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# NAVATRA

Monthly Magazine on Current Events

Vol. - 5 >>> Issue - 2 >>> August, 2021

 **PREPAID e-VOUCHER**

TRULY CASHLESS & CONTACTLESS PAYMENT



**FORMATION OF NEW CABINET**

**World Heritage Site -**  
**Kakatiya Rudreshwar Ramappa Temple**

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 30th 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 July to 31st July) 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**

### e-RUPI Digital Payment Solution

**Question: Who has launched the e-RUPI Digital Payment Solution on August 2nd 2021 through video conferencing?**

- a) Bill Gates b) Mukesh Ambani c) PM Narendra Modi  
d ) None of the above

**Ans: c**

#### **Context**

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi has launched e-RUPI Digital Payment Solution on 2nd August 2021 through video conferencing.



#### **Related Facts**

- e-RUPI is an e-voucher-based payment solution.
- It works on a QR code or SMS string, which is delivered to the mobile phones of the beneficiaries.
- It is made to avoid contacts during the transactions as it is a cashless and contactless instrument for digital payments.
- It will limit touch points between government and beneficiary and ensure that benefits reach its intended beneficiaries in a targeted and leak-proof manner.

#### **Process of working**

- e-RUPI connects the sponsors of the services with the beneficiaries and service providers in a digital manner without any physical interface. It also ensures that the payment to the service provider is made only after the transaction is completed.
- It is prepaid in nature, which assures timely payment to the service provider without involvement of any intermediary.
- e-RUPI will be delivered to mobile phones of beneficiaries through SMS-string or a QR code. Its one-time payment mechanism will allow users to redeem the e-RUPI voucher without a card, digital payments app or internet banking access, at the service provider.

#### **e-RUPI Platform**

- It is developed by National Payments Corporation of India on its UPI platform.
- It was launched in collaboration with Department of Financial Services, Ministry of Health & Family Welfare and National Health Authority.

**Reference:** <https://pib.gov.in/PressReleaselframePage.aspx?PRID=1741110>

## UNESCO World Heritage Site Ramappa Temple

**Question : UNESCO has granted World Heritage status to which Temple near Warangal recently ?**

- (a) Ramappa Temple (b) Durga Temple (c) Thousand Pillar Temple  
(d) Bhadrakali Temple

**Answer: (a)**

#### **Related Facts:**



- Kakatiya Rudreshwara Ramappa Temple was inscribed as a World Heritage Site by UNESCO.
- The Prime Minister of India urged citizens to visit the temple which was built during the rule of Kakatiya dynasty.
- The iconic Ramappa Temple showcases the outstanding craftsmanship of the great Kakatiya dynasty.
- The Ramappa temple was built by the Kakatiya King Ganapatideva Chakravarthy's sub-ruler Recherla Rudrayya in the year 1213 AD.
- History says the Seuna Sena dynasty king Jaitugi defeated Ganapatideva and imprisoned him. King Rudrayya fought with Jaitugi and freed Ganapatideva.
- For Rudrayya's help, Ganapatideva wanted to give a precious Ramappa temple.
- The works of the temple, in which the Ramalingeswaram (Shivalingam) is enshrined, began in 1173 AD and were completed 40 years later in 1213 AD.



**Reference:** <https://www.news18.com/news/india/ramappa-temple-a-reflection-of-culture-tradition-and-technology-of-the-kakatiya-dynasty-4009961.html>

## Launching of spinal muscular atrophy treatment drug in India

**Question : Which company has launched spinal muscular atrophy treatment drug in India ?**

a. Novartis b. Roche c. Alcon d. Abbott

**Ans. a.**

**Related facts —**

- Swiss Pharma major Roche on July 29 said it has launched prescription medicine Evrysdi in India.
- Evrysdi is used for treatment of spinal muscular atrophy (SMA) in adults, children aged 2 months and older, at a maximum retail price of around Rs 6 lakh per bottle.
- It was first approved by the United States Food and Drug Administration (US FDA) in August 2020 and is now available in India within 11 months of the US approval.
- There are over 4,000 SMA patients across over 50 countries.
- Evrysdi is administered daily at home orally and is designed to treat spinal muscular atrophy by increasing production of the survival motor neuron (SMN) protein.



**Link:**

<https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/industry/healthcare/biotech/pharmaceuticals/roche-launches-spinal-muscular-atrophy-treatment-drug-in-india-priced-at-around-rs-6-lakh-per-bottle/articleshow/84858412.cms>

## Landmark decision taken by Government of India in Medical Education

**Question – What is the historical decision taken by the Government of India in the field of medical education ?**

- (a) 27% reservation for OBCs and 10% reservation for EWS in the All India Quota
- (b) 27% reservation for OBCs and 10% reservation for EWS in the All India Quota
- (c) 27% reservation for OBCs and 10% reservation for EWS in the All India Quota

(d) None of the above

**Answer – (a)**

**Related facts —**

- Providing 27% reservation for OBCs and 10% reservation for Economically Weaker Section (EWS) in the All India Quota (AIQ) Scheme is a landmark decision taken by Government of India in Medical Education.
- Prime Minister in a meeting held on 26th July (Monday), 2021 had directed the concerned Union Ministries to facilitate an effective solution to this long pending issue.
- **Key points —**
- 27% reservation for OBCs and 10% reservation for Economically Weaker Section (EWS) in All India Quota (AIQ) Scheme for undergraduate and postgraduate medical / dental courses (MBBS / MD / MS / Diploma / BDS / MDS) from current academic year 2021-22 onwards
- Nearly 5,550 students will be benefitted
- Government is committed to providing due reservation both to Backward Category and EWS Category
- This decision would benefit every year nearly 1500 OBC students in MBBS and 2500 OBC students in postgraduation and also around 550 EWS students in MBBS and around 1000 EWS students in postgraduation.
- **Background —**
- It is notable that All India Quota (AIQ) Scheme was introduced in 1986 under the directions of the Hon'ble Supreme Court to provide for domicile-free merit based opportunities to students from any State to aspire to study in a good medical college located in another State.
- All India Quota consists of 15% of total available UG seats and 50% of total available PG seats in government medical colleges.
- Initially, there was no reservation in AIQ Scheme up to 2007.
- In 2007, the Hon'ble Supreme Court introduced reservation of 15% for SCs and 7.5% for STs in the AIQ Scheme.
- When the Central Educational Institutions (Reservation in Admission) Act became effective in 2007 providing for uniform 27% reservation to OBCs, the same was implemented in all the Central Educational Institutions.



**Link:**

<https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1740268>

## Global CA/TS recognition for good Tiger Conservation

**Question : India's 14 Tiger Reserves has recently(July 2021) got Global CA/TS recognition. What does CA/TS mean ?**

- (a)Conservation Assured/Tiger Standards (b)Conservation Affirmed/Tiger Sites  
(c)Conservation Accredited/Tiger Survey (d)None of the above

**Answer- a**

**Related facts —**

- India's 14 Tiger Reserves has recently (July 2021) got Global CA/TS recognition for good Tiger Conservation.
- CA/TS stands for – Conservation Assured/Tiger Standards.

- Conservation Assured / Tiger Standards (CA|TS) has been agreed upon as accreditation tool by the global coalition of Tiger Range Countries (TRCs) and has been developed by tiger and protected area experts.
- It is notable that conservation of tigers leads to the conservation of entire ecosystem.
- leopard population —
- During all India tiger estimation 2018, leopard population was also estimated within the forested habitats in tiger occupied states of the country.
- The overall leopard population in tiger range landscape of India in 2018 was estimated at 12,852 (SE range 12,172 – 13,535).
- This is a significant increase from the 2014, figure that was 7,910 (SE 6,566-9,181) in forested habitats of 18 tiger bearing states of the country.
- The 14 tiger reserves —
- The 14 tiger reserves which have been accredited are Manas, Kaziranga and Orang in Assam, Satpura, Kanha and Panna in Madhya Pradesh, Pench in Maharashtra, Valmiki Tiger Reserve in Bihar, Dudhwa in Uttar Pradesh, Sunderbans in West Bengal, Parambikulam in Kerala, Bandipur Tiger Reserve of Karnataka and Mudumalai and Anamalai Tiger Reserve in Tamil Nadu.



**Link:**

<https://pib.gov.in/PressReleaseDetail.aspx?PRID=1740353>

## Scientists Develop Self-Healing Materials

**Question: Consider the following statements:**

**(1) Researchers from the Indian Institute of Science Education and Research (IISER) Kolkata, with IIT Kharagpur, have developed piezoelectric molecular crystals that repair themselves from mechanical damages.**

**(2) Piezoelectric crystals are a class of materials that generate electricity when it undergoes a mechanical impact.**

**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:**

- Researchers from the Indian Institute of Science Education and Research (IISER) Kolkata, teaming up with IIT Kharagpur, have developed piezoelectric molecular crystals that repair themselves from mechanical damages without need for any external intervention.
- Piezoelectric crystals are a class of materials that generate electricity when it undergoes a mechanical impact.
- The piezoelectric molecules developed by the scientists called bipyrzole organic crystals recombine following mechanical fracture without any external intervention, autonomously self-healing in milliseconds with crystallographic precision.
- In these molecular solids, due to the unique property of generating electrical charges on mechanical impact, the broken pieces acquire electrical charges at the crack junction, leading to attraction by damaged parts and precise autonomous repair.



**Links:**

<https://www.deccanherald.com/science-and-environment/indian-scientists-breakthrough-on-self-healing-material-may-lead-to-exciting-future-1010431.html>

## Union Minister Smriti Irani Launches 24/7 Helpline for Women Affected by Violence

**Question: Consider the following statements:**

**(1) Smriti Irani inaugurated the National Commission for Women's 24/7 helpline number for Women Affected by Violence**

**(2) National Commission for Women is a statutory body established in 1992.**

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

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

**Answer: (c)**

**Related facts:**

- On 27 July 2021, Union Minister for Women and Child Development, Smriti Irani inaugurated the National Commission for Women's 24/7 helpline number – 7827170170.
- This helpline service has been developed in collaboration with Digital India Corporation, Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology.

**Objective:**

- The objective of the Helpline is to provide 24-hour complaints and counseling services to women affected by violence by linking them with appropriate authorities such as police, hospitals, District Legal Service Authority psychological services and providing information about women related government programmes across the country through a single uniform number.
- Any girl or woman aged 18 years and above can seek help by calling on this Helpline which will be operated from the premises of the National Commission for Women, New Delhi.

**National Commission for Women (NCW):**

- The National Commission for Women (NCW) is the apex national level organisation of India with the mandate of protecting and promoting the interests of women.
- NCW is the statutory body of the Government of India established in January 1992 under the National Commission for Women Act, 1990.

**Links:**

<https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1739451>

## Puri becomes first Indian city to have 'drink-from-tap' facility

**Q. Recently which state launched the Sujal or Drink from Tap Mission?**

a) Chhattisgarh b) Odisha c) Jharkhand d) Bihar



**ANSWER:- b)**

**RELATEDFACTS:-**

- Odisha's Puri has become the first city in the state to have a drink-from-tap facility.
- This means that the city now has safe drinking water that can be used directly from tap for cooking and drinking, without requiring further filtration.
- Odisha Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik inaugurated the 'Sujal' or drink-from-tap mission on 26th July, 2021
- The drink-from-tap mission of the Odisha government has made Puri the first in the country to have city-wide 24-hour quality drinking water from the tap.
- A statement released by the Chief Minister's Office said: "Puri has now joined the elite group of international cities like London, New York and Singapore in supplying quality potable water from municipal taps throughout the day."



**LINK**

<https://www.indiatoday.in/india/story/odisha-puri-becomes-first-indian-city-to-have-drink-from-tap-quality-water-1832975-2021-07-27>

## ODF Plus Manuals under Swachh Bharat Mission (Grameen) Phase II

**Question : ODF Plus Manuals under Swachh Bharat Mission (Grameen) Phase II Released on which date ?**

a. 28 JUL 2021 b. 27 JUL 2021 c. 26 JUL 2021 d. 25 JUL 2021

**Ans. a.**

**Related facts —**

- ODF Plus Manuals under Swachh Bharat Mission (Grameen) Phase II Released on July 28, 2021.
- **Other Key releases —**
  - Manuals on Management of Grey Water, Plastic Waste, Faecal Sludge, Biodegradable Waste & IEC also released on the day.
  - Manuals To Support States, Districts & Rural Local Bodies In Implementing Solid & Liquid Waste Management Initiatives
- **Key points —**
  - The launched manuals pertain to key components of ODF Plus (Grey Water Management, Plastic Waste Management, Faecal Sludge Management, Biodegradable Waste Management and IEC) and provides detailed information on technologies, technical specifications of assets, estimated costs and possible O & M arrangements.
  - DDWS has developed manuals to support states, districts, and rural local bodies implement solid and liquid waste management initiatives.
  - DDWS stands for — Department of Drinking Water and Sanitation.
  - Taking forward the extraordinary success, Phase -II of the SBM (G) aiming at achieving ODF Plus goal was launched early last year, which focuses on ODF sustainability and Solid and Liquid Waste Management (SLWM) aiming at comprehensive cleanliness in villages.





- The manuals launched today will contribute significantly towards capacity building and knowledge enrichment at various levels strengthening SBMG Phase II initiatives.
- For FY 2021-22 as part of approved Annual Implementation Plan (AIP); SBM (G) Phase -II is poised to support over two lakh villages achieve solid and liquid waste management (SLWM) arrangements through an investment of over Rs. 40,700 crores.
- While the Central share would be around Rs. 14,000 crores, the States shall spend over Rs.8300 crores.
- Funds to the tune of Rs. 12,730 crores will be made available through the Fifteenth Finance Commission and over Rs.4,100 through convergence with MGNREGS.
- Programme Implementation this fiscal year will see construction of over 50 lakh Individual Household toilets (IHHs), one Lakh Community toilets, Plastic Waste Management Units in over 2400 Blocks of India, Grey Water Management in around 1.82 lakh villages, Gobardhan projects in 386 Districts, and Faecal sludge management arrangements in over 250 Districts.
- The Biodegradable Waste Management (BWM) manual focuses on important processes and activities related to segregation, Collection and Transportation, Treatment and disposal of biodegradable solid waste (both dry and waste). It also highlights various technology options available like Composting techniques at various levels (Households and Community).
- The Greywater management (GWM) manual addressed the 3Rs (Reduce, Reuse and Recycle) which focuses on minimizing the generation of greywater (from kitchen, washrooms, livestock cleaning and others) and effective treatment using various technologies like Community leach pit, Waste Stabilization pond, constructed wetlands, Phytoid, Decentralized Wastewater Treatment system, Soil Bio Technology and others.
- The Plastic Waste Management (PWM) manual provides details on necessary steps to establish a system of segregation, collection and storage and setting up of Plastic Waste Management Unit at various levels for further processing into useful products and forward linkage in other sectors.
- The Faecal Sludge Management (FSM) manual provides technical information on the selected technology based on the FSM implementation approach as outlined in the SBM (G) Phase-II guidelines.
- The Information, Education and Communication (IEC) manual will serve as a reference guide to all programme managers, implementers and communicators around each ODF Plus components.
- The Government of India, in February 2020, approved Phase-II of the SBM (G) with a total outlay of Rs. 1,40,881 crores to focus on the sustainability of Open Defecation Free (ODF) status and Solid and Liquid Waste Management (SLWM).

**Link:**

<https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1739972>

## UN and other countries for accepting India's proposal of celebrating year 2023 as the 'International Year of Millets'

**Question-Which of the following year will be celebrated as the ' International Year of Millets' ?**

(a) 2022 (b) 2023 (c) 2024 (d) 2021

**Ans. (b)**

**Related facts-**

- Union Minister of State for Agriculture and Farmer's Welfare Ms Shobha Karandlaje virtually addressed the Pre-Summit Ministerial Roundtable on "Transforming



Food Systems for Achieving the Sustainable Development Goals: Rising to the Challenge” of United Nations Food Systems Summit 2021.

- The Minister said “the UN Food Systems Summit has given us a lead to define the national pathways to transform our Food Systems into economically, socially and environmentally sustainable systems.
- The Minister informed the summit about various steps India has taken to transform its agri-food systems into sustainable systems, to provide income support to farmers, improve rural incomes, as well as address the issues of under-nutrition and malnutrition in the country.
- The Government of India has created a dedicated Agriculture Infrastructure Fund worth USD 14 billion which aims to create farm gate and agriculture marketing infrastructure in rural areas by providing interest subventions and credit guarantee to entrepreneurs which will greatly help in reducing the post-harvest losses thereby directly benefiting the farmers.
- The Minister thanked the UN and other countries for accepting India’s proposal of celebrating the year 2023 as the ‘International Year of Millets’.
- The Minister said that for addressing nutritional challenges and also to bring diversity in our agri-food systems, the Government is supporting diversification from predominantly food grain-based systems to other high-value crops like fruits and vegetables.
- To address the issues of under-nutrition and malnutrition, India is running the world’s largest food-based safety net programmes which include the Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS) that served about 800 million people in 2020.
- India’s school feeding program, the Mid Day Meal Scheme reached about 120 million schoolchildren.

**Reference-** <https://www.pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1739509>.

## Tripura Agarwood Policy 2021

**Question- Consider the following statements-**

- (1) Agar (Aquilaria malaccensis) is an evergreen tree which grows in Bangladesh, Bhutan, Northeast India**  
**(2) Agartala, the state capital of Tripura is believed to have origin of its name from Agarwood**

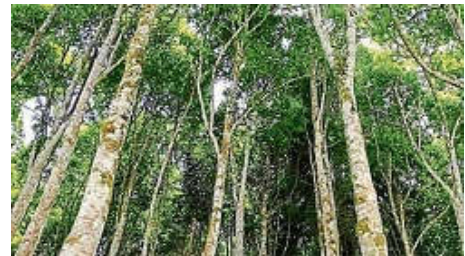
**Select the correct answer using the code given below-**

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

**Ans. (c)**

**Related Facts-**

- Recently, the government of Tripura has launched the Tripura Agarwood Policy 2021.
- Agar (Aquilaria malaccensis) is an evergreen tree which grows in Bangladesh, Bhutan, Northeast India, Sumatra and Kalimantan of Indonesia, Iran, Malaysia, Myanmar, Luzon Philippines, Singapore and Southern Thailand.
- In India, it is found in North Eastern States viz Assam, Arunachal Pradesh, Meghalaya, Manipur, Tripura, Mizoram, Nagaland, Sikkim and also in West Bengal.
- Agar is a precious floral wealth of North East India and has been identified as a potential aromatic plant.
- Northeast India is particularly significant in this precious wealth locally known as “Agar” or “Xashi” and is considered to be the cradle of Agarwood aromatics with ancient traditions of Agarwood production which is thriving and growing.
- It has been used for over 2000 years for medicinal, aromatic and religious purposes.
- Aquilaria malaccensis is the preferred source of Agarwood for perfumery and religious traditions in the Middle East and in India.



- In Northeast India, Agar is found mainly in two states viz Assam and Tripura.
- Agartala, the state capital of Tripura is believed to have origin of its name from Agarwood.
- This species has a huge potential of creating another “Economic Revolution” in Tripura after Rubber, Bamboo and other major forestry crops of Tripura.
- In Tripura, this critically endangered tree is quite adaptable to the land.
- In order to promote Agar tree, its plantation, its sustainable harvesting and promoting Agarwood based Industry, detailed policy for promotion of Agarwood is presented.

#### Reference-

<https://jica.tripura.gov.in/jica/retrieveimg3?ids=25#:~:text=The%20objectives%20of%20the%20Tripura,Sustainable%20Utilization%20of%20Agarwood%202014.>

### Raksha Mantri Shri Rajnath Singh to attend SCO Defence Ministers’ meeting in Tajikistan

**Question-The annual meeting of the Defence Ministers of Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) member states was held in-**

(a) Dushanbe, Tajikistan (b) New Delhi, India (c) Shanghai, China (d) Moscow, Russia

**Ans. (a)**

#### Related Facts-

- Raksha Mantri Shri Rajnath Singh is visiting Dushanbe, Tajikistan from July 27-29, 2021 to attend the annual meeting of the Defence Ministers of Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) member states.
- In the annual meeting, defence cooperation issues among SCO member states are discussed and a communique is expected to be issued after the deliberations.
- Ahead of the conclave Singh held bilateral talks with his Belarusian counterpart Lt Gen Viktor Khrenin and had a brief conversation with Russian Defence Minister Gen Sergey Shoygu.
- In his address at the conclave, officials said Singh is expected to delve into regional security challenges, including terrorism, and the ways to deal with them.
- Officials said the deliberations at the conclave focused on regional security challenges and evolving situation in Afghanistan.
- Tajikistan is chairing the SCO this year and hosting a series of ministerial and official-level meetings.
- The SCO, seen as a counterweight to NATO, is an eight-member economic and security bloc and has emerged as one of the largest trans-regional international organisations.
- India and Pakistan became its permanent members in 2017.
- **About SCO-**
- The SCO was founded at a summit in Shanghai in 2001 by the presidents of Russia, China, the 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.



## NSDM envisages to train a minimum of 300 million skilled people by the year 2022

**Question-Consider the following statements-**

**(1) NSDM envisages to train a minimum of 300 million skilled people by the year 2022**

**(2) National Skill Development Mission (NSDM) was launched by Prime Minister on 15.07.2015**

**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-**

- The National Skill Development Mission (NSDM) was launched by the Prime Minister on 15.07.2015 to create convergence across sectors and States in terms of skill training activities and for skilling at scale with speed and standards.
- Training is not only done by the Central Ministries and Departments but also by the State Governments.
- The Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship (MSDE) is implementing its flagship scheme known as the Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana (PMKVY) on pan-India basis, besides Jan Shikshan Sansthan (JSS) and National Apprenticeship Promotion Scheme (NAPS) in the short-term skilling eco-system, while long-term training is being imparted through the Industrial Training Institutes (ITIs) under the Craftsmen Training Scheme (CTS).
- NSDM envisages to train a minimum of 300 million skilled people by the year 2022.
- Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship promotes establishment of model and aspirational skill centres known as Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Kendra (PMKK) in every district for imparting skill training throughout the country in Public Private Partnership (PPP) mode.
- As on 30.06.2021, 812 PMKKs have been allocated across the country, out of which 721 PMKKs have been established.
- Under Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana (PMKVY), short term training (STT) is being imparted through empanelled training centres (TCs) including PMKKs.
- As on 10.07.2021, 3,415 TCs are operational across the country that includes 721 PMKKs.
- Targets to TCs are being allocated for approved job roles as per extant guidelines of the scheme and training is being imparted in batch size of maximum 30 candidates.



**Reference-** <https://pib.gov.in/PressReleaselframePage.aspx?PRID=1739173>.

## Gadkari launches Khadi Prakritik paint – India's first cow dung paint – developed by KVIC



**Question- Which of the following industry has developed the India's first cow dung paint?**

(a) KVIC (b) Patanjali (c) Asian Paints (d) Berger paints

**Ans. (a)**

**Related facts-**

- Union Minister for Road Transport & Highways & MSME Sh. Nitin Gadkari launched an innovative new paint – India's first cow dung paint – developed by Khadi and Village Industries Commission.
- The eco-friendly, non-toxic paint, called “Khadi Prakritik Paint” is a first-of-its-kind product, with anti-fungal, anti-bacterial properties.
- Based on cow dung as its main ingredient, the paint is cost-effective and odorless, and has been certified by Bureau of Indian Standards.
- Khadi Prakritik Paint is available in two forms – distemper paint and plastic emulsion paint.
- The project was conceptualized by Chairman KVIC in March 2020, and later developed by Kumarappa National Handmade Paper Institute, Jaipur (a KVIC unit).
- The paint is free from heavy metals like lead, mercury, chromium, arsenic, cadmium and others.
- It will be a boost to local manufacturing and will create sustainable local employment through technology transfer.
- This technology will increase consumption of cow dung as a raw material for eco-friendly products and will generate additional revenue to farmers and gaushalas.
- Utilization of cow dung will also clean the environment and prevent clogging of drains.



**Reference-** <https://www.pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1687954>.

## Kandla becomes first Green SEZ

**Question-Which of the following has become first green industrial city in India to receive a platinum rating under IGBC Green Cities Rating?**

(a) Kandla SEZ (Gujarat) (b) Santa Cruz (Maharashtra) (c) Cochin (Kerala)  
(d) Falta ( West Bengal)

**Ans. (a)**

**Related Facts-**

- Kandla Special Economic Zone (KASEZ), the oldest export zone in the country, has become the “first green industrial city” in India to receive a platinum rating under IGBC Green Cities Rating for existing cities in the industrial cities category.
- “It become the first green industrial city in India to receive platinum rating after a year-long rigorous audit and inspections conducted by IGBC.
- This has been possible because of not only increased the green cover in KASEZ, but have managed to grow 68 species of trees and attract 28 varieties of birds — which were also audited and counted — on a piece of land that was once a salt pan with almost no vegetation.



- Compared to the 25,000 trees in KASEZ in 2019, the 1000-odd acres has 3.5 lakh trees.
- Most of these trees have been planted post 2019, using the Miyawaki forestation method.
- To prevent salinity of land from coming into contact with the planted trees, torn clothes are placed in land as first layer before seeding of trees.
- After seeding, that part of plantation is surrounded by torn clothes which ensures maximum water retention.
- Apart from this, KASEZ also used plastic waste to line the artificial water bodies created inside the area to prevent water seepage and mix with the saline water. The SEZ initiatives with solar energy and LED lighting was also among the factors that contributed to the IGBC rating.

**Reference-** <https://indianexpress.com/article/cities/ahmedabad/kasez-becomes-first-green-industrial-city-in-india-7345893/>.

## Harappan city Dholavira declared world heritage site

**Question- Which of the following Harappan city is declared as the World heritage sites by UNESCO?**

(a) Dholavira (b) Lothal (c) Kalibangan (d) Banawali

**Ans. (a)**

**Related Facts-**



- Dholavira, the archaeological site of a Harappan-era city, received the UNESCO world heritage site tag on July 27, 2021.
- While Dholavira became the fourth site from Gujarat and 40th from India to make the list, it is the first site of the ancient Indus Valley Civilisation (IVC) in India to get the tag.
- **Dholavira Sites-**
- The IVC acropolis is located on a hillock near present-day Dholavira village in Kutch district, from which it gets its name.
- It was discovered in 1968 by archaeologist Jagat Pati Joshi.
- The site's excavation between 1990 and 2005 under the supervision of archaeologist Ravindra Singh Bisht uncovered the ancient city, which was a commercial and manufacturing hub for about 1,500 years before its decline and eventual ruin in 1500 BC.
- **Distinct features-**
- After Mohen-jo-Daro, Ganweriwala and Harappa in Pakistan and Rakhigarhi in Haryana of India, Dholavira is the fifth largest metropolis of IVC.
- The site has a fortified citadel, a middle town and a lower town with walls made of sandstone or limestone instead of mud bricks in many other Harappan sites.
- Archaeologist Bisht cites a cascading series of water reservoirs, outer fortification, two multi-purpose grounds — one of which was used for festivities and as a marketplace — nine gates with unique designs, and funerary architecture featuring tumulus — hemispherical structures like the Buddhist Stupas— as some of the unique features of the Dholavira site.
- While unlike graves at other IVC sites, no mortal remains of humans have been discovered at Dholavira.

- Bisht says memorials that contain no bones or ashes but offerings of precious stones, etc. add a new dimension to the personality of the Harappans.
- Remains of a copper smelter indicate of Harappans, who lived in Dholavira, knew metallurgy.
- It is believed that traders of Dholavira used to source copper ore from present-day Rajasthan and Oman and UAE and export finished products.
- It was also a hub of manufacturing jewellery made of shells and semi-precious stones, like agate and used to export timber.
- From 2000 BC, Dholavira entered a phase of severe aridity due to climate change and rivers like Saraswati drying up.
- Because of a drought-like situation, people started migrating toward the Ganges valley or towards south Gujarat and further beyond in Maharashtra.
- Other Harappan Sites in Gujarat-
- Before Dholavira was excavated, Lothal, in Saragwala village on the bank of Sabarmati in Dholka taluka of Ahmedabad district, was the most prominent site of IVC in Gujarat.
- It was excavated between 1955 and 1960 and was discovered to be an important port city of the ancient civilisation, with structures made of mud bricks.
- From a graveyard in Lothal, 21 human skeletons were found.
- Foundries for making copperware were also discovered. Ornaments made of semi-precious stones, gold etc. were also found from the site.
- Besides Lothal, Rangpur on the bank of Bhadar river in Surendranagar district was the first Harappan site in the state to be excavated.
- Rojdi in Rajkot district, Prabhas near Veraval in Gir Somnath district, Lakhabaval in Jamnagar, and Deshalpar in Bhuj taluka of Kutch are among other Harappan sites in the state.
- In its release, UNESCO termed Dholavira as one of the most remarkable and well-preserved urban settlements in South Asia dating from the 3rd to mid-2nd millennium BCE (Before Common Era).
- Since the excavation at the site, the ASI has developed a museum here.
- Dholavira, a village with a population of around 2,000, is the nearest human settlement at present. Near the ancient city is a fossil park where wood fossils are preserved.

**Reference-** <https://indianexpress.com/article/explained/dholavira-gujarat-unesco-harappa-indus-valley-civilisation-7425543/>.

## Nano Urea Liquid fertilizer

**Q. Consider the following statements regarding recently signed MoUs with Indian Farmers Fertiliser Cooperative Limited (IFFCO)?**

1. The MoUs were signed with National Fertilisers Limited and Rashtriya Chemicals and Fertilisers Ltd.
2. The MoUs were signed for transfer of Technology of Nano Urea Liquid.

**Which of the above statement / s is /are true ?**

a) Only 1 b) Only 2 c) Both 1 &2 d) None of these

**ANSWER:- c)**

**RELATED FACTS:-**

- On 27th July, 2021 National Fertilisers Limited (NFL) and Rashtriya Chemicals and Fertilisers Ltd (RCF) signed Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Indian Farmers Fertiliser Cooperative Limited (IFFCO) for 'transfer of technology' of a revolutionary and game changer fertiliser Nano Urea Liquid.
- To enhance the adaptability of Nano Urea by farmers, technology transfer from IFFCO to public sector fertiliser companies will be achieved through these MOUs.
- This technology transfer will ramp up the production leading towards consistent supply resulting in faster adoption and would also result in more savings to farmers and government subsidies.
- Under these agreements, IFFCO will transfer the technology of Liquid Nano Urea to NFL and RCF.
- In the near future, NFL and RCF will establish new Nano Urea production plants to increase the supply of Nano Urea to farmers of the country.



#### LINK

<https://www.pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1739624>

## Marine Aids to Navigation Bill 2021

### Q. Which of the following sentence is not true regarding Marine Aids to Navigation Bill, 2021?

- a) It will replace the Lighthouse Act of 1927. b) It aims incorporate global best practices.  
c) At present in India more than 100 light house are there d) None of these

**ANSWER:- c)**

#### RELATED FACTS:-

- On July 27th, 2021 Parliament today passed the Marine Aids to Navigation Bill 2021.
- It aims to replace over 90-year-old Lighthouse Act 1927.
- It also aims to incorporate the global best practices, technological developments and India's International obligations in the field of Marine Aids to Navigation.
- The administration and management of Lighthouse and Lightships in India is governed by Lighthouse Act 1927 for safe navigation.
- At the time of enactment of Lighthouse Act 1927, there were only 32 Lighthouses in the then British India spread across six regions viz. Aden, Karachi, Bombay, Madras, Calcutta and Rangoon.
- Post-Independence, 17 Lighthouses came under the administrative control of India, which have now increased manifold to meet the growing needs of the shipping industry.
- The need for enactment of a new Act is necessitated to provide an appropriate statutory framework which reflects the modern role of marine aids to navigation and to be in compliance with India's obligations under International Conventions.
- The new Act will facilitate harmonized and effective functioning of aids to marine navigation and Vessel Traffic Services along the Indian coastline.





## LINK

<https://www.pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1739608>

## Govt. to set up National Centre of Excellence for Animation, Visual Effects, Gaming & Comics

**Q. Which of the following is not true regarding recently govt. announced setting up of the National Centre of Excellence for Animation, Visual Effects, Gaming and Comics?**

- a) It will be set up in collaboration with Indian Institute of Technology, Bombay.
- b) National Film Development Corporation organizes Film Bazaar.
- c) Film and Television Institute of India runs courses on Animation and VFX for supporting skilled manpower.
- d) None of these.

**ANSWER:- d)**

**RELATED FACTS:-**

- The Union Government has decided to set up a National Centre of Excellence for Animation, Visual Effects, Gaming and Comics for creating a world-class talent pool in India to cater to the Indian as well as global industry.
- It will be set up in collaboration with Indian Institute of Technology, Bombay. Minister of Information and Broadcasting Anurag Thakur said this in a written reply to a question in the Rajya Sabha On 26th July, 2021.
- In order to support skilled manpower in the animation and VFX sector, Satyajit Ray Film and Television Institute and Film and Television Institute of India run courses on Animation and VFX.
- For attracting foreign investment in the film industry, National Film Development Corporation organizes Film Bazaar at the International Film Festival of India held at Goa every year.



## LINK

<https://newsonair.com/2021/07/26/govt-to-set-up-national-centre-of-excellence-for-animation-visual-effects-gaming-comics/>

## New Chief Minister of Karnataka

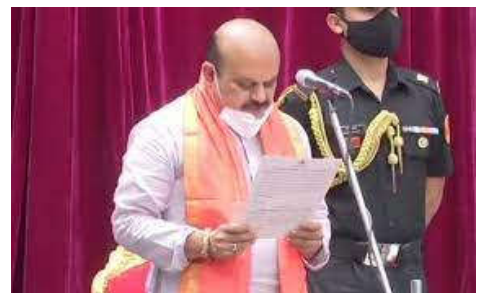
**Question: Who has sworn in as the 23rd Chief Minister of Karnataka?**

- (a) Basavaraj Bommai (b) Karjol Ashok Eshwarappa (c) Govind Karjol
- (d) Ballari Sriramulu

**Answer: (a)**

**Related facts:**

- On 28 July 2021, Basavaraj Bommai sworn in as the 23rd Chief Minister of Karnataka.
- Karnataka Governor Thawarchand Gehlot administered the oath of office and secrecy to him.
- He succeeded BS Yediyurappa.



- Bommai was chosen BJP State's legislative party leader in the presence of Central party observers and Union Ministers Dharmendra Pradhan and G Kishan Reddy.
- **About Basavaraj Bommai:**
- Basavaraj Bommai is three times MLA from Shegaon in Haveri district in North Karnataka and was the Home minister and Parliamentary Affairs minister in the BS Yediyurappa cabinet.
- He was among the top contenders for post of the state's chief minister.
- Considered a close confidant of Yediyurappa, Bommai joined BJP in 2008 and served as Water Resources minister between 2008 and 2013.
- A mechanical engineer, Bommai is son of former Chief Minister S R Bommai who was in office between 1988 and 1989.

**Links:**

<https://www.livemint.com/politics/news/basavaraj-bommai-takes-oath-as-the-new-chief-minister-of-karnataka-11627450588370.html>

## Production Linked Incentive (PLI) Scheme for specialty steel

**Question: Consider the following statements:**

**(1) Union Cabinet has approved the Production Linked Incentive (PLI) Scheme for specialty steel in July 2021.**

**(2) The scheme proposes to incentivize by 4% to 12% on the specialty steel incremental production.**

**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)**

**Context:**

- On 22 July 2021, Union Cabinet, chaired by the Prime Minister Narendra Modi has approved the Production Linked Incentive (PLI) Scheme for specialty steel.
- The move will boost the domestic exports and manufacturing from this sector.
- **Specialty steel:**
- Specialty steel is value added steel wherein normal finished steel is worked upon by way of coating, plating, heat treatment, etc to convert it into high value added steel.
- These value added steel can be used in various strategic applications like Defence, Space, Power, apart from automobile sector, specialized capital goods etc.
- **Categories of Speciality Steel under scheme:**
- The five categories of specialty steel which have been chosen in the PLI Scheme are:



(1) Coated/Plated Steel Products

(2) High Strength/Wear resistant Steel

- (3) Specialty Rails
- (4) Alloy Steel Products and Steel wires
- (5) Electrical Steel

- **Benefits of the scheme:**

- The scheme proposes to incentivise all the eligible manufacturers in the country by paying in the range of 4% to 12% incentive on the incremental production.
- Any Indian registered company who are engaged in manufacturing of specialty steel grades will be eligible to participate in the PLI scheme.

- **Reason behind:**

- Speciality steel has been chosen as the target segment because out of the production of 102 million tonnes steel in India in 2020-21, only 18 million tonnes value added steel/speciality steel was produced in the country.
- Apart from this out of 6.7 million tonnes of imports in the same year, approx. 4 million tonnes import was of specialty steel alone resulting in FOREX outgo of Approx. Rs. 30,000 crores.
- By becoming Aatmanirbhar in producing speciality steel, India will move up the steel value chain and come at par with advanced steel making countries like Korea and Japan.

- **Duration and Budgetary outlay:**

- The duration of the scheme will be five years, from 2023-24 to 2027-28.
- With a budgetary outlay of ₹6322 crores, the scheme is expected to bring in investment of approximately ₹40,000 crores and capacity addition of 25 MT for speciality steel.
- The scheme will give employment to about 5,25,000 people of which 68,000 will be direct employment.

- **Target:**

- It is expected that the speciality steel production will become 42 million tonnes by the end of 2026-27.
- This will ensure that approximately 2.5 lakh crores worth of speciality steel will be produced and consumed in the country which would otherwise have been imported.
- Similarly, the export of specialty steel will become around 5.5 million tonnes as against the current 1.7 million tonnes of specialty steel getting FOREX of Rs 33,000 crore.

**Links:**

<https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1737722>

## Kargil Vijay Diwas

**Question: When is the Kargil Vijay Diwas observed?**

(a) 25 July (b) 26 July (c) 27 July (d) 31 July

**Answer: (b)**

**Related facts:**

- India celebrated 22nd anniversary of Kargil Vijay Diwas on 26 July 2021.

- Kargil Vijay Diwas is observed every year to mark the anniversary of the Indian Army's victory against Pakistan on this day in 1999.
- The Kargil War took place between May 3 and July 26, 1999, in the Kargil district of erstwhile Kashmir (Now Ladakh) and elsewhere along the Line of Control (LOC).
- Indian Army launched Operation Vijay to recapture the Indian territories from Pakistani intruders in the Kargil-Drass sector.
- Operation Vijay was launched by the Indian Army twice in Indian history. The first Operation Vijay was launched in 1961 that led to the capture of Goa, Anjediva islands and Daman and Diu.



#### Links:

<https://indianexpress.com/photos/india-news/kargil-war-marks-its-22nd-anniversary-7422839/>

## Integrated Multi-purpose infrastructure Development Corporation for Ladakh

**Question: Consider the following statements:**

**(1) Union Cabinet has approved establishment of an Integrated Multi-purpose infrastructure Development Corporation for the Union Territory of Ladakh in July 2021.**

**(2) The corporation establishment is on the lines of the Andaman & Nicobar Islands Integrated Development Corporation Limited to take up various developmental activities.**

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

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

**Answer: (c)**

**Related facts:**

- On 22 July 2021, Union Cabinet chaired by the Prime Minister Narendra Modi has approved the establishment of an Integrated Multi-purpose infrastructure Development Corporation for the Union Territory of Ladakh
- The Cabinet also approved the creation of one post of Managing Director, for the corporation in the pay scale of Rs.1,44,200- Rs.2,18,200 level.
- The authorized share capital of the Corporation will be Rs.25 crore and recurring expenditure will be around Rs. 2.42 crore per year.
- **About:**
  - Integrated Multi-purpose infrastructure Development Corporation will be undertaking various kinds of developmental activities.
  - Corporation will work for industry, tourism, transport and marketing of local products and handicraft. Corporation will also work as main construction agency for infrastructure development in Ladakh.





- The establishment of corporation will result in inclusive and integrated development of the Union Territory of Ladakh. This will, in turn, ensure socio-economic development of the entire region and population of the Union Territory.
- The establishment of corporation will help in realizing the goal of Atmanirbhar Bharat.
- **Background:**
  - Consequent upon re-organisation of the erstwhile State of Jammu and Kashmir as per the Jammu and Kashmir Reorganisation Act, 2019, the Union Territory of Ladakh (without Legislature) came into existence on 31.10.2019.
  - An Advisory Committee was constituted under section 85 of the Jammu and Kashmir Reorganization Act, 2019 for making recommendations regarding the apportionment of the assets and liabilities of the erstwhile State of Jammu and Kashmir between the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir, and the Union Territory of Ladakh.
  - The said Committee inter-alia recommended for the establishment of an Integrated Infrastructure Development Corporation Limited on the lines of the Andaman & Nicobar Islands Integrated Development Corporation Limited (ANIIDCO), with an appropriate mandate to take up various developmental activities as per the specific needs of Ladakh.
  - Accordingly, the Union Territory of Ladakh sent a proposal to this Ministry for the establishment of the corporation in the Union Territory of Ladakh, which was recommended by the Committee on Establishment Expenditure (CEE), Ministry of Finance in April, 2021.

**Links:**

<https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1737740>

## IIT-Kanpur launches innovation hub to find solutions for anti-drone technologies

**Question: Which institute has launched the first technology innovation hub to find cybersecurity solutions for anti-drones technologies?**

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

**Answer: (a)**

**Related facts:**

- Indian Institute of Technology, Kanpur (IIT-K) has launched the first technology innovation hub to find cybersecurity solutions for anti-drones technologies, intrusion detection systems, block-chain and cyber-physical systems.
- As many as 13 start-ups and 25 research and development principal investigators were selected after a rigorous application process.
- The presence of cutting-edge technology in cybersecurity is accompanied by an increasing need to protect digital assets and deploy solutions for the common public as well as government and industry.
- IIT Kanpur's C3i hub will focus on safeguarding cyberspace including critical infrastructure.



- The government is promoting Make-in India cybersecurity solutions to counter rising threats from neighbouring countries, particularly China.

#### Links:

<https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/science/iit-k-launches-technology-innovation-hub-to-find-cyber-security-solutions-for-anti-drones-technologies/articleshow/84680233.cms?from=mdr#:~:text=Indian%20Institute%20of%20Technology%2C%20Kanpur,chain%20and%20cyber%20physical%20system.>

## Government announces portal to register children orphaned by COVID-19

**Question: Consider the following statements:**

- (1) PM CARES for children scheme provides support to the children who lost their parents due to the COVID-19 pandemic.
- (2) The scheme provides a corpus of ₹10 lakh to each child when he/she turns 18 years old.

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

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

**Answer: (c)**

**Related facts:**

- On 15 July 2021, Union Government has introduced a portal for the children who lost their parents due to the COVID-19 pandemic.
- Through the portal anyone can share details of child orphaned due to COVID-19 and get them avail the benefits under the PM CARES scheme.
- The website can be accessed at [www.pmcaredforchildren.in](http://www.pmcaredforchildren.in).
- **PM CARES scheme:**
  - In May, the Prime Minister approved a scheme under the PM CARES fund for children who have lost both parents or the lone surviving parent or a legal guardian or an adoptive parent due to COVID-19.
  - The scheme provides a corpus of ₹10 lakh to each child when he or she turns 18 years old. This corpus will be used to give a monthly stipend from the age of 18 for the next five years to help with higher education.
  - At the age of 23, the beneficiary will get the entire corpus amount as one lump sum.
  - The government will also help with school education and extend a health insurance cover of ₹5 lakh under the Ayushman Bharat Scheme.
- **Facts and Figures:**
  - According to data shared by the Minister before the House, a total of 645 children were orphaned due to COVID-19 between April 1, 2021 and May 28, 2021.
  - According to an affidavit submitted by the National Commission for Protection of Child Rights before the Supreme Court, 3,621 children were orphaned due to COVID-19 and at least 26,176 had lost a single parent because of the pandemic between April 1, 2020 and June 5, 2021.



