asian Games gold medallist and 1958 Commonwealth Games Gold medallist at Cardiff.
- He has won two gold medals at the 1958 Asian Games at Tokyo in 200m and 400m races. Later in 1962 Asian Games at Jakarta, he won two gold medals in 400m and 4*400m track event.
- He is the only athlete who won gold in 400 metres race at Asian Games & Commonwealth Games.
- He also represented India in 1956 Summer Olympics in Melbourne, 1960 Summer Olympics in Rome and 1964 Summer Olympics in Tokyo
- His greatest performance came at 1960 Rome Olympic Games where he finished to fourth-place in 45.73 seconds in 400 metres final which was an Indian national record for almost 40 years.
- He was conferred India's fourth-highest civilian honour, Padma Shri for his sporting achievements.
- He was popularly known as Flying Sikh. The credit for giving the title Flying Sikh to Milkha Singh goes to General Ayub Khan from Pakistan in 1960 when he defeated Pakistan's Abdul Khaliq, who was considered to be one of the fastest in the world in the 200m sprint.



Links:

<https://www.thehindu.com/sport/milkha-singh-an-unmatchable-romance-with-a-near-miss/article34854386.ece>

Kenneth Kaunda

Question: Kenneth Kaunda who passed away recently was President of which African country?

(a) Zambia (b) Tanzania (c) Kenya (d) Eritrea

Answer: (a)

Related facts:

- Kenneth Kaunda, Zambia's first president passed way on June 17, 2021.
- He had served as the first President of independent Zambia for 27 years from 1964 to 1991.
- Zambia gained independence from Britain in October 1964. Zambia was earlier known as Northern Rhodesia.
- Zambia is a landlocked country located in Southern Africa. It shares its boundaries with the Democratic Republic of the Congo in north, Tanzania in north-east, Malawi in east, Mozambique, Zimbabwe, Botswana and Namibia in the south, and Angola in west.



Links:

<https://www.bbc.com/news/world-africa-57517729>

Aashish Chandorkar

Question: Who has been recently appointed Counsellor in India's Permanent Mission in the World Trade Organisation?

(a) Aashish Chandorkar (b) Ravi Kant Dahiya (c) Abhijeet Gupta (d) Shailesh Lodha

Answer: (a)

Related facts:

- The government of India has appointed Aashish Chandorkar as Counsellor in India's Permanent Mission in the World Trade Organisation.
- He has been appointed for three years.
- It is for the first time that a private person has been appointed at the Mission.
- Chandorkar is director of Bengaluru-based policy think tank Smahi Foundation of Policy and Research.
- The WTO is a 164-member multi-lateral body, which deals with global trade. India is its member since 1995.
- Protection of Intellectual Property Rights is governed by World Trade Organisation through Trade-Related Aspects of the Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPS), an international agreement.



Links:

<https://www.moneycontrol.com/news/trends/current-affairs-trends/govt-appoints-private-person-aashish-chandorkar-as-director-at-indias-wto-mission-7050271.html>

Pam Melroy

Question: Pam Melroy has recently been appointed as the deputy administrator of which of the following organisation?

a) WHO b) NASA c) World Bank d) None of these

Answer: (b)

Related Facts:-

- On 21 June 2021; former astronaut Pam Melroy appointed as the Deputy Administrator of National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA).
- Pam Melroy took office after she was given the oath of office by NASA Administrator Bill Nelson at NASA Headquarters building in Washington.
- Melroy was nominated in April by President Biden and confirmed by the Senate on June 17.
- Pam is the first woman astronaut to serve as deputy administrator here at NASA.
- Along with Nelson, Melroy is responsible for providing overall leadership, planning, and policy direction for NASA.
- Pam is an ROTC graduate and an Air Force officer.
- Pam is uniquely qualified to help lead NASA.
- Melroy will perform the duties and exercises the powers delegated by the administrator, assist the administrator in making final agency decisions,.
- She will act for the administrator in his absence by performing all necessary functions to govern NASA operations.
- Melroy also is responsible for outlining the agency's vision and representing NASA to the Executive Office of the President, Congress.
- One of only two women to command a space shuttle, Melroy logged more than 38 days in space.
- She served as pilot on two flights, STS-92 in 2000 and STS-112 in 2002, and was the mission commander on STS-120 in 2007.
- All three of her missions were assembly missions to build the International Space Station.
- After graduating from United States Air Force Test Pilot School, Melroy logged more than 6,000 flight hours in more than 50 different aircraft.
- She is a veteran of Operation Desert Shield/Desert Storm and Operation Just Cause, with more than 200 combat and combat support hours.
- After serving more than two decades in the Air Force and as a NASA astronaut, Melroy took on a number of leadership roles.



Links:-

<https://www.nasa.gov/press-release/pam-melroy-sworn-in-as-nasa-deputy-administrator>

Vikramjit Sen

Question – On 31 May 2021, who has been appointed as the chairman of the newly formed self-regulatory body Digital Media Content Regulatory Council ?

- (a) Justice Gita Mittal (b) Justice Arun Mishra (c) Justice Anil Agarwal
(d) Justice Vikram Jeet Sen

Answer—(d)
related facts

- On 31 May 2021, Justice Vikram Jeet Sen has been appointed as the chairman of the newly formed self-regulatory body Digital Media Content Regulatory Council.
- The Council constitutes prominent personalities from the Media & Entertainment industry and Online Curated Content Providers (OCCPs), with experience in IPR, programming and content creation.
- IBF, the apex body of broadcasters, had last week announced to expand to cover digital streaming platforms and is soon going to be renamed as Indian Broadcasting & Digital Foundation (IBDF).
- The move was done to bring together the broadcasters and OTT (over-the-top) platforms. It had also announced a self-regulatory body DMCRC for digital OTT platforms.



Link:

<https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/topic/Justice-Vikramjit-Sen>

Gita Mittal

Question – Which Indian woman was awarded the Arline Pacht Global Vision Award 2021 in May 2021?

- (a) Justice Gita Mittal (b) Justice Gyan Sudha Mishra (c) Justice Indu Malhotra
(d) Justice Poonam Srivastava

Answer—(a)
related facts

- Justice Gita Mittal was awarded the Arline Pacht Global Vision Award 2021 in May 2021.
- This award has been conferred by International Association of Women Judges.
- In a first for an Indian jurist has been conferred with this prestigious award.



Link:

<https://www.livelaw.in/news-updates/justice-dy-chandrachud-e-inaugurates-3-projects-madhya-pradesh-high-court-including-secure-wi-fi-project-175733?infinitemscroll=1>

T.V. Narendran

Question: Who took over as the President of the Confederation of Indian Industry in May 2021?

- (a) T.V. Narendran (b) Rishad Premji (c) Adar Poonawala (d) Roshni Nadar

Answer: (a)

Related facts:

- T.V. Narendran was elected the president of Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) for 2021-22.
- He takes over the leadership from Uday Kotak, MD and CEO of Kotak Mahindra Bank Ltd.
- T.V. Narendran is the chief executive officer and managing director of Tata Steel Ltd.



Links:

https://www.business-standard.com/article/companies/cii-elects-tata-steel-ceo-and-md-t-v-narendran-as-its-new-president-121053101615_1.html

IB and RAW Chief get one year extension

Question: Who is currently the head of Intelligence Bureau, India's domestic intelligence agency?

(a) Arvind Kumar (b) Samant Kumar Goel (c) Rajeev Kumar (d) Rajneesh Kumar

Answer: (a)

Related facts:

- Research and Analysis Wing chief, Samant Kumar Goel and Intelligence Bureau head Arvind Kumar were given a one-year extension in their services.
- Goel, a 1984-batch IPS officer from Punjab cadre, would continue to be the Secretary of Research and Analysis Wing (RAW) for a period one year till June 30, 2021.
- Similarly, Kumar, an IPS officer of Assam and Meghalaya cadre, will continue to head the Intelligence Bureau till June 30, 2021.



Links:

<https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/defence/one-year-extension-for-raw-chief-samant-kumar-goel-and-intelligence-bureau-head-arvind-kumar/articleshow/83003784.cms>

Zhang Hong

Question : Name the 1st blind Asian to scale Everest ?

(A) Zhang Hong (B) Gurmeet Singh (C) Taashi Sherpa (D) Nikoyo jessi

Ans. a.

Related facts

- Chinese climber Zhang Hong became 1st blind Asian to scale Everest.
- Zhang Hong, 44, is also the third blind climber internationally to reach the world's highest peak.
- Following his guides and Sherpas, he reached the summit on May 24 and returned safely to Kathmandu.
- He was inspired by a blind American climber, Eric Weihenmayer, who scaled Everest in 2001. A climber from Austria was the second blind person to reach the peak.



Link:

<https://www.newindianexpress.com/world/2021/may/31/chinese-climber-becomes-first-blind-asian-to-scale-everes>

Sanjay Dutt received Golden Visa of UAE

Question: Which Indian has been awarded Golden Visa of the United Arab Emirates in May 2021?

(a) Sanjay Dutt (b) Salman Khan (c) Amir Khan (d) Shahrukh Khan

Answer: (a)

Related facts:

- The United Arab Emirates government awarded Bollywood actor Sanjay Dutt with its Golden Visa.
- The golden visa is a 10-year long-term residency permit issued to individuals in the field of culture and art.
- The golden visa scheme was announced by United Arab Emirates in November 2019.
- As per reports, Sanjay Dutt is the first Indian mainstream actor to have received the UAE golden visa.



Links:

<https://indianexpress.com/article/entertainment/bollywood/sanjay-dutt-receives-uae-golden-visa-twitter-photos-7331403/>

First female president of world's largest museum

Question: Who has been appointed the first female president of world's largest museum Musee du Louvre?

(a) Laurence des Cars (b) Jacqueline Auriol (c) Anne Hidalgo (d) Louise Michel

Answer: (a)

Related facts:

- Historian Laurence des Cars became the first female president of Musée du Louvre, the world's largest museum in Paris, France in 228 years.
- The museum will be headed by a lady first time since its creation in 1783 in the wake of the French Revolution.
- She was appointed as the first female president of Musée du Louvre by the President of France, Emmanuel Macron.
- 54-years-old Laurence des Cars, is currently heading the Musée d'Orsay, the Paris landmark museum which is dedicated to 19th-century art.
- On September 1, 2021, she will replace the current president, Jean-Luc Martinez, who had been heading the Orsay museum for the past eight years.



Links:

<https://www.firstpost.com/art-and-culture/louvre-gets-first-female-president-director-in-228-years-laurence-des-cars-will-take-over-this-september-9660321.html#:~:text=Art%2Dand%2Dculture-,Louvre%20gets%20first%20female%20president%2Ddirector%20in%20228%20years%3B%20Laurence,will%20take%20over%20this%20September>

Tsang Yin-hung

Question: Who has created the record of the world's fastest ascent of Mount Everest by a woman?

(a) Tsang Yin-hung (b) Phunjo Jhangmu Lama (c) Lhakpa Sherpa (d) Arunima Sinha

Answer: (a)

Related facts:

- On 23 May 2021, Tsang Yin-hung, a Hong Kong-based mountaineer, has created the record of the world's fastest ascent of Mount Everest by a woman.
- She scaled the 8,848.86-metre Mount Everest (29,031 feet) in a record time of 25 hours and 50 minutes. It was her third attempt of scaling the Himalayan peak.
- In 2017, Tsang became the first Hong Kong woman to reach the top of the mountain peak.
- Earlier, the record of fastest scale of Everest by a woman was held by Nepali Phunjo Jhangmu Lama, in 39 hours 6 minutes in 2018.