**Links:**

<https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/govt-portal-for-registering-covid-19-orphans/article35468066.ece>

## Foundation stone laid of Plant Authority Building

**Question: Where did the Union Minister of Agriculture Narendra Singh Tomar lay the foundation stone of the Plant Authority building?**

(a) New Delhi (b) Chandigarh (c) Lucknow (d) Hyderabad

**Answer: (a)**

**Related facts:**

- On 22 July 2021, Union Minister of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare Narendra Singh Tomar laid the foundation stone of the Plant Authority building at Pusa, New Delhi.
- **About:**
- Plant Authority will help ensure protection of rights of farmers. With this, the farmers can get rights over their traditional varieties and the seeds of any other variety produced by them.
- It also ensures that the farmers are not exploited by infringement of intellectual property rights.
- **Protection of Plant Varieties:**
- The National Intellectual Property Rights (IPR) Policy 2016 was adopted in May 2016 as a vision document to guide future development of IPRs in the country.
- The policy has been implemented through better infrastructure and modifications to encourage innovations.
- Protection of Plant Varieties and Farmers' Rights Authority (PPVFRA) is affiliated with the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare.
- In this IPR, the certificate is awarded only after crops are grown and verification the claim made by the farmer.
- Under the new IPR policy, the IPR authorities are being strengthened by the government by providing necessary manpower and infrastructure.

**Links:**

<https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1737757>

## CRPF 83rd Raising Day

**Question: When is the CRPF Raising Day observed?**

(a) 25 July (b) 26 July (c) 27 July (d) 31 July

**Answer: (c)**

**Related facts:**

- The Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF), observed its 83rd Raising Day on 27 July 2021.
- CRPF is India's largest Central Armed Police Force, under the authority of the Ministry of Home Affairs



(MHA).

- Its headquarter is located in New Delhi.
- **About CRPF:**
- CRPF was originally constituted as the Crown Representative Police in 1939.
- After Indian Independence, it became the Central Reserve Police Force on the enactment of the CRPF Act on 28 December 1949.
- CRPF is the major Force which deals with counter insurgency or internal security operations all over the country.

**Links:**

<https://www.hindustantimes.com/india-news/crpf-raising-day-pm-modi-union-minister-extend-greetings-to-soldiers-101627361668986.html>

## Centre to invest Rs 324 crore to expand lab testing infrastructure

**Question: What worth of fund has been approved by Union Government to expand lab testing infrastructure?**

(a) Rs 324 crore (b) Rs 434 crore (c) Rs 275 crore (d) Rs 574 crore

**Answer: (a)**

**Related facts:**

- The Union government will set up over 42 virology research and diagnostic laboratories under a central scheme during the period of 15th Finance Commission (2021-22 to 2025-26).
- This project will cost Rs324 crore.
- The scheme falls under the Department of Health Research (DHR) of Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR).
- The objective is to boost coverage of timely diagnosis and identification of viruses during an epidemic outbreak, generation of data about viral diseases for facilitating quick deployment of resources and measures to save human lives.
- **Timeline:**
- The scheme was approved by the Expenditure Finance Committee (EFC) in 2013 at an estimated cost of Rs646.83 crores for the 12th Plan period. The Standing Finance Committee gave its approval to scheme in 2017 at an estimated cost of Rs488.5 crores for 14th Finance Commission Period (2017-18 to 2019-20). The scheme was extended by one year till 31 March, 2021, in order to tie it up with the 14th Finance Commission Period.
- **Target under scheme:**
- Initially the target of the scheme was to establish three-tier network of 160 laboratories – 10 regional level labs, 30 state-level lab, and 120 medical college labs.
- Thereafter, the target was reduced to 125 viral research & diagnostic laboratories (10 regional laboratories; 25 state level laboratories and 90 medical college level laboratories) during the 14th Finance Commission.
- As on 31st March 2021, a network of 124 VRDLs has been established.





**Links:**

<https://www.livemint.com/news/india/centre-to-invest-rs324-crore-to-expand-laboratory-testing-infra-11627025570480.html>

## Central University approved in Ladakh

**Question: Union Cabinet has recently given approval for setting up Central University in which Union Territory in July 2021?**

(a) Delhi (b) Ladakh (c) Jammu and Kashmir (d) Puducherry

**Answer: (b)**

**Related facts:**

- On 22 July 2021, the Union Cabinet has given approval for the establishment of a central university in Ladakh at a cost of Rs 750 crore.
- The university will provide world-class education facilities to the youth of Ladakh.
- The Education Ministry needs to bring two amendments to the Central Universities Act, 2009 for this purpose.
- The government has identified 110 acres of land near village Khaltsi, which is located between Leh and Kargil.
- The jurisdiction of this university will cover the regions of Leh and Kargil.
- The first phase of the university will be completed in four years.

**Links:**

<https://indianexpress.com/article/education/cabinet-approves-setting-up-central-university-in-ladakh-7417788/>

## Karnataka Chief Minister B S Yediyurappa resigns

**Question: Consider the following statements:**

(1) Karnataka Chief Minister B S Yediyurappa submitted his resignation to Governor Thawarchand Gehlot in July 2021.

(2) B S Yediyurappa has four times assumed the charge as Karnataka Chief Minister and resigned without completing the full term.

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

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

**Answer: (c)**

**Related facts:**

- On 26 July 2021, Karnataka Chief Minister B S Yediyurappa submitted his resignation to Governor Thawarchand Gehlot in Bengaluru.
- He had served as the 19th Chief Minister of Karnataka having assumed office on 26 July 2019.
- Before submitting his resignation letter, Yediyurappa made the announcement to resign at the Sadhana Samavesha which was organised to mark the completion of two years of his Government.
- **Political Career:**



- This is for the fourth time that Chief Minister Yediyurappa had assumed the seat and resigned without completing the full term. His first term as Chief Minister began in 2008.
- He is also the only one so far in Karnataka to serve 3 times as the leader of the opposition in the Karnataka Legislative Assembly.
- He is also an eight-time MLA from Shikaripura constituency in Shimoga district.
- **Political influence:**
- BS Yediyurappa is a Lingayat strongman. Lingayats are the state's single largest community, at nearly 17 per cent of the population, mostly in the north Karnataka region, and are known to include firm supporters of the BJP and Yediyurappa.
- The Lingayats, a Hindu Shaivite community, deify Basavanna who fought for equality in society.

**Links:**

<https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/karnataka/karnataka-chief-minister-bs-yediyurappa-to-resign/article35533223.ece>

## 97th Constitution Amendment

**Question: Consider the following statements:**

**(1) The Supreme Court (SC) upheld a 2013 judgment of the Gujarat High Court and struck down certain provisions of the Constitution (97th Amendment) Act, 2011.**

**(2) Part IXB, introduced into the Constitution through the 97th Amendment, dictated the terms for running co-operative societies.**

**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 recent Supreme Court verdict striking down a part of the 97th Constitution Amendment, insofar as it dealt with cooperative societies under the domain of the States, has brought the focus on the extent to which the Centre can seek to lay down policy for the functioning of cooperative societies.
- **97th Constitution Amendment:**
- Recognising that 'cooperative societies' came under Entry 32 of the State List in the Seventh Schedule, the Amendment proposed to create a framework for the functioning of cooperative societies.
- It introduced Part IXB in the Constitution so that the concept of cooperative societies gains constitutional recognition.
- The idea was to empower Parliament to frame laws for cooperative societies that function across States (multi-State cooperative societies) and State legislatures to make laws for all other cooperative societies falling under their jurisdiction.
- The Amendment set out basic rules such as
- a maximum of 21 directors in a society,
- a fixed term of five years for elected members,



- a six-month cap on the time limit for which a society's board of directors can be kept under supersession or suspension, and
- reservation of one seat for the Scheduled Castes or the Scheduled Tribes, and two seats for women on the board of every cooperative society, that is, every society that has members from these sections.

#### Links:

<https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/explained-where-did-the-centre-go-wrong-on-cooperatives/article35516596.ece>

### Talcher unit of Fertilizer Corporation of India Ltd

**Question : Recently Government of India has decided to revive Talcher unit of Fertilizer Corporation of India Ltd (FCIL) . Where is it located?**

(a) Orissa (b) Karnataka (c) Tamil Nadu (d) Punjab

**Answer : (a)**

#### Related Facts:

- Talcher Fertilizer Unit is located about 126 kms away from Bhubaneswar, the capital of Orissa State and in the district of Angul. The Unit was established at Talcher due to abundance of coal that was being used as feedstock.
- After a series of CCEA decisions in August 2011, May 2013 regarding revival of FCIL, the Cabinet decided to revive Talcher Unit on 'nomination basis' by a consortium of GAIL, RCF, CIL & FCIL for setting up Urea plant.
- The direct employment opportunities would be about 510 and indirect employment opportunities would be 4500 (during construction phase) for the Talcher Fertilizer Plant.
- Besides employment opportunities to the local people, Talcher Fertilizer Plant would boost economic development in the eastern region and would ensure availability of urea to the farmers in the state of Odisha.



**Reference:** <https://pib.gov.in/PressReleaselframePage.aspx?PRID=1739465>

### Krishi Siksha

**Question : Recently Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare has launched the initiative called Krishi Siksha? What is/are its objective?**

(a) To develop human resource in organic farming (b) To develop natural farming  
(c) To develop cow based economy (d) All of the above

**Answer : (d)**

#### Related Facts:

- Pandit Deen Dayal Upadhyay Unnat Krishi Shiksha Yojana (PDDUUKSY) was launched to develop human resource in organic farming, natural farming and cow based economy for environmental sustenance and soil health.



- It was started with establishment of 100 centres. Under this scheme, 108 training programmes were organized for the awareness of the farmers during the period of operation.
- Training programmes were organized for the farmers under PDDUUKSY in the field of organic farming, natural farming and other related latest technologies.
- This has brought awareness about organic and natural farming. As organic and naturally raised commodities/ produce fetch more price, therefore, it is a step towards doubling their earnings.
- Agricultural Education Division, under its three year action plan provided need based support in critical areas to Agricultural Universities for strengthening and quality assurance of higher agricultural education in the country.

**Reference:** <https://pib.gov.in/PressReleaseDetail.aspx?PRID=1739597>

## Rashtriya Gram Swaraj Abhiyan

**Question- Consider the following statements-**

**(1) It was launched in 2018**

**(2) It is a centrally sponsored scheme**

**(3) The restructured Centrally Sponsored Scheme of Rashtriya Gram Swaraj Abhiyan is being implemented with effect from 2018-19 across all States/UTs**

**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 restructured Centrally Sponsored Scheme of Rashtriya Gram Swaraj Abhiyan is being implemented with effect from 2018-19 across all States/UTs.
- **About the Abhiyan-**
- Launched in 2018.
- It is a centrally sponsored scheme
- Primary aim: Strengthening of Panchayati Raj Institutions for achieving Sustainable Development Goals.
- Main thrust: Convergence with Mission Antyodaya and emphasis on strengthening Panchayati Raj Institutions in 117 Aspirational districts.
- It is an effort in the direction of achieving “Sabka Sath, Sabka Gaon, Sabka Vikas”.
- The RGSA helps more than 2.55 lakh Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs) to develop governance capabilities through inclusive local governance with focus on optimum utilisation of available resources.
- Priority will be given to subjects of national importance that affect the excluded groups the most, e.g. poverty, primary health services, nutrition, immunization, etc.
- This scheme extends to all States and UTs of the country and will also include institutions of rural local government in non-Part IX areas, where Panchayats do not exist.
- It will establish the institutional structure for capacity building of PRIs at the national, state and district level with adequate human resources and infrastructure.
- Panchayats will progressively be strengthened through incentivisation on the basis of nationally important criteria which will encourage competitive spirit among them.
- The funds are not released district-wise/Panchayat-wise under the scheme.





- Under the scheme of Rashtriya Gram Swaraj Abhiyan there is no provision for forming new Panchayats. Formation or reorganization of Panchayats is done by the respective States/ Union Territories as per their requirement.

**Reference-** <https://rgsa.nic.in/>

### Alison- A Rare black squirrel

**Question-** Consider the following statements-

(1) Black squirrel is rarely found in India

(2) Alison, named after the U.K.- based scientist who helped identify the animal

**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. (a)**

**Related Facts-**

- A black squirrel is rarely found in India.
- Alison, the black squirrel, named after a U.K.- based scientist who helped identify the animal.
- Following up on the preliminary investigations that confirmed the black animal to be a variant of the Indian three-striped palm squirrel (*Funambulus palmarum*), the scientists went on to decipher the genetic causes of the colour change.
- Finally, after 13 years of research, the team came up with the finding that the phenomenon was caused by gene mutation.
- The study found that the melanocortin-1 receptor (MC1R) gene in the animal acted as a switch to activate the change in pigmentation.
- The study has been published in the latest issue of Current Science which also features the picture of Alison on the cover.
- Unlike the U.K., U.S., and Canada where the black squirrel has attained sizeable populations, there have been no reports of the mutant version being sighted anywhere in India.



**Reference-** <https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/kerala/how-a-squirrels-identity-crisis-sparked-off-a-scientific-quest-in-kerala/article35509806.ece>.

### Cairn arbitration: Govt confirms French court order against Indian assets

**Question:** Consider the following statements:

i) In December 2020, a three-member tribunal at the Permanent Court of Arbitration in the Netherlands ruled against India in its long-running tax dispute with the U.K.-based oil and gas company Cairn Energy.

ii) The Netherlands, France, and Canada are the other three countries.

iii) Recently a French court has ordered freezing of certain Indian assets in Paris on a petition by Britain's Cairn Energy, which is seeking to recover USD 1.72 billion from New Delhi.

**Which of the above are correct?**

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

**Ans: c**

**Context**

- The Indian government on 27th July 2021 has confirmed that a French court has ordered the freezing of certain Indian assets in Paris on a petition by Britain's Cairn Energy, which is seeking to recover USD 1.72 billion from New Delhi after winning an arbitration against retro tax.
- **Related Facts**  
**What is the dispute?**
  - In the Union Budget of 2012, the Income Tax Act, 1961 was amended to make sure that even if a transfer of shares of a company takes place outside India, such a transfer can be taxed.
  - This was done when the value of those shares is based on assets in India. And this was applied retrospectively.
  - This was used to tax Cairn India which was set up by Cairn Energy ( in 2006 and got listed in India in 2007) by transferring all of its Indian assets into it. Tax demand was put on retrospective basis by tax authorities in India.
  - But the tax authorities claimed that in the process of this reorganization, Cairn Energy had made capital gains worth ₹24,500 crores.
  - This was challenged and a three-member international arbitration tribunal that consisted of one judge appointed by India, had in December last year unanimously overturned the levy of taxes on Cairn retrospectively and ordered refund of shares sold, dividend confiscated and tax refunds withheld to recover such demand.



**Refernece:** [https://www.business-standard.com/article/economy-policy/cairn-arbitration-govt-confirms-french-court-order-against-indian-assets-121072700818\\_1.html](https://www.business-standard.com/article/economy-policy/cairn-arbitration-govt-confirms-french-court-order-against-indian-assets-121072700818_1.html)

## Lok Sabha passes Factoring Amendment Bill

**Question: Consider the following statements:**

- On 26th July 2021 , Lok Sabha passed the Factoring Regulation (Amendment) Bill, 2020.
- Bill will help micro, small and medium enterprises (MSME) tide over their issue of delayed payments as it seeks to broaden the participation of entities undertaking factoring.
- It will also provide additional avenues for getting credit facilities for MSMEs.

**Which of the above are correct?**

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

**Ans: c**

**Context**

- On 26th July 2021 , Lok Sabha passed the Factoring Regulation (Amendment) Bill, 2020.
- **Facts**
  - In September 2020, bill was introduced in the Lok Sabha.
  - Bill amends the Factoring Regulation Act 2011.



- This bill will help the micro, small and medium enterprise (MSME) sectors of the country to settle their issue regarding delayed payments.
- The bill will also enhance traction on the TReDS platform which was introduced by the Reserve Bank of India in the year 2014 for the entrepreneurs so that they can unlock working capital which is tied to their unpaid invoices.
- TReDS is an electronic platform introduced by RBI for facilitating the financing and discounting of the trade receivables of MSMEs via various financiers.
- The bill also seeks to permit non-banking finance companies (NBFC) other than those whose principal business is factoring to discount invoices on TReDS and also reduce the time period for registration of invoice and satisfaction of charge upon it in order to avoid the possibility of dual financing

**Reference:** <https://www.financialexpress.com/industry/sme/msme-fin-lok-sabha-passes-factoring-regulation-amendment-bill-to-help-expedite-msme-payments/2297989/>

## Azad Ki Shaurya Gatha' exhibition

**Question :** Who has inaugurated 'Azad Ki Shaurya Gatha' exhibition recently ?

(a) Arjun Ram Meghwal (b) Narendra Modi (c) Rajnath Singh (d) Vijay Rupani

**Answer:** (a)

**Related Facts:**

- Union Minister of State for Culture and Parliamentary Affairs, Shri Arjun Ram Meghwal inaugurated the exhibition "Azad Ki Shaurya Gatha" focused on the life of immortal martyr 'Chandrasekhar Azad' as part of "Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav" at Indira Gandhi National Center for the Arts (IGNCA), New Delhi.
- During this, Books and documentaries were also released on the second day of the three-day 'Kalakosh Pratishtha Diwas' celebrations being celebrated by IGNCA.
- The program was presided over by Shri Ram Bahadur Rai, Chairman, IGNCA Trust. On this occasion Vice Chancellor of Sampurnanand Sanskrit University, Varanasi Prof.
- Hare Ram Tripathi; Member Secretary of IGNCA Dr. Sachidanand Joshi; President of Department of Kalakosh Dr. Sushma Jatoo and other guests were present.



**Reference:** <https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1738583>

## National Research Foundation

**Q. Consider the following statement regarding National Research Foundation which government proposes to setup-**

1. NRF is being envisaged as an umbrella structure that will improve linkages between R&D, academia and industry.
  2. It will be set up by Ministry of Education.
- Which of the above statement / s is / are true?**
- a) Only 1 b) Only 2 c) Both 1 & 2 d) None of these

**ANSWER:- c)**  
**Related facts:-**

- On July 26th, 2021 The Government proposes to set up a National Research Foundation (NRF) to strengthen the research ecosystem in the country.
- NRF is being envisaged as an umbrella structure that will improve linkages between R&D, academia and industry.
- The total proposed outlay of National Research Foundation is Rs 50,000 crore over a period of five years.
- One of the main objectives of NRF is to seed, grow and facilitate research at academic institutions, particularly at universities and colleges, where research capacity is currently in a nascent stage.
- It will also fund and support high-impact, large-scale, multi-investigator, multi-institution and, in some cases, interdisciplinary or multi-nation projects in collaboration with relevant Ministries, Departments, and other Governmental and non-Governmental entities, especially industry.



**LINK**

<https://pib.gov.in/PressReleaseDetailm.aspx?PRID=1738996>

### MyGov-Meri Sarkar' portal

**Q. Recently which state government has launched 'MyGov- Meri Sarkar' Portal to enhance the engagement of common citizens with the state government?**

a) Himachal Pradesh b) Uttar Pradesh c) Rajasthan d) Tamil Nadu

**ANSWER:- b)**

**RELATED FACTS:-**

- On July 26th, 2021 Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath launched the 'MyGov-Meri Sarkar' portal.
- The portal aims to further enhance the engagement of common citizens with the state government.
- It will be a major platform to disseminate the schemes of governance and to know the opinion of common citizens on them.
- 'Meri Sarkar' portal would help the people of the state to communicate their views, suggestions and feedback.
- This portal would become an innovative platform for public participation and good governance.



**LINK**

<https://www.tribuneindia.com/news/nation/yogi-launches-mygov-meri-sarkar-portal-288518>



## National Institutes of Food Technology, Entrepreneurship and Management Bill, 2021

**Question : Recently National Institutes of Food Technology, Entrepreneurship and Management Bill was passed by Lok Sabha .When was it cleared by Rajya Sabha?**

(a) 16th March 2021 (b) 15th March 2021 (c) 18th March 2021 (d) 12th March 2021

**Answer : (b)**

**Related Facts:**

- Parliament has passed the National Institutes of Food Technology, Entrepreneurship and Management Bill, 2021.
- The Bill was unanimously passed by the Lok Sabha today, which was earlier cleared by the Rajya Sabha on 15th March 2021.
- These institutes will have curricular provision related to food processing areas e.g. cold chain technology, food bio nanotechnology which can help in filling the technological gap. He said, now they can open new centres anywhere in the country and abroad. Along with this, giving them the status of Institute of National Importance (INI) will also pave the way for the creation of skilled manpower.
- Government is also committed to the development of the food processing sector. “A new production linked incentive scheme for the food processing industry was launched by Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, as a part of the self-reliant India campaign. About Rs. 11 thousand crores will be spent on the scheme.



**Reference :** <https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1739229>

## Education minister Dharmendra Pradhan launches ‘Nadi ko Jano ‘ app

**Question :Who has launched ‘Nadi ko Jano ‘ app recently?**

(a) Dharmendra Pradhan (b) Narendra Modi  
(c) Rajnath Singh (d) Gajendra Singh Shekhawat

**Answer : (d)**

**Related Facts:**

- Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan launched the ‘Nadi ko Jano’ mobile application during an online webinar organised by the Bharatiya Shikshan Mandal on the occasion of Vyaas Pooja Mahotsav on Sunday.
- As per a release, the ‘Vyaas Pooja Mahotsav’ webinar was hosted by Dr Sachidananda Joshi, President, Bharatiya Shikshan Mandal, to shed light on the role of Bhartiya ethos and teachers in the implementation of New Education Policy.
- Speaking on the occasion, Education Minister said that nature is the first teacher of man and the role of the teacher is paramount in Indian society. “Indians have survived for thousands of years because of the Indian tradition of imparting knowledge to future generations,’ he said.



- Speaking on the role of Bharatiya Shikshan Mandal, the Minister said, “Bharatiya Shikshan Mandal is a thread, which is connecting past and present to our future.”

**Reference :** <https://www.edexlive.com/news/2021/jul/26/education-minister-dharmendra-pradhan-launches-nadi-ko-jano-app-22805.html>

## Union Home Minister Shri Amit Shah launched the Green Sohra Afforestation Campaign at Sohra (Cherrapunji)

**Question :** Green Sohra Afforestation Campaign was launched recently by whom?

(a) Amit Shah (b) Narendra Modi (c) Bhupender Yadav (d) Ashwini Kumar Choubey

**Answer : (a)**

**Related Facts:**

- The Union Home Minister Shri Amit Shah, on the second day of his Meghalaya visit, launched the Green Sohra Afforestation Campaign at Sohra (Cherrapunji).
- Shri Amit Shah also inaugurated the Greater Sohra Water Supply Scheme.
- He gave the slogan “Evergreen Northeast”, underlining the importance of afforestation and tree plantation.
- The Home Minister said that earlier Cherrapunji used to have rains throughout the year, but due to indiscriminate harvesting in the name of development, the situation has changed.
- He said that an ambitious project to make Cherrapunji green again has started today. Shri Amit Shah informed that the entire area of Cherrapunji is going to be adopted by Assam Rifles for the purpose of plantation.
- He said that trees are cut for fuel and other uses, so 80% of the total land will be planted with traditional and long lifespan trees, the remaining 20% will be used for animal feed, ornamental plants and nursery which will meet all the requirements and help reduce the felling of long lifespan trees
- With this technique, multi-level farming is done and the forest grows 30 times faster and after 3 years it becomes free of maintenance.
- Shri Shah said eco-tourism will be greatly benefited by this, besides tourism of Meghalaya will also get a boost.



**Reference :** <https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1738816>

## Ministry of Electronics & IT enables map services

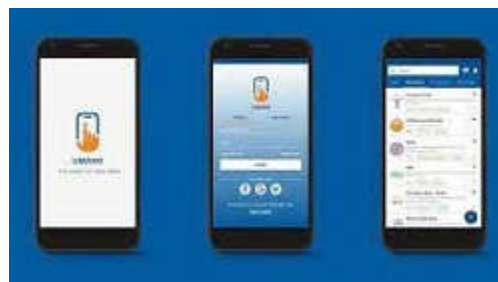
**Question:** Recently Ministry of Electronics & Information Technology (MeitY) has taken various initiatives in to ease the lives of citizens by facilitating online delivery of Government services under UMANG apps..Which is not one of the initiative taken by MeitY?

(a) Damini (b) eNAM (c) Mera Ration (d) All of them

**Answer : (d)**

**Related Facts:**

- Ministry of Electronics & Information Technology (MeitY) has taken various initiatives in the recent past to ease the lives of citizens by facilitating online delivery of Government services.
- To further enhance the initiatives of Digital India Programme, and keeping in view the theme of 'Aatmanirbhar Bharat', MeitY has enabled map services in "UMANG App" through an MOU with MapmyIndia.
- UMANG app has already started to provide map functionality through MapmyIndia in the following services:
- Mera Ration – Through UMANG, users can identify and navigate to the 'Nearest Fair Price Shops' as shops are visible in the form of pointers on MapmyIndia integrated map.
- eNAM – Through UMANG, 'Mandi Near Me' service will help users to identify and navigate to the nearby mandis pointed on the map.
- Damini – 'Damini Lightning Alerts' service is to provide lightning alerts to users by giving a visual of nearby areas where lightning has struck in the last few minutes. This alert mechanism provides the possibility of lightning strikes on map view



**Refererence:** <https://pib.gov.in/PressReleaseDetailm.aspx?PRID=1736179>

## India is now in the category of world's top agricultural exporters

**Q. As per a report by World Trade Organization (WTO) on the trends in world agricultural trade in the past 25 years, which of the following statement is not true?**

- India with 3.1% share in global Agri exports.
- Indian ranked ninth in 2019
- India was the fifth largest cotton exporter
- India was the fourth largest importer of cotton

**ANSWER:- c)**

**RELATED FACTS:-**

- India cracked into the top ten list of agricultural produce exporters in 2019 with a significant share within the export of rice, soya beans, cotton and meat, according to a World Trade Organisation (WTO) report on trends in world agricultural trade in recent 25 years.
- In 2019, India ranked ninth with a share of 3.1% in global agricultural exports.
- Earlier this place was New Zealand. Similarly, Mexico has ranked seventh with a share of 3.4% in global agricultural exports, which was previously followed by Malaysia.
- In 2019, the European Union held the top spot with a share of 16.1% whereas the US share declines to 13.8%.
- The top rice exporters in 1995 included Thailand (38%), India (26%), and the US (19%). In 2019, India topped with 33% and Thailand's share was 20%. On the other hand, Vietnam with 12% has overtaken the US to secure third place.
- With 7.6%, India was the third-largest cotton exporter and fourth-largest importer with a sizeable share of 10% in 2019.



## LINK

<https://newsonair.com/2021/07/25/india-is-now-in-the-category-of-worlds-top-agricultural-exporters/>

## India plans more power islands to counter cyber, terrorist threats

**Question- Consider the following statements-**

**(1) Islanding systems feature generation capacity and can isolate automatically from the main grid in the event of an outage**

**(2) Power islanding systems in several cities are created to protect critical infrastructure from potential attacks on the electricity grid**

**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-**

- India is planning to create so-called power islanding systems in several cities to protect critical infrastructure from potential attacks on the electricity grid.
- Cities including Bengaluru, known as India's Silicon Valley, and Jamnagar, which has two of India's largest oil refineries, are among cities being assessed for an islanding system.
- Existing systems in cities such as New Delhi and Mumbai are being revamped.
- The plan follows a major power outage in India's financial hub Mumbai last year that brought the city to a halt and prompted speculation about a cyber attack.
- The year before, the country's nuclear power monopoly reported computer systems at one of its generation plants had been attacked by malware.
- Power grids the world over are increasingly digitalized, leaving them vulnerable to such attacks.
- Islanding systems feature generation capacity and can isolate automatically from the main grid in the event of an outage.
- For the new systems, provinces need to submit proposals for setting up generation and storage capacities.



**Reference-** [https://www.business-standard.com/article/economy-policy/india-plans-more-power-islands-to-counter-cyberattack-terror-threat-121072400116\\_1.html](https://www.business-standard.com/article/economy-policy/india-plans-more-power-islands-to-counter-cyberattack-terror-threat-121072400116_1.html).

## IOA ropes in Adani Group as sponsor for Tokyo Olympics

**Q. Which of the following is the sponsor for the Indian contingent at ongoing Tokyo Olympics?**

- a) Reliance industries Limited b) Adani Group c) Tata Consultancy Services Ltd.  
d) Infosys Ltd.

**ANSWER:- b)**

**RELATED FACTS:-**



- On July 23rd, 2021 The Indian Olympic Association roped in Adani Group as a sponsor for the Indian contingent at the ongoing Tokyo Games.
- The IOA had earlier entered into sponsorship deals with various private entities, including dairy giant Amul, mobile gaming platform MPL Sports Foundation, JSW Sports among others.
- IOA had inked the deals after dropping Chinese sportswear brand Li Ning as the Indian team's official kit sponsor for the Tokyo Olympics and stating that the country's athletes will wear unbranded apparel during the Games.



#### LINK

[https://www.business-standard.com/article/sports/ioa-ropes-in-adani-group-as-sponsor-for-tokyo-olympics-121072301417\\_1.html](https://www.business-standard.com/article/sports/ioa-ropes-in-adani-group-as-sponsor-for-tokyo-olympics-121072301417_1.html)

### U GRO Capital launches Pratham, a MSME co-lending program with Bank of Baroda

**Q. Consider the following statement regarding co-lending program 'Pratham'-**

1. It was launched by the U GRO capital in partnership with Bank of Baroda.
2. it will provide loan for MSME

**Which of the above statement /s is / are true?**

- a) Only 1
- b) Only 2
- c) Both 1 & 2
- d) None of these

**ANSWER:- c)**

**RELATED FACTS:-**



- On July 21st, 2021 The U GRO Capital, a BSE listed, technology enabled small business NBFC, announced the launch of a co-lending partnership for micro, small and medium enterprises (MSME) with Bank of Baroda.
- Termed as 'Pratham', the loan disbursements have commenced on the occasion of Bank of Baroda's 114th Foundation Day.
- The program has been launched under Reserve Bank of India's revised co-lending guidelines.
- Pratham, a Rs 1000 crore co-lending program will allow the MSMEs to avail customized lending solutions at a competitive rate of interest with a significant reduction in turn-around time.
- The loan amount ranges from Rs 50 lakh to Rs 2.5 crore to be offered at an interest rate starting from 8% with a maximum tenure of 120 months.

#### LINK

<https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/small-biz/sme-sector/u-gro-capital-launches-pratham-a-msme-co-lending-program-with-bank-of-baroda/articleshow/84605750.cms>

## National Broadcasting Day 2021

**Q. National broadcasting day is observed on which date?**

a) 21st of July b) 22nd of July c) 23rd of July d) 24th of July

**ANSWER:- c)**

**RELATED FACTS:-**

- National Broadcasting Day is observed on July 23 across the country every year.
- The Indian Broadcasting Company (IBC) started organizing radio broadcasting from Bombay station on this day in 1927.
- To mark the event, All India Radio (AIR) conducted a symposium on Creation of New India and Broadcasting Medium in New Delhi.
- Radio broadcasting services began in India during the British rule in 1923 under the initiative of the Radio Club of Bombay.
- It was permanently renamed as Indian State Broadcasting Service (ISBS) in May 1932.
- Later, it was changed to All India Radio (AIR) on June 8, 1936 and became Akashwani in 1957. Since then, it gained popularity and changed the socio-economic life of people.
- AIR derives programming in 23 languages and 146 dialects. Currently, AIR is one of the largest broadcasting organisations in the world in terms of the number of languages of broadcast, the spectrum of socio-economic and cultural diversity it serves.



**LINK**

<https://www.news18.com/news/lifestyle/national-broadcasting-day-2021-history-and-significance-3995678.html>

## Meghalaya Youth Policy 2021

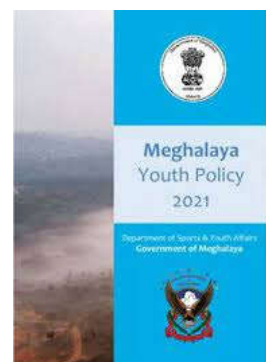
**Q. Recently which of the following North Eastern state launched the youth policy for their youth?**

a) Assam b) Meghalaya c) Nagaland d) Tripura

**ANSWER:- b)**

**RELATED FACTS:-**

- On July 19th, 2021, The Meghalaya state cabinet approved the Meghalaya Youth Policy, 2021.
- It is a framework that envisages towards achieving the government's vision to create pathways for Meghalaya's youth in achieving their fullest potential and becoming engaged, skilled, creative, responsible and empowered members of the local and global community.
- The policy is Drafted by the Sports and Youth Affairs Department, Government of Meghalaya.
- The policy is in sync with the government's vision for the state to transform Meghalaya to be amongst the top 10 states in 10 years in GSDP per capita and SDG ranking.



- The policy aims to address major issues and concerns of the youth based on nine identified key thrust areas that includes Education, Health & Wellbeing, Counseling & Mentoring, Employment Skill Development & Entrepreneurship, Sports, Cultural & creative industries, Engagement & Leadership, Inclusion and Environmental Consciousness.
- The policy is very much action oriented, it has planned implementation of 45 programs, that would be measured by 54 performance monitoring indicators.
- These performance indicators have been mapped to 10 departments and is planned to measured quarterly, bi-annually and annually.
- The policy includes planned interventions covering lifecycle of a youth in its entirety that includes early childhood interventions implemented through various plans and policies.

#### LINK

[https://meghalaya.gov.in/sites/default/files/press\\_release/CMO\\_77.pdf](https://meghalaya.gov.in/sites/default/files/press_release/CMO_77.pdf)

### One Block, One Product' scheme

**Question: Which state is going to introduce One Block, One Product' scheme recently?**

(a) Haryana (b) Punjab (c) Uttar Pradesh (d) Manipur

**Answer : (a)**

**Related Facts:**

- To encourage and promote small industries in the rural areas, the Haryana government will soon introduce the 'One Block, One Product' scheme.
- Under the scheme, the state government plans to connect every block of the state with some industrial vision and the government is working expeditiously on this scheme.
- The Deputy Chief Minister informed that in the last one year, Haryana's 'One District, One Product' Scheme which is being implemented under MSME, has come up as a model across the country. "Moreover, it has been adopted by the Central Government in its budget as well," he said in a statement here.
- While promoting this scheme further, he said that the state government would take it up at the block level in rural areas as well.
- The small entrepreneurs working in rural areas would be able to compete with large industries.



**Reference:** <https://indianexpress.com/article/cities/chandigarh/soon-in-haryana-one-block-one-product-scheme-7409971/>

### NITI Aayog and IEA launch 'Renewables Integration in India 2021

**Question : Which organization/institution launched 'Renewables Integration in India 2021 on 23 July 2021?**

(a) NITI Aayog (b) IEA (c) Both a and b  
(d) Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC)

**Answer : (c)**

**Related Facts:**

- A report on “Renewables Integration in India 2021” was jointly launched by Dr. Rakesh Sarwal, Additional Secretary, NITI Aayog & Mr. Keisuke Sadamori, Director of Energy Markets and Security, IEA on 22nd July, 2021.
- The report is based on the outcome of three states workshops held with the Governments of Maharashtra, Karnataka and Gujarat to understand the specific energy transition challenges faced by these renewable-rich states.
- The report uses IEA modelling results to show the effects of different flexibility options on the power system.
- The report highlights that India’s power system can efficiently integrate renewables (175 GW by 2022 and 450 GW by 2030), but it would require identification of resources and proper planning, regulatory, policy and institutional support, energy storage and advance technology initiatives.
- Indian states need to employ a wide range of flexibility options – such as demand response, more flexible operation of coal based power plants, storage, and grid improvements – to transition to cleaner electricity systems. Larger shares of renewables can be better managed by shifting time of use in agriculture. Time of Use (ToU) tariffs will be an effective tool to incentivise demand side management and encourage flexible consumption. .
- (Energy) concluded the meeting with remarks that the NITI Aayog looks forward to giving continuous support to the state governments in order to support their development plan for affordable, secure and clean power systems of the future.



**Reference:** <https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1738276>

## Harela Festival

**Question : Harela festival is associated with which state?**

(a) Haryana (b) Uttar Pradesh (c) Assam (d) Uttarakhand

**Answer: (d)**

**Related Facts:**

- Harela, the festival commemorating the new harvest in the Kumaon region of Uttarakhand, was celebrated .
- Harela is celebrated as the monsoon starts and is considered one of the most important festivals in the entire Kumaon region.
- Uttarakhand, which is believed to be the mythological abode of the Hindu deity Lord Shiva, celebrates Harela with much pomp and show as it falls on Lord Shiva’s favourite month.
- To celebrate this festival dedicated to Hindu gods Shiva and Parvati saplings are planted by various societies, associations, and the government.
- On the occasion of World Environment Day, celebrated on June 5, the Uttarakhand police started a massive tree plantation campaign, under which one lakh saplings were to be planted in police premises by July 16,2021 which is the day Harela is celebrated.





## PM pays tributes to Lokmanya Tilak on his Jayanti

**Question :** Bal Gangadhar Tilak , who is popularly known as the ‘Father of Swaraj’, was a teacher, journalist, lawyer, philosopher, mathematician, and reformer. When did he born?

(a) 1856 (b) 1857 (c) 1859 (d) 1858

**Answer :(a )**

**Related Facts:**

- Bal Gangadhar Tilak, who is popularly known as the ‘Father of Swaraj’, was a teacher, journalist, lawyer, philosopher, mathematician, and reformer.
- He helped to shape India’s journey to independence and spoke vociferously on the need for a nationwide movement.
- He was born in 1856 in Maharashtra’s Ratnagiri district.
- Lokmanya Tilak was a firm believer in Indian values and ethos. His views on subjects such as education and women empowerment continue to motivate several people.
- He was an institution builder, nurturing many top-quality institutions which have done pioneering work over the years.”



**Reference:** <https://www.pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1737984>

## Centre to set up/upgrade 2 lakh micro food processing enterprises

**Question :** Recently the centre has decided to set up/upgrade 2 lakh micro food processing enterprises from 2020-21 to 2024-25 with spending outlay of how much budget allocation ?

(a) Rs. 10,000 crores (b) Rs. 10,500 crores (c) Rs. 10,600 crores  
(d) Rs. 10,100 crores

**Answer : (a)**

**Related Facts:**

- Union Minister of State for Food Processing Industries Shri Prahlad Singh Patel on 23 JUL 2021 said that as part of the Aatmanirbhar Bharat Initiative, MoFPI is implementing a Centrally Sponsored Scheme for setting up/upgradation of 2 lakh micro food processing enterprises.
- The enterprises can be set up or upgraded through credit linked subsidy during five years from 2020-21 to 2024-25 with an outlay of Rs. 10,000 crores.
- The Central Scheme-PM Formalisation of Micro Food Processing Enterprises Scheme (PMFME) provides financial, technical and business support for these enterprises.
- Moreover, the Ministry of Food Processing Industries (MoFPI) has been implementing Central Sector Umbrella Scheme – Pradhan Mantri Kisan SAMPADA Yojana (PMKSY) since 2016-17 for overall growth and development of food



processing sector, including processing of agro- products and thus increasing the income of the farmers.

- The component schemes of PMKSY are – (i) Mega Food Park, (ii) Integrated Cold Chain and Value Addition Infrastructure, (iii) Creation /Expansion of Food Processing & Preservation Capacities, (iv) Infrastructure for Agro-Processing Clusters, (v) Creation of Backward & Forward linkages, (vi) Food Safety and Quality Assurance Infrastructure, (vii) Human Resource and Institutions, (viii) Operation Greens. Under component schemes of PMKSY, MoFPI provides mostly credit linked financial assistance (capital subsidy) in the form of grants-in-aid to entrepreneurs for setting up of food processing / preservation industries.
- So far, Ministry has approved 41 Mega food Parks, 353 Cold Chain projects, 63 Agro Processing Clusters, 292 Food Processing Units, 63 Creation of Backward & Forward Linkages Projects & 6 Operation Green projects across the country under corresponding component schemes of PMKSY.

**Reference:** <https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1738055>

## Stand Up India Scheme extended up to the year 2025

**Question- Consider the following statements-**

**(1) Stand Up India Scheme was launched by the Prime Minister on 05th April, 2016**

**(2) It is extended up to the year 2025**

**(3) Stand Up India Scheme facilitates loans to Scheduled Caste, Scheduled Tribe and women borrowers.**

**Select the correct answer using the code given below-**

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

**Ans. (c)**

**Related Facts-**

- On July 20,201, The Government of India has extended the duration of 'Stand Up India Scheme' up to the year 2025.
- **Key Highlights:**
  - Stand Up India Scheme was launched by the Prime Minister on 05th April, 2016.
  - The objective of the Stand Up India Scheme is to facilitate loans from Scheduled Commercial Banks (SCBs) of value between Rs. 10 lakh and Rs.1 Crore to at least one Scheduled Caste (SC) or Scheduled Tribe (ST) borrower and one woman borrower per bank branch for setting up a green field enterprise in manufacturing, services or trading sector.
  - As on 28.06.2021, a total of 1,16,266 loans amounting to Rs. 26204.49 crore have been extended under the Scheme since inception.
  - Pursuant to an announcement made by the Finance Minister in the Budget Speech for F.Y.2021-22, the margin money requirement for loans under the Scheme has been reduced from 'upto 25%' to 'upto 15%' and activities allied to agriculture have been included in the Scheme.
  - Government does not allocate funds for loans under the Stand Up India Scheme.
  - Loans under the Scheme are extended by SCBs as per commercial parameters, Board approved policies of respective banks and extant RBI guidelines.



- An amount of Rs. 500 crore each was however released by Government in FY 2016-17 and FY 2017-18 and Rs 100 crore in FY 2020-21 towards the corpus of Credit Guarantee Fund for Stand Up India (CGFSI).
- The Government has taken various steps towards effective implementation of the Scheme, these, inter alia, include provision for submission for online applications by potential borrowers through [www.standupmitra.in](http://www.standupmitra.in) portal, hand-holding support, intensive publicity campaign, simplified loan application form, Credit Guarantee Scheme, convergence with State and Central government Schemes wherever feasible, reduction in margin money and inclusion of activities allied to agriculture etc.

**Reference-** <https://pib.gov.in/PressReleaseIframePage.aspx?PRID=1737320>.

## Government sets up Dairy Investment Accelerator to promote & facilitate investments in the Dairy sector

**Question-** Consider the following statements about ‘Dairy Investment Accelerator’ (DIA)-

- (1) It is set up by the Department of Animal Husbandry & Dairying (DAHD)
- (2) The aim is to provide dedicated focus towards promoting & facilitating investments in the Indian dairy sector.

**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-**

- The Department of Animal Husbandry & Dairying (DAHD), Government of India, with a view to provide dedicated focus towards promoting & facilitating investments in the Indian Dairy sector, has setup Dairy Investment Accelerator under its Investment Facilitation Cell.
- This Investment Accelerator is a cross functional team constituted to serve as the interface with investors.
- **It shall provide support across the investment cycle:**
  - Offering specific inputs for evaluation of investment opportunities
  - Addressing queries about application to govt. schemes
  - Connecting with strategic partners
  - Providing on-ground assistance with state departments & relevant authorities
- Further, the Dairy Investment Accelerator will work with DAHD to organize a series of events with global & local industry participants and one-on-one discussions with the investors to understand their perspectives, facilitate direct interactions with government officials and connects with other players in the industry.
- Dairy Investment Accelerator is also generating awareness among investors about Animal Husbandry Infrastructure Development fund (AHIDF).
- AHIDF is one of the flagship schemes by DAHD, Government of India whereby Rs. 15,000 crore fund has been setup for offering financial support to entrepreneurs, private companies, MSME, Farmers Producers Organizations (FPOs), and Section 8 companies.



**Dept. of Animal Husbandry,  
Dairying & Fisheries**

- Eligible entities can avail the benefits of the scheme to set up new units or expand existing units in areas of dairy processing & related value addition infrastructure, meat processing & related value addition infrastructure and Animal Feed Plant.
- **The benefits available are:**
  - 3% interest subvention on loans
  - 2-year moratorium with 6-year repayment period
  - INR 750 Cr credit guarantee
  - India is the largest milk producer contributing 23% of global milk production.
  - Annual milk production in the country has grown by 6.4% (CAGR) in the past 5 years.
  - Dairy is a high priority sector for Government of India due to its socio-economic significance.
  - It is the single largest agricultural commodity contributing 5% of the national economy and employing 80 Mn+ farmers directly.
  - Further, the country boasts a large domestic packaged dairy products of market worth Rs. 2.7-3.0 lakh crore witnessing a strong double-digit growth.