Links:

<https://www.indiatoday.in/world/story/hong-kong-woman-record-mount-everest-nepal-fastest-ascent-1807861-2021-05-28>

Christine Wormuth

Question: Who has been appointed the first female Army Secretary of the United States?

(a) Christine Wormuth (b) Neena Gupta (c) Neera Tanden (d) Janet Yellen

Answer: (a)

Related facts:

- On 28 May 2021, Christine Wormuth was appointed the 25th Secretary of the U.S. Army.
- She is the first female secretary of US Army.
- The Secretary of the Army is the senior civilian official within the Department of Defense responsible for all matters relating to the U.S. Army.
- Christine Wormuth is the second woman named to a top Pentagon role by President Joe Biden. The deputy secretary of defence is Kathleen Hicks.



Links:

<https://www.hindustantimes.com/world-news/us-senate-unanimously-confirms-christine-wormuth-as-first-female-army-secretary-101622134034219.html>

B.V.R. Subrahmanyam

Question: Who has been appointed Commerce Secretary by the Government of India?

(a) Samant Goel (b) Arvind Kumar (c) Rajeev Kumar (d) B.V.R. Subrahmanyam

Answer: (d)

Related facts:

- B.V.R. Subrahmanyam, has been appointed the new Commerce Secretary to the Government of India.
- He was serving as the Chief Secretary of Jammu and Kashmir since June 2018. During his tenure J&K's special status was scrapped in 2019.
- Subrahmanyam is a 1987-batch IAS officer of Chhattisgarh cadre.
- He is a widely experienced bureaucrat having worked in Manmohan Singh Prime Minister's Office as Joint Secretary.



Links:

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

Awards & Honors

3 Indian peacekeepers honoured with prestigious UN medal

Question: Who has been honoured with the prestigious United Nations Medal in May 2021?

(a) Yuvraj Singh (b) Ivan Michael Picardo (c) Moolchand Yadav (d) All of the above

Answer: (d)

Related facts:

- Three Indian peacekeepers who laid down their lives while serving in UN peacekeeping missions were honoured with prestigious United Nations Medal.
- Corporal Yuvraj Singh, civilian peacekeeper Ivan Michael Picardo, and Moolchand Yadav are among 129 military, police and civilian personnel honoured with the UN Medal.
- Corporal Yuvraj Singh was serving at the United Nations Mission in South Sudan (UNMISS) while civilian peacekeeper Ivan Michael Picardo was associated with UNAMISS as a civil peacekeeper. Moolchand Yadav was associated with the United Nations Assistance Mission in Iraq (UNAMI).
- India is the 5th largest contributor of uniformed personnel to UN peacekeeping with more than 5,500 military and police serving in peace operations in Abyei, Cyprus, Congo, Lebanon, the Middle East, Somalia, South Sudan and the Western Sahara.

**Links:**

<https://www.deccanherald.com/national/3-indian-peacekeepers-honoured-posthumously-with-prestigious-un-medal-for-sacrifice-in-line-of-duty-990883.html>

Planning & Project

NABARD approves over Rs 400 Cr to boost infrastructure in J&K

Question: Recently NABARD has sanctioned Rs 400Cr to which State/ Union Territory?

(a) Jammu & Kashmir (b) Assam (c) Jharkhand (d) Madhya Pradesh

Answer: (a)

Related facts:

- National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) has sanctioned an amount of 400.64 crore rupees to UT of J&K during the current financial year for giving boost to the infrastructure in the rural areas.
- The funding is a part of the NABARD's 'Rural Infrastructure Development Fund (RIDF)-Trench XXV' which aims at augmenting rural infrastructure.
- **Background:**
- Earlier in 2020, NABARD has sanctioned Rs.209.87 crore for the construction of 82 rural roads and 3 bridges.



- A road length of 291kms has been proposed to be constructed benefiting 9.15 lakh people in 19 districts of UT of J&K.
- The construction of roads and bridges will provide all-weather improved connectivity to 461 remote villages.
- Rs.143.66 crore has been sanctioned for the implementation of 38 water supply schemes.
- The schemes are expected to benefit over 3.54 lakh people across 86 villages in 17 districts of UT of J&K.
- Similarly, NABARD has also sanctioned an amount of Rs.47.11 crore towards improving the Animal and Sheep Husbandry sectors.

Link:

<http://newsonair.com/Main-News-Details.aspx?id=381887>

Mukhyamantri Kisan Mitra Urja Yojana

Question- Which of the following facts is not true regarding the Mukhyamantri Kisan Mitra Urja Yojana?

- On June 9, 2021, Rajasthan Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot approved the draft of Mukhyamantri Kisan Mitra Urja Yojana.
- Under this scheme, a subsidy of Rs 1000 per month and a maximum of Rs 12000 per annum will be given to metered agricultural consumers by the state government on electricity bills.
- This will put a financial burden of Rs 1450 crore on the government per annum.
- The benefit of this scheme will be received from June 2021.

Answer—(d)

related facts —

- On June 9, 2021, Rajasthan Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot approved the draft of Mukhyamantri Kisan Mitra Urja Yojana.
- Under this scheme, a subsidy of Rs 1000 per month and a maximum of Rs 12000 per annum will be given to metered agricultural consumers by the state government on electricity bills.
- This will put a financial burden of Rs 1450 crore on the government per annum.
- The benefit of this scheme will be received from May 2021.
- Under this, electricity bills will be issued by the Electricity Distribution Corporations to the eligible agricultural consumers on the basis of bi-monthly billing system.
- 60 percent of the electricity bill or maximum Rs 1000 per month will be payable on proportionate basis.
- The consumers will have to link their Aadhaar number and bank account with the scheme.
- Central and state government employees and income tax payers will not be eligible for this scheme.



Link:

<https://cmo.rajasthan.gov.in/pressreleasedetail/4678>

Phoolo-Jhano Ashirwad Abhiyan

Question –The Phoolo Jhano Ashirwad scheme was launched by #### government to identify women involved in the manufacture and sale of Hadiya-Daru and connect them with the means of respectable livelihood. Name the state ?

- Chhattisgarh
- Odisha
- Jharkhand
- Uttarakhand

Answer- (c) related facts

- The Phoolo Jhano Ashirwad scheme was launched by Jharkhand government to identify women involved in the manufacture and sale of Hadiya-Daru and connect them with the means of respectable livelihood.

Progress till date

1. 15,456 liquor selling women marked, 13,356 benefited from the scheme
2. Women, who were involved in selling Hadiya-Daru (brewed rice beer and liquor) are now leading a respectful life and becoming entrepreneurs.
3. The 'Phulo-Jhano Aashirvaad Abhiyaan', under which women are provided a loan of Rs 10,000, has encouraged many to start their lives afresh and lead a more dignified life.
4. After counselling these women, JSLPS helps them in starting the business. Within a year of the rollout of the scheme, more than 13,356 women have benefitted from the scheme and received a loan to start a business of their own.
5. More than 15,456 women across the state were marked by JSLPS, who were involved in liquor selling.
6. Within a year, 90 percent of these women have been counselled and provided an interest-free loan to be self-dependent and lead a respectful life.

Link:

<https://avenuemail.in/phoolo-jhano-ashirwad-abhiyan-a-game-changer-for-rural-womens-livelihood/>

Inauguration and laying down of foundation for 395 projects

Question : Who inaugurated and laid down of foundation for 395 projects spread in Mathura and Agra districts worth over Rs 48426.55 lakh on June 16, 2021 ?

a. Yogi Adityanath b. P S Patel c. Amit Shah d. None of the above

Ans. d.

Related facts

- Deputy Chief Minister of UP Keshav Prasad Maurya inaugurated and laid down of foundation for 395 projects spread in Mathura and Agra districts worth over Rs 48426.55 lakh on June 16, 2021.
- He inaugurated or laid the foundation stone of 272 projects amounting Rs 33317.36 lakh in Agra while 123 projects were started in Mathura with a total budget of Rs 15109.19 lakh.
- He also said that the government had already decided for beautification and broadening of all 5 kilometers and more length roads, particularly those on which pilgrimage or tourist spots were situated. He said that now the government has also decided that rural roads would also be not less than 5 meters wide.



Link:

<https://www.dailypioneer.com/2021/state-editions/maurya-inaugurates-lays-foundation-for-395-projects.html>

Project 'Extension of Hospitals'

Question: What is the purpose of 'Extension of Hospitals' project recently announced by the government?

a) To establish new hospitals in urban areas.

- b) To establish new modular hospitals adjacent to existing hospitals, specially in rural and under served areas to fight off Covid-19.
 c) To create new super specialty facilities in the existing government hospitals in the states.
 d) None of the above

Ans: b

Context



- Office of the Principal Scientific Adviser, Government of India (O/o PSA, GoI) has invited private sector companies, donor organizations, and individuals to support various projects of national importance. Project Extension Hospitals is one such initiative.
- **Facts**
 - Under the initiative Modular hospitals will be established adjacent to existing hospitals to help in the fight against Covid-19.
 - The O/o PSA identified requirements of close to 50 hospitals in states where the highest number of COVID-19 cases were reported.
- **Modular Hospitals**
 - Modulus Housing, a start-up incubated at Indian Institute of Technology, Madras (IIT-M) developed the MediCAB hospitals.
 - This enables building a 100-bedded extension facility in 3-weeks' time. MediCAB hospitals are designed with a dedicated zone of Intensive Care Units (ICUs) that can accommodate various life-support equipment and medical devices.
 - These negative pressure portable hospitals have durability of around 25 years, and they can also be shifted in the future for any disaster response in less than a week.
- **Need of the Project**
 - These rapidly deployable hospitals will plug a major health infrastructure gap in India's fight against COVID-19, especially in rural areas and smaller towns.
 - Modulus Housing has started deploying MediCAB extension hospitals with the help of the American Indian Foundation (AIF). Mastercard, Texas Instruments, Zscaler, PNB Housing, Goldman Sachs, Lenovo, and NASSCOM Foundation have also extended CSR support. The first batch of 100 bedded hospitals is being commissioned at Bilaspur (Chhattisgarh); Amravati, Pune, and Jalna (Maharashtra); Mohali (Punjab), and a 20-bed hospital at Raipur (Chhattisgarh). Bengaluru (Karnataka) will have one each of 20-, 50-, and 100-beds in the first phase.

Reference: <https://pib.gov.in/PressReleaseDetail.aspx?PRID=1726726>

Mission Shakti : Odisha's newly-created Department

Question : Who has been appointed as Secretary of the Odisha's newly-created Department of Mission Shakti that came into being on June 1, 2021 ?

- a. Sujata R Karthikeyan b. Sailabala Das c. Pratibha Ray d. Nandini Sathpathy

Ans. a.

- Sujata R Karthikeyan, a 2000-Batch IAS officer, has been appointed as Secretary of the newly-created Department of Mission Shakti that came into being on June 1, 2021.
- Karthikeyan was Commissioner-cum-Director, Mission Shakti, being instrumental in phenomenal growth of Mission Shakti in the State.
- After State Cabinet's approval, the Department of General Administration and Pension and Public Grievance had amended the rules of business for this on March 3.

- Women and Child Development Department Minister Tukuni Sahu has been allocated overall business of new department.
- As per decision, Department of Mission Shakti will start functioning separately and parent department Women & Child Development and Mission Shakti will be renamed as Women and Child Development Department.

Link:

<https://www.dailypioneer.com/2021/state-editions/—mission-shakti—gets-new-dept.html>

Chief Minister Plantation Promotion Scheme

Question – In which state has it been decided to start the Chief Minister Plantation Promotion Scheme on May 18, 2021 ?

(a) Madhya Pradesh (b) Chhattisgarh (c) Jharkhand (d) Bihar

Answer—(b)

Related facts

- The Chhattisgarh cabinet has recently (18 May 2021) approved the launch of the 'Chief Minister Plantation Promotion Scheme' to promote plantation in the state.
- Under the scheme, in private land and village panchayat land, commercial and non-commercial species of tree plantation will be promoted.
- Farmers can use their land, private land, land owned by government departments and village panchayat land will.
- It is notable that farmers have been given the option of plantation instead of paddy in their field. Those opting for the scheme will be given Rs 10,000 per acre for next three years as incentive.
- Joint forest management committees will be given Rs 10,000 per acre as incentive after one year if plantation is done in revenue land.
- The right to cut the trees and its sales will be with the Committee.



Link:

<https://www.dailypioneer.com/2021/state-editions/c-garh-launches-scheme-to-promote-plantation.html>

Chhattisgarh Mahtari Dular Scheme

Question – Chhattisgarh Mahtari Dular Yojna is a scheme approved in May 2021. Under this, how much amount is being given as scholarship to the children of class 9th to 12th per month ?

(a) Rs 500 (b) Rs 1000 (c) Rs 1500 (d) Rs 2000

Answer—(b)

Related facts

- Chhattisgarh Mahtari Dular Yojna is a scheme approved in May 2021. Under this, an amount of Rs 1000 is being given as scholarship to the children of class 9th to 12th per month.
- Children who lost their parents to Covid-19 and to those who lost key earning members of the family are the beneficiaries of the scheme.
- Under the scheme, the Government will take total responsibility for their education and all their future needs.
- From Class 1 to 8, they will be given a monthly scholarship of Rs 500 and from Class 9 to 12 Rs 1,000 a month.



- These children will be eligible for scholarship if they are studying in Government or private schools.
- The Government will also take all responsibility to educate children of families where a key earning member died due to Covid.
- If such children seek admission in Swami Atmanand English Medium School, they will be given priority. No fees will be charged from them.

Link:

<https://www.indiatoday.in/education-today/news/story/chhattisgarh-govt-to-fund-education-of-students-orphaned-due-to-covid-19-1802426-2021-05-14>

Treaty & Agreements

Signing of MoU for development of Sea Plane Services in India

Question- In June 2021, an MoU has been signed by the Ministry of Civil Aviation and the Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways for the development of which thing ?

(a) Sea Drilling Service (b) Air Airlines (c) Seaplane Service (d) Space Aircraft Service

Answer—(c)

related facts —

- On 15 June 2021, a Memorandum of Understanding was signed between the Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways and the Ministry of Civil Aviation for the development of Seaplane Service.
- **Significance —**
 - This move is a major milestone for making seaplanes project a reality very soon.
 - This MoU envisages development of Non Scheduled/Scheduled operation of seaplane services within territorial jurisdiction of India under RCS-UDAN scheme of government of India.
- **Co-ordination Committee —**
 - As per MoU, a Co-ordination Committee with officials of Ministry of Civil Aviation (MoCA), Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways (MoPSW) and Ministry of Tourism (MoT) is to be set up for timely completion of operationalisation of Seaplane services at various locations.
 - MoCA, MoPSW, SDCL will consider operationalising of Seaplane operating routes as identified/suggested by all agencies.
- **Identification and development of locations —**
 - MoPSW would identify and develop water front infrastructure of Aerodromes/ locations and obtain required statutory clearances /approvals in coordination with MoCA, DGCA and AAI by defining the timelines for all activities involved in the development of facilities for starting seaplanes operations.
- **Role of MoCA —**
 - MoCA would carry out bidding and select potential airlines operators based on their commercial consideration through bidding process, incorporate the locations/routes as identified by MoPSW & routes identified through bidding process in UDAN scheme document.
 - MoCA is also obliged to provide funds/financial support in respect of water aerodromes awarded under RCS-UDAN scheme and coordinate with Chief Secretaries of all States for the Seaplanes operations.



Link:

<https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1727212>

First Arab-India Energy Forum

Question : The first edition of the Arab-India Energy Forum (AIEF) was held in a virtual format on —

a. 8-9 June 2021 b. 4-5 June 2021 c. 6-7 June 2021 d. None of the above

Ans. a.

Related facts —

- The first edition of the Arab-India Energy Forum (AIEF) was held in a virtual format on 8-9 June 2021 under the co-chairship of India and the Kingdom of Morocco.
- The event was in implementation of the Executive Programme of the Arab-India Cooperation Forum (AICF) and the decision of the third meeting of the Senior Officials of India and the League of Arab States (LAS) held virtually on 12 January 2021.
- The Forum witnessed exchange of knowledge, expertise and best practices in the fields of energy efficiency programmes for different economic sectors, accelerated development of new & renewable energy, fostering regional power sharing arrangements, enhanced oil recovery, tight gas extraction, and safe nuclear power generation etc.
- There was also discussion on respective national regulatory policies governing these sectors, investment opportunities as well as R&D and training collaboration possibilities.
- The second edition of this forum is proposed in India in the year 2023.



Link:

<https://www.mea.gov.in/press-releases.htm?dtl/33900/The+first+ArabIndia+Energy+Forum+June+89+2021>

First Meeting of the India – Australia Joint Working Group on Cyber Security Cooperation

Question : The first meeting of Joint Working Group (JWG) on Cyber Security Cooperation between India and Australia was held virtually on —

a. 10 June 2021 b. 8 June 2021 c. 1 June 2021 d. 6 June 2021

Ans. a.

Related facts —

- The first meeting of Joint Working Group (JWG) on Cyber Security Cooperation between India and Australia was held virtually on 10 June 2021.
- **Personalities, attending the meeting —**
- Ms. Paulomi Tripathi, Director (Oceania), Ministry of External Affairs of India and Ms. Rachel James, Special Advisor, Cyber Affairs and Critical Technology at Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade of Australia led the respective delegations of experts to discuss the cyber security cooperation between the two countries.
- **About —**
- The Joint Working Group on Cyber Security Cooperation is a mechanism established under the Framework Arrangement on the Cyber and Cyber-enabled Critical Technology Cooperation between Republic of India and Government of Australia to implement the 2020-25 Plan of Action under the Framework.



- It brings together policy makers and working level experts in the area to strengthen bilateral cooperation.
- During this first meeting of the JWG, both sides noted the steady progress made in bilateral relations after the elevation of the relationship to Comprehensive Strategic Partnership (CSP) during the Leaders' Virtual Summit between the two Prime Ministers on 4 June 2020 and reaffirmed their commitment to work together in the areas of digital economy, cyber security and critical and emerging technologies as identified by the Framework Arrangement on Cyber and Cyber-Enabled Critical Technology Cooperation.
- **Cyber security threat assessment between India and Australia —**
 - India and Australia shared cyber security threat assessments as well as information on legislation and national cyber strategies.
 - Noting the need to strengthen security of critical information infrastructure as well as 5G technology and IoT devices, India and Australia agreed to enhance cooperation with private sector and academia and to work together in skill and knowledge development. Both sides also agreed to strengthen cooperation in the multilateral fora.

Link:

<https://mea.gov.in/press-releases.htm?dtl/33903/1st+Meeting+of+the+India++Australia+Joint+Working+Group+on+Cyber+Security+Cooperation>

MoU signed to conserve black softshell turtle

Question- Consider the following regarding Black Softshell Turtle-

(1) It is a freshwater turtle species found in India and Bangladesh.

(2) It is a vulnerable species in IUCN Red list

(3) It does not have any legal protection under the Indian Wildlife Protection Act,1972

Select the correct answer using the code given below-

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

Ans. (b)

Related facts-

- Recently, Hayagriva Madhava Temple Committee in Assam has signed a memorandum of understanding with two green NGOs, the Assam State Zoo cum Botanical Garden and the Kamrup district administration for long-term conservation of the rare freshwater black softshell turtle (*Nilssononia nigricans*).
- They adopted a Vision Document to raise at least 1,000 black softshell turtles by 2030.
- It is a freshwater species.
- International Union for Conservation of Nature had in 2021 listed the turtle as 'critically endangered'.
- It does not enjoy legal protection under the Indian Wildlife (Protection) Act of 1972.
- Until sightings along the Brahmaputra River's drainage in Assam, the black softshell turtle was thought to be 'extinct in the wild' and confined only to ponds of temples in northeastern India and Bangladesh.



Reference- <https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/guwahati/mou-signed-to-conserve-black-softshell-turtle/articleshow/83708587.cms>.

India-Sri Lanka signed Loan agreement for Solar Energy Projects

Question: On 16 June 2021 India and Sri Lanka signed a loan agreement which of the following amount, to support the efforts to expand solar power coverage in Sri Lanka?

a) \$20 million b) \$200 million c) \$100 million d) None of these

Answer: (c)

Related Facts:



- On 16 June 2021 India and Sri Lanka signed an agreement for a \$100-million loan to support the efforts to expand solar power coverage in Sri Lanka.
- The loan will be provided to Sri Lanka from the Export Import Bank of India
- Sri Lankan government, issuing a press statement on the bilateral initiative, said one of the key plans of the government was to generate solar power.
- Solar power in this Island Nation will be generated with the contribution of state-owned buildings, places of worship and houses of the low-income families.
- Facilities to store solar energy in batteries will be provided for the low-income families as they are generally unable to access the national power grid in most of the cases.
- Sri Lanka has an installed capacity of 4,213 MW of power. While 1,400 MW of that is hydropower, some 900 MW is produced from coal.
- Over the last five years, Sri Lanka has sought to tap more renewable sources of power, particularly solar power.
- The country's electricity demand is expected to grow at an average 5.3% from 2015-2034, according to the Public Utilities Commission.
- It should be known that International Solar Alliance (ISA) held in March 2018, in New Delhi.
- As many as 89 countries, including Sri Lanka, signed the framework agreement of the ISA, jointly bringing together countries to promote large-scale deployment of solar energy.
- ISA was founded in 2015 by the Indian Prime Minister and the French President with the goal of enabling One World, One Sun, One Grid (OSOWOG).
- A press release from the Indian High Commission in Sri Lanka said the \$100 million line of credit will help finance various projects Sri Lanka's solar energy.
- The line of credit extended by India, according to officials, is for a period of 20 years, with an interest of 1.75 %. Sri Lanka owes about \$960 million in debt repayment.

Links:-

<https://www.thehindu.com/news/international/india-extends-100-mn-loan-to-sri-lanka/article34834128.ece>

India-Bhutan agreement

Question: On which date India and Bhutan have signed an agreement for developing cooperation in the areas of Environment ?

A. 18 June 2021 B. 16 June 2021 C. 14 June 2021 D. 12 June 2021

Answer – (A)

Related facts



- India and Bhutan have signed an agreement (MoU) for developing cooperation in the areas of Environment on June 18, 2021.
- **Background**
 - The MoU will open new vistas of bilateral co-operation in the area of climate change, waste management etc.
 - India wants to engage with Bhutan on environmental related issues including climate change.

- The MoU is a platform to further enhance Indian and Bhutanese partnership and support, exchange best practices in areas like prevention of Air Pollution, Waste Management, Chemical Management, Climate Change, etc.
- It also provides the possibility to have joint projects in areas of mutual interest. The MoU will also strengthen technological, scientific and management capabilities and expand the areas of cooperation in the field of environment to promote a mutually beneficial partnership between the two countries.