**Reference-** <https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1736831>.

## Covihomecovid-19 testing kit

**Question – Scientists of which Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) have developed an artificial intelligence powered COVID-19 test kit named Covihome?**

(a) IIT Madras (b) IIT Roorkee (c) IIT Hyderabad (d) IIT Kharagpur

**Answer—(c)**

**related facts**

- Scientists of Indian Institute of Technology Hyderabad have developed an artificial intelligence powered COVID-19 test kit named Covihome.
- This is India's first rapid electronic COVID-19 RNA test kit.
- This test kit has been developed by Professor Shiv Govind Singh, Department of Electric Engineering along with students from IIT, Hyderabad.
- This test can be done at home at an affordable cost.
- It is approved by ICMR.
- This test kit can give COVID test results within 30 minutes for both symptomatic and asymptomatic patients.
- The major advantage of this test kit is that it does not require BSL-2 laboratory facility for RT-PCR and extraction of RNA, hence it can be tested at home without special supervisor.
- The verification report has confirmed the kit's efficiency to be 94.2 percent, its sensitivity to 91.3 percent and its specificity to 98.2 percent.



**Link:**

<https://pcr.iith.ac.in/proffice.html#press>

## CM KCR to launch 'Telangana Dalit Bandhu'

**Q. Consider the following statement regarding Telangana Dalit Bandhu Scheme-**



1. It is a Dalit empowerment Scheme.
2. Under this scheme Dalit families will get cash directly in their accounts.

**Which statement/s is/ are correct?**

a) ONLY 1 b) ONLY 2 c) BOTH 1 & 2 d) NONE OF THESE

**ANSWER:- c)**

**RELATED FACTS:-**

- On July 20th, 2021, Telangana Chief Minister K Chandrasekhar Rao finalized 'Telangana Dalit Bandhu' as the name of the Dalit empowerment programme to be implemented soon by the Telangana Rashtra Samithi government.
- The Huzurabad Assembly Constituency was chosen for piloting the Telangana Dalit Bandhu project.
- The scheme, which was to be called Dalit Empowerment Scheme, has now been renamed as Dalita Bandhu scheme.
- The purpose of Dalit Bandhu scheme is to improve their socio-economic status.
- As part of the scheme, eligible Dalit families would be given Rs 10 lakh in cash directly to their accounts.
- The sanctioned amounts will be deposited in the bank accounts of eligible beneficiaries.
- The government subsequently decided to select 100 families each from 118 of the 119 Assembly constituencies for implementation of the scheme in the first phase.



**LINK**

<https://telanganatoday.com/cm-to-launch-telangana-dalit-bandhu-from-huzurabad-soon>

### Three monuments identified as Adarash Smarak: Andhra Pradesh

**Question: Which of the following have been identified as Adarash Smarak in state of Andhra Pradesh?**

- a) The Buddhist remains at Salihundam in Srikakulam
- b) Monuments at Nagarjunakonda in Guntur
- c) Veerabhadra temple (Lepakshi) in Anantapur
- d) All of the above

**Ans: d**

**Facts**

- The Buddhist remains at Salihundam in Srikakulam, monuments at Nagarjunakonda in Guntur and Veerabhadra temple (Lepakshi) in Anantapur have been selected under the Adarash Smarak Scheme.
- This was announced by the Union Minister of Tourism, Culture and Development of North Eastern Region G Kishan Reddy
- Under the scheme these monument sites will be provided with additional benefits like cafeteria, Wi-Fi, Braille signages, interpretation centre, illumination etc.
- Currently, there are 135 sites in Andhra Pradesh which are centrally protected monuments and they are provided with amenities and various Upgradation in a continuous manner.



- The preservation, conservation and environmental development and Upgradation in and around the protected monuments and sites are taken in accordance to their need and priority.
- **About Adarash Smarak Scheme**
- The scheme was launched in 2014 for providing improved visitor amenities, especially for the physically challenged.
- The scheme comes under the Ministry of Culture.
- Under this scheme improved visitor amenities are provided to attract tourists.

**Reference:** <https://pib.gov.in/PressReleaseIframePage.aspx?PRID=1737255>

## UNESCO: Historic Urban Landscape project launched for Gwalior, Orchha

**Question: Consider the following statements:**

i) Gwalior and Orchha cities of Madhya Pradesh have been selected by UNESCO under 'Historic Urban Landscape Project'.

ii) Historic Urban Landscape Project was started In year 2015 by UNESCO.

**Which of the above are correct?**

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

**Ans: a**

**Context**

- In the state of Madhya Pradesh, the cities of Orchha and Gwalior have been selected by UNESCO under its 'Historic Urban Landscape Project.'
- **Facts**
- The project was launched for the cities of Orchha and Gwalior by Chief Minister of Madhya Pradesh on 21st July 2021 through video conferencing.
- Six cities of South Asia, including Ajmer and Varanasi in India are already involved in this project. Orchha and Gwalior have been included as the 7th and 8th cities.
- **What will change for the cities after this?**
- The development and management plan of these cities will now be prepared by UNESCO.
- It will help MP tourism get a new dimension and generate additional employment opportunities along with the development of tourism.
- These cities will be jointly developed by UNESCO, the Government of India and the state of Madhya Pradesh by putting primary focus on their cultural and historical improvement.
- By implementing this project of UNESCO, full care of the history, culture, traditions, nature as well as heritage of the cities will be sustainably developed.
- **About 'Historic Urban Landscape Project'**
- The Historic Urban Landscape (HUL) is an approach to the management of heritage resources in dynamic and constantly changing environments. It is based



on the recognition and identification of a layering and interconnection of natural and cultural, tangible and intangible, international and local values present in any city. This scheme was launched in 2011 by UNESCO.

**Reference:** <https://newsonair.com/2021/07/21/unescos-historic-urban-landscape-project-for-gwalior-orchha-launched/>

## Project 75(I)

**Question: Consider the following statements:**

- (1) Ministry of Defence (MoD) has issued Request of Proposal (RFP) for 6 submarines under Project-75 India.  
(2) Project-75(I) envisages indigenous construction of six conventional submarines.

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

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

**Answer: (c)**

**Related facts:**

- On 20 July 2021, Ministry of Defence (MoD) has issued Request of Proposal (RFP) for constructing 6 conventional submarines under Project-75 India.
- This is a major initiative towards 'Make in India' and a huge boost to Indian Navy.
- The RFP was issued to shortlisted Strategic Partners (SPs) or Indian Applicant Companies for the project viz, M/s Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders Limited (MDL) and M/s Larsen & Tubro (L&T).
- The project cost is over Rs 40,000 crore.
- **Project 75(I):**
  - Project-75(I) envisages indigenous construction of six modern conventional submarines (including associated shore support, Engineering Support Package, training and spares package) with contemporary equipment, weapons & sensors including Fuel-Cell based AIP (Air Independent Propulsion Plant), advanced torpedoes, modern missiles and state of the art countermeasure systems.
  - The submarines will be bigger than the under-construction Scorpene-class submarines (Project 75) being built at the Mazagon Dockyards Limited at Mumbai.
  - They will be equipped with heavy-duty firepower so that the boats will have at least 12 Land Attack Cruise Missiles (LACM) along with the Anti-Ship Cruise Missiles.
- **Boost to Indian Defence Manufacturing:**
  - The project would not only aid in boosting the core submarine/ship building industry but would also greatly enhance manufacturing/industrial sector, especially the MSME by development of an industrial eco-system for manufacture of associated spares/systems/equipment related to submarines.



**Links:**

<https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1737191>

**Question: Where will the Union Government setup Indian Institute of Heritage?**

(a) Noida (b) Gurugram (c) Lucknow (d) Kanpur

**Answer: (a)**

**Related facts:**

- The government has decided to set up the 'Indian Institute of Heritage' at Noida, Gautam Buddha Nagar.
- **Objective:**
- Indian Institute of Heritage will be a world-class university that would focus on the conservation and research in India's rich tangible heritage, while offering research, development and dissemination of knowledge associated with heritage.
- **Courses offered:**
- The institute will offer Masters and Ph.D courses in History of Arts, Conservation, Museology, Archival Studies, Archaeology, Preventive Conservation, Epigraphy and Numismatics, Manuscriptology etc.
- The institute will also provide conservation training facilities to in-service employees and the students of the Indian Institute of Heritage.
- **Structure:**
- The Institute is being set up as Deemed to be University by integrating-
  - 1) Institute of Archaeology (Pt. Deendayal Upadhyaya Institute of Archaeology),
  - 2) School of Archival Studies under National Archives of India, New Delhi,
  - 3) The National Research Laboratory for Conservation of Cultural Property (NRLC), Lucknow,
  - 4) National Museum Institute of History of Art, Conservation and Museology (NMICHM) and
  - 5) Academic Wing of Indira Gandhi National Centre for the Arts (IGNCA), New Delhi.
- These shall become various schools of Institute.



**Links:**

<https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1736840>

**DRDO indigenously develops High Strength Beta Titanium Alloy on industrial scale**



**Question: Which organisation has developed High Strength Beta Titanium Alloy on industrial scale?**

- (a) DRDO (b) Bharat Earth Movers Ltd (c) Hindustan Aeronautics Ltd  
(d) Bharat Electronics Ltd

**Answer: (a)**

**Related facts:**

- Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) has indigenously developed a High Strength Metastable Beta Titanium Alloy containing Vanadium, Iron and Aluminium, Ti-10V-2Fe-3Al on industrial scale for applications in aerospace structural forgings.
- It has been developed by Defence Metallurgical Research Laboratory (DMRL), a premier Hyderabad based laboratory of DRDO.
- **Component advantages:**
  - These alloys are beneficial substitute for the relatively heavier traditional Ni-Cr-Mo structural steels to achieve weight savings.
  - The high strength beta titanium alloys are unique due to their higher strength, ductility, fatigue, and fracture toughness – making them increasingly attractive for aircraft structural applications.
  - Furthermore, their relatively lower lifetime cost, owing to superior corrosion resistance in comparison to steels, is an effective trade-off to justify the use of this expensive material in India too.
  - Some of the components which may be forged from this alloy include slat/flap tracks, landing gear, and drop link in landing gear – among several others.
  - Aeronautical Development Agency (ADA) has identified over 15 steel components which may be replaced by Ti-10V-2Fe-3Al alloy forgings in the near future with a potential of 40% weight savings.
  - The landing gear drop link is the first component forged successfully by ADA at HAL, Bengaluru with DMRL's involvement and duly certified for airworthiness.



**Links:**

<https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1737118>

## Appointment of Deputy Leader of House in Rajya Sabha

**Question: Who has been appointed as Deputy Leader of the House in Rajya Sabha?**

- (a) Mukhtar Abbas Naqvi (b) Babul Supriyo (c) Prakash Javadekar  
(d) Santosh Gangwar

**Answer: (a)**

**Related facts:**

- On 19 July 2021, Union Minister for Minority Affairs Mukhtar Abbas Naqvi was appointed Deputy Leader of the House in Rajya Sabha.

- Naqvi takes over from Piyush Goyal who has been elevated as the leader of the house in the Upper House.
- Naqvi has experience of Parliamentary matters as he held the post of Minister of State for Parliamentary Affairs earlier.
- Piyush Goyal was made the Leader of the House in Rajya Sabha replacing Thawarchand Gehlot who was appointed as Governor of Karnataka before the cabinet reshuffle.



#### Links:

<https://www.hindustantimes.com/india-news/mukhtar-abbas-naqvi-appointed-deputy-leader-of-rajya-sabha-101626693568349.html>

### Tripura initiates steps to promote commercial cultivation of Agar

**Question- Which of the following state has initiated steps to promote commercial cultivation of Agar?**

(a) Tripura (b) Sikkim (c) West Bengal (d) Odisha

**Ans. (a)**

#### Related facts-

- Tripura has initiated steps to promote commercial cultivation of Agar.
- Agar is used in perfumeries and other industries.
- On July 17, 2021, Chief Minister Biplab Kumar Deb had met Prime Minister Narendra Modi and apprised him about the potential of Agar trees.
- Tripura expects to export 75,000 kg of Agar chips and 1,500 kg of Agar oil in the current financial year.
- The state has over 50 lakh trees are available in the state.
- Tripura government has come up with Tripura Agar Wood Policy 2021', which proposed to double agar wood plantation by 2025.
- The state had a potential of agar trade of Rs 2000 crore.
- Under the policy, testing laboratories and trade centres would be set up and new technology for artificial inoculation would be introduced.



**Reference-** <https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/economy/agriculture/tripura-initiates-steps-to-promote-commercial-cultivation-of-agar/articleshow/84516500.cms>.

### India becomes world's 5th largest forex reserves holder

**Question- Which of the following country has become World's fifth largest forex reserve holder?**

(a) India (b) China (c) Japan (d) Switzerland

**Ans. (a)**

#### Related facts-

- On July 19, 2021, an Indian government official said the country has emerged as the fifth largest forex reserves holder in the world with 608.99 billion U.S. dollars as of June 25, 2021.

- With this India has emerged as the fifth-largest foreign exchange reserves holder in the world after China, Japan, Switzerland and Russia.
- “In 2020-21, India’s balance of payments recorded surplus in both current account and capital account which contributed to the increase in foreign exchange reserves during the year.”
- India’s foreign exchange reserves position is comfortable in terms of import cover of more than 18 months and provides cushion against unforeseen external shocks.
- **What is Foreign Exchange Reserves-**
- Foreign exchange reserves are assets held on reserve by a central bank in foreign currencies.
- These reserves are used to back liabilities and influence monetary policy.
- Foreign exchange reserves can include banknotes, deposits, bonds, treasury bills and other government securities.
- These assets serve many purposes but are most significantly held to ensure that a central government agency has backup funds if their national currency rapidly devalues or becomes all together insolvent.



**Reference-** <https://www.financialexpress.com/economy/now-that-india-is-worlds-5th-largest-forex-reserve-holder-heres-what-it-means-for-rupee-going-ahead/1990614/>.

## India Lightning Report 2020

**Question- Consider the following statements-**

- (1) Compared to 2019, there was a 22.6% increase in lightning in India last year
- (2) Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh, Odisha, West Bengal and Karnataka received the most lightning pulses
- (3) As per National Crime Records Bureau states that since the year 2001, every year 2,360 people die in India due to lightning strikes

**Select the correct answer using the code given below-**

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

**Ans. (d)**

**Related facts-**

- Compared to 2019, there was a 22.6% increase in lightning in India last year. This is according to Earth Networks ‘2020 India Lightning Report’.
- Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh, Odisha, West Bengal and Karnataka received the most lightning pulses.
- During the year 2020, Maharashtra and Karnataka were among the top 10 States that had the highest lightning pulse counts.
- More than 39.5 million pulses were detected in India last year by the company’s Total Lightning Network. Out of these, 12,022,402 were dangerous cloud-to-ground strikes.
- In India, there were 7,447 Dangerous Thunderstorm Alerts issued and most of them were in the state of Tamil Nadu.



- Odisha which was followed by Chhattisgarh experienced more than 1 million clouds to ground pulses in 2020.
- In the year 2020, India saw the highest concentration of lightning in the months of May, June, and September because of the monsoon season.
- According to the report, the dangers of lightning and severe weather pose a great threat to the population of India.
- Due to the country's proximity to the equator and the Indian Ocean, India experiences extreme amounts of moisture and heat which contributes to the sudden and severe thunderstorms throughout South Asian region.
- A study conducted by the National Crime Records Bureau states that since the year 2001, every year 2,360 people die in India due to lightning strikes.
- Earth Networks which published the report operates the largest global hyper local weather network.

**Reference-** <https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/226-increase-in-lightning-in-2020-india-lightning-report/article35404448.ece>.

## Meeting of the BRICS Contact Group on Economic and Trade issues (CGETI) held on 12-14 July 2021

**Question- Consider the following statements-**

**(1) The Contact Group on Economic and Trade Issues (CGETI) is responsible for economic and trade matters**

**(2) The Department of Commerce is the national coordinator for the BRICS CGETI**

**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-**

- For the year 2021, India is the Chair of the BRICS (Brazil, Russia, India, China & South Africa).
- Of the various groups of BRICS, the Contact Group on Economic and Trade Issues (CGETI) is responsible for economic and trade matters.
- The Department of Commerce is the national coordinator for the BRICS CGETI.
- Meeting of the CGETI was held from 12-14 July 2021.
- During the three day meeting, the BRICS Members deliberated on the following proposals circulated by India, for strengthening and increasing the Intra-BRICS cooperation and trade:



- (1) BRICS Cooperation on Multilateral Trading System;
- (2) BRICS Framework for ensuring Consumer Protection in E-Commerce;
- (3) Non-Tariff Measures (NTM) Resolution Mechanism for SPS/TBT Measures;
- (4) Sanitary and Phyto sanitary (SPS) Working Mechanism;



(5) Cooperation framework for protection of Genetic Resources, Traditional Knowledge and Traditional Cultural Expressions;

(6) BRICS Framework on Cooperation in Professional Services.

- BRICS Members agreed to take forward India's proposals to finalise them before the BRICS Trade Minister's meeting to be held on 3 September 2021.
- To deepen and strengthen the trade and economy, following events proposed by India were also agreed by the BRICS Members:
  - a. A BRICS Trade Fair to showcase and to have buyer and sellers virtual meet from 16-18 August 2021, to be organised by the Department of Commerce.
  - b. A roundtable of BRICS MSMEs on 22 July 2021 to be organised by the Ministry of Micro, Small & Medium Enterprises;
  - c. Two workshops on Services Trade Statistics to be held on 16 July 2021 and 13 August 2021, to be organised by the Reserve Bank of India.

**Reference-** <https://www.pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=173707>

### Pegasus spyware controversy

**Question:** Recently, an investigation by an international media consortium revealed that more than 300 distinct personalities were targeted of hacking through the spyware called Pegasus. This spyware is of which country origin?

(a) Russia (b) China (c) Israel (d) USA

**Answer:** (c)

**Context:**

- Recently, a ruckus hit Indian politics over use of Pegasus spyware to conduct surveillance on ministers, opposition leaders, journalists, government officials and scientists of India.



#### What is Pegasus?

- Pegasus is a spyware tool developed by an Israeli firm, the NSO Group, a Tel Aviv-based cyber-security company.
- As the name suggests, spyware spy on people through their phones. Once Pegasus is installed, the attacker has complete access to the target user's phone.
- The NSO Group specializes in "surveillance technology" and claims to provide the tool exclusively to licensed government intelligence and law enforcement agencies across the world to help fight crime and terrorism.

#### Range of suspected spying:

- As of investigation by an international media consortium, the leaked list of potential target having spied includes 40 Indian journalists, Indian ministers, opposition leaders, government officials and businessmen.
- The leaked database has around 50,000 phone numbers from around the globe.

- This leaked database was accessed by Forbidden stories and Amnesty International and was shared with The Wire, Le Monde, The Guardian, The Washington Post and others as part of an investigation named the Pegasus Project.
- India was among the 10 countries in the list where the numbers were concentrated and Mexico topped the list with 15,000 numbers.
- A large share of the numbers was also from West Asian countries such as Bahrain, UAE, and Saudi Arabia, with Pakistan, Hungary and France being the other prominent countries on the list.

### **Indian Govt stand on snooping allegations:**

- As the purview of snooping covers India, therefore the allegations were suspiciously put forward on Government of India whether it has involvement in mass snooping.
- The allegations also get strength as Pegasus developer NSO Group claims to provide the tool exclusively to licensed government intelligence.
- From Indian Govt side, on first day of Monsoon session i.e 19 July 2021, Union Information Technology and Communications minister Ashwini Vaishnaw rejected all charges of snooping as false and baseless.
- He alleged that report itself states that presence of a number in list doesn't amount to snooping.
- Further, he clarified that in India, there's a well-established procedure through which lawful interception of electronic communication is carried out for purpose of national security.

### **Links:**

<https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/india/spyware-pegasus-used-to-snoop-on-ministers-opposition-journalists-businessmen-report/articleshow/84537558.cms>

## **Successful trial run of train between Jaynagar in India and Kurtha in Nepal**

**Question: Consider the following statements:**

**(1) A successful trial of train was undertaken between Jaynagar in India and Kurtha in Nepal on July 18 2021.**

**(2) Jayanagar – Kurtha Railway link has been set up by Indian Railway Construction Limited financed by Indian Government.**

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

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

**Answer: (c)**

**Related facts:**

- On 18 July 2021, a successful trial run of train was undertaken between Jaynagar in India and Kurtha in Nepal.
- The rail section connects Jaynagar in Madhubani district of Bihar to Kurtha in Mahottari district of Nepal.
- The length of the rail section is 34.50 km-long rail section. It is the first section of the rail line links between the two countries.
- Remaining 34 km rail line will be built in two phases.



- The 17-km-long second section will link Kurtha and Bhangaha while the third phase is 17-km-long and will extend from Bhangaha to Bardibas.
- The cost of this rail section is 619 crore. The Jayanagar – Kurtha Railway link has been set up by IRCON(Indian Railway Construction Limited)under India – Nepal friendship rail project with finance granted by the Indian government.
- The train movement on this rail section will start soon after fulfilling technical and other formalities between two countries.
- Indian Railways has delivered two modern DEMU trains to Nepal for Jayanagar-Kurtha railway link.

**Links:**

<https://newsonair.com/2021/07/18/successful-trial-of-movement-of-train-between-jaynagar-in-india-and-kurtha-in-nepal-undertaken/#:~:text=21%20hours%20ago-,Successful%20trial%20of%20movement%20of%20train%20between%20Jaynagar%20in%20India,in%20Mahottari%20district%20of%20Nepal.>

## AI tool developed by IIT-M to study cancer causing mutations

**Question: Which institute has developed an AI tool called NBDriver for use in analysing cancer-causing mutations in cells?**

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

**Answer: (a)**

**Related facts:**

- Researchers at IIT Madras have developed an AI tool called NBDriver (neighbourhood driver) for use in analysing cancer-causing mutations in cells.
- Artificial Intelligence (AI) driven algorithm uses a technique that probes into DNA composition to pinpoint genetic alterations that are held responsible for cancer progression.
- Using simple AI techniques, the researchers developed a new prediction algorithm, NBDriver, and tested its performance on several open-source cancer mutation datasets.
- NBDriver (NEIGHBORHOOD Driver) is a tool used to differentiate between driver and passenger mutations using features derived from the neighborhood sequences of somatic mutations.



**Links:**

<https://www.thehindu.com/sci-tech/science/ai-tool-developed-to-study-cancer-causing-mutations/article35384379.ece#:~:text=Researchers%20at%20IIT%20Madras%20have,from%20neutral%20%E2%80%9Cpassenger%E2%80%9D%20mutations.>

## Oxfam Report on India's unequal health coverage

**Question: Which organization has launched the report on India's health system titled, 'Inequality Report 2021: India's Unequal Healthcare Story'?**

a) World Health Organisation b) NITI Aayog c) Oxfam d) None of the above

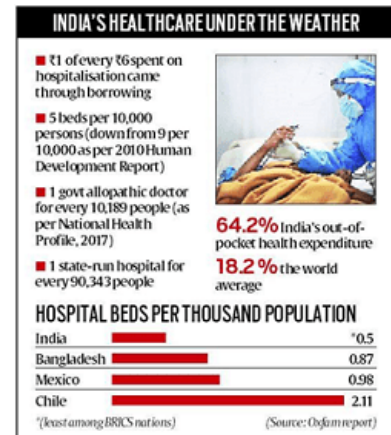
**Ans: c**

**Context**

- On 20th July 2021, Oxfam has released a report on Indian health care system— 'Inequality Report 2021: India's Unequal Healthcare Story'.

### Facts

- Major finding of the report was that states attempting to reduce existing inequalities and with higher expenditure on health had lower confirmed cases of Covid-19.
- Report also states that due to lesser spending on public healthcare system and more emphasis on private health care by government, India has greater inequality in access to healthcare, especially during the Covid 19 pandemic.
- The report states that the states such as Telangana, Himachal Pradesh and Rajasthan, that for the past few years have been reducing inequalities, especially healthcare inequalities between the general category and SC and ST populations, have less COVID-19 confirmed cases. On the other hand states, such as Assam, Bihar and Goa that have had higher GDP expenditure on health have higher Covid recovery rates.
- As per report, Kerala has been a success story for India.
- Those in higher income brackets, and with access to health infrastructure, had to face less visits to hospitals and Covid centres than those belonging to lower income groups. Also lower income group people suffered more discrimination after being found Covid positive.
- This report also points out the country's digital divide which has been ignored while administering the vaccine which is causing a vaccine inequality between the income groups as well as general and SC, ST categories.
- There have also been inequalities on the basis of gender. Men are better off than women.
- Also the urban population fared better than the rural population which has been measured on various health indicators.
- The average medical expenditure per hospitalisation case has tripled between 2004 and 2017.
- Out-of-pocket health expenditure of 64.2 percent in India is higher than the world average of 18.2 percent.



**Reference:** <https://indianexpress.com/article/india/oxfam-report-states-reducing-health-inequality-had-fewer-confirmed-cases-of-covid-19-7412840/>

## Union Power Minister releases 9th Integrated Ratings of State Power Distribution utilities and Rankings

**Question-Which of the following ministry has released the 9th Integrated Ratings of State Power Distribution utilities?**

- Ministry of Power, New and Renewable Energy
- Ministry of Environment, forest and climate Change
- Ministry of Information Technology
- Ministry of Home Affairs

**Ans. (a)**

**Related facts-**



- Union Minister of Power, New and Renewable Energy, Shri R.K. Singh released 9th Integrated Ratings for State Power Distribution Utilities on July 16, 2021.
- The Ninth Annual Integrated Rating exercise covering 41 State Power Distribution Utilities for the rating period FY 2019-20 has been completed with the enthusiastic participation of all the utilities.
- Four power distribution companies of GUVNL's — Uttar Gujarat Vij Company Ltd. (UGVCL), Madhya Gujarat Vij Company Ltd. (MGVCL), Dakshin Gujarat Vij Company Ltd. (DGVCL) and Paschim Gujarat Vij Company Ltd. (PGVCL) — secured first four positions with highest rating of A+ in the 9th Annual Integrated.
- The ratings are conducted for evaluating performance of state power distribution utilities based on a range of parameters viz. AT&C losses, cost Efficiency, Financial Performance, Sustainability, Regulatory, Reforms, and Government Support.
- Only five out of 41 power discoms of 21 states were awarded that ratings for the year 2019-20 and PGVCL was fourth among the five.
- The other three discoms of Gujarat occupied the top three positions in the rating while the discom of Haryana was the only one from outside the state to be in this elite list."



**Reference-** <https://pib.gov.in/PressReleaselframePage.aspx?PRID=1736142>.

## CJI NV Ramana's innovation to ensure 'FASTER' release of prisoners granted bail

**Question- Which of the following institution has announced the 'FASTER' scheme?**

(a) Supreme Court (b) Election Commission (c) Finance Commission (d) High Court

**Ans. (a)**

**Related Facts-**

- Chief Justice N V Ramana-led bench of the Supreme Court expressed concern that even in the era of internet and Information Technology boom, it seemed jail authorities are relying on ancient mode of communication through pigeons.
- Chief Justice-led bench said it has set in motion a secure electronic transmission mechanism for SC orders on bail reaching the jail authorities to help expeditious release of jail inmates who have been granted bail in a case.
- **What is 'FASTER'?**
- Christened as FASTER (Fast and Secure Transmission of Electronic Records), the innovative scheme is conceived for delivery of orders to concerned prisons, District Courts, High Courts, as the case may be, for instantaneous delivery of orders passed by apex court through a secure communication channel.
- The bench said the innovative scheme would revolutionize transmission of court orders to all concerned in a fast and secure manner.
- The Supreme Court Registry has been directed by the Bench to prepare a detailed report of a scheme for delivery of its orders for execution to all concerned through a secure, credible and authentic channel.

- “This will save time and effort and will ensure that there are no delays in implementation of the orders passed by the Supreme Court”, CJI Ramana said.
- The issue came up during the hearing of the matter where Supreme Court has taken suo motu cognizance of delay on the part of Uttar Pradesh authorities in releasing 13 prisoners who were granted bail by it on July 8.

**Reference-** <https://indianexpress.com/article/india/looking-for-pigeons-to-communicate-supreme-court-plans-electronic-channel-to-send-orders-faster-7408545/>.

## India's first pod taxi

**Question: Between which two destinations India's first pod taxi will be operated?**

- (a) Noida Airport and Film City (b) Mumbai and Pune (c) Ahmedabad and Surat  
(d) Lucknow and Kanpur

**Answer: (a)**

**Related facts:**

- Indian Port Rail and Ropeway Corporation Ltd (IPRCL) has prepared a Detailed Project Report or DPR for India's first pod taxi service between Noida Airport at Jewar and Film City.
- The project will cost about Rs 862 crore, according to the detailed project report (DPR) submitted to the Yamuna Expressway Industrial Development Authority (Yeida).
- The project stretch is of 14 km between which first driverless taxi will be operated.
- **About:**
  - Pod taxis can accommodate four to six passengers per car.
  - This important project will provide smooth connectivity to residential and industrial areas falling between film city and the Noida International Airport.
  - As per the DPR, the corridor will pass through various sectors such as 21, 28, 29, 30 and 32, among others, falling under the Yeida region.



**Links:**

<https://www.zeebiz.com/india/news-big-india-s-first-pod-taxi-to-operate-between-jewar-airport-and-noida-film-city-get-full-details-here-160612>

## Digital skills to empower women and youth

**Question: In which of the following state, on 15 July 2021 a Code Unnati registration programme was started for digital literacy of the rural women?**

- a) Kerala b) Tamil Nadu c) Karnataka d) None of these

**Answer: (c)**

**Related Facts:-**

- On 15 July 2021 a Code Unnati registration programme was started for digital literacy of the rural women in Karnataka.
- SAP Labs India and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) India join hands to promote digital skills to empower women and youth in Karnataka.

- On 15 July 2021; the two announced that they have collaborated with the Karnataka government to facilitate this programme.
- The programme will provide increased access to career guidance, employment and entrepreneurship opportunities as well as promote digital skills to empower women and youth.
- The programme will conduct as a part of Code Unnati.
- Code Unnati is a corporate to citizen digital literacy, IT skills development initiative, aiming to skill, re-skill and up-skill the Youth or existing workforce.
- One of the major objectives of the initiative, Code Unnati, is to impart digital literacy to women and youth from rural Karnataka.
- Code Unnati engages with academia, government institutions at the state and district level, incubation centres, civil societies, and other bodies to create a sustainable impact.
- The initiative aims to reach over 20,000 youth and 5,000 women in Bangalore Rural, Raichur and Dakshin Kannada districts over the next three years.
- The pandemic has heightened many existing inequalities.
- Empowering women and youth to access sustainable livelihood opportunities is critical to ensuring an inclusive and sustainable recovery.
- UNDP India Deputy Resident Representative Nadia Rasheed said, we intend to leverage our collective strengths to expand opportunities for young people and women.
- She said that for this purpose UNDP has join hands with the Karnataka government and SAP to help make communities more resilient.



#### Links:-

<https://m.economictimes.com/industry/services/education/sap-undp-to-foster-digital-skills-social-entrepreneurship-in-rural-karnataka/articleshow/84444161.cms>

## India's biggest man-made forest

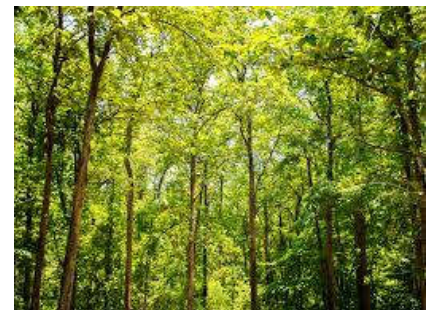
**Question: In which District will India's largest man-made forest area be established on 885 acres of land ?**

a. Bilaspur b. Durg c. Korba d. Panna

**Ans. b.**

**Related facts —**

- According to an announcement made on July 2021 India's biggest man-made forest will come up on 885 acres of land in Chhattisgarh state.



**Venue —**

- The project will come up over the next three years at an estimated cost of Rs 3 crore in Durg District(Nandini limestone site).
- It is notable that Nandini limestone site is an abandoned mine.
- The mine used to supply limestone to SAIL's Bhilai Steel Plant but has been lying abandoned for the last few years.

## Implementation —

- The project is being carried out on the direction of Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel.
- The project will come up under the supervision of the district administration, will present an example to the world as to how mined out areas can be converted into natural habitats.
- Funds will come from the 'District Mineral Foundation', a state government public relations department. Now 80,000 trees will be planted on 885 acres of land.

### Link:

<https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/india/chhattisgarh-abandoned-durg-mine-to-be-site-of-indias-biggest-man-made-forest/articleshow/84520438.cms>

## Short Film Contest – Khushiyan Ka Ashiyana

**Question: PMAY-U has recently (Jul 2021) launched two unique initiatives, Khushiyan Ka Ashiyana- Short Film contest and Awas Par Samvaad. Accordingly, which of the following statement is incorrect?**

- (a) Declaration of the initiatives were made on the occasion of sixth anniversary of PMAY-U
- (b) Sixth anniversary of PMAY-U was on June 22, 2021.
- (c) PMAY-U is one of the world's largest affordable housing Missions
- (d) Both the initiatives are among other several events proposed as part of 'Azadi ka Amrut Mahotsav'

### Answer- b

### Related facts—

- PMAY-U has recently (Jul 2021) launched two unique initiatives, Khushiyan Ka Ashiyana-Short Film contest and Awas Par Samvaad.
- **Key points —**
  - Khushiyan Ka Ashiyana contest is for all Indians above 18 Years of age.
  - Awas Par Samvaad is a series of 75 seminars and workshops to take ahead the Prime Minister's vision of 'Housing for All'.
  - The declaration of the two initiatives by the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA) were made on the occasion of sixth anniversary of PMAY-U on June 25, 2021.
  - PMAY-U is one of the world's largest affordable housing Missions.
  - Both the initiatives are being implemented on a challenge & competition mode and are among other several events proposed as part of 'Azadi ka Amrut Mahotsav', a programme of the Government of India 'to celebrate and commemorate 75 years of progressive India and the glorious history of its people, culture and achievement'.

### Link:

<https://pib.gov.in/PressReleaseDetail.aspx?PRID=1736409>

## Setting up of 17 FPOs in Gujarat

**Question: which firm is setting up 17 Farmer Producer Organisation(FPOs) in Gujarat in association with NABARD and NCDC ?**

- (a) IFFCO Kisan Sanchar (b) KRIBHCO Kisan Sanchar (c) Both a & b
- (d) None of the above



**Answer- a**  
**Related facts—**

- IFFCO Kisan Sanchar has recently (July 2021) announced that it will set up 17 Farmer Producer Organisation (FPOs) in Gujarat in association with NABARD and NCDC(National Cooperative Development Corporation).
- A total of 5,000 farmers will get associated with these FPOs by December 2021 and more than 50,000 farmers by 2025.

**Implementing agencies —**

- IFFCO Kisan has been selected by two implementing agencies – NABARD and NCDC to set up 17 FPOs across several districts of Gujarat.

**Significance —**

- These FPOs will cater to various kinds of crop.
- The company said it intends to hand hold farmers for creating a sustainable business model.
- It will impart regular training on agri-tech usage, Package of Practices (PoPs), post harvest management, primary processing, quality parameters, market intelligence and diverse business planning etc.
- IFFCO Kisan would also be facilitating market linkage support to these FPOs/ farmers under its Farmer Forward Linking Program (FFLP) to farmers.
- It is remarkable that IFFCO Kisan is currently connected with around 60 FPOs directly or indirectly spread across the country.



**Proposed location of FPOs —**

1. Five FPOs in association with NABARD in four districts Anand, Patan, Surendranagar and Valsad.  
Focused crops :—Banana, castor, cumin and cashew/ mango.
2. Twelve FPOs in association with NCDC will be located in Junagarh and Sabarkantha districts with both the districts having 6 FPOs each.  
Focused crops :— The FPO at Junagarh will cater to mango, groundnut, jowar and cumin while those coming up at Sabarkantha will cater to groundnut, castor, amla and potato.

**Link:**

<https://m.economictimes.com/news/economy/agriculture/iffco-kisan-sanchar-setting-up-17-fpos-in-gujarat-in-tie-up-with-nabard-ncdc/articleshow/84405861.cms>

**Union Education Minister and Union Tribal Affairs Minister jointly launch School Innovation Ambassador Training Program**

**Question : Which ministry is /are involved in School Innovation Ambassador Training Program?**

(a) Ministry of Education (b) Ministry of Tribal Affairs

(c) Ministry of Science and Technology

(d) A and C both

**Answer: (d)**

**Related Facts:**

- Union Education Minister Shri Dharmendra Pradhan and Tribal Affairs Minister Shri Arjun Munda jointly launched the 'School Innovation Ambassador Training Program'
- Shri Pradhan stressed that technology is reshaping the world and our students have the potential to not only address domestic but also the global challenges.
- The program launched today is a collaborative effort by the Ministry of Education's Innovation Cell, Ministry of Tribal Affairs, CBSE and AICTE, which will in turn nurture lakhs of students with innovation capabilities, develop a culture of innovation and lay the foundation of a new and vibrant India, he added.
- The Union Minister for Tribal Affairs, Shri Arjun Munda expressed his gratitude that the Ministry of Education has launched its new initiative in the field of innovation in collaboration with Tribal Affairs Ministry which will benefit the large number of schools for tribal children across the country.
- This programme will have far reaching consequences which will help to fulfil the Prime Minister's vision of a New India the Minister elaborated.
- Sh Arjun Munda further said that 'SIATP' will give wings to the creativity of the children and provide a platform so that they can give something new to the world with their ideas.
- Eklavya Model Residential Schools (EMRS) for tribal children is another ambitious programme of the Prime Minister under which 740 EMRS will be established in tribal dominated areas over the next three years, he said.
- The students of EMRS will greatly benefit from SIATP since it is also the endeavour of Tribal Affairs Ministry to give the best possible education to the tribal children.
- Sh Arjun Munda explained that through this unique capacity building programme for teachers, prominence has been given to development of creativity, collaboration, critical thinking and communication skills among children and the integration of Eklavya Schools into the entire programme is a big step in this direction for the meaningful development of tribal children.
- The innovative and one-of-its-kind training program for school teachers, it aims at training 50,000 School Teachers on Innovation, Entrepreneurship, IPR, Design Thinking, Product development, Idea generation, among others.
- The program has been designed by the Innovation Cell of the Ministry of Education and AICTE for school Teachers based on its "Innovation Ambassador Training Program for Higher Educational Institution's faculty members". The training will be delivered in online mode only.



**Reference:** <https://news.railanalysis.com/indian-scientist-develops-automated-train-toilet-sewerage-disposal-system-for-railways/>

Union Minister for Power and MNRE inaugurates “Aiming for Sustainable Habitat: New Initiatives in Building Energy Efficiency 2021”

## Union Minister for Power and MNRE inaugurates “Aiming for Sustainable Habitat: New Initiatives in Building Energy Efficiency 2021”

Question: Who has recently inaugurated “Aiming for Sustainable Habitat: New Initiatives in Building Energy Efficiency 2021”?

(a) Shri R K Singh (b) Rajnath Singh (c) PM Narendra Modi (d) Piyush Goel

**Answer: (a)**

### Related Facts:



- Shri R.K. Singh, Union Minister of Power and New & Renewable Energy today 16 JUL 2021 announced various initiatives being taken by Government of India towards energy efficiency in the building sector, as part of ‘Azadi Ka Amrut Mahotsav’.
- While inaugurating “Aiming for Sustainable Habitat: New Initiatives in Building Energy Efficiency 2021” which was virtually launched by Bureau of Energy Efficiency.
- Union Minister Shri R.K .Singh reiterated his commitment to ensure continuous efforts to enhance energy efficiency in the economy, especially in the buildings sector.
- He congratulated BEE for organizing the launch event and suggested all officials to continue to strive to remove all barriers in implementing Energy Efficiency in the Buildings sector, creating energy efficient demand and energy efficient designs.
- Specifying code compliance approaches and minimum energy performance requirements for building services, and verification framework with Eco Niwas Samhita 2021.
- The web-based platform ‘The Handbook of Replicable Designs for Energy Efficient Residential Buildings’ as a learning tool, which can be used to create a pool of ready-to-use resources of replicable designs to construct energy-efficient homes in India.
- Creating an Online Directory of Building Materials that would envisage the process of establishing Standards for energy efficient building materials.
- Announcement of NEERMAN Awards, (National Energy Efficiency Roadmap for Movement towards Affordable & Natural Habitat), with the goal of encouraging exceptionally efficient building designs complying with BEE’s Energy Conservation Building Codes.
- Online Star Rating tool for Energy Efficient Homes created to improve energy-efficiency and reduce energy consumption in individual homes. It provides performance analysis to help professionals decide the best options to pick for energy-efficiency of their homes.
- Training of over 15,000 Architects, Engineers and Government officials on Energy Conservation Building Code (ECBC) 2017 and Eco Niwas Samhita (ENS) 2021).
- ‘Azadi ka Amrut Mahotsav’ is the Government’s endeavour to commemorate India’s 75th anniversary of Independence.
- The commemorations will include 75 events for 75 weeks by the Ministry of Power.

**Reference:** <https://www.pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1736152>

Sports minister Anurag Thakur launches official song on India’s Tokyo Olympics contingent

**Question: Sports Minister Anurag Thakur on 14TH JULY 2021 launched the 'Cheer4India' song of the country's Olympic contingent. The song , titled 'Hindustani Way' is performed by Ananya Birla and composed by whom?**

(a) AR Rahman (b) Sumita Mitra (c) Gautam Ghose (d) Suman Birla

**Answer: (a)**

**Related Facts:**

- Sports Minister Anurag Thakur on 14TH JULY 2021 , launched the 'Cheer4India' song of the country's Olympic contingent .
- He urged the public to wholeheartedly rally behind its athletes during the Tokyo Games.
- Grammy Award winner composure AR Rahman and young singer Ananya Birla collaborated to present the official song of the Indian contingent for the Tokyo Olympics, titled Cheer4India: Hindustani Way.
- He thanked Rahman and Ananya for composing the song in such difficult times of Covid-19 pandemic.
- Indian Olympic Association President Narinder Batra said the launch of Team Indian official cheer song was a culmination of hard work by all the stakeholders in the last 18 months.



**Reference:** <https://www.hindustantimes.com/sports/olympics/sports-minister-anurag-thakur-launches-official-song-on-india-s-tokyo-olympics-contingent-101626271476159.html>

## School Innovation Ambassador Training Program

**Question: Consider the following statements:**

**(1) School Innovation Ambassador Training Program is a training program for school teachers to impart the culture of Innovation and entrepreneurship in school education.**

**(2) The program has been designed by the Innovation Cell of the Ministry of Education and AICTE.**

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

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

**Answer: (c)**

**Related facts:**

- On 16 July 2021, Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan and Tribal Affairs Minister Arjun Munda jointly launched the School Innovation Ambassador Training Program.
- The program for 50,000 school teachers will be implemented from July 20, 2021.
- The program has been designed by the Innovation Cell of the Ministry of Education and AICTE for school Teachers based on its "Innovation Ambassador Training Program for Higher Educational Institution's faculty members".



**About:**



- School Innovation Ambassador Training Program is a one-of-its-kind training program for school teachers to impart the culture of Innovation in school education in the country.
- Under the programme, school teachers will be provided training in key five modules- Innovation, Entrepreneurship, Intellectual Property Rights, Design Thinking, Product development, Idea generation, among others.
- Training will run for two months via online mode.
- Teachers from Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) – affiliated schools including Jawahar Navodaya Vidyalayas, Kendriya Vidyalayas, and Eklatya Residential Model Schools will be part of the program.
- Upon successful completion of the trainings, these trained teachers shall be designated as ‘Innovation Ambassadors’.