Link:

<https://pib.gov.in/PressReleaseFramePage.aspx?PRID=1728365>

Agreement between India & Argentine Republic

Question. On 2 June 2021, the MoU between the Government of India and the Argentine Republic was approved in respect of which of the following?

- (a) With respect to the allocation of coal mines (b) in the field of mineral resources
(c) quarrying of bauxite (d) in the area of mica mining

Ans. (b)

Related facts

- On 2 June 2021, an agreement(MoU) between the Government of India and the Argentine Republic was approved.
- The MoU will provide an institutional mechanism for cooperation in the field of Mineral Resources.
- The objectives of the MoU are to strengthen the activities involved like cooperation for encouraging minerals exploration and development, including extraction, mining and beneficiation of lithium; possibilities of forming joint venture in the field of base metals, critical and strategic minerals for mutual benefit; exchange of technical and scientific information and interchange of ideas and knowledge; training and capacity building; and promotion of investment and development in the area of mining activities, would serve the objective of innovation.



Link:

<https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1723640>

Agreement between BSE and ESC

Questions. With which institution has BSE recently(June 2021) signed MoU to encourage startup listing ?

- (a) RBI (b) SBI (c) ESC (d) SEBI

Answer—(c)

- BSE has recently(June 2021) signed an agreement(MoU) with ESC to encourage startup listing.
- ESC stands for — Electronics and Computer Software Export Promotion Council.
- It is an establishment sponsored by the Government of India, aimed at promoting the exports of India's Information and Communication Technology (ICT) sector.
- ESC acts as a bridge between government and industry on policy and promotional issues
- Through this pact, ESC will utilise its pan India network of electronics and IT exporters and evaluate the small and medium enterprises (SMEs) and startups amongst these for listing on the BSE SME and startup platform.



Link:

<https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/markets/stocks/news/bse-signs-pact-with-esc-to-encourage-listing-of-startups/articleshow/83142062.cms>

BSE StAR MF and GUMCCSL have signed MoU

Question: For which of the following purpose, Mutual funds distribution platform, BSE StAR MF has joined hands with Godavari Urban Multi State Credit Co-Op Society Ltd, Nanded?

- a) Export promotion of rural craft b) Promotion of Village industry
c) Promotion of investment behaviour and spreading awareness and on-boarding new investors among prospective customers in areas, primarily rural. d) None of these

Answer: (c)

Related Facts:



- BSE StAR MF has signed a memorandum of understanding with Godavari Urban Multi State Credit Co-Op Society Ltd (GUMCCSL).
- India's largest mutual funds distributor platform (BSE StAR MF) has signed this MoU at Nanded, Maharashtra, to deepen its network of over 70,000 registered distributors.
- BSE StAR MF is a web-based completely digital technology platform that can be accessed "anytime" and "anywhere", supporting for all type of Investors
- GUMCCSL is an autonomous association of people united voluntarily to meet their mutually social, economic, cultural, professional and personal aspirations.
- It covers a lion's share in Maharashtra, Telangana, Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka and Gujarat, and has investments with liquidity totalling Rs 962 crore.
- BSE StAR MF aims to promote investment behaviour by spreading awareness and on-boarding new investors among prospective customers in areas, primarily rural, served by GUMCCSL.
- Sameer Patil, Chief Business Officer of BSE said, through this MoU, the society will strive to leverage its reach and capacity for delivery of a wider range of financial products like mutual funds etc.
- The partnership with BSE StAR MF will ensure that customers are on-boarded through an easy and hassle-free digital process and the efforts are aligned towards a less-paper ecosystem.
- The MoU aims to facilitate cooperation between BSE StAR MF and rural markets in areas like financial inclusion, investment goals and wealth creation.

Links:-

https://www.business-standard.com/article/companies/bse-star-mf-signs-mou-with-gumccsl-to-deepen-network-for-rural-engagement-121060500235_1.html

Transportation of perishable horticulture and agricultural produce

Question: The Government of which of the following state has recently signed a MoU with a private airline Go-Air for the transportation of perishable horticulture and agricultural produce?

- a) Himachal Pradesh b) Punjab c) Jammu and Kashmir d) Arunachal Pradesh

Answer: (c)

Related Facts:-

- On 31 May 2021; Jammu and Kashmir government signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) for the transportation of perishable horticulture and agricultural produce.

- This MoU has been signed with a private airline Go-Air to take the perishable horticulture and agricultural produce to various destinations across the country.
- The MoU was signed in the presence of Principal Secretary Agriculture and Farmers Welfare and Horticulture departments, Navin Kumar Chaudhary at Civil Secretariat.
- The J& K government has taken this step to empower the fruit growers of Jammu and Kashmir and to increase their income as well as boost the rural economy.
- It will also address the transportation hiccups for the horticulture produce especially the highly perishable items like Cherry, Plum, and Apricots etc.



Links:-

https://www.business-standard.com/article/economy-policy/j-k-govt-signs-mou-with-go-air-for-transportation-of-agri-produce-121053101577_1.html

Year, Day & Week

National Doctors' Day

Question: When is the National Doctors' Day observed?

(a) June 15 (b) June 20 (c) June 24 (d) July 1

Answer: (d)

Related facts:

- National Doctor's Day is observed every year on July 1.
- The day recognizes the invaluable work done by doctors and physicians and thank them for their dedicated service.
- National Doctor's Day marks the birth and death anniversary of Dr. Bidhan Chandra Roy who was one of the most renowned physicians in the country.
- **Background:**
 - National Doctor's day was first observed by Indian Medical Association (IMA) in July 1991.
 - IMA is a representative, national voluntary organisation of Doctors of Modern Scientific System of Medicine, which looks after the interest of doctors as well as the well being of the community at large. It was formed in 1928, headquartered in New Delhi.
 - IMA in 1946 helped in organisation of the World Medical Association, and thus became its founder member. WMA has its headquarters in France.



Links:

<https://www.news18.com/news/lifestyle/national-doctors-day-2021-date-theme-history-and-significance-amid-covid-19-3906815.html>

International Day of Parliamentarism

Question: When is the International Day of Parliamentarism observed?

(a) June 30 (b) June 25 (c) June 24 (d) June 28

Answer: (a)

Related facts:

- International Day of Parliamentarism is observed every year on June 30.

- The International Day of Parliamentarism is a time to review the progress that parliaments have made in achieving some key goals to be more representative and move with the times, including carrying out self-assessments, working to include more women and young MPs, and adapting to new technologies.
- **Background:**
- International Day of Parliamentarism celebrated every year on June 30 marks the date in 1889 when the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) was founded. IPU is a global organization of parliaments.
- The Day was established in 2018 through a United Nations General Assembly Resolution.



Links:

<https://www.un.org/en/observances/parliamentarism-day>

International Asteroid Day

Question: When is the International Asteroid Day observed?

(a) June 30 (b) June 25 (c) June 24 (d) June 28

Answer: (a)

Related facts:

- International Asteroid Day is observed every year on June 30.
- The day raises awareness to protect Earth from asteroids and communicate the importance and relevance of asteroids education to the next generation.
- **Background:**
- In December 2016 the United Nations General Assembly adopted a resolution declaring 30 June as International Asteroid Day.
- The day is celebrated on the anniversary of Tunguska impact over Siberia, Russian Federation, on 30 June 1908. Tunguska explosion was the largest harmful asteroid impact in recorded history.
- **About Asteroids:**
- Asteroids, sometimes called minor planets, are rocky, airless remnants left over from the early formation of our solar system about 4.6 billion years ago.
- Most of this ancient space rubble can be found orbiting the Sun between Mars and Jupiter within the main asteroid belt.



Links:

<https://www.un.org/en/observances/asteroid-day>

World Vitiligo Day

Question: When is the World Vitiligo Day observed?

(a) June 25 (b) June 20 (c) June 21 (d) June 14

Answer: (a)

Related facts:

- World Vitiligo Day is observed every year on June 25.
- The day awares public about vitiligo.



- The first World Vitiligo Day was held in 2011.
- **About Vitiligo:**
- Vitiligo is a skin disorder leading to loss of colour in the skin.
- It's caused by the lack of melanin, which is the pigment in skin.

Links:

<https://vrfoundation.org/wvd>

Day of the Seafarer

Question: When is the Day of the Seafarer observed?

(a) June 25 (b) June 20 (c) June 21 (d) June 14

Answer: (a)

Related facts:

- The annual Day of the Seafarer (DoS) is observed every year on June 25.
- The day is observed by International Maritime Organization (IMO).
- The day recognizes Seafarers and sailors who help the entire world function by conducting sea transport.
- The theme of the 2021 campaign is "Seafarers: at the core of shipping's future".
- International Maritime Organization (IMO) proposed the day in 2010 and is being celebrated since 2011.



Links:

<https://www.news18.com/news/lifestyle/international-day-of-the-seafarer-2021-history-significance-and-theme-3887387.html>

World Music Day

Question: When is the World Music Day observed?

(a) June 21 (b) June 15 (c) June 10 (d) June 18

Answer: (a)

Related facts:

- World Music Day is observed every year on June 21.
- The day aims to promote peace and harmony through music.
- The day was first celebrated in 1982 in France after the government announcement on June 21 as a National holiday on account of Fête De La Musique (festival of music).
- The day was co-founded by then France's Minister of Culture, Jack Lang and also Maurice Fleuret, a French composer, music journalist, radio producer, arts administrator, and festival organiser.
- Since then, over 120 countries in the world celebrate this day.



Links:

<https://www.hindustantimes.com/more-lifestyle/world-music-day-2020-history-significance-theme-celebrations-and-quotes/story-iJr1wU77J81LSFJhNAjwAl.html>

World Hydrography Day

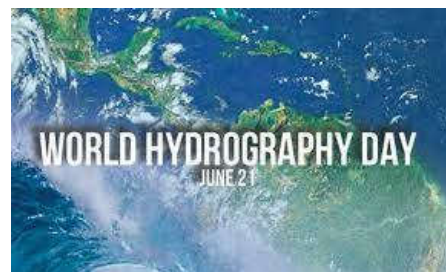
Question: When is the World Hydrography Day observed?

(a) June 21 (b) June 15 (c) June 10 (d) June 18

Answer: (a)

Related facts:

- World Hydrography Day(WHD) is observed every year on June 21.
- The day highlights the importance of Hydrography and its role in everyone's life.
- Hydrography is the branch of applied sciences which deals with the measurement and description of the physical features of oceans, seas, coastal areas, lakes and rivers, as well as with the prediction of their change over time.
- 2021 Theme for WHD is "One hundred years of international cooperation in hydrography".
- The United Nations General Assembly accepted a resolution to celebrate World Hydrography Day on every June 21 in 2005.
- The day is organised by the International Hydrographic Organization (IHO) since 2006.



Links:

<https://iho.int/en/world-hydrography-day>

World Humanist Day

Question: When is the World Humanist Day observed?

(a) June 21 (b) June 15 (c) June 10 (d) June 18

Answer: (a)

Related facts:

- World Humanist Day is observed every year on June 21.
- The day publicizes positive values of humanism and proliferate humanism as a global concern.
- The day has been organised by the International Humanist and Ethical Union (IHEU), since 1980.
- IHEU is the global federation for Humanist, atheist, rationalist, ethical culture, secularist and other freethought groups.



Links:

<https://humanists.international/what-is-humanism/world-humanist-day/>

World Day to Combat Desertification and Drought

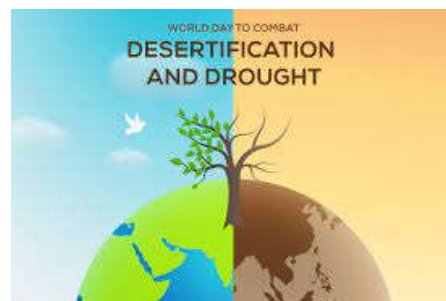
Question: When is the World Day to Combat Desertification and Drought observed?

(a) June 17 (b) June 15 (c) May 15 (d) June 25

Answer: (a)

Related facts:

- World Day to Combat Desertification and Drought is observed on 17th June every year on June 17.
- The day raises awareness of the presence of desertification and drought, and highlight methods of preventing desertification and recovering from drought.
- 2021 Theme of the day is "Restoration. Land. Recovery. We build back better with healthy land".
- The day was declared by United Nations General Assembly in 1994.



Links:

<https://www.un.org/en/observances/desertification-day>

Sustainable Gastronomy Day

Question: When is the Sustainable Gastronomy Day observed?

(a) June 18 (b) June 15 (c) May 15 (d) June 25

Answer: (a)

Related facts:

- Sustainable Gastronomy Day is observed globally on June 18 every year.
- The day draws attention of the world on the role of sustainable gastronomy in our lives.
- The day was designated by UN General Assembly on 21 December 2016.
- Gastronomy is the practice or art of choosing, cooking, and eating good food. Sustainable gastronomy, therefore, means cuisine that takes into account where the ingredients are from, how the food is grown and how it gets to our markets and eventually to our plates.
- The day reaffirms that all cultures and civilizations are contributors and crucial enablers of sustainable development.

**Links:**

<https://www.un.org/en/observances/sustainable-gastronomy-day>

National Reading Day

Question: When is the National Reading Day observed?

(a) June 19 (b) June 15 (c) May 15 (d) June 25

Answer: (a)

Related facts:

- National Reading Day is observed every year on June 19.
- The week following June 19 will be observed as Reading Week and the entire month till July 18 will be observed as Reading Month.
- National Reading Day is observed by Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE).
- The Day is celebrated to honor the father of the 'Library Movement in Kerala', the late P.N. Panicker, whose death anniversary falls on June 19.
- The first Reading Day celebration was held in 1996.
- On June 19, 2017, Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched the 22nd National Reading Month Celebrations and called for unity to spread the message of 'Read and Grow' among all the citizens of the country by 2022.

**Links:**

<https://www.timesnownews.com/education/article/national-reading-day-2021-cbse-to-celebrate-reading-day-week-month-through-online-activities/772332#:~:text=Reading%20Day%20has%20celebration%20started,of%20'Read%20and%20Grow'>

International Day for the Elimination of Sexual Violence in Conflict

Question: When is the International Day for the Elimination of Sexual Violence in Conflict observed?

(a) June 19 (b) June 15 (c) May 15 (d) June 25

Answer: (a)

Related facts:

- International Day for the Elimination of Sexual Violence in Conflict is observed every year on June 19.
- The day raises awareness of the need to put an end to conflict-related sexual violence, honour the victims and survivors of sexual violence around the world and pay tribute to all those who have courageously devoted their lives to and lost their lives in standing up for the eradication of these crimes.



Background:

- International Day for the Elimination of Sexual Violence in Conflict was announced by United Nations General Assembly on 19 June 2015.
- The date was chosen to commemorate the adoption on 19 June 2008 of Security Council resolution 1820 (2008), in which the Council condemned sexual violence as a tactic of war and an impediment to peacebuilding.

Links:

<https://www.un.org/en/observances/end-sexual-violence-in-conflict-day>

Autistic Pride Day

Question: When is the Autistic Pride Day observed?

(a) June 18 (b) June 15 (c) May 15 (d) June 25

Answer: (a)

Related facts:

- Autistic Pride Day is observed every year on June 18 globally.
- The day creates awareness about autism among people and recognizes the importance of pride for autistic people and its role in bringing about positive changes in the broader society.
- The day is represented by a rainbow infinity symbol which denotes the infinite possibilities that autistic people have.
- Autistic Pride Day was first celebrated by an organisation Aspies for Freedom in 2005.



Links:

<https://www.ndtv.com/india-news/autistic-pride-day-2021-date-history-and-significance-2465226>

7th International Yoga Day

Question: What is the theme of International Yoga Day (IYD) 2021?

a) Yoga for all b) Yoga for wellness c) One World, One Health d) None of the above

Ans: b

Context

- 7th edition of International Yoga Day was celebrated on 21st June 2021 across the world.
- **Facts**
- This year theme of the event is Yoga for wellness.
- Event focuses on practising Yoga for physical and mental wellbeing.
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched the “mYoga app” and it will be available worldwide with a vision of One World, One Health.

- mYoga app was launched in collaboration with WHO.
- The Ministry of Culture is also slated to celebrate the International Day of Yoga at 75 cultural heritage locations across the country.

Reference: <https://indianexpress.com/article/india/yoga-day-2021-live-updates-7367865/>

World Clay Day

Question : It was in the year 2010, that the World Clay Day(17 June) was celebrated for the first time by dozens of environment lovers under the leadership of environmentalist ####. Explain the name of environmentalist ?

a. Radhakanta Tripathy b. Radhakanta Tripathy c. Shakti Jain d. Pawan Kishore

Ans. a.

Related facts

- The World Clay Day(16 June) was celebrated for the first time by dozens of environment lovers under the leadership of environmentalist Radhakanta Tripathy in the year 2010.
- It was not exactly a 'mud bath', but participants did smear mud on their body and foreheads as they celebrated the World Clay Day with several nature lovers at Bhadrak.



Link:

<https://www.dailypioneer.com/2021/state-editions/world-clay-day-held-at-bhadrak.html>

World Blood Donor Day

Question-Consider the following statements-

(1) World Blood Donor day is celebrated on 14th June every year.

(2) Theme of WBDD 2021 is – “Give blood and keep the world beating”.

Select the correct answer using the code given below-

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

Ans. (c)

Related Facts-

- World Blood Donor Day is held on 14 June each year.
- The aim is to raise global awareness of the need for safe blood and blood products for transfusion and of the critical contribution voluntary, unpaid blood donors make to national health systems.
- The day also provides an opportunity to call to action to governments and national health authorities to provide adequate resources and put into place systems and infrastructures to increase the collection of blood from voluntary, non-remunerated blood donors.
- For 2021, the World Blood Donor Day theme is “Give blood and keep the world beating”.
- First ever event was organised in 2005 as a joint initiative of World Health Organization, International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies.
- World Blood Donor Day is celebrated on 14th June to mark birthday anniversary of Karl Landsteiner who was born on June 14, 1868. Landsteiner was awarded with Nobel Prize for his discovery of ABO blood group system.



Reference – <https://www.who.int/campaigns/world-blood-donor-day>.

World Elder Abuse Awareness Day

Question: When is the World Elder Abuse Awareness Day observed ?

(a) 13 June (b) 18 June (c) 15 June (d) 14 June

Answer: (c)

Related facts:

- The World Elder Abuse Awareness Day was observed globally on June 15 2021.
- The day aims to raise awareness about the neglect and abuse elderly peoples suffer by the prevailing social, cultural, economic and demographic processes.
- It is notable that the COVID-19 pandemic is causing untold fear and suffering for older people across the world.
- Beyond its immediate health impact, the pandemic is putting older people at greater risk of poverty, discrimination and isolation.
- It is likely to have a particularly devastating impact on older people in developing countries.



Data —

- Between 2019 and 2030, the number of persons aged 60 years or over is projected to grow by 38%, from 1 billion to 1.4 billion, globally outnumbering youth, and this increase will be the greatest and the most rapid in the developing world, and recognizing that greater attention needs to be paid to the specific challenges affecting older persons, including in the field of human rights.
- Elder abuse is a problem that exists in both developing and developed countries yet is typically underreported globally. Prevalence rates or estimates exist only in selected developed countries — ranging from 1% to 10%.
- Although the extent of elder mistreatment is unknown, its social and moral significance is obvious. As such, it demands a global multifaceted response, one which focuses on protecting the rights of older persons.

Link:

<https://www.un.org/en/observances/elder-abuse-awareness-day>

World Blood Donor Day 2021

Question – When is ‘World Blood Donor Day’ celebrated ?

(a) June 12 (b) 14 June (c) June 8 (d) 10 June

Answer—(b)

related facts

- World Blood Donor Day takes place on 14 June each year.
- 2021 Theme – Give blood and keep the World beating.
- The aim is to raise global awareness of the need for safe blood and blood products for transfusion and of the critical contribution voluntary, unpaid blood donors make to national health systems.
- The day also provides an opportunity to call to action to governments and national health authorities to provide adequate resources and put into place systems and infrastructures to increase the collection of blood from voluntary, non-remunerated blood donors.
- Safe blood and blood products and their transfusion are a critical aspect of care and public health.
- They save millions of lives and improve the health and quality of life of many patients every day.



- The need for blood is universal, but access to blood for all those who need it is not. Blood shortages are particularly acute in developing countries.

Link:

<https://www.who.int/campaigns/world-blood-donor-day/2021>

World No Tobacco Day

Question: When is the World No Tobacco Day observed?

(a) May 31 (b) May 25 (c) May 20 (d) May 26

Answer: (a)

Related facts:

- World No Tobacco Day (WNTD) is observed every year on May 31.
- The day is observed by World Health Organization (WHO) and global partners to raise awareness on the harmful and deadly effects of tobacco use.
- Theme of the 2021 WNTD is "Commit to quit."
- The day is being observed annually on 31st May since 1989.



Links:

<https://www.who.int/campaigns/world-no-tobacco-day/world-no-tobacco-day-2021>

World Digestive Health Day

Question: When is the World Digestive Health Day observed?

(a) 23 May (b) 18 May (c) 15 May (d) 29 May

Answer: (d)

Related facts:

- World Digestive Health Day (WDHD) is observed every year on May 29.
- Each year the day talks about a particular digestive disease and/or disorder in order to increase general public awareness of prevention, prevalence, diagnosis, management and treatment of the disease and/or disorder.
- The theme of WDHD 2021 is "Obesity: An Ongoing Pandemic."
- WDHD is organised by the World Gastroenterology Organisation (WGO) in collaboration with the WGO Foundation (WGOF).
- **Background:**
- World Digestive Health Day was launched in 2004 to mark the 45th anniversary of the creation of the World Gastroenterology Organisation.
- The organisation has over 100 member societies and 50,000 individual members all over the world.



Links:

<https://www.worldgastroenterology.org/wgo-foundation/wdhd>

International Everest Day

Question: When is the International Everest Day observed?

(a) 23 May (b) 18 May (c) 15 May (d) 29 May

Answer: (d)

Related facts:

- International Everest Day is observed every year on May 29.
- On this day in 1953, Nepalese Tenzing Norgay and New Zealand's Edmund Hillary had firstly climbed the Mt. Everest.
- Nepal decided to observe the day as International Everest Day in 2008 when the legendary climber Hillary passed away.
- The day is celebrated with memorial events, processions, and special events in Kathmandu and the Everest region.