**Links:**

<https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1736152>

## Kisan Sarathi

**Question: Consider the following statements:**

**(1) Digital platform Kisan Sarathi has been launched to facilitate farmers to get right information at right time in their desired language.**

**(2) The portal was launched on the 93rd Foundation Day of Indian Council of Agricultural Research.**

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

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

**Answer: (c)**

**Related facts:**

- On 16 July 2021, a digital platform Kisan Sarathi was launched jointly by Narendra Singh Tomar, Minister for Agriculture and Farmers Welfare with Ashwini Vaishnaw, Minister for Electronics and Information Technology.
- The portal was launched on the 93rd Foundation Day of ICAR (Indian Council of Agricultural Research).
- **About:**
  - KisanSarathi portal has been launched to facilitate farmers to get ‘right information at right time’ in their desired language.
  - This initiative will be highly valuable not only in addressing the location specific information needs of the farmers but also in Agricultural Extension, Education and Research activities of ICAR.
  - Using the platform, the farmers can interact and avail personalised advisories on agriculture and allied areas directly from the respective scientists of KrishiVigyan Kendra (KVKs).
  - The portal is powered by Interactive Information Dissemination System (IIDS), Digital India Corporation (DIC), Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY).



**Links:**

<https://pib.gov.in/PressReleaselframePage.aspx?PRID=1736215>

## International Cooperation and Convention Centre – Rudraksh

**Question: Where did Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurate International Cooperation and Convention Centre – Rudraksh?**

(a) Varanasi (b) Lucknow (c) Gorakhpur (d) Haridwar

**Answer: (a)**

**Related facts:**

- On 15 July 2021, Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated the International Cooperation and Convention Centre – Rudraksh in Varanasi.
- The centre has been built to provide opportunities for social and cultural conferences which would strengthen the city's competitiveness by developing its tourism sector.
- The convention centre has been built with the assistance from Japan International Cooperation Agency.
- **Features:**
  - Varanasi International Cooperation and Convention Centre (VCC) named 'Rudraksha', is a well-equipped convention centre, comprising of a main hall with a full flying tower, a seating capacity of 1,200, a gallery, meeting rooms, and parking for 120 cars.
  - It is equipped with adequate security and safety systems, making it an ideal destination for holding all types of international conventions.
  - The centre is an environment-friendly building, fit for Level 3 of Green Rating for Integrated Habitat Assessment (GRIHA).
- **Naming the Centre:**
  - The centre named "Rudraksh" has as many as 108 Rudraksha installed at the centre. Its roof is shaped like a 'Shiva Linga'.

**Links:**

<https://pib.gov.in/PressReleaseDetail.aspx?PRID=1735851>

## India's first Grain ATM

**Question: Where has been India's first grain ATM installed?**

(a) Gurugram (b) Lucknow (c) Chennai (d) Mumbai

**Answer: (a)**

**Related facts:**

- Haryana government has set up India's first 'Grain ATM' as a pilot project in Gurugram.
- The advancement is adopted to avoid long queue in grain collection at ration shops.
- This machine has been installed under the 'World



Food Programme’ of the United Nations (UN), and is called the ‘Automated, Multi Commodity, Grain Dispensing Machine’.

- Grain ATM is similar to a bank ATM equipped with the biometric system.
- The beneficiary can collect grain after authenticating with the Aadhaar or ration card unique number.
- Three types of grains — wheat, rice and millet — can be distributed through this machine. At present, the distribution of wheat has been started from the ‘Grain ATM’ machine installed at Farrukhnagar.

**Links:**

<https://www.tribuneindia.com/news/haryana/countrys-first-grain-atm-installed-at-gurugram-283108>

## “COVID Teeka Sank Surakshit Van, Dhan aur Uddyam” campaign

**Question: Which ministry has launched “COVID Teeka Sank Surakshit Van, Dhan aur Uddyam” campaign?**

- a) Ministry of Health and Family Welfare b) Ministry of Tribal Affairs  
c) Ministry of Commerce d) None of the above

**Ans: b**

**Context**

- Tribal Affairs Minister, Arjun Munda, launched “COVID Teeka Sank Surakshit Van, Dhan aur Uddyam” campaign.

- **Facts**

- Campaign has been launched by TRIFED under Ministry of Tribal Affairs.
- The aim of the campaign is to clear all the misconceptions related to Covid vaccination among the tribal people and to motivate them to get themselves vaccinated so that they do not suffer in the future.
- It focusses on reassurance, pride & self-efficacy and promotes ‘Livelihoods with Health’ in tribal areas.
- It also tracks activities of Van Dhan Vikas Kendra (VDVK) and accelerates COVID-19 vaccination pace among tribals engaged in procurement, value addition & marketing of handlooms, handicrafts & forest produces.
- WHO and UNICEF are also associated with the campaign.
- The goal is to connect over 50 lakh tribals emphasizing COVID-19 vaccination is free, available in the nearby centres and it not only protects people from hospitalization cost and death but also helps to continue with livelihood activities.
- The campaign will highlight the three key Js:
- Jeevan (Life) – Every life and livelihood is precious, so vaccination is key to life and is free.
- Jeevika (Livelihood) – Vaccination will help in continuing Van Dhan Vikas Kendra and livelihood activities without any fear of contracting the disease. It will also save hospitalization and other opportunity costs.
- Jaagrookta (Awareness) – Simplification of the process of registration for vaccination, place, accessibility to different audiences and age groups, especially women and elderly population.



## Webinar to Commemorate the Launch of the Inclusive Cities Centre

**Question: Which institute has recently conducted a webinar to commemorate the Launch of the Inclusive Cities Centre?**

- (a) National Institute of Urban Affairs (b) Indian Institute for Human Settlements  
(c) Institute of Urban Transport India (d) Indian Institute of Public Administration

**Answer: (a)**

**Related facts:**

- National Institute of Urban Affairs (NIUA) conducted webinar on “Inclusive Cities – Approaches for making Indian cities more accessible, safe, and inclusive for ALL” to commemorate the Strategy Launch of the Inclusive Cities Center.
- The webinar was a part of the 45th anniversary celebrations of the National Institute of Urban Affairs (NIUA).
- The Inclusive Cities Center (ICC), set up at NIUA, aims to develop tools and frameworks for institutional strengthening of city authorities to promote inclusivity.
- ICC will facilitate cities in evidence-based planning and investments to improve quality of life and productivity for all.
- It will focus on the most vulnerable of the city residents including the urban poor, persons with disabilities, women, children, youth and elderly.
- The centre will implement activities to address challenges related to spatial, social, economic and digital inclusion in cities.



**Links:**

<https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1734202>

## Jagannath Rath Yatra

**Question: Consider the following statements:**

- (1) Jagannath Rath Yatra festival is dedicated to Lord Jagannath (Lord Krishna), his sister Goddess Subhadra and his elder brother Lord Balabhadra or Balaram.  
(2) The festival is celebrated on the 2nd day of Shukla Paksha of Ashadh.

**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)**

**Context:**

- The 144th Jagannath Rath Yatra began on July 12 2021.
- **Key facts:**
  - The Ratha Jatra, also called as Chariot Festival, is a Hindu festival associated with Lord Jagannath held at Puri, Odisha.
  - The festival is celebrated on the 2nd day of Shukla Paksha of Ashadh, the third month, according to the traditional Oriya calendar.





- It is a 9 day-long event and marks the return of Lord Krishna to Vrindavan with his brother Balabhadra and sister Subhadra to Gundicha Temple via Mausi Maa Temple (maternal aunt's home) near Saradha Bali, Puri.
- During the festival, the three holy giant wooden chariots carrying idols of Lord Jagannath, his brother Balaram (Balabhadra) and sister Subhadra are pulled by thousands of devotees from India and abroad.
- Rath Yatra witnesses the annual journey of the deities from the Jagannath Temple to the Gundicha shrine.
- Later after journey completion, the chariot made of a particular type of Neem tree wood is dismantled and goes to the temple kitchen to be used as firewood to cook prasad.
- **Jagannath Temple:**
  - Jagannath Temple previously called the "White Pagoda" is a part of Char Dham (Badrinath, Dwaraka, Puri, Rameswaram) pilgrimages in India.
  - The Char Dham pilgrimage is considered holy in Hindu religion and visiting these sites is believed to help achieve moksha (salvation).
  - Jagannath Puri temple is called 'Yamanika Tirtha' where, according to the Hindu beliefs, the power of 'Yama', the god of death has been nullified in Puri due to the presence of Lord Jagannath.
  - The temple is believed to have been constructed in the 12th century by King Anatavarman Chodaganga Deva of the Eastern Ganga Dynasty.

**Links:**

<https://indianexpress.com/article/india/jagannath-puri-yatra-2021-pm-modi-7400284/>

## India's first Private LNG Facility plant inaugurated

**Question: Where did the Union Minister Nitin Gadkari inaugurate India's first Private LNG Facility plant?**

(a) Nagpur (b) Pune (c) Ahmedabad (d) Bhubaneswar

**Answer: (a)**

**Related facts:**

- On 11 July 2012, Union Minister for Road Transport and Highways Nitin Gadkari inaugurated India's first Private LNG Facility plant at Nagpur, Maharashtra.
- The plant has been set up by Baidyanath Ayurvedic Group, makers of Ayurvedic medicine, on Kamptee Road near Nagpur Jabalpur Highway.
- Once operational, this LNG filling station in Nagpur will be the first such facility to operate on a commercial basis.
- Addressing the occasion, the Minister also underlined the importance of 'Flex engines' which are capable of using both Petrol and Ethanol for transportation.
- **Liquefied Natural Gas:**
  - LNG is natural gas, mainly methane (CH<sub>4</sub>) with some mixture of ethane (C<sub>2</sub>H<sub>6</sub>) that has been cooled to a liquid state, at about -260° Fahrenheit, for shipping and storage.
  - LNG is a clean, pollution-free and cost-effective liquid fuel, which is also easy to store and reduces logistics costs.



- The volume of natural gas in its liquid state is about 600 times smaller than its volume in its gaseous state.
- United States is the world's largest producer of natural gas.
- **Significance of LNG:**
- LNG is a biofuel just like ethanol, bio CNG and hydrogen fuels to provide alternative to conventional fuel.
- These alternatives are cost effective and significant in reducing carbon footprints.

**Links:**

<https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1734586>

## India-UK Financial Market Dialogue

**Question: Consider the following statements:**

**(1) India-UK Financial Markets Dialogue (FMD) held first virtual meeting on July 8, 2021.**

**(2) India-UK has adopted Roadmap 2030 to elevate bilateral relation through multi faceted cooperation.**

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

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

**Answer: (c)**

**Related facts:**

On 8 July 2021, India and United Kingdom (UK) held the first virtual meeting of Financial Markets Dialogue to strengthen bilateral financial relations.

The Dialogue was led by senior officials from UK Treasury and Indian Ministry of Finance.

The dialogue also included participation from Indian and UK independent regulatory agencies, including the Reserve Bank of India, the Securities and Exchange Board of India, International Financial Services Centre Authority, Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India, the Bank of England, and the Financial Conduct Authority.



**Discussion Subject:**

Discussions during the Dialogue were focused on four themes:

- (1) GIFT (Gujarat International Finance Tec-City) City, India's flagship international financial centre,
- (2) banking and payments,
- (3) insurance, and
- (4) capital markets

**Background:**

- The Dialogue was established by UK Chancellor Rishi Sunak and Indian Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman at the 10th Economic and Financial Dialogue (EFD) in October 2020.
- Financial Cooperation is a significant pillar of 2030 Roadmap adopted by both the countries in May 2020.
- India-UK Financial Market Dialogue is the key elements of this Financial Cooperation to share expertise, experiences and deepen collaboration between our financial sectors.

### About GIFT City:

- Gujarat International Finance Tec(GIFT)-City is a planned business district near Ahmedabad in Gujarat, India.
- It is the first operational greenfield smart city and international financial services centre in India.
- It is a “Walk to Work” City including Office spaces, Residential Apartments, Schools, Hospital, Hotels, Clubs, Retail and various Recreational facilities. Walk to Work is an urban concept providing all facilities in the vicinity of workplace to avoid time loss between official work and person life.
- GIFT City consist of a conducive Multi-Service SEZ (Special Economic Zone) and an exclusive Domestic Area.

### Links:

<https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1734071>

## DRDO & AICTE launches M. Tech. in Defence Technology

**Question: Consider the following statements:**

- (1) DRDO & AICTE has launched M. Tech. in Defence Technology.
- (2) There are six specialized streams under the M. Tech. in Defence Technology programme.

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

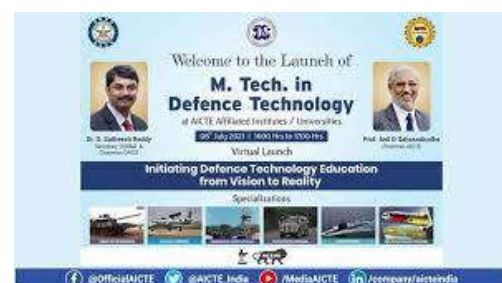
- (a) Only (1) (b) Only (2) (c) Both (1) & (2) (d) None of the above

**Answer: (c)**

**Related facts:**

The All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE) along with the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) has launched M. Tech programmes in defence technology in six specialised streams.

The M.Tech. courses would infuse interest in students and motivate them to pursue their career in research and development for defence and security.



### Programme Streams:

The six specialized streams under the programme are-

- (1) combat technology, for example designing of guns, artillery
- (2) aero technology, for example manufacturing aircrafts, missile systems
- (3) naval technology, for example designing ships, submarines, naval warfare

- (4) communication systems and sensors, for example Radar Technologies, satellite Communication
- (5) directed energy technology, for example weapons like KALI to destroy threats using radiation
- (6) high energy materials technology, for example explosives, propellants used in rockets

#### Programme access:

- This M.Tech. defence technology program can be conducted at any AICTE affiliated Institutes/Universities, IITs, NITs or private engineering institutes.
- Institute of Defence Scientists & Technologists (IDST) will provide support to the institutes for conducting this program, which can be conducted in online as well as offline formats.
- The students will also be provided opportunities to conduct their main thesis work in DRDO laboratories, Defence PSUs & Industries.
- **All-India Council for Technical Education (AICTE)**
- AICTE is a statutory body and a national-level council for technical education under Department of Higher Education.
- It was established in November 1945 as an advisory body. Later in 1987, it was given a statutory status by an Act of Parliament.
- AICTE is responsible for proper planning and coordinated development of technical education and management education system across India. Its new headquarter is in Delhi.

#### Links:

<https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1733818>

### 16th Annual Conference on Road Development in India

**Question: As of Union Minister Nitin Gadkari, what length of world class road is set to be constructed by the year 2024?**

(a) 60,000 km (b) 80,000 km (c) 50,000 km (d) 70,000 km

**Answer: (a)**

#### Related facts:

- Union Minister of Road Transport and Highways, Nitin Gadkari participated in the 16th Annual Conference on Road Development in India.
- The conference was held by India Infrastructure Publishing, which is a provider of information about the infrastructure sector.
- It was held to discuss rising trends in roadways, with the major focus on import substitution, cost-effectiveness, pollution-free alternative fuel.
- Addressing the conference, Union Minister Nitin Gadkari said that he has set a goal to construct 60,000 km of the world-class national highway by 2024, at the rate of 40 km per day.
- India with about 63 lakh kms of road network is the second largest road network in the world.





- Union Minister Nitin Gadkari highlighted that GOI has decided to invest 1.4 trillion dollars in infrastructure development through National Infrastructure Pipeline (NIP).

**Links:**

<https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1734154>

## PM Modi to inaugurate 5-star hotel built atop Gandhinagar railway station at the cost of ₹790 crores

**Question-Where is India's first 5-star hotel atop railway track has been built?**

(a) Gujarat (b) Maharashtra (c) Goa (d) New Delhi

**Ans. (a)**

**Related facts-**

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi will be inaugurating a newly constructed five-star hotel atop the redeveloped Gandhinagar Railway station on July 16 via video conferencing, the Gujarat government announced.
- The redevelopment project and the construction of the hotel started back in January 2017 after the Prime Minister performed a groundbreaking ceremony.
- The luxury hotel has 318 rooms and will be operated by a private entity. It is spread across 7,400 square meters and has been built at a cost of ₹790 crore.
- The hotel has been built to host national and international guests who would come for seminars and conferences at Mahatma Mandir, a convention centre, located right opposite the hotel.
- The Prime Minister will also be virtually inaugurating three additional projects, an aquatic gallery, a robotic gallery and a nature park on the same day at the Science City in Ahmedabad.
- India's largest aquarium, built at a cost of 264 crores to house 68 large tanks for marine life, and a gallery with a 28-meter-long underwater walkway tunnel for watching marine creatures, are the newest additions to the aquatic gallery.
- The Prime Minister will also flag off the Gandhinagar-Varanasi weekly superfast train and Gandhinagar-Varetha Mainline Electric Multiple Unit (MEMU) train.
- He will dedicate the newly electrified Mehsana-Varetha broad gauge rail line, which passes through Vadnagar (the Prime Minister's hometown), and a 266km stretch between Surendranagar and Pipavav station.

**Reference—** <https://www.hindustantimes.com/india-news>.

## Cabinet extends term of Commission examining sub-categorisation within OBCs in Central list

**Question: Who is the head of the Commission examining sub-categorisation within OBCs in Central list?**

a) Justice(Retd.) G. Rohini b) Dr. J.K. Bajaj c) Kiren Rijeju d) none of the above

**Ans: a**

**Context**

- The Union Cabinet chaired by the Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi has approved the Eleventh Extension of the term of the Commission examining the issue of Sub-



categorization within Other Backward Classes (OBCs) in the Central List by 6 months beyond 31st July 2021 and upto 31st January 2022.

- The announcement was made on 14th July 2021 and notification release will happen after President's approval.

## Facts

- The commission examining sub-categorisation within OBCs in Central list has been constituted by the government under article 340 of constitution.

## Article 340

- The President may by order appoint a Commission consisting of such persons as he thinks fit to investigate the conditions of socially and educationally backward classes within the territory of India.
- A Commission so appointed shall investigate the matters referred to them and present to the President a report setting out the facts as found by them and making such recommendations as they think proper.

## About the Commission formed

- The Government has constituted a Commission on 02.10.2017 to examine sub-categorisation of Other Backward Classes.
- The four-member Commission is headed by Justice(Retd.) G. Rohini, Chief Justice (Retd.), Delhi High Court with the other three members being (i) Dr. J.K. Bajaj, Director, Centre for Policy Studies, New Delhi, (ii) Director, Anthropological Survey of India, Kolkata(ex-officio Member) and (iii) Registrar General and Census Commissioner, India. (ex-officio Member).

**Reference:** <https://www.pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1735376>

## Khelo India Youth Games Postponed To Feb 2022 Due To 'possible COVID-19 Third Wave'

**Question: Which state will host the khelo India Youth Games 2021?**

(a) Delhi (b) Haryana (c) Gujarat (d) Uttar Pradesh

**Answer: (b)**

**Related Facts:**

- Haryana government decided to postpone the Khelo India Youth Games, 2021 to February 2022 due to a possible third wave of the COVID-19 pandemic.
- The national event will be held in the under-18 age group and across 25 different sports competitions, which include five indigenous games.
- He also warned that as the Director of AIIMS, New Delhi and several other experts have predicted the third wave of COVID-19 to peak around in October or November, the officers responsible for the smooth running of the competition should make sure



that COVID-19 appropriate behaviour and protocols are strictly followed during the games.

- More than 8,500 players are going to participate in the games. Out of the 5,072 athletes, 2,400 will be female and 2,672 will be male. It was mentioned that the earlier proposition was to organise the Games from November 21 to 30 at five places including Panchkula, Chandigarh, Shahbad, Ambala and Delhi.
- The mascot for the games, 'Dhakad', had already been decided, while the 'Jersey' and 'Logo' will be issued soon.

**Reference:** <https://www.republicworld.com/sports-news/other-sports/khelo-india-youth-games-postponed-to-feb-2022-due-to-possible-covid-19-third-wave.html>

## Fourth-largest crude oil supplier to India in 2020

**Question :** Which country became fourth-largest crude oil supplier to India in 2020 ?

a. USA b. Saudi Arabia c. Qatar d. Iran

**Ans. a.**

**Related facts —**

- BP's Statistical Review of World Energy report released on July 8, 2021.
- Accordingly the report, United States became the fourth-largest supplier of crude oil to India in 2020.
- **Data pertaining to India —**
  - The US supplied 10.7 million tonnes of crude oil to India in 2020, behind Iraq's 47 million tonnes, Saudi Arabia's 38 million tonnes, and UAE's 22 million tonnes.
  - The US supply accounted for about 5% of India's total imports of 204 million tonnes in the year, a big jump for the country which had started exporting oil to India in 2017.
  - It also turned out to be the fourth-largest natural gas supplier to India in 2020.
  - India imported nearly 36 billion cubic metres (bcm) of liquefied natural gas (LNG) in 2020, with Qatar (14 bcm), UAE (5), Nigeria (4), US (3) and Angola (3) being the top suppliers.
- **India's top supplier —**
  - It is notable that Iraq has been India's top supplier for the past few years, staying ahead of Saudi Arabia, which has been producing less than its capacity to meet OPEC supply curb commitments.
- **Biggest oil & LNG importer in the world —**
  - Saudi Arabia was the biggest supplier of crude oil to China, the biggest oil importer in the world in 2020.
  - China imported 557 million tonnes, with Saudi Arabia (85 million tonnes), Russia (83), Iraq (60), South and Central America (72) and West Africa (72) as its main suppliers.
  - The US supplied 20 million tonnes of crude oil to China, almost double that of India.



- China imported 94 bcm of LNG during the year, with Australia (41), Malaysia (8) and Indonesia (7) as top suppliers.
- Japan remained the top LNG importer in the world, with imports of 102 bcm in 2020.

**Link:**

<https://energy.economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/oil-and-gas/united-states-became-fourth-largest-crude-oil-supplier-to-india-in-2020-report/84286108>

## Acquisition of Cipla's Meditab Specialities Satara plant

**Question :** Rubicon Research Private Limited, a leading specialty pharmaceutical company has recently(July 2021) announced the acquisition of Meditab Specialities manufacturing facility located in Satara. Of which pharma company is Meditab Specialities a wholly owned subsidiary ?

a. Cipla b. Glenmark c. Wockhardt d. Sun Pharma

**Ans. a.**

**Related facts —**

- Rubicon Research Private Limited, a leading specialty pharmaceutical company has recently(July 2021) announced the acquisition of Meditab Specialities manufacturing facility located in Satara.
- The transaction includes about 80 people with Meditab's plant and the integration is expected to be completed in two months, a Rubicon spokesperson said.
- Meditab Specialities is a wholly owned subsidiary of Cipla.
- **Satara manufacturing facility —**
- The Satara facility is a state-of-the-art cGMP(Current Good Manufacturing Practices) compliant and Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency United Kingdom(MHRA UK) inspected oral liquid dosage and nasal product manufacturing facility that enables a strong and diverse pipeline of oral liquids for Rubicon Research.



**Link:**

<http://www.rubicon.co.in/rubicon-meditab-acquisition>

## Home Minister Amit Shah inaugurates Centre of Excellence for Research and Analysis of Narcotics, Drugs and Psychotropic Substances

**Question:** At which university, Home Minister Amit Shah inaugurated Centre of Excellence for Research and Analysis of Narcotics, Drugs and Psychotropic Substances on 12th July 2021?

- a) IIT-Delhi b) AIIMS-Patna  
c) National Forensic Science University -Gandhinagar  
d) Sardar Patel University of Police, Security and Criminal Justice-Jodhpur

**Ans: c**

**Related Facts**

- Home Minister Amit Shah inaugurated the Centre of Excellence for Research and Analysis of Narcotics, Drugs and Psychotropic Substances at National Forensic Science University at Gandhinagar in Gujarat on 12th July 2021.
- This research centre aims to provide research and analysis of drugs and narcotics seized in the different parts of the country and its routes.
- It also aims to free youth of the country from drug addiction by researching in the area of de-addiction.

**Reference:** <https://newsonair.com/2021/07/12/home-minister-amit-shah-inaugurates-research-based-center-of-excellence-at-national-forensic-science-university-in-gandhinagar/>

**Ladakh became first UTs to achieve 100% vaccination with first dose**

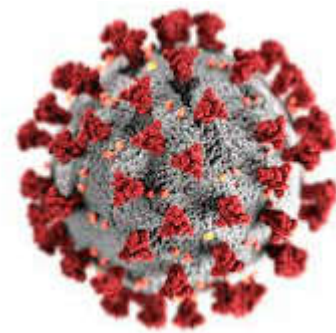
**Question-Which of following has become first Union territory to achieve 100% first dose vaccination coverage?**

(a) Chandigarh (b) New Delhi (c) Ladakh (d) Lakshadweep

**Ans. (c)**

**Related facts-**

- Ladakh has become first Union Territory to vaccinate all residents and guest population; comprising of migrant labourers, hotel workers and Nepalese citizens earning their livelihood in the territory; with first dose of Covid-19 jab.
- As per data, total of 89,404 people from all eligible age groups have been administered with first dose of Covid vaccine.
- Second dose has been administered to 60,936 people.
- Vaccination was done in less than three months after third phase of vaccination started in India.
- About 6,821 Nepalese citizens living in UT were administered the vaccine



**About Ladakh-**

- Ladakh is a region administered by India as union territory.
- It comprises of part of larger Kashmir region, which has been a subject of dispute between India, Pakistan, and China.
- Ladakh was established as a Union Territory on October 31, 2019 after passing "Jammu and Kashmir Reorganisation Act".

**Reference-** <https://ladakh.nic.in/covid-19-ladakh-achieves-100-vaccination-with-first-dose/>

**NASSCOM CoE launches Healthcare Innovation Challenge 2.0**

**Question: Which company or organization has launched Healthcare Innovation Challenge 2.0 recently?**

(a) NASSCOM (b) RBI (c) SBI (d) Reliance Jio



**Answer:(a)**

**Related Facts:**

- NASSCOM Centre of Excellence (CoE) has launched Healthcare Innovation Challenge (HIC) 2.0 on
- The initiative aims to address the challenges faced by healthcare providers in digital technology adoption.
- The use case sponsors include some of the hospitals from HIC#2 and some new hospitals looking to work with CoE for their digital transformation.
- The key objectives of the HIC include driving operational excellence by enabling automation of administrative processes and digitisation of clinical workflows through the adoption of digital technology solutions; enabling healthcare providers to nominate use cases as per the digital solution needs and driving the programme to enable the curation, evaluation and deployment of technology-led innovative solutions that address the nominated use cases.
- In this edition, healthcare providers across the country are invited to nominate use cases as per their digital solution needs.
- The HIC#2 partner hospitals include KIMS Health, Mahajan Imaging, Rajiv Gandhi Cancer Institute and Research Centre, Sankara Netralaya and Zydus Hospitals.
- For this edition of HIC, healthcare providers have been nominated for use cases which include converting radiology reports and images into multimedia files, centralized teleradiology reporting, home care and patient monitoring solutions, digital clinical assistant for integrating with legacy EHR, AI-based cancer diagnosis and OT Automation.
- After nominations by the partner hospitals, applications for solutions are invited at the pan India level.



**Reference:** <https://indianexpress.com/article/explained/explained-a-proposed-elephant-reserve-in-chhattisgarh-and-its-reduced-area-7400025/>

## Lemru Elephant Reserve in Chhattisgarh

**Question: What is Lemru Elephant Reserve?**

(a) Chattisgarh (b) Uttar Pradesh (c) Tamilnadu (d) Orissa

**Answer: (a)**

**Related Facts:**

- Lemru Elephant Reserve is in Chhattisgarh,
- In a letter on June 26, 2021 the state Forest and Environment Department asked the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (Wildlife) to make a presentation for decreasing the area of the proposed reserve from 1,995 sq km to 450 sq km.
- The proposal for the reserve, in Korba district, was passed unanimously by the Assembly in 2005 and got central approval in 2007. Lemru is one of two elephant reserves planned to prevent human-animal conflict in the region, with elephants moving into Chhattisgarh from Odisha and Jharkhand. Its area was then proposed to be 450 sq km.
- A letter from the then PCCF described the reserve as part of an elephant corridor that connects Lemru (Korba), Badalkhol (Jashpur), Tamorpingla (Surguja). "Unless the elephant



corridor links all these areas, it will not be effective,” he wrote to his officers, asking them to start the process of notification after the central approval.

- In September 2011, the then BJP government issued a notification for setting up the reserve across 1,143 sq km, according to the June 26, 2021 letter from the Forest and Forest Department.
- The current Congress government, in a Cabinet meeting in August 2019, decided to increase the area further, to 1,995 sq km. But last month came the Forest Department's letter to the PCCF (Wildlife) for reducing the area to 450 sq km.

**Reference:** <https://indianexpress.com/article/explained/explained-a-proposed-elephant-reserve-in-chhattisgarh-and-its-reduced-area-7400025/>

Share this:

## NTPC got green flag to set up India's Largest energy park at Rann of Kutch

**Question: Which company has set up up India's Largest energy park at Rann of Kutch?**

(a) NTPC (b) BHEL (c) RELIANCE (d) TATA

**Answer: (a)**

**Related Facts:**

- Ministry of New and Renewable Energy gave the green flag to NTPC to set up a 4750 MW renewable energy park at Rann of Kutch in Khavada, Gujarat.
- NTPC Renewable Energy Ltd, a 100% subsidiary of NTPC, has received the go-ahead from Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE) to set up 4750 MW renewable energy park at Rann of Kutch in Khavada, Gujarat. This will be India's largest solar park to be built by the largest power producer of the country.
- NTPC Renewable Energy Ltd (NTPC REL), has been given the go-ahead by MNRE on 12th July 2021 under Mode 8 (Ultra Mega Renewable Energy Power Park) of Solar Park Scheme. NTPC REL has plans to generate green hydrogen on a commercial scale from this park.
- As a part of its green energy portfolio augmentation, NTPC Ltd, India's largest energy integrated company aims to build 60 GW Renewable Energy Capacity by 2032. Currently, the state owned power major has an installed capacity of 66 GW across 70 power projects with an additional 18 GW under construction.
- Recently, NTPC has also commissioned India's largest Floating Solar of 10 MW (ac) on the reservoir of Simhadri Thermal Power Plant, Andhra Pradesh. An additional 15 MW (ac) would be commissioned by August 2021.
- Further, a 100 MW Floating Solar Project on the reservoir of Ramagundam Thermal Power Plant, Telangana is in the advanced stage of implementation.



**Reference:** <https://www.psuconnect.in/news/ntpc-got-green-flag-to-set-up-indias-largest-energy-park-at-rann-of-kutch/28618>

## New UP population policy 2021- 2030

**Q. Consider the following statement regarding Uttar Pradesh population Policy 2021-2030.**

- 1) It aims at stabilizing the population in Uttar Pradesh.
- 2) It aims at bringing down the gross fertility rate among women to 1.9 by 2026.

**Which statement/s is/are true?**

a) Only 1 b) Only 2 c) Both 1 & 2 d) None of these

**ANSWER:- a)**

**Related facts:-**

- On July 11th, 2021, Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath unveiled a population policy on the occasion of World Population Day.
- It aims at stabilizing the population in Uttar Pradesh and reducing maternal and infant deaths in a time-bound manner.
- It also aims at bringing down the gross fertility rate among women to 2.1 by 2026 and to 1.9 by 2030.
- The UP Population Policy also aims at preventing the death of children under the age of 5 years and improving their nutritional condition.
- Provisions have been made for ensuring health services for all and for paying special attention to pregnant women, infants, sick newborns and children who are severely malnourished.
- A few days ago, a draft bill on population control was put up on the website of the Uttar Pradesh law commission inviting suggestions from the public till July 19.
- It says people having more than two children in Uttar Pradesh will be debarred from contesting local bodies' polls, applying for government jobs or receiving any kind of subsidy.
- The draft bill also seeks to prohibit promotions in government jobs for such people, while offering incentives to those limiting their children to two.
- While unveiling the policy the chief minister said the increasing population is being a hurdle in development.



**LINK**

<https://theprint.in/india/new-up-population-policy-aims-to-reduce-gross-fertility-rate-to-2-1-by-2026-and-1-9-by-2030/694146/>

## India First Cryptogenic Garden

**Q. The country's first cryptogenic garden located in which area?**

a) Uttar Pradesh b) Uttarakhand c) Madhya Pradesh d) None of these

**ANSWER:- b)**

**Related facts:-**

- On July 11th, 2021, The country's first cryptogenic garden (non-seed plant) started in Devvan located in Chakrata area of Uttarakhand.
- Situated at an altitude of nine thousand feet and spread over three acres, this garden has about 76 species of cryptogram.
- Cryptograms are primitive plants that do not spread through seeds. This includes algae, mosses, ferns, fungi, and lichens.



- This is the first cryptogenic park in the country, which has been prepared keeping in view the ecological importance of these species.
- Through this garden, it will be easy to make people aware about the plants of this group.
- Cryptograms are plants that have been present on Earth since the Jurassic era.
- These plants are also good bio-indicators, as species such as lichens do not inhabit areas affected by pollution.
- These species also have tremendous economic value. They are used as condiments in famous dishes like Hyderabadi Biryani and Galouti Kebab.
- Many fern species are used for filtering heavy metals.

#### LINK

<https://english.press24.in/2021/07/12/uttarakhand-news-india-first-cryptogenic-garden-started-in-chakrata/>

## GIS Enabled Land Bank

### Q. India industrial land bank comes under which ministry?

- a) Finance ministry b) Ministry of Commerce and Industry  
c) Ministry of Heavy Industry d) None of these

**ANSWER- b)**

#### Related Facts:-

- On July 9th, 2021 The Ministry of Commerce and Industry said the GIS enabled Land Bank is gaining popularity, its website has seen a 30% increase in views since April 2021.
- The India Industrial Land Bank (IILB) is a GIS-based portal – a one-stop repository of all industrial infrastructure-related information – connectivity, infra, natural resources & terrain, plot-level information on vacant plots, line of activity, and contact details.
- Currently, the IILB has approximately 4000 industrial parks mapped across an area of 5.5 lakh hectare of land, serving as a decision support system for investors scouting for land remotely.
- The system has been integrated with industry-based GIS systems of 17 states to have details on the portal updated on a real-time basis and will achieve pan-India integration by December 2021
- A land bank is an entity created by the government to help manage and dispose of land so that it can be redeveloped for a better, more productive use.



#### LINK

<https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1734169>

## Rail Cargo movement between India and Nepal gets a big boost

**Question: Recently a rail cargo movement was in news. Which two countries are involved in such agreement to get it boost?**

- (a) India and Nepal (b) India and Srilanka (c) India and Pakistan  
(d) India and Afghanistan

**Answer: (a)**

#### Related Facts:



- On 09 JUL 2021, Rail Transportation between India & Nepal got a major boost with coming into force of authorization to all cargo train operators to utilize the Indian railway network to carry all containers bound for Nepal whether bilateral freight between Indian and Nepal or third country freight from Indian ports to Nepal.
- This liberalization will allow market forces to come up in the rail freight segment in Nepal, and is likely to increase efficiency and cost- competitiveness, eventually benefiting the Nepalese consumer.
- These cargo train Operators include public and private container trains Operators, automobile freight train operators, special freight train operators or any other operator authorized by Indian Railways .
- It comes into effect from 09.07.2021 after the formal exchange of Note Verbales and signed copies of Letter of Exchange between officials of India & Nepal.
- Move will reduce transportation costs for automobiles and certain other products whose carriage takes place in special wagons.
- Wagons owned by Nepal Railway Company will also be authorized to carry Nepal-bound freight (inbound and outbound on Kolkata/Haldia to Biratnagar/Birganj routes) over the Indian Railways network as per IR standards and procedures.
- The signing of this LoE marks another milestone in India's efforts to enhance regional connectivity under the "Neighbourhood First" policy.



**Reference:** <https://pib.gov.in/PressReleaseDetail.aspx?PRID=1734254>

## 24778 cases settled in J&K, 493 in Ladakh during day-long National Lok Adalats

**Question: Recently Lok Adalats were in news as 24778 cases settled in J&K, 493 in Ladakh during day-long. Where was first time Lok Adalat held in?**

(a) Gujarat (b) Uttar Pradesh (c) Kerla (d) Tamilnadu

**Answer: (a)**

**Related Facts:**

- The first time Lok Adalat was held in Gujarat in 1982.
- Section 22 B of The Legal Services Authorities Act 1987 provides for the establishment of Permanent Lok Adalats (PLA) for exercising jurisdiction in respect of one or more public utility services (PUS).
- During the day-long National Lok Adalats held across J&K, 32601 cases were taken up by 128 benches at various courts across the UT of J&K and out of them 24778 cases were settled amicably, and an amount of Rs 50,60,75,876 was awarded as compensation/settlement amount.
- Likewise, in Ladakh a total of 608 cases were taken up by 8 benches and 493 cases were disposed of and an amount of Rs 3,59,84,519 was awarded as compensation/settlement amount.
- A National Lok Adalat was organized by the Tehsil Legal Services Committee, Majalta at Munsiff Court Complex, Majalta under the chairmanship of Priyanka Mahajan Munsif Chairman Tehsil Legal Services Committee (TLSC), Majalta.





- A Bench was constituted for holding the said National Lok Adalat which was presided over by Priyanka Majahan and assisted by Karnal Singh Naib Tehsildar Majalta. During the Lok Adalat, a total of 27 cases pertaining to compoundable civil and criminal nature were taken up, out of which 17 cases were disposed off.
- Thirty-four cases of Traffic Challans were also disposed of and a compounding fine of Rs 21,690 was recovered on spot.
- A day-long National Lok Adalat was organized at District Court Complex Baramulla under the chairmanship of Principal District & Sessions Judge Baramulla Mohammad Yousuf Wani.

**Reference:** <https://www.dailyexcelsior.com/24778-cases-settled-in-jk-493-in-ladakh-during-day-long-national-lok-adalats/>

## ZIKA

**Question: Recently Zika Virus was in news. Where was it reported in India?**

(a) Uttar Pradesh (b) Kerala (c) Assam (d) Andhra Pradesh

**Answer:(b)**

**Related Facts:**

- On 8th July 2021, In the first case of Zika virus in Kerala, a 24-year-old pregnant woman has been diagnosed with the mosquito-transmitted disease.
- The mosquito-borne virus has been linked to shrunken brains in children and a rare auto-immune disease called Guillain-Barre syndrome.
- Although the virus is mostly spread by mosquitoes, it can also be sexually transmitted.
- Zika virus was first isolated from monkeys living in the Zika jungle of Uganda in 1947. It was only formally described as a distinct virus in 1952.
- In 2016 and 2017, the western state of Gujarat reported cases of the Zika virus from the city of Ahmedabad.
- It was first identified in monkeys in Uganda in 1947. The first human case was detected in Nigeria in 1954 and there have been further outbreaks in Africa, South East Asia and the Pacific Islands
- But in May 2015 it was reported in Brazil and spread rapidly
- As there is no treatment, the only option is to reduce the risk of being bitten.



**Reference:** <https://www.livemint.com/science/health/kerala-reports-1st-confirmed-case-of-zika-virus-13-others-awaiting-report-11625754872234.html>

## BHEL bags Rs 1,405 crore order from NPCIL

**Question- Consider the following statements-**

(1) BHEL has bagged an order worth Rs 1,405 crore from the Nuclear Power Corporation of India Ltd for supply of 12 nuclear steam generators

(2) The steam generators will be manufactured at the Tiruchirapalli plant of BHEL

**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-**

- State-owned BHEL has bagged an order worth Rs 1,405 crore from the Nuclear Power Corporation of India Ltd for supply of 12 nuclear steam generators.
- The steam generators will be manufactured at the Tiruchirapalli plant of BHEL.
- Valued at Rs 1,405 crore, the order has been won under NPCIL's Fleet Mode procurement programme.
- It mandates supply of 12 steam generators for India's highest rated indigenously-developed 700 MWe Pressurised Heavy Water Reactors (PHWRs) to be set up at four different locations in the country.
- This is the second major supply order secured by BHEL through competitive bidding for the Fleet Mode implementation programme of 10×700 MWe nuclear projects.
- The first equipment order secured by BHEL under this programme for the supply of 32 Reactor Header Assemblies is under execution.
- BHEL holds the distinction of being the sole Indian company to be associated with all the three stages of the indigenous nuclear power programme of the country and has emerged as the leading partner for NPCIL for over four decades now.
- Nearly 75 per cent of PHWR-based nuclear power plants in India are equipped with BHEL-supplied Turbine and Generator sets, and the balance being imported sets.
- BHEL has also emerged as the L-1 bidder in another Rs 10,800 crore-tender floated by NPCIL for 6×700 MWe Turbine Island Packages.



**Link:**

[https://www.business-standard.com/article/companies/bhel-bags-rs-1-405-crore-order-from-npcil-for-12-nuclear-steam-generators-121070900657\\_1.html](https://www.business-standard.com/article/companies/bhel-bags-rs-1-405-crore-order-from-npcil-for-12-nuclear-steam-generators-121070900657_1.html)

## Centre allocates Rs.5,009 Crore grant to Karnataka under Jal Jeevan Mission

**Question- Consider the following statements-**

- (1) Centre allocates Rs.5,009 Crore grant to Karnataka under Jal Jeevan Mission
- (2) Jal Jeevan Mission is envisioned to provide safe and adequate drinking water through individual household tap connections by 2024 to all households in rural India

**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-**

- To translate Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi's vision of providing clean tap water to every household, Union government has increased the central grant to Karnataka under the Jal Jeevan Mission in the year 2021-22 to Rs.5,008.79 Crore, which was Rs.1,189.40 Crore in 2020-21.

- Union Minister, Jal Shakti, Shri Gajendra Singh Shekhawat while approving this four-fold increase in allocation has assured full assistance to the State for making provision of tap water supply in every rural home in Karnataka by 2023.
- At the start of the Mission in 2019, out of a total of 19.20 Crore rural households in the country, only 3.23 Crore (17%) had tap water supply.
- During the last 22 months, despite Covid-19 pandemic and lockdown disruptions, Jal Jeevan Mission, has been implemented with speed and 4.42 Crore households have been provided with piped connections.
- With the increase in coverage by 23.36%, presently 7.66 Crore (40.5%) rural households across the country have tap water supply.
- Goa, Telangana, Andaman & Nicobar Islands and Puducherry have achieved 100% household connection in rural areas and has become 'Har Ghar Jal'.
- Following the principle of Prime Minister's vision of 'SabkaSaath, Sabka Vikas, Sabka Vishwas', the motto of the Mission is that 'no one is left out' and every household in a village should be provided with tap water connection.
- At present, in 69 districts and more than 98 thousand villages, every household has tap water supply.
- In Karnataka, out of 91.19 lakh households, 29.96 lakh households (32.86%) have been provided with tap water connections.
- On 15th August 2019, at the time of launch of Jal Jeevan Mission, 24.51 lakh (26.88%) households had tap water supply.
- In 22 months, only 5.44 lakh households in the State have been provided tap water connections.
- State has planned to provide tap water connections to 25.17 lakh households in 2021-22, 17.93 lakh tap water connections in 2022-23 and remaining 19.93 lakh tap water connections in 2023-24 to achieve tap water supply for every rural household.
- Jal Jeevan Mission is a 'bottom up' approach where community plays a vital role starting from planning to implementation, management, operation and maintenance.
- Jal Jeevan Mission announced by the Prime Minister on 15th August 2019 from Red Fort is under implementation in partnership with States/ UTs to provide tap water connection to every rural household of the country by 2024.
- Total budget for Jal Jeevan Mission in 2021-22 is Rs 50,011 Crore.
- With State's own resources and Rs 26,940 Crore as 15th Finance Commission tied grant for water and sanitation to RLBs/ PRIs, this year, more than Rs 1 lakh Crore are being invested in rural drinking water supply sector.
- This is creating new employment opportunities in villages and boosting the rural economy.



**Reference-** <https://www.pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1733762>.

## India – EU Cooperation in Agriculture

**Question-Consider the following statements about India- EU cooperation in agriculture-**

- (1) EU has set a target of bringing 25 per cent of area in the EU under Organic Farming by 2030
- (2) Agriculture minister has highlighted the initiative of encouraging organic

**farming on either sides of Ganga river up to 5 Km through formation of clusters**

**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-**

- A Virtual meeting between Shri Narendra Singh Tomar, Union Minister for Agriculture & Farmers Welfare and Mr. Janusz Wojciechowski, Member of the European Commission, Agriculture was held on 7th July, 2021.
- Both dignitaries discussed EU Common Agriculture Policy (CAP) and the recent India market reforms.
- EU Farm to Fork Strategy and UN Food System Summit and bilateral cooperation, G20 Agriculture Minister process and fixation of the Maximum Residue Limit of Tricyclazole in Indian Basmati Rice by the EU.
- The Member of the European Commission, Agriculture explained in detail the recent reforms undertaken by the EU in the Common Agriculture Policy as well as the EU Farm to Fork Strategy to make agriculture green as well as sustainable.
- He also mentioned that the EU has set a target of bringing 25 per cent of area in the EU under Organic Farming by 2030.
- The Union Minister of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare explained the scenario of agriculture in India and the dominance of small farmers and the commitment of the Government of India towards welfare of farmers in India.
- The Agriculture Minister highlighted the recent initiatives taken by the Government of India to increase the incomes of the farmers, the launch of Agriculture Infrastructure Fund with a corpus of Rs One Lakh Crore for development of farm gate and agriculture marketing infrastructure in rural areas, scheme of formation of 10000 FPOs to help small and marginal farmers in marketing of agricultural produce.
- He enlisted the steps being taken by the Government of India to make agriculture sustainable and environment friendly which included encouragement of application nano-urea and Organic Farming under the Pramparagat Krishi Vikas Yojana.
- He also highlighted the initiative of encouraging organic farming on either sides of Ganga river up to 5 Km through formation of clusters wherein 11 lakh farmers have already enrolled.
- The Agriculture Minister acknowledged India's support to the UN Food Systems Summit and informed the EU delegation that he will be leading the India delegation to the Pre-Summit being organized from 26th to 28th July, 2021 virtually.
- Shri Tomar also raised the issue of fixing the Maximum Residual Limit (MRL) of Tricyclazole used in rice crop which has been a concern for India and is affecting India's Basmati Rice Exports to the EU. All the required studies and documents have been submitted to EU in May-2021 and MRL will be fixed by second quarter of 2022 before next season.



**Reference-** <https://www.pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1733482>.

**DBT-BIRAC supported start up Blackfrog Technologies**

**Question- Which of the following DBT-BIRAC supported startup has developed Envolio?**

(a) Blackfrog Technologies Pvt. Ltd. (b) Dunzo (c) cropIn (d) Agnikul cosmos

Ans. (a)

Related facts-

- DBT-BIRAC supported startup Blackfrog Technologies has developed Emvolio.
- Emvolio is a portable, battery-powered medical-grade refrigeration device that improves the efficiency of the immunization by strictly maintaining preset temperature for up to 12 hours, thus enabling the safe and efficient transportation of vaccines to the last mile.
- Emvólio has a 2-litre capacity, enabling it to carry 30-50 vials, the standard for a daylong immunization campaign.
- The device also includes continuous temperature monitoring, location tracking, state-of-charge indication, communication with headquarters via live-tracking, and vital statistics for improved coverage.
- Blackfrog is an ISO-13485 certified manufacturer of medical devices, and Emvólio has been designed in accordance with WHO-PQS E003 standards.
- Emvólio's patented technology ensures that all contents in the cold chamber are blanketed in strictly temperature-controlled air.
- The underlying refrigeration mechanism is solid-state cooling with a smart PID (Proportional Integral Derivate) controller, which guarantees precise temperature maintenance without the risk of noxious refrigerant leakage or cross-contamination.
- The lack of motors/compressors or any moving parts enables low-maintenance operation.
- The unique design of Emvólio promises uniform cooling and minimal freeze-thaw cycles.
- Due to its ability of the device to strictly maintain the temperature between 2°C and 8°C for up to 12 hours in the field, the device is being used as a platform for delivery of vaccines and all other biologicals like blood, serums, viral culture.
- The innovation solves the current challenge of last-mile vaccine delivery as currently iceboxes, which have no mechanism for temperature control and regulation, are being used.
- The absence of temperature control and regulation in iceboxes also poses the risk of accidental freezing and thawing, rendering the temperature-sensitive vaccines inefficacious.
- This startup has received grants from BIRAC under SEED fund, BIG for the development of proof-of-concept, BIPP for developing an end-to-end vaccine traceability system and has also been supported through BioNEST incubators.
- Blackfrog has a production capacity of 1500 units/month, and Emvolio is now being deployed across North-East India with necessary clearance from the National Health Mission.
- Till now, Blackfrog has also sold 200+ vaccines carriers across 5 states in India for safe last-mile delivery of vaccines.
- **About DBT**
- The Department of Biotechnology (DBT), Ministry of Science and Technology, boosts and augments the development of biotechnology ecosystem in India,





through its expansion and application in agriculture, healthcare, animal sciences, environment, and industry.

▪ **About BIRAC**

- Set up by the Department of Biotechnology (DBT), Government of India, Biotechnology Industry Research Assistance Council (BIRAC), is a not-for-profit Section 8, Schedule B, Public Sector Enterprise, which acts as an Interface Agency to improve and encourage the evolving biotechnology industry to execute strategic research and development activities in context to Nation's product development needs.

**Reference-** <https://pib.gov.in/PressReleaseDetailm.aspx?PRID=1733754>.

## APEDA MEET

**Question: Where did a meet organize by APEDA for boosting India's agricultural products exports recently?**

(a) Varanasi (b) Prayagraj (c) Gorakhpur (d) Noida

**Answer: (a)**

**Related Facts:**



- On 10th July 2021, to promote agricultural crops exports and adherence to global practices, APEDA in collaboration with Farmer Producer Organizations (FPOs), traders, exporters, agricultural scientists, Uttar Pradesh government & other institutions organized a meet at Varanasi.
- More than 200 farmers from the Varanasi region participated in the meet.
- Agricultural scientists and officials from the leading institutes provided valuable inputs for promoting agricultural products exports from the region as well as adherence to globally recognized Good Agricultural Practices (GAP) by farmers.
- Farmers were provided technical inputs on GAP implementation, ensuring pest free cultivation, diseases identifications in fresh fruits & vegetables, plant quarantine, and strategy to boost the agri-exports from the eastern Uttar Pradesh.
- Agricultural scientists and officials from leading institutes participated.
- Senior officials from NABARD, NAFED, SFAC, BALMER LAWRIE & other institutions familiarised the farmers, the FPOs and exporters who participated in the meet, with their respective departmental schemes.
- The event at Varanasi was part of a series of events being organized on the 75th Year of Independence, where the government has taken an initiative under the banner of 'Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav'.
- This is an initiative to celebrate and commemorate 75 years of progressive India and the glorious history of its people, culture and achievements.
- APEDA is working very closely with all the stakeholders with the objective to export India's agricultural produce to the global market.
- A presentation was made on assistance provided by APEDA in boosting agri-exports from the Varanasi region.

## National Dolphin Research Centre (NDRC)

**Question: In which of the following city National Dolphin Research Centre (NDRC) is being set up by the Union government of India?**

a) Lucknow b) Patna c) Bhopal d) Bhubaneswar

**Answer: (b)**

**Related Facts:-**



- The process to set National Dolphin Research Centre (NDRC) in Patna has begun by the government of India.
- It is a big step for the conservation of the endangered Gangetic river dolphin.
- Officials said that, the construction work on building of NDRC is likely to commence in Patna after the monsoon in 2021.
- The NDRC is coming up on the 4,400 square metre plot of land on the premises of Patna University, near the banks of the Ganga.
- The Bihar urban development department has recently cleared the construction of NDRC's building about 200 metres from the Ganga.
- The Bihar forest, environment and climate change department had sought approval for this as any construction within 200 metres of the Ganga is restricted. The government is serious about setting it up by 2022.

**Links:-**

<https://www.downtoearth.org.in/news/wildlife-biodiversity/work-on-india-s-first-dolphin-research-centre-to-start-in-patna-post-monsoon-77862>

## LG Manoj Sinha e-inaugurates multiple projects of Srinagar Smart City

**Question: On 10th July 2021, Jammu and Kashmir's Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha launched a mobile app to provide one stop solution catering to the needs of citizens and tourists in Srinagar. What is the name of the app?**

a) HumaraSrinagar b) mySrinagar c) Rising Srinagar d) Umang

**Ans: b**

**Context**



- On 10th July 2021, LG of Jammu and Kashmir shri Manoj Sinha e-inaugurated multiple projects of Srinagar Smart City.
- **Facts**
  - He inaugurated Variable Message Displays (VMDs) installed across the city and also dedicated the new Surface Car Parking at Residency Road in Srinagar to the public.
  - He also launched the 'mySrinagar' Mobile App, which will be a one stop solution catering to the needs of citizens and tourists in Srinagar.
  - The app will integrate all available e-services offered by various departments and tourism-related information in both offline and online mode and emergency helpline services at finger tips of users.

## Allocation of rs. 3,323 Crore grant to Odisha

**Question: On which date has central government allocated rs. 3,323 Crore grant to Odisha under Jal Jeevan Mission ?**

(a) 25 June 2021 (b) 23 June 2021 (c) 20 June 2021 (d) 11 July 2021

**Answer – (d)**

**Related facts —**

- Central government has allocated rs.3,323 Crore grant to Odisha under Jal Jeevan Mission on July 11, 2021.
- It is notable that with four-fold increase in allocation, centre supports Odisha to become 'Har Ghar Jal' state by march, 2024.
- **Earlier allocation —**
  - Allocation was at rupees 812.15 Crore in 2020-21.
- **Jal Jeevan Mission —**
  - Start of the Mission in 2019, out of a total of 18.93 Crore rural households in the country, only 3.23 Crore (17%) had tap water connections.
  - During the last 22 months, despite Covid-19 pandemic resulting into lockdowns and repeated disruptions, Jal Jeevan Mission has been implemented with speed and 4.5 Crore households have been provided with tap water connections.
  - With the increase in coverage by 23.5%, presently 7.69 Crore (40.6%) rural households across the country have tap water supply.
- **Achievement —**
  - Goa, Telangana, Andaman & Nicobar Islands and Puducherry have achieved 100% household with assured tap water supply and have become 'Har Ghar Jal'.



**Link:**

<https://pib.gov.in/PressReleaseDetail.aspx?PRID=1734590>

## Advocate for National Kidney Foundation in US

**Question: 15-year-old boy Kapil is an US NKF(National Kidney Foundation) advocate. He belongs to which of the following state ?**

(a) Odisha (b) Maharashtra (c) Rajasthan (d) UP

**Answer – (a)**

**Related facts —**

- 15-year-old boy Kapil is an USNKF (National Kidney Foundation) advocate.
- He belongs to Odisha.



## ▪ Background —

- Kapil lost his grandmother Shantimayee Acharya to kidney disease which had a cascading effect on his grandfather and mother.
- Instead of sulking over the issue at home, Kapil decided to take on kidney disease itself.
- From working in kidney health camps to publishing a book to raise funds, Kapil worked incessantly and then at the age of 13, Kapil became an advocate for National Kidney Foundation in US.
- Kapil now argues to the US Texas Senate on kidney policies and research initiatives.

**Link:**

<https://www.dailypioneer.com/2021/state-editions/15-year-old-odia-boy-now-us-nkf-advocate.html#/>

## Luxury cruise facility in Odisha

**Question: On which place has Odisha decided to launch luxury cruise facility ?**

(a) Bhitarkanika (b) Chilikalake (c) Both a & b (d) Sambharlake

**Answer – (a)**

**Related facts —**

- Odisha has recently(July 2021) decided to launch luxury cruise facility in Bhitarkanika.
- It will commence from January 2022.
- At least four luxury catamaran cruise vessels will be ready for operation for a glorious experience of cruise tourism in the Bhitarkanika.
- Overnight stay packages will be offered to the guests covering different parts of Bhitarkanika National Park and nearby areas.



**Link:**

<https://www.dailypioneer.com/2021/state-editions/state—s-first-cruise-project-to-start-in-b—kanika.html>

## India's coal production

**Question : A report titled 'Provisional coal statistics 2020-21' released by Ministry of Coal on June 29, 2021. Accordingly which of the following statement is correct ?**

**Statements –**

- 1) India's coal production drops marginally by 2% to 716 million tonnes in FY'21
- 2) In FY 2020-21, Chhattisgarh registered highest coal production of 158.409 MT
- 3) In FY'21, Jharkhand was the top producer of coking coal with an output of 44.387 MT

**Options –**

A.On ly 1. B.Only 2. C.Only 3. D.All of the above

**Ans. D.**  
**Related facts —**

- A report titled 'Provisional coal statistics 2020-21' was released by Ministry of Coal on the occasion of Statistics Day (June 29, 2021).
- It contains provisional information regarding the performance of the Coal and Lignite sector in the last fiscal year 2020-21.

**Key Findings —**

- India's coal production drops marginally by 2% to 716 million tonnes in FY'21.
- Coal production stood at 730.874 million tones in FY'20.
- In FY 2020-21, Chhattisgarh registered highest coal production of 158.409 MT.
- Odisha, Madhya Pradesh and Jharkhand are second, third and fourth largest state in coal production respectively.
- In FY'21, Jharkhand was the top producer of coking coal with an output of 44.387 MT. Whereas, Chhattisgarh was the top producer of non-coking coal with an output of 158.190 Mt.
- India's lignite production drops by 13.0% to 36.614 million tonnes in FY'21.
- Lignite production stood at 42.096 million tones in FY'20.
- In the year 2020-21, four major producing companies with share in total production were NLC (52.61%), BLMCL (16.44%), GMDCL (16.40%), and GIPCL (9.58%).



**Link:**

<http://coal.gov.in/sites/default/files/2021-06/Provisional-Coal-Statistics-2020-21.pdf>

**Virbhadra Singh**

**Question: Virbhadra Singh who passed away recently was former chief minister of which Indian state?**

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

**Answer: (a)**

**Related facts:**

- On 8 July 2021, former Himachal Pradesh Chief Minister Virbhadra Singh passed away. He was 87 years old.
- He was a member of the Indian National Congress.
- **Political Career:**
  - Virbhadra Singh is longest serving and six –time Chief Minister of Himachal Pradesh. His latest chief minister tenure span between 2012 to 2017.
  - Also, he was a nine-time MLA (Member of Legislative Assembly). He was elected to State Legislative Assembly for the first time in October 1983. He was at present MLA from the Arki Assembly constituency in Solan district.
  - In central level politics, he was elected five-time Member of Parliament. He was first elected to the Lok Sabha in 1962.





- Discharging services in Central Government, he held various portfolios as Minister of State for Industries in 1982-1983; Union Minister of Steel from 2009-2011; and Union Minister of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises from 2011-2012.
- **Princely Period:**
- He was popularly known by the honorific Raja Sahib. He was born in the royal family of the princely state of Bushahr.
- He was the titular Raja of Bushahr from 1947 until 1971, when, by the 26th Amendment to the Constitution of India, the privy purses of the princes were abolished and official recognition of their titles came to an end.

#### Links:

<https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/former-himachal-pradesh-chief-minister-virbhadra-singh-passes-away/article35205306.ece>

### GI certified Madurai Malli and other flowers exported to USA & Dubai

**Question: To which country Geographical Indications (GI) certified Madurai malli and other traditional flowers were exported for the first time on July 8 2021?**

(a) United States (b) United Arab Emirates (c) Both (a)& (b) (d) Canada

**Answer: (c)**

#### Related facts:

- In a first, consignments of Geographical Indications (GI) certified Madurai malli and other traditional flowers such as button rose, lily, chamanthi and marigold were exported to USA and Dubai from Tamil Nadu.
- This export will ensure Indians living abroad get supplies of fresh flowers to offer them to deities at home and temples on religious occasions.
- The flowers for the consignments were sourced from Nilakottai, Dindigul and Sathyamangalam, Tamil Nadu by APEDA registered M/s. Vanguard Exports, Coimbatore.
- **Shelf Life of Flowers:**
- To increase the shelf life of the flowers, Professors from the floriculture department of Tamil Nadu Agriculture University, Coimbatore, had helped the exporters with packaging technology.
- Earlier, farmers were contracted by the exporters to cultivate quality flowers. This also generated jobs for about 130 women and about 30 skilled workers.
- **Export of Flowers:**
- During 2020-2021, the export of fresh cut flowers jasmine and bouquets (comprising of jasmine and other traditional flowers) was valued at Rs 66.28 crores.
- These exports were done to countries like USA, UAE, Singapore, etc.
- Out of the total export value, Rs.11.84 crores worth of flowers were exported from Tamil Nadu region through major airports of Chennai, Coimbatore and Madurai.
- **About Jasmine:**



- Jasmine(Jasminum Officinale) is one of the most popular flowers found across the world.
- The scent of Jasmine is synonymous with the splendor of Madurai's Meenakshi temple.
- Madurai has emerged as a major market for the malligai grown in its neighbourhood, and has evolved into the 'jasmine capital' of India.

**Links:**

<https://pib.gov.in/PressReleaselframePage.aspx?PRID=1733645>

## HDFC Bank's 'Salaam Dil Sey' initiative

**Question : HDFC Bank's Salaam Dil Se campaign has been launched to express gratitude to which community ?**

a. Doctors community b. For soldiers c. For Policemen d. None of the above

**Ans. a.**

**Related facts —**

- HDFC Bank has recently(June 2021) launched a SalaamDilSey initiative to show gratitude to doctors for their tireless service during the pandemic.
- Salaadilse is encouraging all people to take the time to honor the contribution of doctors and providing a platform to express gratitude to the doctors who are courageously serving humanity during the pandemic by risking their lives.

**Web platform —**

- As part of this campaign, the Bank has created a web platform [www.salaamdilsey.com](http://www.salaamdilsey.com) where general public can log on to a microsite to send gratitude messages to doctors
- The message can be shared instantly via e-mail, social media and WhatsApp.
- As a token of gratitude towards the doctors of the country, the Bank honored the renowned Cardiovascular and Cardiothoracic surgeon Padmabhushan Dr. Naresh Trehan through virtual medium.
- Other efforts to pay thanks —
- On the occasion of National Doctors Day (July 1), the Bank announced the unveiling of the 'Wall of Dedication' in front of the Corporate Office of HDFC Bank in Worli (Mumbai) where a collage of thank you messages for doctors from across the country will be displayed.
- It is notable that all across India National Doctors' Day is celebrated on July 1 in memory of Dr. Bidhan Chandra Roy, a legendary physician and the second Chief Minister of West Bengal.
- On the occasion, the bank also released an anthem – A Musical Tribute – to doctors, featuring bank staff from remotest locations across the country.

**Link:**

<https://kashmirvision.in/2021/07/02/hdfc-banks-salaam-dil-sey-initiative-to-pay-tribute-to-medicos/>

Govt. school in Bengaluru will be part of satellite launch

**Q. In which city's government high school boy's student will be the part of satellite launch at the event of 75th Independence Day celebration next year?**

a) Mysore b) Bangalore c) Chennai d) Delhi

**ANSWER:- b)**

**Related Facts:-**

- On July 8th, 2021 Karnataka Deputy Chief Minister C N Ashwath Narayan said the government boys high school in Malleshwaram here will become the first state-run school in the country to be part of the programme to launch a satellite.
- The students of the school in Malleshwaram will be involved in a programme of launching 75 satellites as part of the 75th independence day celebrations, which will be held next year.
- Designing and making of the satellite will be done at the school by involving students of a few other government schools.
- Usually, engineering college students are involved in such projects.
- Now, this is going to be achieved in a government high school by taking the help of the Indian Technological Congress Association and ISRO.



**LINK**

<https://www.tribuneindia.com/news/j-k/govt-school-in-bengaluru-will-be-part-of-satellite-launch-280081>

## Launching of second 400 million dollar logistics private fund in India

**Question : CapitaLand Limited has recently(July 2021) launched its second 400 million dollar logistics private fund in India. Of which country is CapitaLand Limited a multinational alternative asset management company ?**

a. Singapore b. Japan c. France d. UK

**Ans. a.**

**Related facts —**

- CapitaLand Limited has recently(July 2021) launched its second 400 million dollar logistics private fund in India.
- **Objective —**
  - This logistics private fund aims to expand in India's logistics sector, one of the largest globally.
  - CapitaLand India Logistics Fund II will invest in the development of logistics assets in key warehousing and manufacturing hubs in six major cities – Ahmedabad, Bangalore, Chennai, Mumbai, National Capital Region (NCR), and Pune, as well as in emerging markets such as Coimbatore, Guwahati, Jaipur, Kolkata and Lucknow.
  - CapitaLand India Logistics Fund II will grow CapitaLand's current total Funds Under Management (FUM) of 79.2 billion dollar across over 20 private funds and six listed trusts, further reinforcing CapitaLand's position as one of the leading real estate fund managers in the world.
- **Ascendas India Logistics Programme —**



- It is an 400 million dollar first logistics private fund of CapitaLand.
- CapitaLand India Logistics Fund II follows the successful deployment of CapitaLand's first logistics private fund.
- It is notable that Ascendas India Logistics Programme launched in 2018, to develop six logistics and industrial projects in Bangalore, Chennai, NCR, and Pune.

**Link:**

<https://www.capitaland.com/international/en/about-capitaland/newsroom/news-releases/international/2021/jul/CapitaLand-launches-second-400-million-logistics-private-fund-in-India.html>

## CINCAN visits Amphibian Brigade

**Question: Consider the following statements:**

**(1) Ajai Singh is currently serving as Commander-in-Chief Andaman and Nicobar Command (CINCAN).**

**(2) The Andaman and Nicobar Command is India's first and only joint tri-service theater command.**

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

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

**Answer: (c)**

**Related facts:**

- On 6 July 2021, Commander-in-Chief Andaman and Nicobar Command (CINCAN) Lieutenant General Ajai Singh visited the Amphibian Brigade at Birchgunj Military Station, Port Blair.
- He reviewed operations at the Jungle Survival School and inspected various training activities, including driving an ALS through the landing ship ramp simulator at the Wave Generation Training Facility.
- Addressing the troops, the CINCAN stressed on the need to remain ops ready and prepared at all times.
- **About Andaman and Nicobar Command:**
  - Andaman and Nicobar Command is the first and only Tri-service theater command of the Indian Armed Forces, based at Port Blair.
  - It was created in 2001 to safeguard India's strategic interests in Southeast Asia and the Strait of Malacca by increasing rapid deployment of military assets in the region.
  - The Command is headed by a rotating three-star commanders-in-chief from the Army, Navy and Air Force reporting directly to the chairman of the Chiefs of Staff Committee.



**Links:**

<https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1733481>

## 149-year-old Darbar Move tradition came to an end

**Question: Recently the 149-year-old Darbar Move tradition of shifting administrative capital came to an end. Darbar Move was practiced by which of the following states/UTs?**

(a) Jammu & Kashmir (b) Uttarakhand (c) Rajasthan (d) Arunachal Pradesh

**Answer: (a)**

**Related facts:**

- Jammu & Kashmir Governor Manoj Sinha put an end to a 149-year-old Darbar Move tradition of shuttling between the two capitals every six months.
- The Union Territory administration has been completely transitioned to an e-office.
- This will facilitate ease in doing administrative work by eliminating the physical movement of files and thus persons.
- What is Darbar Move?
- Darbar Move was a tradition of shifting the Union Territory administrative capital biannually.
- The tradition is believed to be started by Dogra monarch Maharaja Gulab Singh in 1872.
- As of tradition, Srinagar was the UT's summer capital whereas Jammu used to be its winter capital.
- Originally, the tradition acted as a major bridge and a space of interaction between two diverse linguistic and cultural groups of Jammu & Kashmir regions.
- Later, after India's independence the tradition was kept continued following the difficult weather condition for administrative works.
- The tradition involves transition of Raj Bhavan, Civil Secretariat, seats of J&K government and other administrative office with season change.
- This costs approximately 210 crore rupees to move around 8000-9000 employees along with files.
- Now, this saved amount will be used for the welfare of the deprived sections.



**Links:**

<https://www.news18.com/news/india/darbar-move-149-yr-old-tradition-of-capital-shifting-in-jk-comes-to-an-end-3912080.html>

## Webinar on 'Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat – Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav' conducted

**Question: The webinar on 'Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat – Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav' was organized under which ministry?**

(a) Ministry of Finance (b) Ministry of Health and Family Welfare  
(c) Ministry of Home Affairs (d) Ministry of Information & Broadcasting

**Answer: (d)**

**Related Facts:**

- A webinar on 'Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat – Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav' was organized on 8th July 2021 by Regional Outreach





Bureau (ROB) & Press Information Bureau (PIB), Chandigarh under the Ministry of Information & Broadcasting, Government of India.

- Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav is an initiative of the Government of India to celebrate and commemorate 75 years of progressive India .
- This Mahotsav is dedicated to the people of India who have not only been instrumental in bringing India thus far in its evolutionary journey but also hold within them the power and potential to enable Prime Minister Modi's vision of activating India 2.0, fuelled by the spirit of Atmanirbhar Bharat.
- Dr. M. Lakshmanacharyulu, Expert in various languages, GHMC, Hyderabad requested the participants to explore the diversity in Indian languages and learn at least one Indian language along with English.
- He also highlighted the role of various freedom fighters from Telangana including erstwhile Prime Minister PV Narsimha Rao in Indian Freedom Struggle.
- He also informed participants about the pivotal role played by Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel in amalgamation of former princely state of Hyderabad in Indian Union.

**Reference:** <https://www.pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1733667>

## Andhra to conduct Rythu Bharosa Chaitanya Yatra to create awareness

**Q. Which State government is to conduct Rythu Bharosa Chaitanya Yatra ?**

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

**ANSWER:- b)**

**Related Facts:-**

- On July 7th, 2021 Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister YS Jagan Mohan Reddy directed the officials to conduct Rythu Bharosa Chaitanya Yatra from July 9 to July 23.
- This Yatra aims to create awareness among farmers on agriculture-related aspects like RBKs, CMAPP (Continuous Monitoring of Agriculture Prices and Procurement), e-cropping and many more.
- The Chief Minister wants to ensure that Rythu Bharosa advisory committee meetings are held on the first Friday of every month in all RBKs, second Friday at the Mandal level and third Friday at the District level.
- Collectors and Joint Collectors should respond to important issues raised during the meetings.
- Farmers should be encouraged and educated on crop diversification in place of Paddy under bore wells with crops like korra, ragi, maize and pulses as well as horticulture crops.
- The collectors were instructed by the Chief Minister to conduct mandated inspections from here on.
- And also to ensure that the deficiencies reported in the inspections are rectified immediately and compliance reports should be made and submitted promptly.



**LINK:**

<https://www.aninews.in/news/national/general-news/andhra-to-conduct-rythu-bharosa-chaitanya-yatra-to-create-awareness-among-farmers-on-e-cropping-other-issues20210707120413/>

## Two agriculture-focused commodity indices launched by NCDEX

**Question: Which of the following agency has recently launched India's first sectoral indices in the agri-commodities space namely GAUREX and SOYDEX?**

a) NCDEX b) FCI c) ICAR d) None of these

**Answer: (a)**

**Related Facts:-**

- On July 5, 2021; The National Commodity and Derivatives Exchange (NCDEX), launched two agriculture-focused commodity indices.
- These are India's first sectoral indices in the agri-commodities space namely GAUREX and SOYDEX.
- Guarex will track price movement in the futures contracts of its underlying Guar Seed and Guar Gum Refined Splits on a real-time basis.
- Similarly, Soydex will follow the price changes in futures contracts of Soybean and Refined Soy Oil.
- Mr. Arun Raste, CEO and Managing Director, NCDEX informed on the occasion that GUAREX and SOYDEX are the country's first sectoral indices in the agri-commodities space.
- Initially, both the indices will be launched on the NCDEX website that will gauge the performance of the Soy and Gaur complex.
- The methodology document for both indices is currently available on the exchange's website.
- The futures trading in these indices will be made available in due time.
- **Some other facts:-**
- GUAREX is a return-based index. It will track the price movement in the futures contracts of its guar gum refined splits and guar seed on a real-time basis.
- The weightage of guar gum refined splits will be 36.57 percent and guar seed will be 63.43 percent.
- SOYDEX
- SOYDEX will follow the price changes in futures contracts of refined soy oil and soybean.
- The weightage of refined soy oil will be 32.08 percent and soybean will be 67.92 percent.
- Advantage of GUAREX and SOYDEX
- GUAREX and SOYDEX will offer a lot of opportunities to value chain participants regarding risk management exercises and trading strategies.
- After the launch of futures trading in these indices, portfolio managers and professional traders will be able to enjoy excellent pair trade opportunities in the space of spreads and arbitrages.
- National Commodity and Derivatives Exchange (NCDEX)
- On April 23, 2003 NCDEX was incorporated as a public limited company.
- National Commodity and Derivatives Exchange (NCDEX) is a leading agricultural commodity exchange in India. The Exchange began its operations on December 15, 2003.



**Link:**

<https://www.thehindubusinessline.com/markets/commodities/ncdex-launches-2-new-agri-commodity-indices/article35155517.ece>

**Question: From 6th – 8th July 2021, 1st edition of Indo Pacific Business Summit is being organised by Confederation of Indian Industry (CII). It is being organized in association with which Indian Ministry?**

- a) Ministry of Commerce and Industry b) Ministry of Finance  
c) Ministry of External Affairs d) None of the above

**Ans: c**

**Context**



- CII is organising the first edition of Indo Pacific Business Summit from 6-8 July 2021, over a virtual Platform in association with Ministry of External Affairs , Government of India.
- **Facts**  
**Background**
- Covid-19 pandemic has demonstrated that concentration of global supply chain in a single region can bring havoc to global economy. Indo-Pacific region can provide alternate supply chains to the world.
- CII has a historical and close interaction with all the sub-regions that make up the Indo Pacific. Its footprint includes offices in Singapore, Indonesia, Australia and the US as well as numerous cooperation agreements with like-minded industry bodies across the region.
- CII is setting the agenda through the Indo-Pacific Business Summit on a virtual platform that will enable prominent countries in the Indo Pacific region to participate.
- **Objective of the Summit**
- To create and provide a platform for decision makers from Indo – Pacific countries to meet and discuss with business leaders and policy makers.
- Highlight the role of the States as the drivers of growth and partnership with countries from the Indo-Pacific Region.
- Identify and showcase opportunities for investment and partnerships by Indo-Pacific companies
- Promoting business collaborations and facilitating technology transfers.
- **Key Points regarding inaugural Summit**
- It saw the participation of Ambassadors and High Commissioners of various countries across the Indo Pacific.
- Minister of External Affairs Dr. Subrahmanyam Jaishankar addressed the inaugural session of the summit and talked about resilience of healthcare and India's contribution at global stage; Power of Digital and the importance of building or re-building greener.
- He also talked about Prime Minister Modi's call for adopting a 'One-Earth-One-Health' approach at the recent G7 Summit .
- **Importance of Indo-Pacific**
- Indo-Pacific is broadly to be understood as an interconnected space between the Indian Ocean and the Pacific Ocean.

- In recent time when China is pushing its hegemony in the South China sea , this region has gained high strategic value in terms of containing China's expansionist attitude.
- **About CII**
- The Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) is a non-governmental trade association and advocacy group based in New Delhi, India founded in 1895.
- CII engages business, political, academic, and other leaders of society to shape global, regional, and industry agendas. It is a membership-based organization.

**Reference:** <https://newsonair.com/2021/07/06/cii-organises-1st-edition-of-indo-pacific-business-summit-in-partnership-with-external-affairs-ministry/>

## PM Narendra Modi's Cabinet Reshuffle 2021

**Question: On 7th July 2021, PM Modi rebooted his cabinet inducting 43 new ministers in his cabinet. Which minister got the portfolio of Education?**

- a) Shri Prakash Javedkar b) Dr. Subrahmanyam Jaishankar  
c) Shri Dharmendra Pradhan d) None of the above

**Ans: c**

### Context

On 7th July 2021, Prime Minister Narendra Modi undertook a major cabinet reshuffle. Dozens of ministers were shunted out and 43 new cabinet ministers were appointed.

Total strength of cabinet has become 78 including Prime Minister.

36 New faces, 12 first time MPs and 11 Women ministers.



### Facts

#### Ministers who resigned from their respective ministry

Minister	Union Ministry
Shri D.V. Sadananda Gowda	Ministry of Chemical and Fertilizers
Shri Ravi Shankar Prasad	Union Ministry of Law and Justice, Electronics and Information Technology and Communications
Shri Thaawarchand Gehlot	Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment
Shri Ramesh Pokhriyal 'Nishank'	Ministry of Education

Dr. Harsh Vardhan	Ministry of Health and Family Welfare
Shri Prakash Javadekar	Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Ministry of Information and Broadcasting and Ministry of Heavy Industries
Shri Santosh Kumar Gangwar (Minister of State with independent charge)	Ministry of Labour and Employment
Shri Babul Supriyo (Union Minister of State)	Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change
Shri Dhotre Sanjay Shamrao (Union Minister of State)	Ministry of Human Resource Development; Ministry of Communications; and Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology
Shri Rattan Lal Kataria (Union Minister of State)	Ministry of Jal Shakti and Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment
Shri Pratap Chandra Sarangi (Union Minister of State)	Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises; and Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying
Sushri Debasree Chaudhuri (Union Minister of State)	Ministry of Women and Child Development

### **Newly Appointed Cabinet**

Shri Narendra Modi	Prime Minister and also in-charge of: Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions; Department of Atomic Energy; Department of Space; All important policy issues; and All other portfolios not allocated to any Minister
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### **CABINET MINISTERS**

1.	Shri Raj Nath Singh	Minister of Defence
2.	Shri Amit Shah	Minister of Home Affairs; and Minister of Cooperation
3.	Shri Nitin Jairam Gadkari	Minister of Road Transport and Highways



4.	Smt. Nirmala Sitharaman	Minister of Finance; and Minister of Corporate Affairs
5.	Shri Narendra Singh Tomar	Minister of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare
6.	Dr. Subrahmanyam Jaishankar	Minister of External Affairs
7.	Shri Arjun Munda	Minister of Tribal Affairs
8.	Smt. Smriti Zubin Irani	Minister of Women and Child Development
9.	Shri Piyush Goyal	Minister of Commerce and Industry; Minister of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution; Minister of Textiles
10.	Shri Dharmendra Pradhan	Minister of Education; and Minister of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship
11.	Shri Pralhad Joshi	Minister of Parliamentary Affairs; Minister of Coal; and Minister of Mines
12.	Shri Narayan Tatu Rane	Minister of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises
13.	Shri Sarbananda Sonowal	Minister of Ports, Shipping and Waterways; and Minister of AYUSH
14.	Shri Mukhtar Abbas Naqvi	Minister of Minority Affairs
15.	Dr. Virendra Kumar	Minister of Social Justice and Empowerment
16.	Shri Giriraj Singh	Minister of Rural Development; and Minister of Panchayati Raj
17.	Shri Jyotiraditya M. Scindia	Minister of Civil Aviation
18.	Shri Ramchandra Prasad Singh	Minister of Steel

19.	Shri Ashwini Vaishnaw	Minister of Railways; Minister of Communications; and Minister of Electronics and Information Technology
20.	Shri Pashu Pati Kumar Paras	Minister of Food Processing Industries
21.	Shri Gajendra Singh Shekhawat	Minister of Jal Shakti
22.	Shri Kiren Rijiju	Minister of Law and Justice
23.	Shri Raj Kumar Singh	Minister of Power; and Minister of New and Renewable Energy
24.	Shri Hardeep Singh Puri	Minister of Petroleum and Natural Gas; and Minister of Housing and Urban Affairs
25.	Shri Mansukh Mandaviya	Minister of Health and Family Welfare; and Minister of Chemicals and Fertilizers
26.	Shri Bhupender Yadav	Minister of Environment, Forest and Climate Change; and Minister of Labour and Employment
27.	Dr. Mahendra Nath Pandey	Minister of Heavy Industries
28.	Shri Parshottam Rupala	Minister of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying
29.	Shri G. Kishan Reddy	Minister of Culture; Minister of Tourism; and Minister of Development of North Eastern Region
30.	Shri Anurag Singh Thakur	Minister of Information and Broadcasting; and Minister of Youth Affairs and Sports

#### **MINISTERS OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE)**

1.	Rao Inderjit Singh	Minister of State (Independent Charge) of the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation; Minister of State (Independent Charge) of the Ministry of Planning; and Minister of State in the Ministry of Corporate Affairs
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2.	Dr. Jitendra Singh	Minister of State (Independent Charge) of the Ministry of Science and Technology; Minister of State (Independent Charge) of the Ministry of Earth Sciences; Minister of State in the Prime Minister's Office; Minister of State in the Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions; Minister of State in the Department of Atomic Energy; and Minister of State in the Department of Space
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## MINISTERS OF STATE

1.	Shri Shripad Yesso Naik	Minister of State in the Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways; and Minister of State in the Ministry of Tourism
2.	Shri Faggansingh Kulaste	Minister of State in the Ministry of Steel; and Minister of State in the Ministry of Rural Development
3.	Shri Prahalad Singh Patel	Minister of State in the Ministry of Jal Shakti; and Minister of State in the Ministry of Food Processing Industries
4.	Shri Ashwini Kumar Choubey	Minister of State in the Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution; and Minister of State in the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change
5.	Shri Arjun Ram Meghwal	Minister of State in the Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs; and Minister of State in the Ministry of Culture
6.	General (Retd.) V. K. Singh	Minister of State in the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways; and Minister of State in the Ministry of Civil Aviation
7.	Shri Krishan Pal	Minister of State in the Ministry of Power; and Minister of State in the Ministry of Heavy Industries
8.	Shri Danve Raosaheb Dadarao	Minister of State in the Ministry of Railways; Minister of State in the Ministry of Coal; and Minister of State in the Ministry of Mines
9.	Shri Ramdas Athawale	Minister of State in the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment
10.	Sadhvi Niranjan Jyoti	Minister of State in the Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution; and Minister of State in the Ministry of Rural Development

11.	Dr. Sanjeev Kumar Balyan	Minister of State in the Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying
12.	Shri Nityanand Rai	Minister of State in the Ministry of Home Affairs
13.	Shri Pankaj Chaowdhary	Minister of State in the Ministry of Finance
14.	Smt. Anupriya Singh Patel	Minister of State in the Ministry of Commerce and Industry
15.	Prof. S. P. Singh Baghel	Minister of State in the Ministry of Law and Justice
16.	Shri Rajeev Chandrasekhar	Minister of State in the Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship; and Minister of State in the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology
17.	Sushri Shobha Karandlaje	Minister of State in the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare
18.	Shri Bhanu Pratap Singh Verma	Minister of State in the Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises
19.	Smt. Darshana Vikram Jardosh	Minister of State in the Ministry of Textiles; and Minister of State in the Ministry of Railways
20.	Shri V. Muraleedharan	Minister of State in the Ministry of External Affairs; and Minister of State in the Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs
21.	Smt. Meenakshi Lekhi	Minister of State in the Ministry of External Affairs; and Minister of State in the Ministry of Culture
22.	Shri Som Parkash	Minister of State in the Ministry of Commerce and Industry
23.	Smt. Renuka Singh Saruta	Minister of State in the Ministry of Tribal Affairs

24.	Shri Rameswar Teli	Minister of State in the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas; and Minister of State in the Ministry of Labour and Employment
25.	Shri Kailash Choudhary	Minister of State in the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare
26.	Smt. Annpurna Devi	Minister of State in the Ministry of Education
27.	Shri A. Narayanaswamy	Minister of State in the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment
28.	Shri Kaushal Kishore	Minister of State in the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs
29.	Shri Ajay Bhatt	Minister of State in the Ministry of Defence; and Minister of State in the Ministry of Tourism
30.	Shri B. L. Verma	Minister of State in the Ministry of Development of North Eastern Region; and Minister of State in the Ministry of Cooperation
31.	Shri Ajay Kumar	Minister of State in the Ministry of Home Affairs
32.	Shri Devusinh Chauhan	Minister of State in the Ministry of Communications
33.	Shri Bhagwanth Khuba	Minister of State in the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy; and Minister of State in the Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers
34.	Shri Kapil Moreshwar Patil	Minister of State in the Ministry of Panchayati Raj
35.	Sushri Pratima Bhoumik	Minister of State in the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment
36.	Dr. Subhas Sarkar	Minister of State in the Ministry of Education
37.	Dr. Bhagwat Kishanrao Karad	Minister of State in the Ministry of Finance



38.	Dr. Rajkumar Ranjan Singh	Minister of State in the Ministry of External Affairs; and Minister of State in the Ministry of Education
39.	Dr. Bharati Pravin Pawar	Minister of State in the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare
40.	Shri Bishweswar Tudu	Minister of State in the Ministry of Tribal Affairs; and Minister of State in the Ministry of Jal Shakti
41.	Shri Shantanu Thakur	Minister of State in the Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways
42.	Dr. Munjapara Mahendrabhai	Minister of State in the Ministry of Women and Child Development; and Minister of State in the Ministry of AYUSH
43.	Shri John Barla	Minister of State in the Ministry of Minority Affairs
44.	Dr. L. Murugan	Minister of State in the Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying; and Minister of State in the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting
45.	Shri Nisith Pramanik	Minister of State in the Ministry of Home Affairs; and Minister of State in the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports

Reference: <https://www.pib.gov.in/PressReleaseDetail.aspx?PRID=1733526>

## Governors of different states appointed by the President

**Question – On July 6, 2021, President Ram Nath Kovind appointed governors in different states. Consider the following statements related to this –**

**(i) Mangubhai Chhaganbhai Patel was appointed as the new Governor of Madhya Pradesh.**

**(ii) Ramesh Bais was appointed as the new Governor of Jharkhand.**

**(iii) Thaawarchand Gehlot appointed as the new Governor of Karnataka.**

**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—(d)**

**Related facts —**

On July 6, 2021, President Ram Nath Kovind appointed governors in eight states.

**The President of India is pleased to make the following appointments/Changes:-**

I. Shri P.S. Sreedharan Pillai, Governor of Mizoram is transferred and appointed as Governor of Goa.



- II. Shri Satyadev Narayan Arya, Governor of Haryana is transferred and appointed as Governor of Tripura.
- III. Shri Ramesh Bais, Governor of Tripura is transferred and appointed as Governor of Jharkhand.
- IV. Shri Thaawarchand Gehlot as Governor of Karnataka.
- V. Shri Bandaru Dattatraya, Governor of Himachal Pradesh is transferred and appointed as Governor of Haryana.
- VI. Dr. Hari Babu Kambhampati as Governor of Mizoram.
- VII. Shri Mangubhai Chhaganbhai Patel as Governor of Madhya Pradesh.
- VIII. Shri Rajendra Vishwanath Arlekar as Governor of Himachal Pradesh.

**Link:**

<https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1733051>

## Valmiki Tiger Reserve

**Question: Consider the following statements:**

- (1) Valmiki Tiger Reserve (VTR) in Madhya Pradesh has started planning for conservation of vultures after spotting 150 vultures in protected area.
- (2) India's first Vulture Conservation and Breeding Centre (VCBC) was setup in Pinjore, Rajasthan.

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

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

**Answer: (d)**

**Context:**

- Authorities in Bihar's Valmiki Tiger Reserve (VTR) have started planning for conservation of vultures after 150 of the birds were sighted recently in the protected area.
- A proposed plan for vulture conservation had been sent to the Integrated Development of Wildlife Habitats (IDWH). After approval from IDWH, a formal vulture conservation programme will begin in all five ranges of VTR.
- The presence of Vultures in ranges of VTR gave a fresh hope to authorities to chalk out plans to protect it. Since year 2000, it is very difficult to spot vulture in Bihar.
- **Vultures and their significance:**
  - It is one of the 22 species of large carrion-eating birds that live predominantly in the tropics and subtropics.
  - Vultures are specialised scavengers feeding on the carcasses of dead animals.
  - In this way vultures perform a unique and important role of ecological cleaning. These carcasses if not checked can be hazardous and fatal to other animals.
  - Vultures incidence and their protection status in India:
  - India is home to 9 species of Vulture namely the Oriental white-backed, Long-billed, Slender-billed, Himalayan, Red-headed, Egyptian, Bearded, Cinereous and the Eurasian Griffon.