Links:

<https://www.ndtv.com/world-news/international-everest-day-this-day-in-1953-tenzing-norgay-and-edmund-hillary-scaled-mount-everest-2451709>

International Day of United Nations Peacekeepers

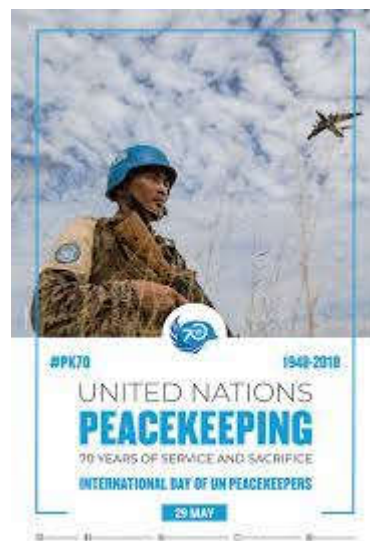
Question: When is the International Day of United Nations Peacekeepers observed?

(a) 23 May (b) 18 May (c) 15 May (d) 29 May

Answer: (d)

Related facts:

- International Day of United Nations Peacekeepers is observed every year on May 29.
- The day pays tribute to all the men and women who have served and continue to serve in United Nations peacekeeping operations.
- The day was designated by United Nations General Assembly on December 11, 2002, and first celebrated in 2003.
- The 2021 Theme of the day is "The road to a lasting peace: Leveraging the power of youth for peace and security."
- UN peacekeepers (often referred to as Blue Berets or Blue Helmets because of their light blue berets or helmets) can include soldiers, police officers, and civilian personnel.



Links:

<https://www.un.org/en/observances/peacekeepers-day>

Books

Book-Fiercely Female: The Dutee Chand Story

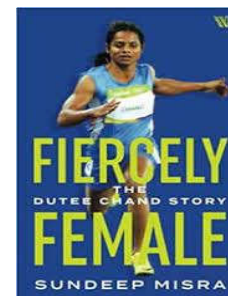
Question: Who is the author of the book Fiercely Female: The Dutee Chand Story?

(a) Boria Majumdar (b) Gaurav Das (c) Sundeep Mishra (d) Khushwant Singh

Answer: (c)

Related facts:

- Journalist Sundeep Mishra has authored a new book titled 'Fiercely Female: The Dutee Chand Story'.
- The book chronicles Dutee Chand's journey with a detailed narrative of the gender-identity controversy that made her an iconic figure in Indian sport.
- The book was published by Westland Books.



▪ **About the Dutee Chand:**

- Dutee Chand, the first openly homosexual athlete from India, scripted history in 2019 when she became the first Indian to win gold in a 100-metre event at the World Universiade in Naples.
- Coming from a small village in Odisha, Dutee Chand went on to hold the national record in the women's 100 metres.
- She is only the fifth Indian to participate in the women's 100 metres at the Olympics when she qualified for the 2016 Rio Games.

Links:

<https://theprint.in/softcover/fiercely-female-story-of-dutee-chand-who-broke-ground-as-indias-1st-openly-homosexual-athlete/679619/>

Book-It's a Wonderful Life

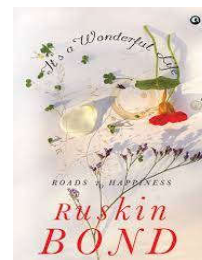
Question: Who has authored the book It's a Wonderful Life?

(a) Ruskin Bond (b) Salman Rushdie (c) Jackie Chan (d) Amrita Pritam

Answer: (a)

Related facts:

- Indian British author Ruskin Bond has authored a new book titled 'It's a Wonderful Life'.
- The book is published by Aleph Book Company.
- The book is written in a perceptive, uplifting, deeply moving, and non-fictional way.
- Ruskin Bond has been awarded Padma Shri and Padma Bhushan. He was conferred the Sahitya Akademi Award in 1992 for *Our Trees Still Grow in Dehra*, his novel in English.



Links:

<https://www.thehindu.com/books/books-reviews/its-a-wonderful-life-review-a-sense-of-lifes-diverse-currents/article34850039.ece>

Book -Habba Khatoon

Question: Who is the author of the book Habba Khatoon?

(a) Kajal Suri (b) Amrita Pritam (c) Krishna Saksena (d) Vikram Seth

Answer: (a)

Related facts:

- Theatre personality Arvind Gaur has released the book 'Habba Khatoon' written by Kajal Suri.
- The book 'Habba Khatoon' was Published by Sanjana Prakashan.
- Habba Khatoon, also known by the honorary title 'The Nightingale of Kashmir', was a renowned Kashmiri poetess. She was the wife of Yousuf Shah Chak, the last Emperor of Kashmir.



Links:

<https://www.dailyexcelsior.com/book-habba-khatoon-by-kajal-suri-released/Book -Habba Khatoon>

Book-Will

Question: Will is a memoir of which cinematic personality?

(a) Dwayne Johnson (b) Johnny Depp (c) Jackie Chan (d) Will Smith

Answer: (d)

Related facts:

- Actor Will Smith has revealed the title and cover of his upcoming autobiography "Will".
- The book has been co-authored by Will Smith and Mark Manson.
- The book covers his life and career from raised in West Philadelphia to entering superstardom as an actor and rapper.
- Will Smith is a two-time Academy Award nominee and a four-time Grammy winner.
- The book will be published by Penguin Press in November 2021.



Links:

<https://www.thehindu.com/books/will-smith-opening-up-releasing-memoir-will-in-november/article34875768.ece>

Book-My Joys and Sorrows

Question: Who is the author of book My Joys and Sorrows – as a Mother of a Special Child?

(a) Amitav Ghosh (b) Amrita Pritam (c) Krishna Saksena (d) Vikram Seth

Answer: (c)

Related facts:

- Union Minister of Health and Family Welfare Dr Harsh Vardhan released a book titled My Joys and Sorrows – as a Mother of a Special Child.
- The book has been authored by Krishna Saksena.
- The book is the epitome of the bravery and endurance of a mother, in the best tradition of Indian motherhood.
- The book studded with beautiful photographs of historical significance chronicles the domestic as well as the professional context of the time.



Links:

<https://www.thestatesman.com/features/harsh-varadhan-unveils-joys-sorrows-mother-special-child-book-1502974914.html>

Book-The Nutmeg's Curse

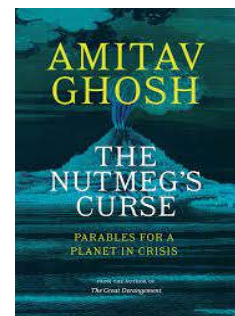
Question: Who is the author of book The Nutmeg's Curse: Parables for a Planet in Crisis?

(a) Amitav Ghosh (b) Amrita Pritam (c) Ruskin Bond (d) Vikram Seth

Answer: (a)

Related facts:

- Jnanpith Awardee Amitav Ghosh has authored a book titled, 'The Nutmeg's Curse: Parables for a Planet in Crisis'.
- It is published by John Murray.
- The book discusses about the history of the influence of colonialism on the world today, through the story of the nutmeg.



- In 'The Nutmeg's Curse', Ghosh discusses that the nutmeg's journey from its native Banda islands, sheds light on a widespread colonial mindset of exploitation of human life and the environment, which is present even today.

Links:

<https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/life-style/books/features/amitav-ghoshs-new-book-the-nutmegs-curse-to-release-in-october/articleshow/83549789.cms>

Book-Home in the World

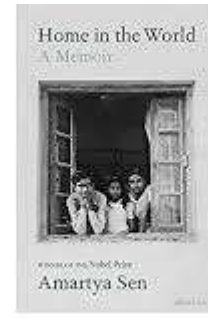
Question: Who is the author of the memoir Home in the World?

- (a) Abhijit Banerjee (b) Neetu Gupta
(c) Neena Gupta (d) Amartya Sen

Answer: (d)

Related facts:

- Nobel laureate Amartya Sen has penned his memoir 'Home in the World'.
- The book will be published in July by Penguin Random House.
- In this book, Sen shares how it was Rabindranath Tagore who gave him his name Amartya.
- He also reminisces the conversations at Calcutta's famous Coffee House and at Cambridge, and Marx's, Keynes' and Arrow's ideas all of which shaped his views.



Links:

<https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/life-style/books/features/home-in-the-world-amartya-sen-memoir-to-release-in-july/articleshow/83376973.cms>

Book-Believe – What Life and Cricket Taught Me

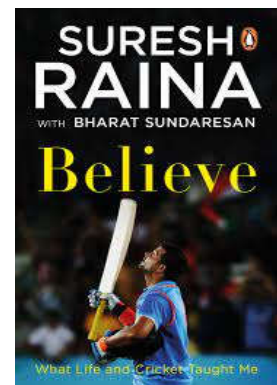
Question: Believe – What Life and Cricket Taught Me is an autobiography of which Indian cricketer?

- (a) Sourav Ganguly (b) MS Dhoni (c) Rahul Dravid (d) Suresh Raina

Answer: (d)

Related facts:

- Former Indian batsman, Suresh Raina has released his autobiography 'Believe – What Life and Cricket Taught Me'.
- The book co-authored by Bharat Sundaresan and Suresh Raina.
- The book unfurls the journey of Suresh Raina cricketing career and mix-up of success, failure, injuries and setbacks.
- In the book, he shared his experience how he overcame the downfalls in his career with the golden word (Believe) picked up from cricketing legend Sachin Tendulkar.



Links:

<https://www.insidesport.co/ipl-2021-csks-suresh-raina-shares-his-cricketing-journey-releases-autobiography-believe/>

Book-Stargazing: The Players in My Life

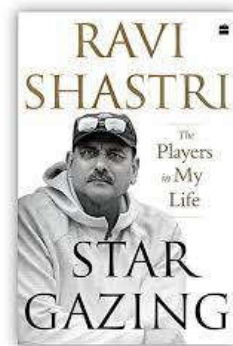
Question: Who is the author of the book Stargazing: The Players in My Life?

(a) Ravi Shastri (b) Sunil Gavaskar (c) Sachin Tendulkar (d) Tom Moody

Answer: (a)

Related facts:

- Cricket all-rounder, commentator and one of Team India's most successful coaches, Ravi Shastri has penned a book titled 'Stargazing: The Players in My Life'.
- The book is being published by HarperCollins India.
- It is been co-authored by Ayaz Memon.
- In the book, Shastri has written about some 60 extraordinary talents he has met from across the world who have inspired him.



Links:

<https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/life-style/books/features/cricket-legend-ravi-shastris-book-stargazing-to-release-this-year/articleshow/83036266.cms>

Book-Languages of Truth: Essays 2003-2020

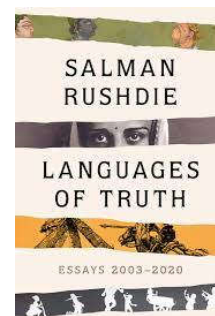
Question: Who is the author of book Languages of Truth: Essays 2003-2020?

(a) Disha Ravi (b) Vandana Shiva (c) Sunita Narain (d) Salman Rushdie

Answer: (d)

Related facts:

- Salman Rushdie has authored a book titled "Languages of Truth: Essays 2003-2020".
- In the book he attempts to perform a defensive castling move.
- He suggests his work has been misunderstood and mistreated because the literary culture has turned from brio-filled imaginative writing toward the humbler delights of "autofiction," as exemplified by the work of Elena Ferrante and Karl Ove Knausgaard.



Links:

<https://www.nytimes.com/2021/05/24/books/review-languages-of-truth-salman-rushdie-essays.html>

Book-Savarkar: A contested Legacy (1924-1966)

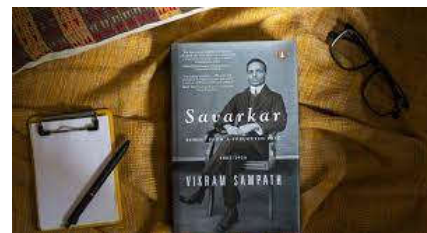
Question: Who is the author of the book Savarkar: A contested Legacy (1924-1966)?