- Most of these 9 species face danger of extinction.
- Bearded, Long-billed, Slender-billed, Oriental white-backed are protected in the Schedule-1 of the Wildlife Protection Act 1972. Rest are protected under 'Schedule IV'.
- Major Threat of Vulture Declination:
  - The major concern for species loss of vulture is the veterinary drug diclofenac.
  - Diclofenac is anti-inflammatory drug used to treat livestock.
  - Vultures die after consuming the animal earlier treated with diclofenac.
- **Conservation Efforts:**
  - India has banned the drug diclofenac in 2006.
  - Recently, the Ministry for Environment, Forests and Climate Change launched a Vulture Action Plan 2020-25 for the conservation of vultures in the country.
  - A Vulture Care Centre (VCC) was set up at Pinjore, Haryana in 2001 to study the cause of deaths of vultures in India.
  - Later in 2004, the VCC was upgraded to being the first Vulture Conservation and Breeding Centre (VCBC) in India.
  - Currently, there are nine Vulture Conservation and Breeding Centres (VCBC) in India.
- **Valmiki Tiger Reserve:**
  - Valmiki National Park, Tiger Reserve and Wildlife Sanctuary is located at the India-Nepal border in the West Champaran district of Bihar on the bank of river Gandak.
  - It is the only National park and Tiger Reserve of Bihar.

#### Links:

<https://www.downtoearth.org.in/news/wildlife-biodiversity/conservation-plan-chalked-out-after-150-vultures-spotted-in-bihar-s-valmiki-tiger-reserve-77758>

## Short Span Bridging System-10 m inducted into Indian Army

**Question: Who has developed the first batch of 12 Short Span Bridging systems?**

- (a) Tata Group (b) Defence Research and Development Organisation  
(c) Bharat Electronics Limited (d) Hindustan Aeronautics Limited

**Answer: (b)**

#### Related facts:

- The first production lot of 12 Short Span Bridging System (SSBS)-10 m, designed and developed by Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO), has been inducted into Indian Army on July 2, 2021.
- The SSBS-10 m plays a crucial role of bridging the gaps up to 9.5 m as a single span providing a 4 m wide, fully decked roadway, ensuring faster movement of the troops.
- Research & Development Establishment (Engrs) Pune, a premier engineering laboratory of DRDO, has designed and developed the system in association with M/s L&T Ltd.



- The 12 bridges are part of 102 SSBS-10 m from M/s L&T Ltd, which is the production agency.
- **Project Short Span Bridging System:**
- The Project Short Span Bridging System involved the development of two prototypes of 5 m SSBS on Tatra 6×6 chassis and another two prototypes of 10 m SSBS on Tatra 8×8 re-engineered chassis.

**Links:**

<https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1732250>

## 6th meeting of BRICS Culture Ministers

**Question: Who chaired the 6th meeting of BRICS Culture Ministers on July 2 2021?**

(a) Prahlad Singh Patel (b) Jitendra Singh (c) Santosh Gangwar (d) Pralhad Joshi

**Answer: (a)**

**Related facts:**

- On 2 July 2021, Minister of State (I/C) for Culture and Tourism, Prahlad Singh Patel hosted 6th BRICS Culture Ministers' Meeting through video conference.
- The meeting was attended by delegates from Culture Ministries of the Federative Republic of Brazil, the Russian Federation, the Republic of India, the People's Republic of China and the Republic of South Africa.
- **Discussions Held:**
- Discussion was held for advancement and expansion of cultural activities amongst BRICS countries under the theme Bonding and Harmonizing Cultural Synergy.
- India's Culture Minister Prahlad Singh Patel addressed participants and presented India's perspective to strengthen the cultural cooperation within BRICS.
- He also showed his concerns for the adverse effects of the pandemic on all fields of life including the cultural dimension. In this regard, he commented the use of digital techniques and its acceptability in the prevailing conditions.
- Prahlad Singh Patel mentioned the aptness of India's theme for BRICS Chairship "BRICS@15: Intra-BRICS cooperation for continuity, consolidation and consciousness in context of promotion of BRICS cultural cooperation."



**Links:**

<https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1732406>

## Modi govt creates new ministry of cooperation ahead of Cabinet reshuffle

**Question: Which newly ministry was formed recently by PM Narendra Modi led central government on 6th June 2021 ?**

- (a) Ministry of Jal Shakti (b) Ministry of Co-operation (c) Ministry of Stree Shakti  
(d) Ministry of Jal Jeevan

**Answer(b)**

**Related Facts:**



- On 6th July 2021, PM Narendra Modi led central government created a separate ministry – Ministry of Co-operation.
- This ministry will provide separate administrative, legal and policy framework for strengthening cooperative movement in the country..
- **What is the rationale behind this newly created ministry ?**
- It is created for strengthening cooperative movement in the country.
- It is created for realizing the vision of 'Sahkar se Samriddhi'.
- This ministry will provide separate administrative, legal and policy framework for strengthening cooperative movement in the country.
- The ministry will work to streamline processes for 'ease of doing business' for cooperatives and enable development of multi-state cooperatives (MSCS).
- **Motto of this ministry:**
- 'Sahakar Se Samriddhi'
- **Key Takeways:**
- This will go a long way in strengthening rural economy.

**Reference:** <https://www.livemint.com/news/india/ministry-of-co-operation-modi-govt-creates-separate-ministry-for-strengthening-cooperative-movement-11625588161682.html>

## India's first UPI-based cashless parking

**Q. which Metro in India for the first time launches the FASTag/ UPI based cashless parking facility?**

- a) Bangalore Metro b) Kolkata Metro c) Delhi Metro d) Hyderabad Metro

**ANSWER:- c)**

**Related Facts:-**

- On July 6th, 2021, The Delhi Metro launched FASTag/UPI based cashless parking facility at the Kashmere Gate Metro Station, Delhi.
- This exclusively cashless parking facility located at Gate No. 6 of the Kashmere Gate station can accommodate 55 four-wheelers and 174 two-wheelers.
- The entry/exit and payment of 4-wheelers can also be done through the FASTag.
- The parking fee will be deducted through FASTag, which will reduce the time for entry and payment.
- Only the vehicles with FASTag will be allowed to park in this facility.





- The entry for 2-wheelers can be done only by swiping the DMRC smart card.
- The smart card swipe is used only for registering the time of entry/exit and fare calculation and no money will be deducted from the card.
- The parking fee can be paid by UPI apps by scanning the QR Code.

#### LINK

<https://www.livemint.com/news/india/delhi-metro-launches-india-s-first-upi-based-cashless-parking-at-this-station-11625560880234.html>

### 1 million barrels of Guyanese oil en route to India's Paradip refinery

**Q. Which oil company has become the first Indian PSU refiner to buy a tanker load from Guyana?**

- a) Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited (BPCL)
- b) Chennai Petroleum Corporation Limited (CPCL)
- c) GAIL (India) Limited
- d) Indian Oil Corporation Ltd. (IOC)

**ANSWER:- d)**

**Related Facts:-**

- On July 4th, 2021 Indian Oil Corporation Ltd. (IOC) has become the first Indian PSU refiner to buy a tanker load of Liza Crude from Guyana.
- One million barrels of oil from the South American country is now en route to India as part of IOC's efforts to diversify its sources of imported crude.
- This purchase was possible because of the Indian Mission's active coordination with the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas and Ministry of Natural Resources of the Government of Guyana. And for this procurement, the IOCL facilitated finalization of this arrangement between IOCL and the Government of Guyana.
- The world's third-largest crude consumer and importer has expressed interest in buying Guyana's Liza Crude as part of a long-term deal with the Guyanese government.
- The country is interested in working with authorities as well as commercial entities to forge an agreement that would facilitate these exports.
- India's oil & gas demand is expected to increase nearly 3-fold from 229 million metric tones in 2018 to 607 million metric tones in 2040.



#### LINK

<https://www.financialexpress.com/economy/india-diversifies-its-crude-procurement-first-shipment-from-guyana-arrives-next-month/2284434/>

### 'Matsya Setu' for Indian aqua farmers

**Q. Consider the following statement regarding Matsya Setu app.**

- 1) This app is developed by ICAR-Central Institute of Freshwater Aquaculture (ICAR-CIFA).
- 2) It aims to disseminate the latest freshwater aquaculture technologies to the aqua farmers of the country.

**Which Statement/s is/ are true?**

a) Only 1 b) Only 2 c) Both 1 & 2 d) None of These

**ANSWER:- b)**

**Related Facts:-**

- On July 6th, 2021 Union Minister for Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying launched the Online Course Mobile App “Matsya Setu”.
- The app was developed by the ICAR-Central Institute of Freshwater Aquaculture (ICAR-CIFA), Bhubaneswar, with the funding support of the National Fisheries Development Board (NFDB), Hyderabad.
- The online course app aims to disseminate the latest freshwater aquaculture technologies to the aqua farmers of the country.
- Matsya Setu app has species-wise/ subject-wise self-learning online course modules, where renowned aquaculture experts explain the basic concepts and practical demonstrations on breeding, seed production and grow-out culture of commercially important fishes like carp, catfish, scampi, murrel, ornamental fish, pearl farming etc.
- Better Management Practices to be followed in maintaining the soil & water quality, feeding and health management in aquaculture operations were also provided in the course platform.

**LINK**

<https://www.pib.gov.in/PressReleaseDetailm.aspx?PRID=1733198>

### Contribution of Nabard in RIDF

**Question : In which state has Nabard sanctioned Rs 388 crore for drinking water and road projects under the Rural Infrastructure Development Fund ?**

a. Odisha b. Telangana c. West Bengal d. Chhattisgarh

**Ans. a.**

**Related facts —**

- Nabard has recently(July 2021) sanctioned Rs 388 crore under the RIDF for four drinking water and 20 rural road projects in Odisha.
- **Road projects —**
- The sanctioned amount would be used for construction or up-gradation of 20 village roads across 15 districts in the state.
- The road projects are expected to improve the livelihood of 1.52 lakh people in 162 villages.
- **Four mega drinking water projects —**
- The four mega projects will come up in Koraput district (covering Boipariguda block), Balasore district (covering Nilgiri block), and Malkangiri district (covering Malkangiri and Kalimela blocks).
- These projects are intended to provide 70 LPCD (litre per capita per day) clean, safe, hygienic potable drinking water at the consumer end through a functional household tap connection (FHTC) with eight hours of supply in the project area.



- On completion, these projects are expected to provide clean and safe drinking water to 2.57 lakh rural people in 467 villages and achieve the goal of supplying drinking water in the state, by 2022.
- **RIDF —**
- Government of India created the RIDF(Rural Infrastructure Development Fund) in NABARD in 1995-96, with an initial corpus of Rs.2,000 crore.
- With the allocation of Rs.29,848 crore for 2020-21 under RIDF XXVI, the cumulative allocation has reached Rs.3,78,348 crore, including Rs. 18,500 crore under Bharat Nirman.

**Link:**

<https://www.outlookindia.com/newscroll/nabard-sanctions-rs-388-crore-for-drinking-water-road-projects-in-odisha/2113463>

## Acquisition of minority stake in Mobikwik

**Question : Which wealth fund has recently(June 2021) picked up minority stake in Mobikwik for \$20 million ?**

- a. Abu Dhabi Investment Authority b. Qatar Investment Authority  
c. Investment Corporation of Dubai d. Public Investment Fund

**Ans. a.**

**Related facts —**

- Abu Dhabi's wealth fund(ADIA) has recently(June 2021) picked up minority stake in Mobikwik for 20 million dollar.
- ADIA(Abu Dhabi Investment Authority) is an UAE's sovereign wealth fund.
- **MobiKwik —**
- MobiKwik is an Indian digital payment company founded in 2009 that provides a mobile phone based payment system and digital wallet.
- Mobikwik claims one million daily transactions across its network, which include digital wallets and services like mobile phone top-ups and utility bill payments.
- It is about to launch its IPO.
- Personal data of its about 10 million customers were allegedly stolen by hackers in March 2021.
- Thenafter Reserve Bank of India (RBI) had ordered a forensic audit on the Gurugram-based company set up in 2009.
- The latest round of funding of USD 20 million from the ADIA values the company at USD 700 million.
- **Other Investments in Mobikwik —**
- Since March 2021, it has raised over Rs 235 crore.
- As part of these fund raises, it recently added investors such as ex-Blackstone India head Mathew Cyriac, Padma awardee Sat Pal Khattar, and ex-Infosys chief investment officer V G Dheeshjith as new shareholders.
- Its other investors include Sequoia Capital and Bajaj Finance.



- According to a PwC report in December 2020, the country's digital payments market may reach Rs 163 lakh crore by next financial year.

**Link:**

[https://www.business-standard.com/article/companies/abu-dhabi-s-wealth-fund-picks-up-minority-stake-in-mobikwik-for-20-million-121062700584\\_1.html](https://www.business-standard.com/article/companies/abu-dhabi-s-wealth-fund-picks-up-minority-stake-in-mobikwik-for-20-million-121062700584_1.html)

## MSME Minister Shri Nitin Gadkari Becomes “Brand Ambassador” of Khadi Prakritik Paint

**Question: Who declared himself the brand ambassador of Khadi Prakritik Paint?**

(a)Nitin Gadkari (b) Rajnath Singh (c) Piyush Goyal (d)Yoga Guru Ramdev

**Answer:(a)**

**Related Facts:**



- On 6th July 2021, Minister for Road Transport and Highways & MSME Shri Nitin Gadkari declared himself the “Brand Ambassador” of Khadi Prakritik Paint.
- He would promote it across the country so as to encourage young entrepreneurs to take up the manufacturing of cow dung paint.
- Virtually inaugurating the new automated manufacturing unit of Khadi Prakritik Paint, India's first and only paint made from cow dung, in Jaipur on 6TH July 2021.
- He appreciated the technology innovation and said this would go a long way in empowering the rural and agro-based economy in the country.
- Shri Gadkari said even inaugurating infrastructure projects worth lakhs of crores of rupees is not as pleasing and satisfying as inaugurating this manufacturing unit.
- He appreciated Khadi and Village Industries Commission for the successful research.
- He said Khadi Prakritik Paint has immense potential of creating sustainable development for benefit of the poorest of the poor and the target should be setting up a Parkritik Paint unit in each and every village.
- On this occasion, Shri Gadkari also placed an order for 1000 liters of Khadi Prakritik Paint (500 liters each of Distemper and Emulsion) which he intends to use at his residence in Nagpur.
- The new plant has been set up on the campus of Kumarappa National Handmade Paper Institute (KNHPI), Jaipur, which is a unit of Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC).
- Earlier Prakritik Paint was being manufactured manually on a prototype project. Commissioning of the new manufacturing unit will double the production capacity of Prakritik Paint.
- At present the daily production of Prakritik Paint is 500 liters which will go up to 1000 liters per day.
- KVIC Chairman Shri Vinai Kumar Saxena said the new plant is equipped with modern technology and machinery that will also ensure highest standards of the product in terms of quality and uniformity.
- Khadi Prakritik Paint was launched by Shri Gadkari on 12th January 2021.
- The Paint has been launched with the twin objectives of increasing farmers' income and creating self-employment across the country.

- To enable maximum people to benefit from this innovation, KVIC has included this project under the Prime Minister Employment Generation Program (PMEGP), a flagship scheme of the Central government for employment generation.
- Available in two variants- Distemper and Emulsion, Khadi Prakritik Paint contains “AshtaLaabh”; i.e. the eight benefits like anti-bacterial, anti-fungal and natural thermal insulation properties. This paint is eco-friendly, non-toxic, odorless and cost-effective.

**Reference:** <https://newsonair.com/2021/07/06/msme-minister-nitin-gadkari-becomes-brand-ambassador-of-khadi-prakritik-paint-2/>

## Modi Government creates a new Ministry of Co-operation

**Question:** On 6th July 2021, Prime Minister Narendra Modi announced creation of a new Ministry of Co-operation. What is the vision that will be realized through this new ministry?

- a) ‘Sahkar se Samridhhi’ b) ‘Sahkar se Suvidha’ c) ‘Sahayog se Samridhhi’  
d) None of the above

**Ans: a**

**Context**

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi led government announced for creation of a new “Ministry of Cooperation” on July 6, 2021.
- **Facts**
  - This ministry will provide a separate administrative, legal and policy framework for strengthening the cooperative movement in the country.
  - Ministry has been created to realise the vision of ‘Sahkar se Samridhhi’ (Prosperity through cooperatives).
  - In India cooperative based economic model is very important as it is one of the prominent method of working in MSMEs. In this model each member work with a spirit of responsibility as each member is directly involved in the business process.
  - The Central Government has signaled its deep commitment to community based developmental partnership. The Ministry will work to streamline processes for ‘Ease of doing business’ for co-operatives and enable development of Multi-State Co-operatives (MSCS).
  - With the creation of this ministry, there will now be a total of 41 central government ministries.

**Reference:** <https://pib.gov.in/PressReleaseDetail.aspx?PRID=1733225>

## Setting up of Advisory Council for Open Network for Digital Commerce (ONDC)

**Q. who is not the part of Advisory Council for Open Network For Digital Commerce(ONDC)?**

- a) Shri R.S. Sharma b) Shri Nandan M. Nilekani c) Ms Anjali Bansal  
d) Shri Ravi Shankar Prasad

**ANSWER;- d)**

**RELATED FACTS:-**



- On 5th July, 2021, Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT), Ministry of Commerce and Industry has initiated a project on Open Network for Digital Commerce (ONDC).
- The task has been assigned to Quality Council of India (QCI).
- ONDC aims at promoting open networks developed on open sourced methodology, using open specifications and open network protocols independent of any specific platform.
- ONDC is expected to digitize the entire value chain, standardize operations, promote inclusion of suppliers, derive efficiencies in logistics and enhance value for consumers.
- An advisory council has been constituted to advise the Government on measures needed to design and accelerate adoption of ONDC.
- **The members of the Advisory council will be:**
  - Shri R.S. Sharma, CEO, National Health Authority
  - Shri Nandan M. Nilekani, non-executive Chairman of Infosys
  - Shri Adil Zainulbhai, Chairman, QCI and Capacity Building Commission
  - Ms Anjali Bansal, Founder & Chairperson, Avaana Capital
  - Shri Arvind Gupta, Co-founder & Head, Digital India Foundation
  - Shri Dilip Asbe, MD & CEO, NPCI
  - Shri Suresh Sethi, MD & CEO, NSDL
  - Shri Praveen Khandelwal, Secretary-General, CAIT
  - Shri Kumar Rajagopalan, CEO, RAI



**Link:** <https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1732949>

## 5 Eklavya Model Residential Schools in Jharkhand

**Q. Five new Eklavya Residential Model Schools (EMRS) will be opened in which state?**

a) Bihar b) Jharkhand c) Uttar Pradesh d) Chhattisgarh

**ANSWER:- b)**

**Related Facts:-**

- on 3rd and 4th July, 2021, Union Minister of Tribal Affairs Shri Arjun Munda laid foundation stone for construction 5 Eklavya Residential Model Schools (EMRS) in three districts of Jharkhand.
- EMRS is the flagship program of the Ministry of Tribal Affairs and it is envisaged that the level of education in EMRS would be at par with JawaharNavodayaVidyalayas.
- Shri Arjun Munda said that 2021-22 will be 75th year of independence when sanctioned Eklavya schools will become operational. And when centenary of Independence is celebrated in 2047, the alumni of Eklavya schools should be everywhere in positions of importance and would have proved their mettle by then.
- Eklavya Model Residential Schools (EMRS)
- EMRS started in the year 1997-98 to impart quality education to ST children in remote areas in order to enable them to avail of opportunities in high and professional educational courses and get employment in various sectors.

- The schools focus not only on academic education but on the all-round development of the students.
- Each school has a capacity of 480 students, catering to students from Class VI to XII. Hitherto, grants were given for construction of schools and recurring expenses to the State Governments under Grants under Article 275 (1) of the Constitution.
- In order to give further impetus to EMRS, it has been decided that by the year 2022, every block with more than 50% ST population and at least 20,000 tribal persons, will have an EMRS.

#### LINK

<https://tribal.nic.in/EMRS.aspx>

### Union Education Minister launches NIPUN Bharat Programme

**Q. Consider the following statement regarding the NIPUN Bharat programme.**

1. It is related to poverty alleviation.
2. it is related to education ministry.

**Which statement/ statements is/are true?**

- a) ONLY 1 b) ONLY 2 c) BOTH 1 & 2  
d) None of these

**ANSWER:- b)**

**RELATED FACTS:-**



- On the 5th July, 2021 Union Minister for Education virtually launched a National Initiative for Proficiency in Reading with Understanding and Numeracy (NIPUN Bharat).
- the National Education Policy 2020 has laid down that attaining foundational literacy and numeracy for all children must become an immediate national mission.
- It aims to ensure that every child in the country necessarily attains foundational literacy and numeracy by the end of Grade 3, by 2026-27.
- This Mission, which has been launched under the aegis of the centrally sponsored scheme of Samagra Shiksha.
- It will focus on providing access and retaining children in foundational years of schooling; teacher capacity building; development of high quality and diversified Student and Teacher Resources/Learning Materials; and tracking the progress of each child in achieving learning outcomes.
- The mission aims to cover the learning needs of children in the age group of 3 to 9 years.
- It envisages making the experience of learning at the foundational stage Holistic, Integrated, Inclusive, Enjoyable, and Engaging, he added.
- NIPUN Bharat will not only help students to take a big leap in their higher classes, but it will also have a major impact in making students globally competitive.

#### Link:

<https://www.pib.gov.in/PressReleaseDetail.aspx?PRID=1732850>

## Portals on Ayush sector

**Q. which of following portal is not related to ministry of Ayush?**

a) E-Medha b) AMAR c) SHAI d) CHAMPION

**ANSWER:- d)**

- On July 5th, 2021 the Union minister of Ayush launches the five portals of Ayush.

**Brief overview and significance of the portals launched...**



1. Ayurveda Dataset on Clinical Trial Registry of India- Creation of Ayurveda Data Set in CTRI facilitates the usage of Ayurveda Terminologies to record clinical study based on Ayurveda interventions. This is a great step towards a worldwide visibility for Ayurveda based Clinical Trials.
2. CCRAS- Research Management Information System- A collaborative effort of ICMR and CCRAS, this portal will be a one stop solution for Research and Development in Ayurveda based studies. Free of cost research guidance by experienced Scientists, Clinicians of Ayurveda can be availed through this portal. Research tools, reference material are also in place in this portal.
3. E-Medha (electronic Medical Heritage Accession) Portal- Online public access catalog for more than 12000 Indian medical heritage books through NIC's e-granthalaya platform.
4. AMAR (Ayush Manuscripts Advanced Repository) Portal- This Portal is of immense value and it has digitized information on rare and hard to find Manuscripts and catalogues of Ayurveda, Yoga, Unani, Siddha, Sowa Rigpa in libraries or in individual collections across India or in other parts of the world.
5. SHAI (Showcase of Ayurveda Historical Imprints) Portals- This portal showcases inscriptions, Archeo-botanical Information, Sculptures, Philological sources and advanced Archeo Genetic studies. This portal will be of tremendous use in understanding of Indian Knowledge system with a focus on indigenous health care practices.

**Link:**

<https://www.pib.gov.in/PressReleaseDetail.aspx?PRID=1732850>

## 3rd Lokayukta of Tripura

**Q. Which State government appointed K N Bhattacharjee as its new Lokayukt?**

a) Meghalaya b) Tripura c) Assam d) Nagaland

**Answer:- b)**

**Related facts:-**

- On 2nd July, 2021, Tripura government has appointed a veteran lawyer K N Bhattacharjee as the new Lokayukta of Tripura to deal with the complaints of corruption against public servants and functionaries under Tripura Lokayukta Act, 2008.
- He will be the third Lokayukta of the state and the first lawyer to be appointed to the post.



- Justice Pradip Kumar Sarkar, a former judge of the Gujarat and Guwahati high courts was the first Lokayukta of Tripura was appointed in 2012 and he was succeeded by former Judge of Kolkata and Andhra Pradesh high courts Justice Subal Baidya in 2017.
- However, the post had been lying vacant after Justice Baidya relinquished office last year on completion of his three-year term.
- Recently, the chief minister, in consultation with the speaker and leader of the opposition, recommended the senior advocate of Tripura high court as Lokayukta to the Governor.

**Link:**

<https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/agartala/lawyer-appointed-3rd-lokayukta-of-tripura/articleshow/84087881.cms>

## New afforestation record by planting 25 crore saplings in single day

**Question: Which state has created a new afforestation record by planting 25 crore saplings in single day on 4th July 2021?**

a) Madhya Pradesh b) Uttar Pradesh c) Kerala d) Tamil Nadu

**Ans: b**

**Context**

- Uttar Pradesh has set a new record by planting 25.75 crore saplings in a single day on 4th July 2021.
- **Facts**
  - Saplings were planted during the week long Vanmahotsava that ended on 4th July 2021 and it took 4 days of plantation to achieve the target on 4th July.
  - It also marked the completion of 100 crore sapling under the plantation drive during Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath tenure.
  - To achieve the target of planting 25 crore saplings under the campaign each district has been given its target and saplings have been provided to farmers youths students and different organisations.
  - Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath planted the sapling at newly constructed Purvanchal expressway in Sultanpur district.
  - Governor anandiben Patel carried out tree plantation in Jhansi.
  - Ministers in charge and nodal officers are also carrying out tree plantations in their respective districts and monitoring the plantation campaign.
  - This year target for plantation is 30 crore saplings under Van Mahotsava.



**Reference:** <http://ddnews.gov.in/national/uttar-pradesh-sets-new-afforestation-record-planting-25-crore-saplings>

## Arun Jaitley National Institute of Financial Management (AJNIFM) partners with Microsoft to build an AI and Emerging Technologies Centre of Excellence

**Question: Which company has signed to build an AI and Emerging Technologies Centre of Excellence with National Institute of Financial Management (AJNIFM)?**

(a)Google (b)Microsoft (c) Reliance (d)Apple

**Answer(b)**

**Related Facts:**

- The Arun Jaitley National Institute of Financial Management (AJNIFM) and Microsoft signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU).
- It is for a strategic partnership to build an AI and emerging technologies Centre of Excellence at AJNIFM.
- The collaboration seeks to explore the role of cloud, AI and emerging technologies for transforming and shaping the future of public finance management in India.
- AJNIFM and Microsoft will jointly explore use cases of emerging technologies in finance and related areas, across central and state ministries and public sector enterprises.
- Microsoft will partner closely with AJNIFM to define the future of public finance management in India.
- This will provide the technology, tools and resources to build a strong ecosystem of partners, upskill government officials and build thought leadership.
- Microsoft will also work closely with its partners, MSMEs and ISVs to build customized solutions that address the challenges of the sector.



▪ **Focus areas:**

**Microsoft and AJNIFM will focus on:**

- Building an innovation centre  
Industry thought leadership  
Reskilling and capacity building  
Creating a strong ecosystem of partners
- **About AJNIFM:**
  - The Arun Jaitley National Institute of Financial Management (AJNIFM) is a Centre of Excellence specialising in capacity building of professionals in the fields of Public Policy, Financial Management and other governance issues for promoting highest standards of professional competence and practice.
  - AJNIFM was set up in 1993 as a registered society under Ministry of Finance, Government of India.
- **About Microsoft India:**
  - Microsoft enables digital transformation for the era of an intelligent cloud and an intelligent edge.



- Its mission is to empower every person and every organization on the planet to achieve more.
- Microsoft set up its India operations in 1990.

**Link:**

**Reference:** <https://pib.gov.in/PressReleaselframePage.aspx?PRID=1731960>

## India's exports rise to all-time high of \$95 billion in June quarter

**Question: What is the figure that India achieved the highest ever merchandise exports in a quarter 2021-2022?**

(a)USD 95 billion (b)USD 85 billion (c) USD 115 billion (d)USD 125 billion

**Answer:(a)**

**Related Facts:**



- India recorded the highest-ever exports of \$95 billion during April-June, up 85 per cent year-on year (YoY) and 18 per cent higher than the first quarter of the fiscal year 2019-20.
- It is also 16 per cent more than the previous highest Q1 exports of FY19 (\$82 billion) and is higher than the earlier peak of exports in Q4FY21 (\$90 billion).
- The merchandise exports grew 47 per cent YoY to \$32.46 billion in June.
- It was driven by a robust demand of engineering goods, petroleum products, and gems and jewellery in the external markets.
- The government is working towards achieving another all-time high of \$400 billion merchandise exports target by the end of the current fiscal year.
- The ministry will work with relevant stakeholders to achieve this target.
- Highest-ever merchandise export in a quarter of \$95 billion has been achieved in the April to June in 2021 despite the severity of the second wave of Covid-19.
- **Causes of such massive growth:**
  - Sector-specific interventions, involvement of all the stakeholders and functioning of the government as a whole helped in achieving the growth.
- **Aspiration:**
  - The commerce minister hopes services exports in the next five years will touch \$500 billion.
  - The \$400-billion target would be achieved by disaggregating the aim product and sector wise.
  - The government will try to achieve a target of \$500 billion in FY23 and \$1 trillion merchandise exports annually by the next five years.
- **Rationale behind this expectation:**
  - Several labour-intensive sectors had seen rapid export growth.
  - The exports in the engineering goods sector rose by \$5.2 billion over Q1FY20.
  - Likewise, rice exports growth has remained positive since May 2020 and rose by 37 per cent in Q1FY22, compared to Q1 of 2019-20.

- India's merchandise imports in June was \$41.86 billion, up 96.33 per cent YoY and 2.03 per cent as compared with June 2019.

### Resultant:

As a result, India was a net importer in June, with a trade deficit of \$9.4 billion, widened by 1,426.6 per cent over the trade surplus of \$0.71 billion last year. India was a net exporter in June last year due to the disruption caused by the pandemic.

**Reference:** [https://www.business-standard.com/article/economy-policy/india-s-exports-rise-to-all-time-high-of-95-billion-in-june-quarter-121070300032\\_1.html](https://www.business-standard.com/article/economy-policy/india-s-exports-rise-to-all-time-high-of-95-billion-in-june-quarter-121070300032_1.html)

## Pushkar Singh Dhami

**Question: Who has been elected the next chief minister of Uttarakhand?**

(a) Trivendra Singh Rawat (b) Prakash Pant (c) Ajay Bhatt (d) Pushkar Singh Dhami

**Answer: (d)**

**Related facts:**

- Pushkar Singh Dhami sworn in as the 11th Chief Minister of Uttarakhand.
- He was chosen next CM of Uttarakhand in the BJP legislature party meeting held in Dehradun on 3 June 2021.
- Pushkar Singh Dhami will be the youngest Chief Minister of Uttarakhand. Also, he will be the third chief minister of Uttarakhand in four months after political upheaval. He will replace Tirath Singh Rawat.
- 45-year-old Pushkar Singh Dhami is a two-time MLA from the Khatima constituency (first in 2012, next in 2017).
- About Pushkar Singh Dhami:**
  - Born in Pithoragarh district in 1975, Pushkar Singh Dhami has worked in different positions in the RSS and its affiliate bodies for 33 years. At present, he is also BJP's state vice-president.
  - Dhami had served as Officer on Special Duty (OSD) to Bhagat Singh Koshiyari when he was the chief minister in 2001-2002.



**Links:**

<https://indianexpress.com/article/india/uttarakhand-news-live-updates-pushkar-dhami-next-chief-minister-tirath-singh-rawat-resignation-7387198/>

## Report on UDISE+ 2019-20 for School Education in India

**Q.Consider the following sentence regarding UDISE+ 2019-20 report for school education.**

- Gross Enrolment Ratio has increased at all levels of school in 2019-20.
- The Pupil Teacher Ratio (PTR) has decreased at all levels of school education in 2019-20.

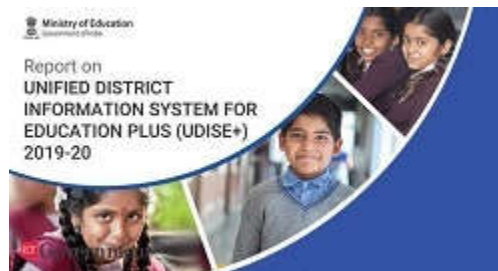
**Which of the above statements are correct?**

a) only 1 b) only 2 c) both 1 & 2 d) None of these

**Answer:- a**

**Related Fact:-**

- On July 1st, 2021 Union Education Minister released the Report on United Information System for Education Plus (UDISE+) 2019-20 for School Education in India.
- In 2019-20, total students in school education from pre-primary to higher secondary have crossed 26.45 crore. This is higher by 42.3 lakh compared to 2018-19.
- Gross Enrolment Ratio at all levels of school education has improved in 2019-20 compared to 2018-19. Gross Enrolment Ratio (GER) has improved by more than 11% in higher secondary schools between 2012-13 and 2019-20. GER for higher secondary has reached 51.4% in 2019-20, compared to 40.1% in 2012-13.
- The Pupil Teacher Ratio (PTR) has improved at all levels of school education. In 2019-20, the PTR for primary has become 26.5, PTR for upper primary and secondary has become 18.5 and PTR for higher secondary has become 26.1.
- Between 2012-13 and 2019-20, the Gender Parity Index (GPI) at both Secondary and Higher Secondary levels have improved. Improvement of GPI has been most pronounced at the higher secondary level, which has gone up to 1.04 in 2019-20 from 0.97 in 2012-13.
- Number of schools having functional computers increased to 5.2 lakh in 2019-20 from 4.7 lakh in 2018-19.
- Number of schools having internet facility increased to 3.36 lakh in 2019-20 from 2.9 lakh in 2018-19.
- More than 83% schools had electricity in 2019-20, an improvement by almost 7% over the previous year, 2018-19. In 2012-13, about 54.6% schools had electricity.
- More than 82% schools conducted medical check-up of students in 2019-20, an increase by more than 4% compared to previous year 2018-19.
- The UDISE+ system of online data collection from the schools was developed in the year 2018-19 to overcome the issues related to manual data filling in paper format and subsequent feeding at the block or district level, which was in practice in the UDISE data collection system from 2012-13.
- The present publication relates to UDISE+ data for the reference year 2019-20.



**Link:**

<https://www.pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1731860>

**Odisha Gov. To set up centre of excellence in mining**

**Q. Which state is developing a centre of excellence in mining ?**

a) Jharkhand b) Odisha c) West Bengal d) None of these

**Answer:- b)**

**Related Facts:-**

- The Odisha government, said on 2nd July, 2021, is developing the state-run College of Engineering in Keonjhar to a centre of excellence in research of Earth Sciences and Technology at a cost of Rs 42.50 crore.
- The institute will have advanced divisions in Rock Mechanics, Rock Excavation, Mineral Processing, Extractive Metallurgy, Material Testing, Characterization, Geology, Environmental Engineering, Mining Planning and Design.
- The government is planning to complete the entire ground-level work — from the construction of the building to installation and testing of the equipment within a period of 36 months.
- The college has a permanent campus over 37 acres of land and is now providing consultancy support to the mineral- based industries even with its limited resources.

**Link:**

<https://www.businesstoday.in/education/story/odisha-to-develop-centre-of-excellence-in-mining-for-rs-4205-cr-300277-2021-07-02>

## 17th World Congress for Cervical Pathology and Colposcopy

**Question: On 1st July 2021 who inaugurated the 17th World Congress for Cervical Pathology and Colposcopy which is being organized in virtual mode for the first time by Indian Society of Colposcopy and Cervical Pathology ?**

- a) Dr.Harsh Vardhan ,Union Minister for Health and Family Welfare , GOI
- b) Vice- President M. Venkaiah Naidu c)Prime Minister Narendra Modi
- d) None of the above

**Ans: c**

**Context**

- Indian Society of Colposcopy and Cervical Pathology in association with Department of Obstetrics and Gynaecology, Vardhman Mahavir Medical College & Safdarjung Hospital, New Delhi is organising 17th session of World Congress for Cervical Pathology and Colposcopy from 1st July-5th July.



### ▪ **Facts**

- This is first time that this event is being organized in virtual format.
- This is also the first time when this event is being organized by an Asian Country i.e. India.
- The theme of the World congress is “Eliminating Cervical Cancer: Call for Action”.
- Theme is aligned to the WHO call for Elimination of Cervical Cancer by 2030.
- Event saw the participation of eminent doctors, professors of medical science and stalwarts of medical fraternity specializing in Cervical Pathology and Colposcopy from the around the world.

### ▪ **Other Key Points** **Colposcopy**

- Colposcopy is a medical diagnostic procedure to visually examine the cervix as well as the vagina and vulva using a colposcope to find cancerous cells or abnormal cells that can become cancerous in the cervix, vagina, or vulva.

- These abnormal cells are sometimes called “precancerous tissue.”
- A colposcopy also looks for other health conditions, such as genital warts or noncancerous growths called polyps.
- **Cervical Cancer**
  - Cervical cancer is a type of cancer that occurs in the cells of the cervix — the lower part of the uterus that connects to the vagina.
  - It is the fourth most common cancer in women. It affects over half a million women across the world each year, and kills a quarter of a million.
  - One woman dies of cervical cancer every two minutes, making it one of the greatest threats to women’s health.
  - When diagnosed cervical cancer is one of the most successfully treatable forms of cancer, as long as it is detected early and managed effectively.
- **Government of India Initiative to manage Cervical cancer**
  - India is one of the few developing countries that have formulated the national cancer control program aligned with WHO’s call for Elimination of Cervical Cancer by 2030.
  - In 2016, India launched the operational guidelines for screening of common cancers – breast, oral and Cervical Cancer.
  - India along with 194 others countries has collectively resolved to work together for elimination of this major killer -a goal which is achievable through 90% HPV vaccination coverage, 70% screening coverage and 90% treatment for cervical pre-cancer and cancer including access to palliative care.
  - Government of India is offering intervention to end Cancer through the two wings of the Ayushman Bharat Programme: effective primary HPV vaccination and secondary prevention approaches.
  - Treatment of cancer and precancerous lesions is being made accessible to the economically vulnerable population through Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojna.

**Reference:** <https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1732220>

## Atmanirbhar Krishi app

**Question :** Atmanirbhar Krishi APP Launched by the Office of Principal Scientific Adviser on June 29, 2021. Accordingly, which of the following statement is correct ?

1. The app is available in 12 languages
2. It relies on the geo-location of the farm to provide relevant data.
3. Tech Mahindra Makers Lab team has designed and built the Atmanirbhar

**Krishi App.**

**Options —**

a.Only 1 b.Only 2 c.Only 3 d.All of the above

**Ans. d.**

**Related facts —**

- Atmanirbhar Krishi APP Launched by the Office of Principal Scientific Adviser on June 29, 2021.





- Tech Mahindra Makers Lab team has designed and built the Atmanirbhar Krishi App.
- **Objective —**
- The Atmanirbhar Krishi app was created to equip farmers with actionable agricultural insights and early weather alerts.
- Data related to soil type, soil health, moisture, weather, and water table were aggregated and analysed to generate personalized insights related to crop selection, fertilizers requirements, and water needs for each farmer at the farm-holding level.
- **The app was envisioned in 5 stages :—**
- Data aggregation
- Building centralized insights
- Enable local expertise (KVK) supported interactions and insights
- Deriving Machine Learning inferences
- Continuous improvement
- **Salient features of the app :—**
- The data has been made comprehensible for farmers by simplifying the language. The app is also available in 12 languages.
- The Android and Windows versions of the app are available on Google Play Store and are free of cost for farmers, start-ups, KVKs, SHGs, or NGOs to use.
- Considering the connectivity issues in the remote areas of the country, the app has been designed to work on minimal bandwidth.
- The app does not collect any inputs from the farmer. It relies on the geo-location of the farm to provide relevant data (see figure). Data relevant to another location can be collected by entering the PINCODE of that area. Watch the demonstration and find out more about the Atmanirbhar Krishi App in this video:  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yF2oITP1M8A>
- **Live Stage 1 —**
- In the currently live Stage 1, the Atmanirbhar Krishi app brings together data relevant to the farmer and his farm, from various agencies and departments of the Government of India.
- Categories of data available on Atmanirbhar Krishi app and the Government Ministry/Department which is the data source : —

Data	Source
Weather & Weather-based Information	Indian Meteorological Department (IMD)
Land surface information, Vegetation index & Crop	Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO)

Soil Type and Soil Health	Department of Agriculture Cooperation & Farmer Welfare (DACFW) The Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR)
Surface Water (River/Reservoir/Canal) & Ground Water	National Water Informatics Centre (NWIC) Includes Central Ground Water Board (CGWA)

**Link:**

<https://pib.gov.in/PressReleaseFramePage.aspx?PRID=1731175>

## Mizoram-Assam border dispute

**Question :** In the backdrop of recent Mizoram-Assam border dispute name the districts of Mizoram which share border with Assam ?

- a. Saiha, Serachip and Khawzal b. Champhai and Saitual  
c. Lawngtlai and Lunglei d. Aizawl, Kolasib and Mamit

**Ans. d.**

**Related facts —**

**charges of encroachment —**



- On 30 June 2021, Mizoram accused Assam of encroaching upon its land in the bordering Kolasib district.
  - While, Assamese officials and legislators accused Mizoram of building structures and planting betel nut and banana saplings allegedly ten kilometers inside Hailakandi in Assam.
  - **Mizoram-Assam border —**
  - It is notable that three districts of Mizoram — Aizawl, Kolasib and Mamit — share about a 164.6 km border with Assam's Cachar, Karimganj and Hailakandi districts.
  - The border dispute between the two neighbouring states is a long pending issue.
  - Several dialogues held since 1995 to resolve the dispute yielded little result.
  - After a massive tussle in 2018, the border row resurfaced in August last year.
  - The matter further escalated in February but was defused after a series of parleys with the intervention of the Centre.
  - Other border disputes in NE —
1. Assam-Nagaland border dispute is in the SC (Supreme Court). Violent clashes and armed conflicts, marked by killings, have occurred on the Assam-Nagaland border since 1965.
  2. Assam – Meghalaya :– At present there are 12 areas of dispute between the two states.
  3. Assam – Arunachal Pradesh :– Clashes were first reported in 1992 and since then, there have been several accusations of illegal encroachment from both

sides, and intermittent clashes. It is notable that AP was granted statehood by the State of Arunachal Pradesh Act, 1986 in 1987.

**Link:**

<https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/india/mizoram-assam-trade-charges-of-encroachment-as-border-dispute-escalates/articleshow/83983413.cms>

## Glacial Lake Atlas of Ganga Basin

**Question: Which of the following is the biggest river basin in the country?**

- a) Ganga river basin b) Brahmaputra river basin c) Cauvery river basin  
d) None of these

**Answer: (a)**

**Related Facts:-**

- On 29 June 2021; The Glacial Lake Atlas of Ganga Basin was released by the Department of Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation (DoWR, RD & GR).
- Secretary DoWR Sh. Pankaj Kumar released the Atlas in a virtual event, in the presence of Secretary, Department of Space & Chairman, ISRO, Dr. K. Sivan.
- Other senior officers of DoWR, RD & GR, Department of Space, National Remote Sensing Centre (NRSC) were present on the occasion.
- The present glacial lake atlas is based on the inventoried glacial lakes in part of Ganga River basin from its origin to foothills of Himalayas covering a catchment area of 2,47,109 sq. km.
- The study portion of Ganga River basin covers part of India and transboundary region.
- It should be known that in total, Ganga has 11 basin states – Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, Bihar, West Bengal, Uttarakhand, Jharkhand, Haryana, Chhattisgarh, Himachal Pradesh and Delhi.
- Ganga basin is the biggest river basin in the country draining an area of 8,61,452 sq.km.
- The Atlas is available on Bhuvan portal of NRSC, ISRO (<https://bhuvan.nrsc.gov.in/nhp/>), India WRIS Portal ([www.indiawris.gov.in](http://www.indiawris.gov.in)) and NHP web site of DoWR, RD & GR ([www.nhp.mowr.gov.in](http://www.nhp.mowr.gov.in)).