(a) Vikram Sampath (b) Salman Rushdie (c) Salman Khurshid (d) R K Narayan

Answer: (a)

Related facts:

- Historian Vikram Sampath has authored the second and concluding volume of the book on the life and works of Veer Savarkar titled "Savarkar: A contested Legacy (1924-1966)".
- The book will hit the market on July 26, 2021, under the publication of Penguin Random House India.
- The first volume, "Savarkar: Echoes from a Forgotten Past" was released in 2019 and covered Savarkar's life from his birth in 1883 to his conditional release from prison in 1924.
- The second volume will bring to light the life and works of Vinayak Damodar Savarkar, from 1924 to 1966, the year he died.



Links:

<https://penguin.co.in/book/savarkar-part-2-concluding-volume/#:~:text=A%20Contested%20Legacy%2C%201924%2D1966,-Vikram%20Sampath&text=Vikram%20Sampath-,Decades%20after%20his%20death%2C%20Vinayak%20Damodar%20Savarkar%20continues%20to%20uniquely,a%20proponent%20of%20'Hindutva'%3F>

Book-Anomalies in Law and Justice

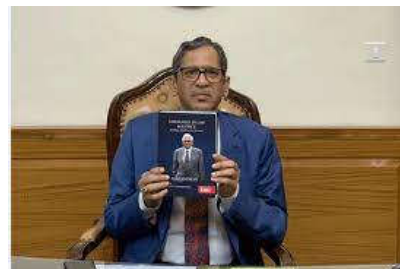
Question: Who is the author of the book Anomalies in Law and Justice?

(a) SA Bobde (b) DY Chandrachud (c) NV Ramana (d) RV Raveendran

Answer: (d)

Related facts:

- Chief Justice of India Justice NV Ramana has released former Supreme Court judge RV Raveendran's book "Anomalies in Law and Justice".
- The book is an attempt to explain to the layman that the law and the legal system is still evolving and that it requires more critical thinking to resolve issues that have persisted in the system for a long time.
- The book covers procedural as well as substantive law relating to civil procedure, electoral reforms and the alternate dispute resolution mechanism.

**Links:**

<https://www.indialegallive.com/top-news-of-the-day/news/nv-ramana-book-launch-justice-rv-raveendrangs-anomalies-of-law/>

Miscellaneous

Shri Siddhant Shikhamani Granth Mobile App

Question: Shri Siddhant Shikhamani Granth Mobile App is devoted to which one of the following deities?

(a) Lord Krishna (b) Lord Ram (c) Lord Vishnu (d) Lord Shiva

Answer: (d)

Related facts:

- The Prime Minister has released the translated version of the Shri Siddhant Shikhamani Granth in 19 languages. He also launched the Shri Siddhant Shikhamani Granth Mobile App.
- **Siddhant Shikhamani:**
 - Siddhant Shikhamani is a religious scripture of the Panchacharya tradition of Veerashaivas also known as Lingayatism.
 - The scripture was written in Sanskrit and gives an elaboration of the primitive traits of Veerashaivism found in the Vedas and the Upanishads.
 - **About Lingayat:**
 - The Lingayat also known as Veerashaiva community are devotees of Shiva.
 - They follow the 12th-century saint-philosopher Basavanna who had rejected ritualistic worship and pre-eminence of the Vedas.
 - They are strict monotheists.



- They worship only one God namely Linga (Shiva)

Links:

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Siddhanta_Shikhamani

Asur Tribe

Question: Asur Tribe is found mostly in which of the following States?

(a) Jharkhand (b) Rajasthan (c) Telangana (d) Himachal Pradesh

Answer: (a)

Related facts:

- The Asur tribe has been using mobile radio to transmit local news and songs which are helping them to revive the dying tribal language.
- Asur Tribe is an Austro-Asiatic ethnic group living primarily in the Indian State of Jharkhand. Asur in Jharkhand is one of the thirty major tribes of people who have made the state of Jharkhand their home.
- They are included in the list of Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups. Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups are categorized on the basis of :



Pre-agricultural level of technology,
Low level of literacy,
Economic backwardness,
A declining or stagnant population.

- They speak the Asuri language which is on the verge of extinction with less than 8,000 people speaking it.
- The main festival of the tribe includes Sarhul, Phagua, and Navakhans among others.

Links:

<https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/other-states/radio-aids-revival-of-dying-tribal-language/article30831074.ece>

Sammakka Saralamma Jatara

Question: Sammakka Saralamma Jatara festival is being celebrated in which of the following state?

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

Answer: (a)

Related facts:

- Sammakka Saralamma Jatara is being celebrated in the State of Telangana.
- Sammakka Saralamma Jatara also known as Medaram Jatara is a tribal festival held biennially in the state of Telangana. It is a State Festival of Telangana.
- The festival commemorates the fight of a mother and daughter, Sammakka and Saralamma, with the reigning rulers against an unjust law.
- It is believed that after Kumbh Mela, the Medaram Jatara attracts the largest number of devotees in the country.



Links:

<https://telanganatourism.gov.in/partials/about/festivals-of-telangana/samakka-saarakka-jaathara.html>

Department of Telecommunications launches '5G Hackathon'

Question: Which among of the following departments has launched '5G Hackathon'?

- (a) Department of Telecommunications (DoT) (b) Department of Science and Technology
(c) Department of Earth Science (d) Department of Space and Technology

Answer: (a)

Related facts:

- Department of Telecommunications (DoT) has launched 5G Hackathon in association with the Government, academia and Industry Stakeholders.
- The Hackathon aims at short listing India's cutting edge ideas that can be converted into workable 5G products and solutions.
- The 5G Hackathon will be spread across in three phases.
- 5G Hackathon is open to developers, start-ups, Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs), academic institutions & registered companies in India and NRIs.
- Stakeholders can participate as individuals or as a team to present use cases for the 5G network in the Indian context.

**Link:**

<http://newsonair.com/News?title=Department-of-Telecommunications-launches-%e2%80%985G-Hackathon%e2%80%99&id=381735>

ACI Director General's Roll of Excellence honour for Airport Service Quality

Question: Which of the following International airport in India won the Airport Council International's (ACI) Director General's Roll of Excellence honour for Airport Service Quality in June 2021?

- a) Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel International Airport b) Indira Gandhi International Airport
c) Cochin International Airport Ltd (CIAL) d) None of these

Answer : (c)

Related Facts:-

- On 23 June 2021; the Cochin International Airport Ltd (CIAL) won the Airport Council International's (ACI) Director General's Roll of Excellence honour for Airport Service Quality.
- The ACI is a global body of airport operators which has established the Roll of Excellence recognition.
- It honours those airports which, in the opinion of the passengers, have consistently delivered excellent services in the Airport Service Quality Survey.
- Cochin International Airport has consistently delivered excellence in customer service by winning multiple ASQ awards over five years during the past 10 years.
- This airport is one of only six airports worldwide that will receive the recognition this year.



- The present recognition for CIAL was Announced by ACI World's Director-General, Luis Felipe de Oliveira in a communique.
- CIAL Managing Director S Suhas said that the ACI's service quality programmes have been helping the airport officials to ensure international standards in airport.
- He said that the Roll of Excellence honour is definitely a gesture from the global organization recognising CIAL's commitment to the passengers.
- The award will be presented during the ACI customer Experience Global summit slated to be held on 9th September 2021 in Montreal, Canada.

Links:-

<https://www.thehindu.com/news/cities/Kochi/cochin-international-airport-wins-honour-in-airport-service-quality/article34925460.ece>

India's Theme Song for Tokyo Olympics

Question: Who has composed India's Official Olympic Theme Song for Tokyo Olympics?

(a) Mohit Chauhan (b) Amit Trivedi (c) Shankar Mahadevan (d) A.R Rahman

Answer: (a)

Related facts:

- On 23 June 2021, International Olympic Day, the Indian Olympic Association (IOA) launched the official Theme Song of India for Tokyo Olympics.
- The song titled "Tu thaani ley, ab jeey, ab jeet ko anjaam dey" has been composed by renowned Bollywood singer and composer Mohit Chauhan. The lyrics are penned by his wife Prarthna Gahilote.
- The song was launched by Minister of Youth Affairs and Sports Kiren Rijiju at a ceremony organised at the Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium in New Delhi
- The Tokyo Olympic Games will commence on July 23 and over 100 Indian athletes have qualified for the event so far.



Links:

<http://newsonair.com/2021/06/23/indian-olympic-association-launches-the-official-theme-song-for-the-indian-olympic-team-to-tokyo-2020/>

CEOS COAST

Question: Which of the following UN agency has recently endorsed the CEOS COAST a multinational project co-led by ISRO and NOAA?

a) UNICEF b) UNESCO c) UNEP d) None of these

Answer: (b)

Related Facts:-

- On 8 June 2021; a multinational project co-led by ISRO and NOAA was endorsed by UNESCO's Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission.
- The project is known as Committee on Earth Observation Satellites—Coastal Observations, Applications, Services, and Tools (CEOS COAST).
- ISRO and National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) from the US joined together to improve satellite based observations of the Ocean.
- UN body endorsed the ISRO- IOAA project due to their use of innovative technology, and for fostering trust and collaboration among scientists.



- UN body acknowledged the accuracy of coastal data based on satellite and land-based observations by the CEOS COAST.
- CEOS COAST and Its pilot projects are uniquely capable of using Earth Observation technologies to meet several of the 17 UN-designated sustainable development goals for the Ocean Decade initiative.
- The themes of these projects include disaster risk reduction and coastal resilience among continental shorelines and small island nations.
- Their work will improve the way we study how the sea can affect the land such as- large-scale flooding events,
- How land usage affects coastal ecosystems,
- Water quality issues and the root causes of coastal runoff and sediment deposits.

Links:-

<https://www.thehindubusinessline.com/news/national/isro-noaa-led-multinational-project-endorsed-by-un-body/article34942946.ece?homepage=true>

Pakistan's National Assembly passed the ICJ (Review and Re-consideration) Bill, 2020

Question : On which date Pakistan's National Assembly passed the ICJ (Review and Re-consideration) Bill, 2020 ?

a. 16 June 2021 b. 12 June 2021 c. 14 June 2021 d. None of the above

Ans.d.

Related facts

- Pakistan's National Assembly passed the ICJ (Review and Re-consideration) Bill, 2020 on June 10, 2021.
- Here ICJ stands for International Court of Justice.
- This move will provide the right of appeal to Indian death-row prisoner Kulbhushan Jadhav.
- It is notable that 51-year-old retired Indian Navy officer, was sentenced to death by a Pakistani military court on charges of espionage and terrorism in April 2017.



Link:

<https://indianexpress.com/article/india/pakistans-national-assembly-passes-bill-to-give-right-of-appeal-to-kulbhushan-jadhav-7354146/>

9th Asian Ministerial Energy Roundtable (AMER9)

Question: which of the following country will host the 9th Asian Ministerial Energy Roundtable (AMER9)?

a) China b) Sri Lanka c) India d) None of these

Answer: (c)

Related Facts:-

- On 22 June 2021; International Energy Forum (IEF) announced that India has agreed to host the 9th Asian Ministerial Energy Roundtable (AMER9).
- The 9th Asian Ministerial Energy Roundtable will be held in 2022.
- Dates of this conference will be announced later and it will take forward the understandings reached in the previous meeting in Abu Dhabi during 2018.
- Decision of India to be the host of this Energy Roundtable came after a virtual meeting between IEF Secretary-General Joseph McMonigle and Oil Minister Dharmendra Pradhan.