**Links:-**

<https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1731154>

## Comprehensive study on the not-for-profit hospital model in the country

**Question: Which of the following body has released the report on comprehensive study on the not-for-profit hospital model in the country?**

- a) ICMR b) WHO c) NITI Aayog d) None of these

**Answer: (c)**

**Related Facts:-**

- NITI Aayog on June 29, 2021, released a comprehensive study on the not-for-profit hospital model in the country.

- It is a step towards closing the information gap on such institutions and facilitating robust policymaking in this area.
- There has been relatively low investment in the expansion of the health sector in the private domain.
- The stimulus announced in this report, provides us with an opportunity to change this situation.
- VK Paul, Member (Health), NITI Aayog said that the report on the not-for-profit sector is a small step in that direction.
- The report was released by Mr Paul, in the presence of CEO Amitabh Kant, Additional Secretary Dr Rakesh Sarwal.
- On the occasion of releasing ceremony, representatives of hospitals across the country were also present, who participated in the study.
- The study provides insights into the operation model of not-for-profit hospitals.
- It presents research-based findings on such hospitals—categorized under ownership and premise of service.
- It makes subsequent comparisons with private hospitals and health schemes of the Union government.
- NITI Aayog has been extensively studying the private-sector healthcare-delivery landscape in the country.
- There exists adequate information on for-profit healthcare providers and institutions. But there is a dearth of reliable and structured information on their not-for-profit counterparts.
- It should be known that not-for-profit health care services are well known for their tireless service.
- Not-for-profit hospitals are making quality healthcare accessible and affordable to everyone in the country.
- The not-for-profit hospital sector provides not only curative but also preventive healthcare.
- It links healthcare with social reform, community engagement, and education.
- It uses government resources and grants to provide cost-effective healthcare to people without being concerned about profits.
- NITI Aayog calls to strengthen not-for-profit hospitals by giving 100% income tax exemption for donations, fast release of dues from government schemes and grants. Not-for-profit hospitals be allowed to utilize primary health care (PHC) infrastructure to take health care in rural India.



#### Links:-

<http://niti.gov.in/sites/default/files/2021-06/Not-for-profitHospitalReport.pdf>

### India ranks among top 10 in ITU's Global Cybersecurity Index 2020

**Question-Consider the following statements regarding Global Cyber security Index 2020-**

- (1) India has ranked 10th position in Global Cybersecurity Index (GCI) 2020
- (2) The US topped the index
- (3) Global Cybersecurity Index (GCI) 2020 launched by the International Telecommunication Union (ITU)

**Select the correct answer using the code given below-**

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

**Ans. (c)**

**Related Facts-**

- Global Cybersecurity Index (GCI) 2020 launched by the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) on June 29, 2021.
- As per the ranking, India has moved up by 37 places to rank as the 10th best country in the world in the Global Cybersecurity Index (GCI) 2020
- The US topped the chart, followed by the UK and Saudi Arabia tied on the second position, while Estonia was ranked third in the index.
- India has also secured the fourth position in the Asia Pacific region, underlining its commitment to cybersecurity.
- India was ranked ahead of China (No. 33) and Pakistan (No. 79) in global cybersecurity ranking of countries.
- GCI assessment is done on the basis of performance on five parameters of cybersecurity including legal measures, technical measures, organisational measures, capacity development, and cooperation. The performance is then aggregated into an overall score.
- For each of the five aspects, all the countries' performance and commitment were assessed through a question-based online survey, which further allowed for the collection of the supporting evidence.
- The GCI results for India show substantial overall improvement and strengthening under all parameters of the cybersecurity domain. India scored a total of 97.5 points from a possible maximum of 100 points, to make it to the tenth position worldwide in the GCI 2020.
- About International Telecommunication Union (ITU)-
- The International Telecommunication Union (ITU) is the United Nations specialized agency for information and communication technologies – ICTs.
- It was founded in 1865 to facilitate international connectivity in communications networks.
- ITU allocate global radio spectrum and satellite orbits, develop the technical standards that ensure networks and technologies seamlessly interconnect, and strive to improve access to ICTs to underserved communities worldwide.
- Every time you make a phone call via the mobile, access the Internet or send an email, you are benefitting from the work of ITU.



**Reference-** [https://www.business-standard.com/article/technology/india-ranks-among-top-10-in-itu-s-global-cybersecurity-index-2020-121063000713\\_1.html](https://www.business-standard.com/article/technology/india-ranks-among-top-10-in-itu-s-global-cybersecurity-index-2020-121063000713_1.html).

## **International**

### **Russian Module docked with international Space Station**

**Question: On 29 July 2021 Russia's module docked with international space station. What is the name of this module?**

a) Chaka b) Nauka c) Luna d) None of these



**Answer: (b)**

**Related Facts:-**

- On 29 July 2021; Russia's Nauka module successfully docked with the International Space Station (ISS)
- It should be known that Nauka module was launched on 21 July 2021, from the Kazakhstan's Baikonur Cosmodrome.
- The module in the beginning had suffered a series of glitches that had raised concerns about whether the docking procedure would go smoothly
- Through its new Nauka module Russia has upgraded its capabilities on the International Space Station.
- Successfully docked Nauka is now set to serve as a research lab, storage unit and airlock.
- This new module is a multipurpose laboratory named after the Russian word for science.
- Roscosmos said in a statement that according to telemetry data and reports from the ISS crew, the onboard systems of the station and the Nauka module are operating normally
- It should be known that Roscosmos, is a state corporation of the Russian Federation responsible for space flights, cosmonautics programs, and aerospace research.



**Links:-**

<https://www.reuters.com/lifestyle/science/russias-new-nauka-space-module-set-dock-with-iss-2021-07-29/>

## Lebanon's New Prime Minister

**Question: Who has been appointed new Prime Minister of Lebanon?**

(a) Najib Mikati (b) Yayi Boni (c) Blaise Compaore (d) Pierre Nkurunziza

**Answer: (a)**

**Related facts:**

- On 26 July 2021, Billionaire businessman Najib Mikati has been picked as Lebanon's new Prime Minister.
- He got 72 votes in parliament while the former ambassador Nawaf Salam received only one vote.
- His appointment comes just 11 days after Saad Hariri resigned as prime minister-designate, after nine months of political turmoil.
- Najib Mikati will be serving third time as Lebanon's Prime Minister.
- In April 2005, Mikati had briefly served as caretaker Prime Minister, and in 2011, he headed a full-scale government for three years.



**Links:**

<https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2021/7/26/mikati-appointed-lebanons-new-pm-designate>

## World University Conference

**Question – Between July 21 and 23, the university summit was held through virtual medium. It was organized by which of the following?**

(a) NITI Aayog (b) University Grants Commission (c) OP Jindal Global University (d) Delhi University

**Answer—(c)  
related facts —**

- Between July 21 and 23, the university summit was held through virtual medium.
- It was organized by OP Jindal Global University.
- The theme of the summit was — Universities of The Future: Building Institutional Resilience, Social Responsibility and Community Impact.
- Vice President of India M Venkaiah Naidu and Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan addressed the conference.
- On this occasion, he said that the new National Education Policy-2020 will usher in a new imagination for the Indian higher education system.
- He said that the Multidisciplinary Education and Research University (MERU) will open new opportunities for the youth of India.

**Link:**

<http://iihed.edu.in/about-the-summit/>

## UN adopts first resolution on vision

**Q. Which of the following option is not true regarding UN resolution on vision?**

- a) It encourages countries to institute a “whole of government approach to eye care.
- b) It calls on international financial institutions and donors to provide targeted financing.
- c) According to the resolution, “at least 2 billion people are living with vision impairment.
- d) None of these

**ANSWER:- d)**

**RELATED FACTS:-**

- The UN General Assembly approved its first-ever resolution on vision, calling on its 193 member nations to ensure access to eye care for everyone in their countries which would contribute to a global effort to help at least 1.1 billion people with vision impairment who currently lack eye services by 2030.
- The “Vision for Everyone” resolution, sponsored by Bangladesh, Antigua and Ireland, and co-sponsored by over 100 countries, was adopted on July 23rd, 2021 by consensus by the world body.
- It encourages countries to institute a “whole of government approach to eye care.
- It calls on international financial institutions and donors to provide targeted financing, especially for developing countries, to address the increasing impact of vision loss on economic and social development.
- According to the resolution, “at least 2 billion people are living with vision impairment or blindness and 1.1 billion people have vision impairment that could have been prevented or is yet to be addressed.”
- Global eye care needs are projected to increase substantially, with half the global population expected to be living with a vision impairment by 2050,” the resolution says.



**LINK**

<https://www.channelnewsasia.com/news/world/un-adopts-first-resolution-on-vision-aims-to-help-1-billion-15288826>

## Taiwan to set up first office using its name

**Question:** In which country Taiwan government will set up its first office using its name?

(a) Lithuania (b) USA (c) Japan (d) Georgia

**Answer: (a)**

**Related facts:**

- On 20 July 2021, Taiwan Government announced to set up a representative office in Lithuania using its own name.
- The representative office will be set up in Lithuania's capital city of Vilnius.
- The move is a significant diplomatic departure that is bound to rile China.
- China tries to keep Taipei isolated on the world stage and balks at any official use of the word "Taiwan". China says Taiwan to be part of China and asks countries to adopt One China Policy.
- The "One-China policy" is a policy asserting that there is only one sovereign state under the name China, as opposed to the idea that there are two states, the People's Republic of China (PRC) and the Republic of China (ROC)/Taiwan, whose official names incorporate "China".
- Also in 1971, the United Nations voted to recognize the People's Republic of China (PRC) as "the only legitimate representative of China to the United Nations".



**Links:**

<https://www.france24.com/en/live-news/20210720-taiwan-to-use-its-own-name-at-new-lithuania-office>

## Norovirus outbreak in United Kingdom

**Question:** Consider the following statements:

(1) The United Kingdom has reported outbreak of Norovirus causing a health concern.

(2) People suffering with Norovirus experiences acute gastroenteritis.

**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 United Kingdom mounted with Covid 19 infections is now reporting an outbreak of Norovirus.
- As of Public Health England (PHE), 154 cases of Norovirus have been reported so far.



**What is Norovirus?**

- Norovirus is a well-described cause of epidemic gastroenteritis in both adult and pediatric populations across a wide range of geographic region.
- People suffering from Norovirus experience sudden, projectile vomiting, diarrhea, stomach pain and nausea.
- People generally develop the symptoms within 12 to 48 hours and they can last up to 1 to 3 days.
- Infected person can shed billions of virus particles which can make people sick if they receive only a few of them.
- Norovirus is very contagious and can spread from getting in contact to infected person. The disease also spreads by consuming contaminated water and food.
- Currently there is no specific medicine available for Norovirus. Experts suggest drinking plenty of liquids to replace the fluids lost from diarrhea and vomiting so as to prevent dehydration.

**Links:**

<https://www.hindustantimes.com/world-news/norovirus-outbreak-in-uk-all-you-need-to-know-about-the-infection-101626675876464.html>

## New Prime Minister of Haiti

**Question: Who has been appointed the new Prime Minister of Haiti?**

(a) Ariel Henry (b) Abdelaziz Bouteflika (c) Azali Assoumani (d) Muhammadu Buhari

**Answer: (a)**

**Related facts:**

- On 20 July 2021, Ariel Henry was appointed as new prime minister of Haiti.
- The appointment came after nearly two weeks after the assassination of President Jovenel Moise.
- Ariel Henry assumed the role of de-facto leader of the Western Hemisphere's poorest nation in a ceremony in the capital Port-au-Prince.
- He will lead the country until a new President is chosen in an election scheduled in September.
- Haiti is currently struggling with lawlessness fuelled by violent gangs. Ariel Henry called for continued international support for the government, which has received billions in aid since a devastating earthquake in 2010.



**Links:**

<https://www.france24.com/en/americas/20210720-haiti-appoints-ariel-henry-as-new-prime-minister-after-president-s-assassination>

## G20 Environment Ministers' Meeting 2021

**Question: Which country has presided the G20 Environment Ministers' Meeting 2021 in July 2021?**

(a) Italy (b) United Kingdom (c) Germany (d) Norway

**Answer: (a)**

**Related facts:**

- The G20 Environment and Energy Ministers' Meeting was held on 22-23 July 2021 at Naples in Italy.
- This meeting is one of the ministerial meetings organized as part of the G20 Leaders Summit 2021, which will be hosted by Italy in October 2021.
- The meeting was focused on three main themes: biodiversity and protection of oceans; promoting circular economies, particularly in the fashion and textile sectors; and realigning the financial system to promote sustainable development.
- India was represented by a delegation led by Union Environment Minister, Bhupender Yadav.



- **2021 G20:**

- The 2021 G20 presidency is being held by Italy.
- The 2021 G20 will focus on three broad, interconnected pillars of action: People, Planet, Prosperity.
- Within these pillars, the G20 aims to take the lead in ensuring a swift international response to the COVID-19 pandemic – able to provide equitable, worldwide access to diagnostics, therapeutics and vaccines – while building up resilience to future health-related shocks.

- **About G20:**

- The group of twenty (G20) is a leading forum of the world's major economics that seeks to develop global policies to address today's most pressing challenges.
- The G20 is made up of 19 countries and the European Union.
- The 19 countries are Argentina, Australia, Brazil, Canada, China, Germany, France, India, Indonesia, Italy, Japan, Mexico, Russia, Saudi Arabia, South Africa, South Korea, Turkey, the United Kingdom and the United states.
- The G20 was born out of a meeting of G7 finance ministers and central bank governors in 1999 who saw a need for more inclusive body with broader representation to have a stronger impact on addressing the world's financial challenges.
- The G20 consists of both developed and emerging countries.
- Since 2008 global financial crisis, G20 leader's summit is attended by head of the states to stabilize the world economy.
- Collectively, G20 members represent all inhabited continents, 85% of total economic output, two –third of the world's population and 75% of international trade.

**Links:**

<https://apnews.com/article/europe-business-environment-floods-climate-change-2f327ef624a76f25c336c87b7ff1bb72>

## International Day for the Conservation of the Mangrove Ecosystem

**Question: When is International Day for the Conservation of the Mangrove Ecosystem observed?**

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

**Answer: (b)**

**Related facts:**



- International Day for the Conservation of the Mangrove Ecosystem (or World Mangrove Day) is observed annually on 26 July.
- The day outlines importance of mangrove ecosystems as “a unique, special and vulnerable ecosystem” and to promote solutions for their sustainable management, conservation and uses.
- The day was adopted by the General Conference of the UN Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) in 2015.
- This day also commemorates Greenpeace activist Hayhow Daniel Nanoto, who died of a heart attack on the 26th July 1998 during a massive protest to re-establish the mangrove wetlands in Muisne, Ecuador.



#### Links:

<https://www.financialexpress.com/lifestyle/science/international-day-for-the-conservation-of-the-mangrove-ecosystem-not-just-a-lifeline-for-coastal-communities/2297819/>

## Four new sports in Tokyo Olympics

**Question- Consider the following statements-**

**(1) Four new sports- karate, skateboarding, surfing and sport climbing have been introduced in the Tokyo Olympics**

**(2) Mirabai Chanu has created history to become the first Indian weightlifter to win the silver medal at the Olympic Games**

**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-**

- Four new sports have been introduced in the Tokyo Olympics. They are karate, skateboarding, surfing and sport climbing.
- Martial art, since the 1970s, has been a candidate for Olympic inclusion but the organizers never agreed to accept this sport until the Tokyo Games presented the perfect opportunity to showcase this sport from its homeland.
- Skateboard's debut was done by the organizers to attract the young audiences.
- The audiences will be able to see high-flying stunts and tricks. The competitors are between 12 to 47 years.
- Since the year 1995, the International Surfing Association has been lobbying for the inclusion of Surfing sport, and it makes a debut in the Tokyo 2020 Olympics.
- In recent years climbing has reached new heights and hence it makes its debut in the Tokyo 2020 Olympic.
- In the lead discipline, Climbers scale a 15-meter wall which is filled with variety of holds.
- Bouldering involves dynamic movements and in the Speed category a race to the top is held between the participants.



## World's first 'clean' commercial nuclear reactor

**Q. Recently which country announced to build Nuclear Reactor that does need water for cooling?**

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

**ANSWER:- b)**

**RELATED FACTS:-**

- In July, 2021 Chinese government scientists have unveiled plans for a first-of-its-kind, experimental nuclear reactor that does not need water for cooling.
- The molten-salt nuclear reactor, which runs on liquid thorium rather than uranium, is expected to be safer than traditional reactors because the molten salt cools and solidifies quickly when exposed to the air, insulating the thorium.
- So that any potential leak would spill much less radiation into the surrounding environment compared with leaks from traditional reactors.
- The prototype reactor is expected to be completed next month, with the first tests beginning as early as September.
- This will pave the way for the building of the first commercial reactor, slated for construction by 2030.
- As this type of reactor doesn't require water, it will be able to operate in desert regions. The location of the first commercial reactor will be in the desert city of Wuwei.



**LINK :**

<https://www.livescience.com/china-creates-new-thorium-reactor.html>

## Sweden happy to join the International Solar Alliance

**Q. Consider the following statement regarding International Solar Alliance (ISA)-**

1. It is an India led initiative.
2. China is the part of ISA

**Which of the following statement/ s is/ are true?**

a) Only 1 b) Only 2 b) Both 1 & 2 c) None of these

**ANSWER :- a)**

**RELATED FACTS:-**

- On 17th July, 2021 Leading European nation Sweden ratified the framework agreement for the International Solar Alliance and its membership of the ISA.
- Sweden hopes to bring its expertise and its experience in renewable energy and clean energy technologies to discussions in the ISA to contribute in meeting the challenges related to climate change.



- International Solar Alliance is an initiative of India aimed at promoting renewable energy and sustainable development.

The ISA has been conceived as an action-oriented, member-driven, collaborative platform to increase the availability of solar energy technologies to enhance energy security and sustainable development.

#### LINK

<https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/industry/renewables/sweden-happy-to-join-the-international-solar-alliance-envoy/articleshow/84675363.cms?from=mdr>

## UNESCO World Heritage Site Ramappa Temple

**Question : UNESCO has granted World Heritage status to which Temple near Warangal recently ?**

- (a) Ramappa Temple (b) Durga Temple (c) Thousand Pillar Temple  
(d) Bhadrakali Temple

**Answer: (a)**

#### Related Facts:

- Kakatiya Rudreshwara Ramappa Temple was inscribed as a World Heritage Site by UNESCO.
- The Prime Minister of India urged citizens to visit the temple which was built during the rule of Kakatiya dynasty.
- The iconic Ramappa Temple showcases the outstanding craftsmanship of the great Kakatiya dynasty.
- The Ramappa temple was built by the Kakatiya King Ganapatideva Chakravarthy's sub-ruler Recherla Rudrayya in the year 1213 AD.
- History says the Seuna Sena dynasty king Jaitugi defeated Ganapatideva and imprisoned him. King Rudrayya fought with Jaitugi and freed Ganapatideva.
- For Rudrayya's help, Ganapatideva wanted to give a precious Ramappa temple.
- The works of the temple, in which the Ramalingeswaram (Shivalingam) is enshrined, began in 1173 AD and were completed 40 years later in 1213 AD.



**Reference:** <https://www.news18.com/news/india/ramappa-temple-a-reflection-of-culture-tradition-and-technology-of-the-kakatiya-dynasty-4009961.html>

## Corteva Agriscience

**Question: Which of the following crop Corteva Agriscience, a global agricultural company is going to promote through the sustainable farming in UP under an agreement with World Bank Group's 2030 Water Resources Group (2030 WRG)?**

- a) Wheat b) Rice c) Cotton d) Mustard

**Answer: (b)**

#### Related Facts:-

- On 22 July 2021 Corteva Agriscience, a global agricultural company, announced its Plan for sustainable rice farming in UP



- Corteva Agriscience, for this purpose has inked a three-year project with the World Bank Group's 2030 Water Resources Group (2030 WRG).
- The project has been conceived to build the capacity of farmers on the Direct Seeded Rice (DSR) technique.
- DSR technique of rice cultivation is very productive for crop growth and will enable sustainable livelihood for farmers.
- This project, called 'Enhancing Landscape level Sustainability for Rice Production in Uttar Pradesh'.
- It provides a framework for transforming 40,000 acres of land from traditional methods of transplanting rice to the DSR technique.
- This three-year project will promote sustainable livelihood in agriculture, build the capacity of farmers on the DSR technique of rice cultivation.
- It will be done through various training programs, field demonstration sessions, market linkages.
- Socio-economic empowerment of farmers will be promoted by the market-based sustainability financing and agronomy assistance.
- Through the project, Corteva will also assist farmers with hybrid seeds and mechanized sowing services.
- The company will also help in soil testing and management of weeds and pests on the farms.
- Applying these practices can lead to 35-37 per cent reduction in water usage in rice farming.
- These practices will also equally prove useful in better soil health and reduced greenhouse gas emissions (by 20-30 per cent), supporting climate resilient precision agro-forestry in the state.

#### Links:-

<https://www.navhindtimes.in/2021/07/23/business/corteva-to-co-lead-in-promoting-rice-production-in-up/>

## Nord Stream 2 pipeline

**Question- Consider the following statements-**

**(1) It is 1200 km pipeline**

**(2) It will run from Ust-Luga in Russia to Greifswald in Germany through the Baltic Sea**

**(3) It will carry 55 billion cubic metres of gas per year**

**Select the correct answer using the code given below-**

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

**Ans. (d)**

**Related facts-**

- Recently, the US has approved the Germany-Russia Nord Stream 2 Pipeline (NS2P) project – which significantly increases Europe's energy dependence on Russia.
- It is a 1,200-km pipeline that run will from Ust-Luga in Russia to Greifswald in Germany through the Baltic Sea, and will carry 55 billion cubic metres of gas per year.





- Nord stream 1 system is already completed and together with NS2P, it will supply 110 billion cubic metre of gas a year to Germany.
- The pipeline falls in the territory of EU members Germany and Denmark, and is about 98% complete.
- Since it was first planned, Nord Stream 2 has drawn criticism from the US, where both the Democratic and Republican parties believe that the project would increase Europe's dependence on Russia for natural gas, thus emboldening its leader Vladimir Putin. Currently, EU countries already rely on Russia for 40 per cent of their gas needs.
- The project also has opponents in eastern Europe, especially Ukraine, whose ties with Russia have seriously deteriorated in the aftermath of the Crimean conflict in 2014.
- In December 2019, work on the project was suspended due to the threat of US sanctions, and in January this year, Washington actually carried out its threat—imposing sanctions on a Russian ship tasked with laying pipes for the project.
- Many had then predicted that the punitive action could prove to be the pipeline's death knell.
- The pipeline also cast a shadow on US-Germany relations, with former President Donald Trump saying that it could turn Germany into a “hostage of Russia”.
- The US-Germany deal lays out that if Russia attempts to “use energy as a weapon or commit further aggressive acts against Ukraine,” Germany will take steps on its own and push for actions at the EU, including sanctions, “to limit Russian export capabilities to Europe in the energy sector.”
- The agreement also requires Germany to “utilise all available leverage” to extend by 10 years the current Russia-Ukraine gas transit agreement, which expires in 2024, and a contribution of at least \$175 million to a new \$1 billion “Green Fund for Ukraine” that aims at improving the country's energy independence.

**Reference-** <https://indianexpress.com/article/explained/nord-stream-pipeline-us-germany-7417589/>.

## Liverpool's historic waterfront removed from World Heritage List

**Question-Which of the following city is removed from World Heritage List?**

- (a) Liverpool- Maritime Mercantile City(UK) (b) City of Bath (c) Tower of London  
(d) ST Kilda

**Ans. (a)**

**Related Facts-**

- The World Heritage Committee, holding its 44th session in Fuzhou and online, decided to delete the property 'Liverpool – Maritime Mercantile City' (UK) from the World Heritage List, due to the irreversible loss of attributes conveying the outstanding universal value of the property.
- The move follows concerns raised in 2012 about the proposed development of disused dockland near the city centre, which a UNESCO committee decided were “detrimental to the site's authenticity and integrity”.
- New additions to the city's waterfront include the proposed Everton Football Club stadium, which is due to open for the 2024-25 season.





- Liverpool was added to World Heritage List in 2004 in recognition of its role as one of the world's major trading centres in the 18th and 19th centuries – and its pioneering dock technology, transport systems and port management.
- Liverpool's Maritime Mercantile City is only the third location to lose its World Heritage status after the decision was announced by the UNESCO World Heritage Committee at a virtual conference in China.

**Reference-** <https://news.un.org/en/story/2021/07/1096172>.

## Philippines approves GMO 'golden rice' for commercial production

**Question- Which of the following country has become the world's first country to approve the commercial production of genetically modified "golden rice"?**

(a) Philippines (b) India (c) Myanmar (d) Indonesia

**Ans. (a)**

**Related Facts-**

- The Philippines became the world's first country on July 23 to approve the commercial production of genetically modified "golden rice"
- Experts hope that it will combat childhood blindness and save lives in the developing world.
- A biosafety permit issued by government regulators paves the way for the rice – enriched with the vitamin A precursor beta-carotene to make it more nutritional – to be grown by farmers across the country.
- IRRI has spent two decades working with the Department of Agriculture-Philippine Rice Research Institute to develop golden rice – named for its bright yellow hue.
- It is the first genetically modified rice approved for commercial propagation in South and Southeast Asia.
- Vitamin A is essential for normal growth and development, the proper functioning of the immune system, and vision.
- World Health Organization data show vitamin A deficiency causes up to 500,000 cases of childhood blindness every year, with half of those dying within 12 months of losing their sight.
- Nearly 17 per cent of children under the age of five in the Philippines are deficient in vitamin A, according to IRRI.



**Reference-** <https://www.channelnewsasia.com/news/asia/philippines-golden-rice-genetically-modified-food-gmo-15276932>.

## World's first 3D-printed steel Bridge

**Question: At which of the following place World's first 3D-printed steel bridge was opened to the public?**

a) Amsterdam b) London c) New York d) Arizona

**Answer:**

**Related Facts:-**



- Early July 2021; World's first 3D-printed steel bridge was opened to the public in Amsterdam.
- It was developed by MX3D, a Dutch robotics company, in collaboration with a consortium of experts.
- This bridge represents a major milestone for 3D-printing technology.
- After four years in development, the bridge was unveiled by Her Majesty Queen Máxima of the Netherlands.
- It was installed over one of the oldest canals in Amsterdam's city centre – the Oudezijds Achterburgwal.
- The 12-metre-long steel structure will be a 'living laboratory' as it will capture and transmit data on its health in real-time.
- Through this data the bridge will be able to show how it changes over its lifespan. The smart sensor network was designed and installed by a team from The Alan Turing Institute.
- The sensors attached to the structure will gather data on air quality, temperature, strain, displacement and vibration.
- The data will be used by the bridge's 'digital twin', a computer model that will emulate the actual bridge in real-time, to improve accuracy over time.
- The computer model will help understand how a full-scale 3D-printed steel structure works in real-world.
- Mark Girolami, Professor at The Alan Turing Institute, said that 3D printing is poised to become a major technology in engineering.
- He further said that this technology needed to be developed into appropriate approaches for testing and monitoring to realise its full potential.

#### Links:-

<https://www.thehindu.com/sci-tech/technology/worlds-first-3d-printed-steel-bridge-opens-to-public-in-amsterdam/article35462853.ece>

## Philippines becomes first country to approve genetically modified 'golden rice' for commercial production

**Question: Which country became first country to approve genetically modified 'golden rice' for commercial production?**

(a) Philippines (b) India (c) Pakistan (d) Australia

**Answer: (a)**

**Related Facts:**

- The Philippines has become the world's first country Friday to approve the commercial production of genetically modified "golden rice"
- Crops such as rice, wheat, and soybeans, as well as fruits and vegetables have a naturally occurring "glitch" in the way they photosynthesize that causes the plants to use up energy and resources, drastically suppressing productivity.
- Vitamin A is essential for normal growth and development, the proper functioning of the immune system, and vision.
- World Health Organization data show vitamin A deficiency causes up to 500,000 cases of childhood blindness every year, with half of those dying within 12 months of losing their sight.



- Nearly 17 percent of children under the age of five in the Philippines are deficient in vitamin A, according to IRRI.
- Golden rice was analysed by food safety regulators in Australia, the United States and Canada and was given the thumbs up.

**Reference:** <https://www.wionews.com/world/philippines-becomes-first-country-to-approve-genetically-modified-golden-rice-for-commercial-production-400056>

## US, Central Asian foreign ministers hold C5+1 summit in Uzbekistan

**Question : In which country C5+1 summit was held recently?**

(a) Uzbekistan (b) Kyrgyzstan (c) Tajikistan (d) Pakistan

**Answer : (a)**

**Related Facts:**

- US, Central Asian foreign ministers hold C5+1 summit in Uzbekistan
- The meeting was attended by Deputy Prime Minister – Minister of Foreign Affairs of Kazakhstan Mukhtar Tileuberdi, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Tajikistan Sirojiddin Mukhriddin, Deputy Chairman of the Cabinet of Ministers – Minister of Foreign Affairs of Turkmenistan Rashid Meredov, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Uzbekistan Abdulaziz Kamilov, Deputy National Security Advisor to the President of the United States Elizabeth Sherwood-Randall and Ambassador of Kyrgyzstan to Uzbekistan Ibrahim Junusov.
- While focusing on the stability in Afghanistan that will see U.S. troops withdrawing from the country by Aug. 31, 2021.
- The both sides also agreed to promote the institutional strengthening of the C5+1 platform and use it to address common problems.
- Addressing the meeting, Minister Tileuberdi stressed the importance of expanding regional cooperation in biosafety, trade and investment cooperation, energy, climate change, human capital development, and combating human trafficking.



**Reference:** <https://astanatimes.com/2021/07/central-asian-foreign-ministers-u-s-senior-officials-attend-c51-meeting-in-tashkent/>

## Russia to counter US' F-35 with 'Checkmate'

**Question: Which country has unveiled a new fighter aircraft named 'Checkmate'.**

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

**Answer : (a)**

**Related Facts:**

- Russia has unveiled a new fighter aircraft named 'Checkmate'.
- The aircraft will compete against US' F-35 in the international market.
- The jet is expected to take to the skies in 2023, with the first batch due to be produced in 2026.



- Moscow plans to produce 300 units of the aircraft over 15 years once serial production begin.
- The fighter jet was unveiled by Russia and United Aerospace Company, an umbrella corporation that includes the famed Mikoyan-Gurevich (MiG) and Sukhoi design bureaus.
- The aircraft has an unusually pointy nose and an engine intake below the cockpit.
- **What is Checkmate?**
- The Checkmate has an internal weapons bay designed to preserve its anti-radar shaping and is capable of carrying both air-to-air and air-to-ground ordnance
- This includes both infrared and radar-guided air-to-air missiles, air-to-ground and anti-ship missiles, guided and unguided bombs, and unguided rockets.

**Reference:** <https://www.indiatoday.in/science/story/russia-checkmate-fighter-jet-sukhoi-f-35-india-air-force-vladimir-putin-1831281-2021-07-22>

## Significant improvement in India's score in United Nation's Global Survey on Digital and Sustainable Trade Facilitation

**Question: India has scored how much percentage in United Nation's Global Survey on Digital and Sustainable Trade Facilitation?**

(a) 90.32% (b) 75.2% (c) 80.32% (d) 89.99%

**Answer:(a )**

**Related Facts:**

- India has scored 90.32% in United Nation's Economic and Social Commission for Asia Pacific's (UNESCAP) latest Global Survey on Digital and Sustainable Trade Facilitation.
- The Survey hails this as a remarkable jump from 78.49% in 2019. The survey result can be accessed at(<https://www.untfsurvey.org/economy?id=IND>).
- After evaluation of 143 economies, the 2021 Survey has highlighted India's significant improvement in the scores on all 5 key indicators, as follows:
  1. Transparency:100% in 2021 (from 93.33% in 2019)
  2. Formalities: 95.83% in 2021 (from 87.5% in 2019)
  3. Institutional Arrangement and Cooperation: 88.89% in 2021 (from 66.67% in 2019)
  4. Paperless Trade: 96.3% in 2021 (from 81.48% in 2019)
  5. Cross-Border Paperless Trade: 66.67% in 2021 (from 55.56% in 2019)
- The Survey notes that India is the best performing country when compared to South and South West Asia region (63.12%) and Asia Pacific region (65.85%).
- The overall score of India has also been found to be greater than many OECD countries including France, UK, Canada, Norway, Finland etc. and the overall score is greater than the average score of EU.
- India has achieved a 100% score for the Transparency index and 66% in the "Women in trade" component.



## About the Survey:

- The Global Survey on Digital and Sustainable Trade Facilitation is conducted every two years by UNESCAP.
- The 2021 Survey includes an assessment of 58 trade facilitation measures covered by the WTO's Trade Facilitation Agreement.

**Reference:** <https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1737948>

## IMF estimates 2021 global growth forecast at 6 per cent

**Question- According to IMF, What will the global growth for the year 2021?**

(a) 5 % (b) 6 % (c) 8 % (d) 7 %

**Ans. (b)**

### Related Facts-

- The International Monetary Fund (IMF) on July 21, 2021, estimated that the global growth for 2021 will be approximately 6 per cent, the same as forecast in April, but some countries are growing faster and other more slowly.
- Managing Director Kristalina Georgieva speaking at an online event sponsored by the Peterson Institute for International Economics, said that economic recovery will be held back unless the pace of COVID-19 vaccination picks up, adding that a goal of ending the pandemic by the end of 2022 will not be reached at the current pace.
- The IMF projected in April that 2021 global growth would hit 6%, a rate unseen since the 1970s.
- The IMF is scheduled to release its next World Economic Outlook forecast update on July 27.
- She said an IMF-World Bank goal for countries to provide \$50 billion to step up COVID vaccination rates will likely require more than the 11 billion doses initially envisioned, because booster shots may now be necessary, and to cover vaccine losses in some developing countries that lack sufficient cold storage facilities.
- **About IMF-**
  - The International Monetary Fund (IMF) is an international financial institution of 190 countries that works towards fostering global monetary cooperation, securing financial stability, facilitating international trade, promoting high employment and sustainable economic growth, and reducing poverty in the world.
  - Headquartered in Washington, IMF was established in July 1944 at the UN Bretton Woods Conference in the US.



**Reference-** <https://www.reuters.com/business/imf-keep-2021-global-growth-forecast-6-georgieva-2021-07-21/>.



## Brisbane to host 2032 Olympic and Paralympics Games

**Q. which country to host 2032 Olympic and Paralympics games?**

a) New Zealand b) Australia c) Germany d) Qatar

**ANSWER:- b)**

**RELATED FACTS:-**

- On 22nd July, 2021 Brisbane, Australia's third most populous city, has been confirmed as the host for the 2032 Olympic and Paralympics Games.
- The International Olympic Committee approved the decision at a meeting ahead of the Tokyo Olympics.
- The decision marks the third time Australia has been selected to host the Games, after Melbourne in 1956 and Sydney in 2000, while the state of Queensland hosted the Commonwealth Games in 2018.
- It is also the first host city to be selected under new bidding rules established in 2019.
- Like this year's Games in Tokyo, the 2032 Olympics will begin on July 23 and finish on August 8.
- It will follow the Paris and Los Angeles Games in 2024 and 2028 respectively.



**Link:**

<https://www.runnersworld.com/uk/news/a37099761/brisbane-2032-olympic-games/>

## 11th Mekong-Ganga Cooperation meeting held

**Question: Consider the following statements:**

i) The 11th Mekong-Ganga Cooperation (MGC) foreign ministers' meeting was held on 21st July 2021 through video conferencing.

ii) Foreign Minister of Cambodia co-chaired the meeting along with foreign minister of India.

**Which of the above are correct?**

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

**Ans: c**

**Context**

- On 21st July 2021, Foreign Minister of Kingdom of Cambodia, H.E. Prak Sokhonn co-chaired the 11th Mekong-Ganga Cooperation (MGC) foreign ministers' meeting along with foreign minister of India.



**Facts**

- While addressing the MGC meeting, S Jaishankar India's External Affairs Minister has called for a "collective and collaborative" response to effectively deal with the ongoing Coronavirus pandemic, saying that national boundaries are not respected by this virus.
- It was 20th anniversary meet of MGC.

- Foreign Ministers of other MGC nation were also present during the meet.
- Addressing the meeting, S Jaishankar has said that India wants to promote better connectivity in this region through economic, digital and people-to-people connectivity.
- In the meeting finding ways to the fight against the pandemic through better MGC partnership was reflected upon. S Jaishankar said that the partner nations need to work together in addressing the crisis.

### About Mekong-Ganga Cooperation

- The MGC initiative was launched in the year 2000 with the aim of boosting cooperation in tourism, connectivity and culture and other range of areas. This initiative comprises of six countries, they are: India, Myanmar, Cambodia, Laos, Thailand and Vietnam.

**Reference:** <https://mea.gov.in/Speeches-Statements.htm?dtl/34028/Opening+remarks+by+External+Affairs+Minister+at+the+11th+MekongGanga+Cooperation+Meeting>

### First case of monkeypox is detected in Texas

**Question-Consider the following statements-**

- (1) First time in nearly two decades, a rare case of human monkeypox was detected in Texas, US
- (2) Monkeypox is in the same family of viruses as smallpox but causes a milder infection

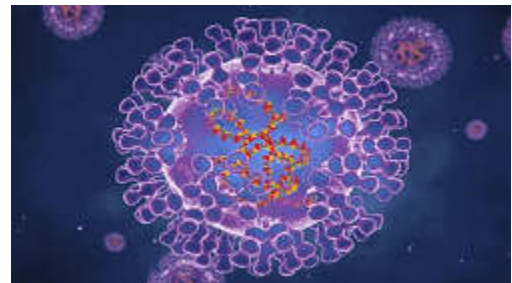
**Select the correct answer using the code given below-**

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

**Ans. (c)**

**Related Facts-**

- A rare case of human monkeypox was detected in Texas, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), and making it the first case of the virus seen in the state.
- The viral illness was found in a U.S. resident, who recently traveled from Nigeria to the United States and is currently hospitalized in Dallas.
- Monkeypox is a rare but potentially serious viral illness that typically begins with flu-like illness and swelling of the lymph nodes and progresses to a widespread rash on the face and body.
- Most infections last 2-4 weeks.
- Monkeypox is in the same family of viruses as smallpox but causes a milder infection.
- In this case, laboratory testing at CDC showed the patient is infected with a strain of monkeypox most commonly seen in parts of West Africa, including Nigeria.
- Infections with this strain of monkeypox are fatal in about 1 in 100 people.



**Reference-** <https://www.livemint.com/news/world/usa-first-case-of-monkeypox-detected-in-texas-11626490553753.html>.

## Nelson Mandela International Day, 18 July

**Question- Which of the following day is celebrated as the Nelson Mandela International day?**

(a) 18th July (b) 17th July (c) 15th July (d) 14th July

**Ans. (a)**

**Related Facts-**



- Nelson Mandela International Day is celebrated every year on July 18 and is also known as Mandela Day.
- The theme for this year is “One Hand Can Feed Another”.
- Nelson Rolihlahla Mandela was the former president of South Africa. He was the president from 1994 to 1999.
- Mr Mandela is widely regarded as a leader of social justice and a staunch advocate for democracy.
- He opposed the racist system of apartheid in South Africa and dedicated his life to establishing social equality for all.
- For his extensive work on social reform, Mr Mandela received over 250 honours and was awarded the prestigious Nobel Peace Prize in 1993.
- History of NMID-
- The United Nations officially declared July 18th as Nelson Mandela International day in 2009.
- It was first celebrated in 2010.
- The origin of the day came from Mr Mandela himself — he is believed to have announced that his birthday be celebrated as Mandela Day.
- The Nelson Mandela Foundation, on April 27, 2009, hosted a series of concerts to honour the legacy of Mr Mandela and celebrate his values through community service.

**Reference-** <https://en.unesco.org/commemorations/mandeladay>.

## Work begins in Lincolnshire on world’s longest subsea power cable

**Question- World’s longest subsea power cable is going to built between-**

(a) UK and Denmark (b) France and Denmark (c) UK and Russia  
(d) Spain and Germany

**Ans. (a)**

**Related Facts-**



- The UK’s National Grid and Denmark’s Energinet has begun work on the world’s longest subsea power cable.
- The €2 billion Viking Link project, a 475-mile-long (765 km) cable, is being built in Lincolnshire.
- It will run between the UK and Denmark in order to share green energy between the two countries.
- The Viking Link will be longer than the 450-mile North Sea link, which will import hydropower from Norway to the UK from 2021.
- The subsea power cable system works both ways. When the UK generates too much green power, it will be exported via the subsea power cables to its partner countries, and vice versa.

- The UK currently has about 5GW of power cable capacity that connects the UK's electricity system to power in France, the Netherlands, and the Republic of Ireland.
- By 2025, this capacity is expected to rise to 25GW.
- The UK will also connect to Germany and Belgium.

**Reference-** <https://electrek.co/2020/07/14/worlds-longest-subsea-power-cable-viking-link-uk-denmark/>.

## New Nepal's Prime Minister

**Question: Who sworn-in as the Prime Minister of Nepal on July 13 2021?**

- (a) Sher Bahadur Deuba (b) KP Sharma (c) Pushpa Kamal Dahal Prachanda  
(d) Madhav Kumar

**Answer: (a)**

**Related facts:**

- On 13 July 2021, Sher Bahadur Deuba sworn in as the new Prime Minister of Nepal.
- He was sworn to office by President Bidhya Devi Bhandari.
- The change in political leadership came after a day after the Supreme Court of Nepal in a dramatic verdict said Prime Minister K P Sharma Oli had violated constitutional principles.
- 75 years old Deuba, president of the Nepali Congress, was sworn in as Prime Minister for the fifth time.

**Links:**

<https://indianexpress.com/article/world/sher-bahadur-deuba-becomes-nepals-prime-minister-for-5th-time-7402595/>

## Male Guardian requirement for Women attending Hajj ended

**Question: Consider the following statements:**

**(1) Saudi Arabia has ended requirement of male guardian for annual Hajj pilgrimage of women.**

**(2) Hajj is an annual Islamic pilgrimage to Makkah (Mecca), Saudi Arabia.**

**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:**

- Saudi Arabia has ended requirement of male guardian for annual Hajj pilgrimage of women.
- The arrangement is provided by Saudi Arabia Ministry of Haj and Umrah in its registration guidelines issued for this year's Haj for domestic pilgrims.
- Now, women wishing to perform Hajj will have to register individually.
- The landmark steps erode the longstanding guardianship system that renders adult women as legal minors and allows their "guardians" — husband, father and other male relatives — to exercise arbitrary authority over them.



## The Hajj:

- Hajj is an annual Islamic pilgrimage to Makkah (Mecca), Saudi Arabia undertaken each year by around three million Muslims across the world.
- It is a mandatory religious duty for Muslims which is must to carry at least once in their lifetime by all adult Muslims.
- Hajj 2021 begins on the evening of 17 July, and continues until 22 July.

## Links:

<https://www.arabnews.com/node/1876046/saudi-arabia>

## APEC meeting on Covid 19

**Question: Which country has chaired a special Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation meeting on Covid 19?**

(a) New Zealand (b) Canada (c) China (d) USA

**Answer: (a)**

## Related facts:

- On 17 July 2021, New Zealand Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern has chaired a meeting of Leaders representing the 21 APEC economies on Covid 19.
- **Meeting highlights:**
  - During the meeting world leaders highlighted role of extensive COVID-19 global immunization essential in order to overcome health emergency.
  - Leaders of APEC discussed on range of area including redoubling efforts to expand vaccine manufacturing and supply, analyzing individual domestic approaches to the ongoing management of COVID-19 and looking into fiscal and monetary tools available to sustain economies through the pandemic, with the importance of keeping markets open to one another .
- **APEC:**
  - APEC is a forum comprising of 21 Asia-Pacific economies. It was founded by Australia in 1989.
  - APEC objective is to encourage growing & prosperous regional economy by – trade & investment liberalisation & facilitation across the border, reducing costs of cross-border trade, economic & technical cooperation, exchanging best practice on trade & investment etc.
  - The headquarters of APEC is in Singapore.
- **APEC Chairmanship 2021:**
  - In 2021, New Zealand is hosting APEC (Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation) virtually.
  - The country will host hundreds of APEC meetings from December 2020 until November 2021 in dozens of clusters, with many more unique sessions.