- Chief executive officers of Indian Oil Corp, Bharat Petroleum and Hindustan Petroleum Corp, in addition to senior officers from the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas, were also present at the meeting.
- The International Energy Forum (IEF) is the world's largest energy organisation with 71 member countries, accounting for 90 per cent of the global energy market.
- It holds energy dialogue promoting energy security, market stability and transparency in the transition to a sustainable and inclusive future.

Links:-

<http://www.businessworld.in/article/India-To-Host-9th-Asian-Ministerial-Energy-Roundtable-Next-Year/22-06-2021-393993/>

Centre for Research on Start-ups and risk Financing' (CREST)

Question: which of the following IIT has recently launched Centre for Research on Start-ups and risk Financing' (CREST)?

a) IIT Kharagpur b) IIT Ropar c) IIT Madras d) None of these

Answer: (c)

Related Facts:-

- On 22 June 2021; The Indian Institute of Technology Madras launched a Centre for Research on Start-ups and risk Financing' (CREST).
- This kind of established to provide academic and thought leadership in innovation, entrepreneurship and risk capital.
- It would also create a data repository on Indian start-ups and ventures to address a major hurdle for engaging in high-quality research.
- This information resource would be made accessible for researchers and policymakers that can result in top-tier publications.
- At the Inauguration Keynote Lecture of CREST Prof Tarun Khanna, of Harvard Business School, said, "There is a need to build trust between scientists and business leaders.
- He said that amazing technology is coming out of the labs but the condition to get the maximum out of such innovations is not there.
- The vision of CREST includes being globally recognised as a leading centre of research engaged in scholarly research.
- CREST will expand its research activities in the areas of creation, development, and financing of innovation, start-ups, and entrepreneurship.
- It also aims to achieve cross country collaborative research, resulting in the use of unique data sets on start-ups and venture capital.
- Prof Bhaskar Ramamurthi, director, IIT Madras, also expressed his views said that we are knitting together partnerships with leading groups across the world.
- He said that CREST wants to have a strong flow of people and ideas. It will have the interactions in online mode till the pandemic gets over.
- The key mission of CREST would be to engage in scholarly research encompassing the areas of innovation, entrepreneurship, and risk capital.
- The data repository being developed on innovation, venturing and risk capital will create the infrastructure to carry out high-quality research.
- The creation of entrepreneurship-specific language models will facilitate a better understanding of the entities in the ecosystem.
- This kind of ecosystem will also work for facilitating the use of the latest research in AI, ML to generate new insights.



Links:-

<https://indianexpress.com/article/education/iit-madras-launches-research-centre-on-start-ups-and-risk-financing-7371953/>

In danger World Heritage sites

Question: Recently a UNESCO committee recommended which of the following to be listed, 'In danger World Heritage sites'?

- a) Great Barrier Reef b) Red Fort Complex, New Delhi. c) Great Wall of China
d) None of these

Answer: (a)

Related Facts:-

- On 22 June 2021; a UN committee recommended that the Great Barrier Reef should be added to a list of "in danger" World Heritage Sites.
- Due to the impact of climate change world's biggest coral reef system is fast undergoing deterioration.
- Although UN committees' recommendation in regard of coral reef has prompted an angry response from Australia.
- Australia said it had been blindsided by the move and blamed political interference.
- UNESCO committee said the world's biggest coral reef system should be added to the list due to the impact of climate change.
- Australia has for years been battling to keep the Great Barrier Reef, a major tourist attraction that supports thousands of jobs, off the "in danger" list.
- In 2015, UNESCO noted the outlook for the reef was poor but kept the site's status unchanged.
- Since then, scientists say it has suffered three major coral bleaching events due to severe marine heatwaves.

**Links:-**

<https://www.thehindu.com/news/international/great-barrier-reef-should-be-listed-as-in-danger-un-committee-recommends/article34897826.ece>

Singanayakanahalli Lake

Question: Singanayakanahalli Lake was in news recently. This lake is located in which of the following state?

- a) Kerala b) Tamil Nadu c) Karnataka d) None of these

Answer: (c)

Related Facts:-

- In Karnataka 6,316 trees have been proposed to be felled to make way for the development of Singanayakanahalli Lake, Yelahanka Hobli.
- Citizens and environmentalists are not happy with this decision to destroy an ecosystem to create a new one.
- Actually the resentment emerged by the Minor Irrigation Department's proposal to clear over 6,000 trees.
- These trees have to be cleared in Singanayakanahalli to make way for a lake under the Hebbal-Nagawara Valley Project.
- According to a recent notification by the Forest Department, of Karnataka trees have to be cleared for unobstructed commencement of the project.
- The notification, published on June 14, has invited objections via email or post within 10 days from its publication.



- However, citizen activists are questioning the logic behind removing such a huge number of trees.
- It should be known that the area is known for a large peacock habitat.
- Environmentalist Vijay Nishanth expressed his concern that if large number of trees cleared it could wipe out entire peacock population from this area.
- The Hebbal-Nagawara Valley Project aims to fill 65 tanks in Bengaluru Urban, Rural and Chickballapur.
- It should be known that Bengaluru Lake became the first to receive treated water from the project.
- Bengaluru Lake meant to act as an impounded reservoir to supply water to 11 other lakes in the region.
- Though direct use of treated water for drinking and agricultural purposes has been prohibited.
- Farmers in the area were largely optimistic of the project pushing up the water table.

Links:-

<https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/karnataka/hebbal-nagawara-valley-project-over-6000-trees-face-the-axe/article34835202.ece>

Inland Vessels Bill

Question: Which act would be replaced by Inland Vessels Bill, 2021 ?

A. Inland Vessels Act, 1917 B. Inland Vessels Act, 1914 C. Inland Vessels Act, 1912
(d) None of the above

Answer- (a)

Related facts

- Inland Vessels Act, 1917 would be replaced by Inland Vessels Bill, 2021.
- The Union Cabinet has recently (June 2021) gave the nod to the Inland Vessels Bill, 2021.
- **Objective —**
- The Bill will regulate safety, security and registration of inland vessels.
- **Significance —**
- A key feature of the Bill is a unified law for the entire country, instead of separate rules framed by the States.
- The Bill provides for a central data base for recording the details of vessel, vessel registration, crew on an electronic portal.
- It requires all mechanically propelled vessels to be mandatorily registered.
- All non-mechanically propelled vessels will also have to be enrolled at district, taluk or panchayat or village level.
- **Inland waterways —**
- **Operationalised —** Total 4,000 km inland waterways.



Link:

<https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/cabinet-nod-for-inland-vessels-bill/article34832506.ece>

Corporatisation of Ordnance Factory Board

Question : Union Cabinet has recently(June 2021) approved the corporatisation of Ordnance Factory Board. This will be done

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



through splitting it into ##### entities to improve autonomy, accountability and efficiency. How many entities involved in this move ?

a. Seven b. Six c. Four d. Five

Ans. a.

- The Union Cabinet on Wednesday(17 June 2021) approved the corporatisation of Ordnance Factory Board (OFB) by splitting it into seven entities to improve autonomy, accountability and efficiency.
- There are 42 ordnance factories spread all over the country and its employees had opposed corporatisation when it was mooted more than two years back.
- There are more than 82,000 employees in the ordnance factories and many of them had resorted a stir in 2019 and gave a notice for agitation last year also against the proposal to corporatize these units.
- Based in Kolkata, the Ordnance factories have a history of more than 200 years old and now manufacture guns, missiles, tanks and other such equipment for the armed forces.
- **Background**
- The Cabinet Committee on Security (CCS) last year in July had approved to convert the Ordnance Factory Board (OFB) “into one or more than one 100 per cent Government-owned corporate entities”.

Link:

<https://www.dailypioneer.com/2021/india/cabinet-clears-corporatisation-of-ordnance-factory-board.html>

Expert panel on the emergence and spread of zoonotic diseases

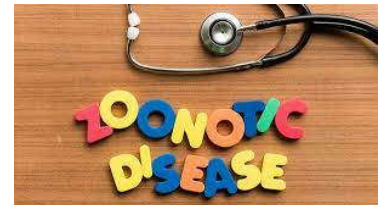
Question : In which date has an expert panel been formed to address the emergence and spread of zoonotic diseases ?

a. 20 May 2021 b. 18 May 2021 c. 14 May 2021 d. 10 May 2021

Ans. a.

Related facts

- An expert panel has been formed to address the emergence and spread of zoonotic diseases on May 20, 2021.
- **Objectives —**
- International organizations have come together to launch a new One Health High-Level Expert Panel to improve understanding of how diseases with the potential to trigger pandemics, emerge and spread.
- The panel will advise four international organizations – the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO); the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE); the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP); and the World Health Organization (WHO) – on the development of a long-term global plan of action to avert outbreaks of diseases like H5N1 avian influenza; MERS; Ebola; Zika, and, possibly, COVID-19.
- Three quarters of all emerging infectious diseases originate in animals.
- Key first steps will include systematic analyses of scientific knowledge about the factors that lead to transmission of a disease from animal to human and vice versa; development of risk assessment and surveillance frameworks; identification of capacity gaps as well as agreement on good practices to prevent and prepare for zoonotic outbreaks.
- **Zoonotic diseases —**



- A zoonosis is an infectious disease that has jumped from a non-human animal to humans.

Link:

<https://www.who.int/news/item/20-05-2021-new-international-expert-panel-to-address-the-emergence-and-spread-of-zoonotic-diseases>

YoungWarrior movement

Question – By which authority has the YoungWarrior movement been started in May 2021 to deal with the Covid pandemic ?

- (a) Ministry of Defense (b) Central Board of Secondary Education
(c) DRDO (d) Ministry of Health

Answer—(b)

Related facts

- The YoungWarrior movement been started in May 2021 to deal with the Covid pandemic.
- Initiator — CBSE(Central Board of Secondary Education).
- **Objective**
- Its aim is to help youth take leadership roles during the global pandemic and inculcate strong leadership skills, empathy and a sense of social consciousness among the youth.
- The campaign is being conducted by a multistakeholder consortium of over 950 partners.
- Any student or teacher between the age of 10 years to 30 years can join this movement.
- Under this, the 'Young Warrior' will be given a certificate for his work.



Link:

http://cbseacademic.nic.in/web_material/Circulars/2021/33_Circular_2021.pdf

Rail trials on dedicated freight corridor

Question : On June 14, the military train conducted a successful trial on the DFC track from New Rewari to New Phulera. Accordingly, which of the following statement is incorrect regarding movement of army from DFC track ?

1. A loaded military train runs at a speed of 10 to 15 kilometers per hour on a normal track.
 2. Two dedicated corridors of DFC are being built
 3. 'Military train' to run at 95 kmph on DFC track
- a. Only 1. b. Only 2. c. Only 3. d. None of the above

Ans. c.

Related facts

On June 14, the military train conducted a successful trial on the DFC track from New Rewari to New Phulera. Movement of army from DFC(dedicated freight corridor) track —



1. A loaded military train runs at a speed of 10 to 15 kilometers per hour on a normal track.
2. Two dedicated corridors of DFC are being built

3. 'Military train' to run at 65 kmph on DFC track
4. The journey from one end of India to the other will be completed in 24 hours in near future.
5. In the current situation, the journey from one end of India to the other takes at least 12 to 16 days.

By — Pankaj Pandey.

Link:

<https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1727185>