**Links:**

<https://www.apec2021nz.org/apec-nz-2021/apec-news/pm-ardern-chairs-apec-leaders-meeting-on-covid-19>

## China-India trade

**Question: China's Customs has recently(July 2021) released data pertaining to China-India trade. Accordingly, how much totalled the China-India bilateral trade in the first half of the year ?**

- A. 57.48 billion dollar B. 67.48 billion dollar C. 47.48 billion dollar  
D. 37.48 billion dollar

**Answer – (A)**

**Related facts —**

- China's Customs has recently (July 2021) released data pertaining to China – India trade. Accordingly, The China-India bilateral trade in the first half of the year totaled USD 57.48 billion.(up 62.7 percent year on year)
- Indian exports to China picked up with 69.6 per cent year on year increase.
- It is notable that trade deficit, a structural problem for India for long, climbed to 55.6 per cent.
- The trade deficit for the first six months of the year stood at USD 28.03 billion.
- India's exports to China reached USD 14.724 billion, up 69.6 percent year on year in the first six months and India's imports from China amounted to USD 42.755 billion, up 60.4 percent.
- Last year the India-China trade totaled to USD 77.67 billion, which was lower than the USD 85.47 billion in 2019.



## First Gulf Country to open Embassy in Israel

**Question: Which is the first Gulf country to open Embassy in Israel?**

- (a) United Arab Emirates (b) Saudi Arabia (c) Bahrain (d) Kuwait

**Answer: (a)**

**Related facts:**

- The United Arab Emirates has become the first Gulf nation to open an embassy in Israel.
- The move follows after both countries signed an agreement “Abraham Accord” last year to normalise diplomatic ties.
- The new mission is located in Tel Aviv Stock Exchange building. The ceremony was attended by new Israeli President Isaac Herzog.
- In August 2020, United Arab Emirates and Israel agreed to establish full diplomatic ties.



- The agreement is officially called the “Abraham Accord” in honor of Abraham, the patriarch of the three major Abrahamic religions of the world—Judaism, Islam and Christianity.
- Later Bahrain, Sudan and Morocco also joined the US-brokered Abraham Accords.

**Links:**

<https://www.hindustantimes.com/world-news/uae-becomes-1st-gulf-nation-to-open-embassy-in-israel-101626304584361.html>

## BRICS Labour & Employment Ministers’ Meeting held

**Question: Who presided the BRICS Labour & Employment Ministers’ Meeting held on 15th July 2021?**

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

**Ans: b**

**Context**

- 7th BRICS Labour & Employment Ministers’ Meeting was held under India’s Presidency on 15th July 2021.

- **Facts**

- Meeting was held to exchange views on the impact of Covid-19 on global labour market, enhance information sharing, discuss and agree upon specific areas of cooperation between BRICS Member countries.

- **Four important points were discussed:**

- Promoting **Social Security** Agreements amongst BRICS Nations;
- **Formalisation** of Labour Markets;
- **Participation of Women** in the Labour Force; and
- **Gig and Platform** Workers: Role in the Labour Market.
- During the meet BRICS Labour & Employment Ministers’ Declaration was adopted which recognized that the COVID-19 pandemic has negatively impacted the efforts made to address unemployment, decent work deficits and inequality.
- It also illustrates the strong determination of BRICS Member countries to recover with stronger national economies, inclusive labour markets and social protection systems.



**Reference:** <https://pib.gov.in/PressReleaseIframePage.aspx?PRID=1735948>

## World’s deepest swimming pool opened

**Question: Where has been the World’s deepest swimming pool opened for public?**

(a) Dubai (b) Beijing (c) Chicago (d) Amsterdam

**Answer: (a)**

**Related facts:**

- Dubai (United Arab Emirates) has opened the World’s deepest dive pool.



- The pool having depth of 60.02 meters contains 14 million liters of water, equivalent to six Olympic-sized swimming pools.
- The pool features a sunken city that includes an apartment, garage and arcade. The pool can be used for recreational purposes besides tourism.
- The swimming pool has beaten Poland's DeepSpot with depth of 45 meters.
- Dubai is known for having the world's tallest skyscraper Burj Khalifa and largest mall.
- Development of tourism oriented destinations are in lines with United Arab Emirates aspirations to make Dubai 'world's most-visited city' by 2025.

#### Links:

<https://edition.cnn.com/travel/article/deep-dive-dubai-worlds-deepest-dive-pool/index.html>

## UK exports apple to India for first time in 50 years

**Question- Which of the following country has exported apple to India for first time in 50 years?**

(a) U.K (b) U.S (c) France (d) Russia

**Ans. (a)**

#### Related Facts-



- UK International Trade Secretary Liz Truss has hailed the export of apples from England to India, for the first time in 50 years, as a sign of the UK-India Enhanced Trade Partnership in action.
- The Enhanced Trade Partnership, seen as a precursor to a comprehensive Free Trade Agreement (FTA), was agreed by British Prime Minister Boris Johnson and Prime Minister Narendra Modi during their virtual summit in May.
- It was followed up by Truss and Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal, formally signing the agreement, setting a target to double UK-India bilateral trade by 2030.
- "India is an outlet that we've looked at for a number of years but unfortunately we were precluded at the time because of a ban running back to the 70s," AC Goatham and Son co-owner Ross Goatham told the UK Department of Trade (DIT).
- In May, the UK government launched a 14-week consultation to seek views of the public and business before formal negotiations on a UK-India FTA begins later this year.
- The UK says it wants a deal with India that slashes barriers to doing business and trading with India's 2 trillion pounds economy and market of 1.4 billion consumers.
- This includes removing tariffs of up to 150 per cent on whisky and 125 per cent on British-made cars, among other products.
- According to the DIT, the aim of an FTA with India is also to make it easier for British services firms to operate in the Indian market, boosting the UK's status as an international services hub.
- According to its latest statistics, trade between the UK and India stands at around 23 billion pounds in 2019, which both countries want to double under the Roadmap 2030 timeline.

**Reference-** <https://www.newindianexpress.com/world/2021/jul/12/uk-minister-celebrates-british-apple-exports-to-india-for-first-time-in-50-years-2329138.html>.

## World Youth Skill Day, 2021

**Question- What is the theme of the 'World youth Skill day', 2021?**

- (a) Reimagining youth skill post-pandemic (b) Skills for resilient youth  
(c) Learning to learn for life and work (d) Skills for all

**Ans. (a)**

**Related facts-**



- The World Youth Skills Day, an event organised by the United Nations (UN), celebrates the strategic importance of equipping the youth with skills for employment, entrepreneurship and work.
- The day first came into existence back in 2014, and has since then provided “a unique opportunity for dialogue between young people, technical and vocational education and training (TVET) institutions, firms, employers’ and workers’ organizations, policy makers and development partners.”
- It is observed on July 15 every year.
- The theme for 2021 is ‘Reimagining Youth Skills Post-Pandemic’, which will pay a tribute to the resilience and creativity of the youth.
- This time a virtual panel discussion has been organised by the permanent missions of Portugal and Sri Lanka to the United Nations, together with UNESCO, International Labour Organization (ILO) and the Office of the Secretary-General’s Envoy on Youth.
- **AIMs of WYSD-**
- The World Youth Skills Day aims to achieve the Incheon Declaration: Education 2030, “which devotes considerable attention to technical and vocational skills development, specifically regarding access to affordable quality TVET.
- The acquisition of technical and vocational skills for employment, decent work and entrepreneurship; the elimination of gender disparity and ensuring access for the vulnerable.
- **Key Findings-**
- According to the estimates of UNESCO, schools were shut down for over 30 weeks in 50 per cent of the countries between March 2020 and May 2021.
- Respondents to a survey of the TVET, which was jointly collected by UNESCO, the ILO and the World Bank, revealed that distance learning was the most common way of imparting skills.
- Youth employment fell 8.7 per cent last year, compared with 3.7 per cent for adults.

**Reference-** <https://www.un.org/en/observances/world-youth-skills-day>.

## Nepal signs pact with SJVN for 679 MW Lower Arun Electric Hydel Project

**Question- Which of the following country has signed a deal with India’s state owned SJVN ltd to develop the 679-megawatt (MW) Lower Arun Hydro Electric Project?**

- (a) Nepal (b) Bhutan (c) China (d) Afghanistan

**Ans. (a)**





- Nepal Investment Board has signed a pact with India's state-owned SJVN Ltd to develop the 679-megawatt (MW) Lower Arun Hydro Electric Project in eastern Nepal.
- The National Investment Board of the Himalayan Nation announced that the pact was signed with India's state-owned Satluj Jal Vidyut Nigam (SJVN) which is the second mega project undertaken by Southern neighbour.
- Second, after the Arun-3 hydropower project, the Lower Arun Hydel project is expected to cost around 1.3 billion dollars, the single biggest foreign investment project, as per 2017 cost estimates.
- Prior to the latest project, India is building 900 MW Arun-3 project at an estimated cost of 1.04 billion dollars in the Arun river which is located in Sankhuwasabha district. Lately signed Lower Arun Hydel Project lies in Bhojpur district of the Himalayan Nation.
- As per the statement, the developer should complete the detailed project study of the project and submit the report for approval at the board within two years from the agreement.
- The project will be built under the build, own, operate and transfer (BOOT) model.
- The project will not have any reservoir or dam and will be a tailrace development of Arun-3 hydro project, which will mean water re-enters the river for the Lower Arun project.
- In 2018, Prime Minister KP Sharma Oli and Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi jointly laid the foundation stone for the Arun-3 Hydropower Project, remotely from Kathmandu.
- SJVN's current installed capacity stands at 2,016 MW and it aims to be a 25,000 MW entity by 2040.

**Reference-** [https://www.business-standard.com/article/international/nepal-signs-pact-with-sjvn-for-679-mw-lower-arun-electric-hydel-project-121071200093\\_1.html](https://www.business-standard.com/article/international/nepal-signs-pact-with-sjvn-for-679-mw-lower-arun-electric-hydel-project-121071200093_1.html).

## EAM S. Jaishankar attends SCO foreign ministers' meeting

**Question: Consider the following statements:**

- External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar represented India at the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) foreign ministers' meeting on 14th July 2021.
- SCO is grouping of 7 countries.

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

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

**Ans: a)**

**Context**



- External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar represented India at the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) foreign ministers' meeting on 14th July 2021.
- **Facts**
  - The key meeting of the grouping was held in Dushanbe, Tajikistan.
  - Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov, Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi and Pakistan Foreign Minister Shah Mahmood Qureshi are among the participants at the meeting.
  - During the meet, the foreign ministers of the SCO , called for an end to violence in Afghanistan against civilians and the authorities and urged the Afghan government to strengthen its position for the sake of stability.



## ▪ About Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO)

- SCO is an eight-member economic and security bloc which was founded at a summit in Shanghai in 2001 by the Presidents of Russia, China, Kyrgyz Republic, Kazakhstan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan.
- India was made an observer at the SCO in 2005.
- India and Pakistan both became its permanent members in 2017.
- China, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Russia, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan, India and Pakistan are its current 8 member states.

**Reference:** <https://indianexpress.com/article/india/jaishankar-attends-sco-foreign-ministers-meeting-7404290/>

## US approved Blue Origin license for human Space Travel

**Question: Which of the following famous US business person set to fly to the edge of space on Blue Origin's maiden crewed voyage on July 20?**

a) Jeff Bezos b) Elon Musk c) Bill Gates d) Mark Zuckerberg

**Answer: (a)**

**Related Facts:-**

- On 12 July 2021; The Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) said it approved a Blue Origin license to carry humans into space.
- With this approval now former Amazon.com (AMZN.O) Chief Executive Jeff Bezos will fly to the edge of space on Blue Origin's maiden crewed voyage on July 20.
- He will begin his maiden space travel by riding on the New Shepard launch system developed by the Blue Origin.
- New Shepard is a vertical-takeoff, vertical-landing and crew-rated suborbital launch vehicle.
- It will be used as a commercial system for suborbital space tourism.
- FAA license for Blue Origin is valid through August 2021 and the company is approved to conduct these missions to carry humans from its Launch Site One facility in Texas.
- It should be known that space-tourism rival Virgin Galactic just a week before successfully sent a crew including its founder, British billionaire Richard Branson, to the edge of space.
- Virgin Galactic and Blue Origin, as well as the SpaceX firm founded by rival billionaire Elon Musk, are working to usher in a new era of routine commercial civilian space travel.
- It has been popularized as the billionaire space race.



**Links:-**

<https://www.indiatoday.in/science/story/us-approves-blue-origin-license-for-human-space-travel-ahead-of-bezos-flight-1827489-2021-07-13>

Human-wildlife conflict among greatest threats to animal species: WWF and UNEP report

**Question-Which of the following organization has released the 'A Future for All: The Need for Human Wildlife Coexistence' report?**

(a) WWF and UNEP (b) UNISEF (c) WHO (d) WEF

**Ans. (a)**

**Related facts-**



- Conflict between humans and animals is one of the main threats to the long-term survival of some of the world's most iconic species, a new report by the World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF) and the UN Environment Programme (UNEP), released July 8, 2021, has said.
- The report, titled, A future for all – the need for human-wildlife coexistence features contributions from 155 experts from 40 organisations based in 27 countries.
- It highlights that globally, conflict-related killing affects more than 75 per cent of the world's wild cat species.
- Besides, many other terrestrial and marine carnivore species such as polar bears and Mediterranean monk seals as well as large herbivores such as elephants are affected.
- In India, data from the Union Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change indicates that over 500 elephants were killed between 2014-2015 and 2018-2019, mostly due to human-elephant conflict. During the same period, 2,361 people were killed as a result of conflict with elephants.
- Global wildlife populations have fallen an average of 68 per cent since 1970, as per report.
- Human-wildlife conflict, in combination with other threats, has driven the significant decline of species that were once abundant and species that are naturally less abundant, have been pushed to the brink of extinction.
- Such impact was not limited to wildlife. It would also affect humans who lived alongside wild animals, especially in developing countries rich in biodiversity. It could cause injury, death or loss of livelihood, the report noted.
- India will be most-affected by human-wildlife conflict, the report said.
- This was because it had the world's second-largest human population as well as large populations of tigers, Asian elephants, one-horned rhinos, Asiatic lions and other species.
- India's elephants probably embody the problem the best," the report said. The animals are restricted to just 3-4 per cent of their original habitat. Their remaining range is plagued by deforestation, invasive species and climate change.
- The animals are thus pushed to find food outside of protected areas where they clash with humans. This, in turn, causes the deaths of humans as well as loss of livelihoods for their families.
- Completely eradicating human-wildlife conflict was not possible, the report said. "But well-planned, integrated approaches to managing it can reduce conflicts and lead to a form of coexistence between people and animals," it added.
- The report gave the example of Sonitpur district in Assam. Here, destruction of forests had forced elephants to raid crops, in turn causing deaths of both, elephants and humans.
- In response, WWF India had developed the 'Sonitpur Model' during 2003-2004 by which community members were connected with the state forest department. They were given training on how to work with them to drive elephants away from crop fields safely.

- WWF India had also developed a low-cost, single strand, non-lethal electric fence to ease the guarding of crops from elephants.
- About WWF-
- WWF is an independent conservation organization, with over 5 million supporters and a global network active in over 100 countries.
- WWF's mission is to stop the degradation of the Earth's natural environment and to build a future in which humans live in harmony with nature, by conserving the world's biological diversity, ensuring that the use of renewable natural resources is sustainable, and promoting the reduction of pollution and wasteful consumption.
- About the UN Environment Programme (UNEP)
- UNEP is the leading global voice on the environment. It provides leadership and encourages partnership in caring for the environment by inspiring, informing and enabling nations and peoples to improve their quality of life without compromising that of future generation.

**Reference-** <https://www.downtoearth.org.in/news/wildlife-biodiversity/human-wildlife-conflict-among-greatest-threats-to-animal-species-wwf-and-unep-report-77863>.

## Ethiopia: Abiy's Prosperity Party wins landslide election victory

**Question-** Which of the following party has won the parliamentary election of Ethiopia?

- (a) Prosperity Party (b) Citizens for Social Justice party (c) Ezema Party  
(d) National Movement of Amhara Party

**Ans. (a)**

**Related facts-**

- Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed's Prosperity Party won the most seats in Ethiopia's parliamentary election, a victory that assures Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed a second five-year term in office.
- Abiy's Prosperity Party won 410 seats in the federal parliament out of 436.
- The election marked the first time Abiy faced voters since he was appointed prime minister in 2018 following several years of anti-government protests.
- But an opposition boycott, war in the northern region of Tigray, ethnic violence and logistical challenges in some areas overshadowed the poll.
- The leader of the main opposition Ethiopian Citizens for Social Justice party, Birhanu Nega, lost while the opposition parties Ezema and the National Movement of Amhara (NAMA) each won less than 10 seats.
- Abiy has hailed the election as the nation's first attempt at a free and fair vote, but the United States has called it "significantly flawed," citing the detention of some opposition figures and insecurity in parts of Africa's second most populous country.



**Reference-** <https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2021/7/10/ethiopias-ruling-party-wins-national-election-in-landslide>.

## Sher Bahadur Deuba becomes Nepal's Prime Minister for 5th time

**Question: Who has become the prime minister of Nepal recently?**

(a) Sher Bahadur Deuba (b) Abiy Ahmed (c) Edi Rama (d) KP Sharma Oli

**Answer: (a)**

**Related Facts:**

- Nepali Congress President Sher Bahadur Deuba on 13th July 2021 became the country's Prime Minister for the fifth time.
- President Bidya Devi Bhandari appointed him in accordance with Article 76(5) of the Constitution, The Himalayan Times reported.
- This is the fifth time that 74-year-old Deuba is returning to power as the Prime Minister of Nepal.
- His appointment is in line with the ruling issued by the Supreme Court on Monday to make way for his claim to premiership, replacing incumbent K P Sharma Oli.
- Previously, Deuba served as Nepal's Prime Minister four times from June 2017February 2018, June 2004February 2005, July 2001October 2002 and September 1995March 1997.



**Reference:** <https://indianexpress.com/article/world/sher-bahadur-deuba-becomes-nepals-prime-minister-for-5th-time-7402595/>

## China launches new satellite to improve weather forecast, monitor sea temperature

**Question: Which country has launched new satellite named Fengyun-3E(FY-3E) to improve weather forecast, monitor sea temperature?**

(a) China (b) India (c) North Korea (d) South Korea

**Answer: (a)**

**Related Facts:**

- A Long March-4C rocket carrying the FY-3E satellite lifts off from the Jiuquan Satellite Launch Center in northwest China, July 5, 2021.
- China launched a new meteorological satellite, Fengyun-3E (FY-3E), into planned orbit from the Jiuquan Satellite Launch Center in northwest China.
- The satellite is equipped with 11 advanced remote sensing payloads, with a designed lifespan of eight years.
- The satellite will mainly obtain data about temperature, humidity, and other meteorological parameters for numerical prediction applications, improving China's weather forecast capabilities.
- The satellite will also monitor the global snow and ice coverage, sea surface temperature, natural disasters, and environment to better respond to climate change and prevent and mitigate extreme weather events.
- It will also monitor solar and space environments and their effects on Earth. In addition, the satellite will help collect ionospheric data to meet the needs of space weather forecasts and supporting services.



- The FY-3E satellite is dubbed as a “dawn satellite,” as it will serve to glean meteorological observations in the early morning.
- It is also the world’s first meteorological satellite for civil service in a dawn-dusk orbit.
- A dawn-to-dusk orbit is a sun-synchronous orbit in which the satellite tracks but never moves into the Earth’s shadow.
- It will constellate with FY-3C and FY-3D satellites in orbit, making China the only country in the world that has succeeded in networking meteorological satellites positioned at three different
- Fengyun-3E is the 377th flight mission of the Long March carrier rocket series.

**Reference:** <https://news.cgtn.com/news/2021-07-05/China-launches-new-meteorological-satellite-11DL3xx57R6/index.html>

## BRICS countries agree to STI led Innovation Cooperation Action Plan proposed by India

**Question: Which organization/association has agreed to STI led Innovation Cooperation Action Plan proposed by India?**

(a) BRICS (b) SAARC (c) ASEAN (d) INSTC

**Answer: (a)**

**Related F acts:**

- Department of Science and Technology (DST), India, hosted the 12th Meeting of BRICS S&T Steering Committee on 8th July, 2021. Scientific ministries and agencies of all BRICS countries participated in it.
- All BRICS countries have agreed to the STI-led BRICS Innovation Cooperation Action Plan (2021-24) proposed by India during 12th Meeting of BRICS S&T Steering Committee.
- Indian had proposed the plan to facilitate sharing of experiences of each other’s innovation ecosystem and networking of innovators and entrepreneurs.
- The Details of the Action Plan would be worked out by BRICS Science, Technology Innovation Entrepreneurship partnership (STIEP) Working Group. It was agreed that the proposal may be forwarded to BRICS STIEP working group through the respective country’s STI focal point.
- The BRICS officials discussed in detail about the thematic areas for this year’s call for proposals at the meeting and unanimously agreed for collaboration in ten thematic areas.
- All countries agreed to thematic areas proposed by India for 6th edition of BRICS Young Scientist Conclave, which will be held in Bangalore during 13-16 September 2021. The three themes to be discussed at the conclave include Healthcare; Energy Solutions, Cyber-Physical System (CPS), and their applications.



**Reference:** <https://pib.gov.in/PressReleaseframePage.aspx?PRID=1734246>

## World’s biggest sandcastle constructed in Denmark

**Question- Which of the following country has been constructed the world’s tallest sandcastle?**

(a) Denmark (b) Germany (c) Spain (d) France



**Ans. (a)**

**Related facts-**

- The world's tallest sandcastle has been completed in Denmark, towering more than 20 metres high and comprising nearly 5,000 tonnes of sand, according to its designers.
- Standing 21.16 metres in height (69.4 feet), the castle is more than 3 metres taller than one built in Germany in 2019, which previously held the title, according to Guinness World Records.
- A total of 4,860 tonnes of sand make up the intricately decorated structure, which is reminiscent of a pyramid, in the small seaside town of Blokhus.
- Its Dutch creator, Wilfred Stijger, was assisted by 30 of the world's best sand sculptors.
- He said he wanted the castle to represent the power the coronavirus has had over the world since the beginning of the pandemic.
- On top of the sandcastle is a model of the virus wearing a crown.
- "It's ruling our lives everywhere," Stijger said. "It tells you what to do ... It tells you to stay away from your family and not go to nice places. Don't do activities, stay home."
- To make it more cohesive, the sand contains approximately 10% clay and a layer of glue was applied after it was completed so that it could stand up to the chilly and windy conditions of the autumn and winter.
- The castle is expected to stand until the heavy frost sets in, probably next February or March.



**Reference-** <https://www.theguardian.com/world/2021/jul/07/world-biggest-sandcastle-constructed-denmark>.

## NewsOnAir Radio Live-stream Global Rankings

**Question: Which country held the top rank in the NewsOnAir Radio Live-stream Global Rankings released recently?**

(a) United States (b) Fiji (c) Australia (d) United Kingdom

**Answer: (a)**

**Related facts:**

- NewsOnAir Radio Live-stream Global Rankings was released recently ranking countries where All India Radio (AIR) live-streams on NewsOnAir app are most popular.
- These rankings cover the rest of world excluding India.
- **Key Findings:**
  - United States continues to be number 1 spot.
  - Fiji has jumped to 2nd position from 5th earlier.
  - Australia, United Kingdom and Canada are at 3rd, 4th and 5th position respectively.

**NewsOnAir Radio**  
**Livestream Rankings**



- Saudi Arabia has made a comeback in top 10.
- Kuwait and Germany are new entrants, while France and New Zealand are no more in top 10.
- All India Radio's Telugu and Tamil live-stream services are popular in United States.
- AIR Punjabi service is popular in United Kingdom.
- **All India Radio:**
  - AIR is National Public Radio Broadcaster of India. Since 1956 is officially known as Akashvani.
  - Founded in 1936, it is a division of Prasar Bharati.
  - About 240 Radio Services of All India Radio are live-streamed on Prasar Bharati's official App, 'NewsOnAir App'.
  - These All-India Radio Streams on NewsOnAir App have huge number of listeners not just in India, but in more than 85 countries and 8000 cities worldwide.

**Links:**

<https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1733396>

## Haiti President Jovenel Moise assassinated at home

**Q. In July, 2021 which country's president got assassinated at his home?**

a) Cuba b) Jamaica c) Puerto Rico d) Haiti

**ANSWER:-d)**

**Related Facts:-**

- On July 7, 2021, Gunmen assassinated the President of Haiti Jovenel Moise and wounded his wife in their home. First Lady Martine Moïse was hospitalized following the overnight attack.
- The nation of more than 11 million people had grown increasingly unstable and disgruntled under Moïse.
- The incident has further inflicted more chaos on the unstable Caribbean country that was already enduring an escalation of gang violence, a recent surge in COVID-19 infections, and anti-government protests.
- **Who was President Jovenel Moise?**
- Jovenel Moise, a former entrepreneur who set up a string of businesses in the north of Haiti, where he hails from, burst onto the political stage in 2017 with a message and promise of re-building the impoverished nation.
- Moise had campaigned on populist pledges, as all the candidates in the country do, however, he kept up the rhetoric even after he was elected in February 2017.
- **Opposition against late President of Haiti:**
- The date of his election had become the source of the political stand-off.
- Moise had maintained that his term ran until February 7, 2022, but leaders in opposition had claimed that it ended on February 7, 2021, and were demanding him to step down.
- The disagreements on the Presidential term stemmed from the fact that Moise was elected in a vote that was canceled for fraud and then re-elected a year later.



- Without a Parliament, Haiti had fallen further into the crisis in 2020 which led to Jovenel Moise governing by decree, facilitating the growing mistrust against him.
- The President was also accused of inaction by the opposition in the face of the multiple crisis.
- **Accused of seeking more power:**
- The leaders in opposition had accused Moise of seeking to increase his power, including by approving a decree that had limited the powers of the court that audits government contracts. Another one was the creation of an intelligence agency that answers only to the President.
- The late President had faced large protests in recent months that had turned violent as the opposition leaders and their supporters rejected his plans of holding a constitutional referendum with the proposals that will strengthen his presidency.

#### LINK

<https://indianexpress.com/article/world/haiti-president-jovenel-moise-assassinated-7393578/>

## US troops quietly left Bagram Air Base without notifying Afghan command

**Question: Recently Bagram Air Base was in news. Where is it located?**

(a) India (b) Pakistan (c) United States of America (d) Afghanistan

**Answer: (d)**

**Related Facts:**

- Bagram Airfield-BAF also known as Bagram Air Base was the largest U.S. military base in Afghanistan.
- It is located next to the ancient city of Bagram, 11 kilometres (6.8 mi) southeast of Charikar in the Parwan Province of Afghanistan
- The Bagram base is key to the security of the Afghan capital.
- Kohistani insists his troops can hold the base from the Taliban and that he has “quite enough” soldiers.
- But with roughly 3,000 troops under his command, the figure is a tiny percentage of the number
- Bagram ultimately fell into the Taliban’s hands after they overran large swaths of the country in the mid-1990s.
- Following the September 11 attacks and the US invasion of Afghanistan, the Americans took control of the base and used it as the launching pad for air strikes against the Taliban and to protect Afghan force.



**Reference:** <https://www.france24.com/en/asia-pacific/20210706-us-troops-quietly-left-bagram-air-base-without-notifying-afghan-commander>

## Co-WIN Global Conclave

**Question: Who has inaugurated the Co-WIN Global Conclave recently?**

(a) Narendra Modi (b) Piyush Goyal (c) Dr. Harshvardhan (d) Meneka Gandhi

**Answer: (a)**

**Related Facts:**

- Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi inaugurated the Co-WIN Global Conclave.
- Indigenously Developed Co-WIN platform was presented to technology & health experts from 142 countries.
- “One Earth, One Health is the principle of guiding India’s humanitarian gesture as per PM Modi.
- Dr Harsh Vardhan, Union Minister of Health and Family Welfare chaired the inaugural session organized to share India’s learnings and experiences with regards to planning, strategizing and executing the world’s largest vaccination drive through Co-WIN.
- The Global Conclave was jointly organized by Ministry of Health & Family Welfare (MoHFW), Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) and National Health Authority (NHA) with an objective to extend the Co-WIN platform as a digital public good to the world.
- **Advantages:**
  - Co-WIN platform is the first of its kind software in the world developed by leading IT experts in India to implement the world’s largest immunization campaign against COVID-19.
  - It has enabled a transparent system to monitor each dose of vaccine supplied to vaccination facilities and recording the fulfilment of demand at a grassroot level.
  - Co-WIN being a dynamic platform, can accommodate any modifications.
  - ” Since its roll out, the Co-WIN platform has already become the fastest growing tech platform in the world.”
  - CoWIN platform is a technology backbone, enabler and force-multiplier.
  - At the start of the pandemic, all the States/UTs established robust protocols for surveillance, prevention, detection, and management of COVID-19.
  - A massive network of more than 10 Lakh frontline healthcare workers was mobilized to undertake micro-level testing and tracing strategies.



**Reference:** <https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1732897>

**Jacob Zuma**

**Question :** On 29 June 2021, the Constitutional Court of South Africa sentenced former President Jacob Zuma to 15 months in prison for his repeated failure to appear before a jury. Accordingly, which of the following is correct ?

- a. Zuma is accused of rigging during his presidency.
- b. Zuma is accused of rape during his presidency.
- c. Zuma is accused of spreading apartheid during his presidency.
- d. None of the above

**Ans. a.**

**Related facts —**

- South Africa’s top court has recently(3 July 2021) agreed to hear Zuma’s challenge to jail sentence.

- The former president has cited his age of 79, health reasons and other unspecified reasons to cancel the sentence.
- **Background —**
- On 29 June 2021, the Constitutional Court of South Africa sentenced former President Jacob Zuma to 15 months in prison for his repeated failure to appear before a jury.
- It is noteworthy that the 'Ahmed Kathrada Foundation' had campaigned for Zuma's removal from office and criminal prosecution of him.
- Zuma is the main accused in the corruption of fifty billion rand in which three Gupta brothers – Atul, Ajay and Rajesh are also allegedly involved.
- It is alleged that the Gupta brothers of Indian origin committed corruption because of their alleged closeness with them.
- It is also alleged that the Gupta brothers also benefitted two of Zuma's children, who are living in self-exile in Dubai.



**Link:**

<https://www.thehindu.com/news/international/south-africas-top-court-agrees-to-hear-zumas-challenge-to-jail-sentence/article35130792.ece>

### Arctic's 'Last Ice Area'

**Q. recently Arctic's 'Last Ice Area' was in news. Choose the correct answer regarding Arctic's Last Area.**

- a) Only place that would be able to withstand a warming climate
- b) Most coldest place on earth
- c) A new area recently found by scientist
- d) None of these

**ANSWER:- a)**

**RELATED FACTS:-**

- On the 1st July, 2021 a paper was published in the journal "Communication Earth Environment", researchers noted that in August 2020 the area where the Last Ice Area(LIA) is located experienced record low concentration of sea ice.
- A part of the Arctic's ice called "Last Ice Area", located north of Greenland, has melted before expected. Scientists had believed this area was strong enough to withstand global warming.
- **what is the Last Ice Area?**
- In an article published in 2015, the National Geographic noted that while climate projections forecast the total disappearance of summer ice in the Arctic by the year 2040.
- The only place that would be able to withstand a warming climate would be this area of ice called the "Last Ice Area".
- But while this piece of ice above northern Canada and Greenland was expected to last the longest time, it is now showing signs of melting.
- **Importance**



- The area is important because it was thought to be able to help ice-dependent species as ice in the surrounding areas melted away.
- The area is used by polar bears to hunt for seals who use ice to build dens for their offspring.

**Link:**

<https://www.nature.com/articles/s43247-021-00197-5>

## First smartcontract on Fesschain's block chain

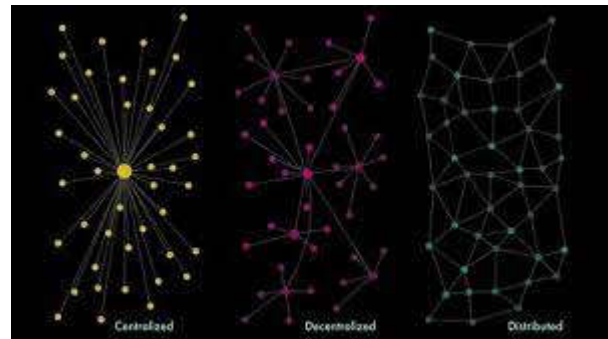
**Question : FESS Chain offers a super secured multi-layered blockchain with a unique authentication. First SmartContract on Fesschain's Blockchain has recently(July 2021) been Launched by its founder. Name the founder of the Fesschain ?**

a. Durga Prasad Tripathi b. Mohan Jaiswal c. Swapnil Khare d. Vijay Madaan

**Ans. a.**

**Related facts —**

- FESS Chain offers a super secured multi-layered blockchain with a unique authentication.
- First SmartContract on Fesschain's Blockchain has recently(July 2021) been Launched by its founder.
- In the PLO of Smart Contract, about eight thousand people have also subscribed to it.
- **Durga Prasad Tripathi —**
- Durga Prasad Tripathi, founder of the company(Fesschain), stated that-'the future belongs to the block chain technology'.
- It is noteworthy that Tripathi's startup Facechain has also launched India's first blockchain smartphone earlier.
- In cryptography, blocks mean a record of transactions until a transaction is completed.
- The investors should understand the technique with investment and must invest after properly understanding the technique.
- The moment smart contract was launched on Fesschain's block chain, people have liked it and 8,000 people already subscribed.



**Link:**

<https://www.dailypioneer.com/2021/state-editions/first-smartcontract-on-fesschain-s-block-chain-launched-8k-subscribed.html>

## Eye of Fire

**Question: An oceanic fire titled Eye of Fire erupted after breakage of underwater gas pipeline. Where did the fire originate?**

(a) Gulf of Mexico (b) Gulf of Oman (c) Gulf of Aden (d) Gulf of Alaska

**Answer: (a)**

**Related facts:**

- A fire on the ocean surface termed Eye of Fire erupted in the Gulf of Mexico, west of Mexico's Yucatan peninsula.
- The fire broke out after a gas leak in an undersea pipeline of state-owned oil company Petroleos Mexicanos or Pemex.
- The pipeline connects to a platform at Pemex's flagship Ku Maloob Zaap development. Ku Maloob Zaap is one of Pemex's most productive oilfields.
- It produces about 700,000 barrels of oil equivalent a day, or about 40 per cent of the company's total output.
- **Naming Eye of Fire:**
  - Bright orange flames jumping out of water resembling molten lava was dubbed an "eye of fire" on social media due to the blaze's circular shape.
- **Gulf of Mexico:**
  - The Gulf of Mexico is an ocean basin and a marginal sea of the Atlantic Ocean, largely surrounded by the North American continent.
  - It is one of the largest and oldest water bodies on Earth. It was formed in the late Triassic period, around 300 million years ago.
  - The Gulf of Mexico area, both onshore and offshore, is one of the most important regions for energy resources and infrastructure. In 2020, GOM crude oil production averaged 1.65 Million Barrels per Day.
  - Gulf of Mexico federal offshore oil production accounts for 17% of total U.S. crude oil production. Over 45% of total U.S. petroleum refining capacity is located along the Gulf coast, as well as 51% of total U.S. natural gas processing plant capacity.



**Links:**

<https://indianexpress.com/article/world/eye-of-fire-fire-rages-on-ocean-surface-near-mexico-watch-video-7387102/>

[https://www.eia.gov/special/gulf\\_of\\_mexico/](https://www.eia.gov/special/gulf_of_mexico/)

## Record Heat in Antarctica

**Q. Consider the following statement regarding Foehn wind.**

1. **Warm dry air motion downwind side of a mountain.**
2. **Cold wet air motion downwind side of a mountain.**

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

a) Only 1 b) Only 2 c) Both 1 & 2 d) None of these

ANSWER :- a)

Related Fact:

- On July 1, 2021 The United Nations' World Meteorological Organization recognized a new record high temperature for Antarctica. On February 6, 2020, the Esperanza station (the Argentine research station in Trinity Peninsula) experienced 18.3 degrees Celsius.
- The previous record for high temperature was 17.5 degrees Celsius, recorded on March 24, 2015, at the same station.
- Verification of this maximum temperature record is important because it helps us to build up a picture of the weather and climate in one of Earth's final frontiers.
- The Antarctic Peninsula is among the fastest-warming regions of the planet, almost 3°C over the last 50 years. This new temperature record is therefore consistent with the climate change that is taking place.
- The warming temperature and increasing strength of westerly winds can enhance the Antarctic ice sheet melting even in winter due to the Foehn wind effect,"
- Föhn or Foehn winds are generally categorized by warm dry air motion descending in the lee or downwind side of a mountain.
- When the wind hits the mountain in its way, it rises above and causes precipitation in the upwind side of the mountain, while the downwind side of the mountain becomes dry and warm.
- These winds can warm the surface air temperature in the downwind side by several degrees for a prolonged time.



**Link:**

<https://indianexpress.com/article/technology/science/un-agency-confirms-18-3-degrees-celsius-record-heat-in-antarctica-7386154/>

## Indian Ocean Navel Symposium (IONS)

**Q. Recently which country's navy hosted The 7th edition of Indian Ocean Navel Symposium (IONS)?**

(a) Indian navy (b) French navy (c) German navy (d) None Of The Above

**Answer:- (b)**

**Related Fact:**

- The 7th edition of Indian Ocean Naval Symposium (IONS), a biennial event, was hosted by the French Navy at La Réunion in Itly from 28 June to 01 July 2021.
- During the Symposium, SME presentations were made by French Institute of International Relations – Observatoire du Climat, European Union, Indian Ocean Commission, IFC Singapore, RMIFC Madagascar and EU led Critical Maritime Routes Indian Ocean (CRIMARIO).
- The Symposium also held panel discussions themed on the three IONS working Groups viz., HADR, Maritime Security and Information Sharing & Interoperability.



- IONS, The symposium was first held in 2008 with India as host, seeks to enhance maritime cooperation among Navies of the littoral states of the IOR by providing an open and inclusive forum for discussion of regionally relevant maritime issues that would lead to common understanding on the way ahead.
- The Navel Symposium consists of 23 permanent members and 9 other observer members.
- 6th IONS and Conclave of Chiefs (CoC) was conducted by Iran Navy in April 2018 at Tehran. Owing to the pandemic, the CoC 2021, will be hosted by French Navy later this year.

**Link:**

<https://www.aninews.in/news/world/asia/7th-indian-ocean-naval-symposium-at-la-reunion-concludes20210701213242/>

## Global Startup Ecosystem Index 2021

**Question:What is the rank of India in Global Startup Ecosystem Index 2021?**

(a) 12<sup>th</sup> (b) 13<sup>th</sup> (c) 20<sup>th</sup> (d) 13<sup>th</sup>

**Answer:(c)**

**Related Facts:**

- Global Startup Ecosystem Index 2021 is released by Startup Blink.
- India stands at the 20th spot among the top 100 countries.
- The country was in the 17th spot in 2019, after which it slid six spots down and stood at 23 in 2020.
- With this jump, India's start-up ecosystem makes a re-entry into the global top 20 countries again
- Last year, the US, the UK, Israel, Canada and Germany are in the top five spots this year too and continue their lead.



### ▪ **Facts Related to India:**

**Ranking of Indian Cities are as follows:**

- India currently has 43 of its cities in the top 1000 globally.
- Three countries are in top 20 list.
- Bengaluru is at 10th rank.
- New Delhi is at 14th rank .
- Mumbai is at 16th rank.

### ▪ **About Startup Blink:**

- Startup Blink considers “any business that applies an innovative solution.
- It validates a scalable economic model” as a start-up, and the innovation could be a business model, a product, a service or a process.
- The report has a score for each location, which is calculated as the sum of three parameters — quantity, quality and business environment.
- The quantity parameter comprises of elements such as number of start-ups, number of start-up related meet-ups, number of co-working spaces, number of accelerators, etc.
- The quality parameter, on the other hand, takes into consideration elements.

- These are such as number of employees per start-up, the presence of unicorns, exits and pantheon companies, global start-up events, presence of global start-up influencers, among other factors.
- The business score evaluates elements.
- The elements are ease of registering companies and doing business, internet speed and freedom, level of English proficiency, research and development investment, number of patents per capita, availability of various technology services such as payment portals, ride-sharing apps, cryptocurrency, etc.
- **How India can perform better?**
- According to the report, India needs to better its infrastructure and Internet speed in order to further strengthen its start-up ecosystem.
- It also stated that the start-ups must focus on finding innovative solutions that are adaptable across the world, instead of focussing on local markets alone.
- **Amazing Facts:**
- US. China, which is well known for its robust start-up environment, has only two of its cities listed in the top 20 — Beijing and Shanghai.
- Of the 43 Indian cities featured in the top 1,000 worldwide, there are nine new entrants that have entered the list this year, which include Visakhapatnam, Vijayawada, Raipur, Patna, Varanasi, Jamshedpur, Aurangabad, Udupi and Agra.

**Reference:** <https://www.thehindubusinessline.com/data-stories/data-focus/india-jumps-3-spots-up-in-global-start-up-ranking/article35038814.ece#:~:text=India%20stands%20at%20the%2020th,stood%20at%2023%20in%202020.>

## World must remove 1 billion tonnes CO<sub>2</sub> by 2025 to meet climate goal: Report

**Question- Consider the following statements-**

- (1) To meet the Paris target, the world will need to remove a billion tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub> from the atmosphere by 2025
- (2) The current pipeline of projects in development could remove only around 150 million tonnes of carbon by 2025.
- (3) The report, published by the Coalition for Negative Emissions (CNE) and consultancy firm McKinsey

**Select the correct answer using the code given below-**

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

**Ans. (d)**

**Related facts-**

- The report, released by the Coalition for Negative Emissions (CNE) and consultancy firm McKinsey, says that countries around the world will need to remove a billion tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub> from the atmosphere by 2025 to meet the Paris target and more than one billion tonnes annually thereafter.





- The report says, “Without action to deliver 1 Gigatonne (Gt) of negative emissions globally by 2025, keeping global warming within the Paris Agreement target of 1.5°C cannot be achieved.”
- The current pipeline of projects in development could remove only around 150 million tonnes of carbon by 2025. These projects include negative emission projects, which include bioenergy with technology to capture and store carbon emissions, technology to directly capture and store emissions from the air and natural climate solutions such as afforestation.
- However, currently, removal technology is expensive and while many countries around the world have initiatives in place to put a price on CO2 emissions, the prices are far too low to incentivise new projects.
- The report said that scaling up the technology would lead to lower costs, with a likely average cost of USD\$41-138 per tonne of CO2 removed by 2050.
- Meanwhile, this week, EU countries approved a law to reduce net EU emissions by 55% by 2030 from 1990 levels, and reach net-zero emissions by 2050.

**Reference-** <https://earth.org/world-must-remove-1bn-tonnes-of-carbon-by-2025-to-meet-climate-goals-report/>.

## Indian-origin American Abhimanyu Mishra becomes youngest ever chess Grandmaster

**Question- Who is become the youngest ever chess Grandmaster in the world?**

(a) Abhimanyu Mishra (b) Shahni Mishra (c) Abhinav kumar (d) Anurag Mishra

**Ans. (a)**

**Related facts-**

- 12-year-old Indian origin- American boy, Abhimanyu Mishra became the youngest-ever Grandmaster in chess on June 28, 2021. . Abhimanyu, who comes from New Jersey, broke the record of 12 years and 7 months set by GM Sergey Karjakin in 2002.
- Abhimanyu, who is 12 years, 4 months, and 25 days, picked up his third GM norm in Budapest after having already crossed the 2500 Elo rating barrier.
- He achieved the feat at the Vezerkepzo GM Mix tournament in Budapest.
- On August 12, 2002, Karjakin secured the Grandmaster title at the age of 12 years and 7 months. Mishra, born on February 5, 2009, secured the highest title in chess by defeating 15-year-old Indian GM Leon Luke Mendonca with the black piece.
- Abhimanyu Mishra had earlier broken the record of India's R Praggnanandhaa to become the youngest international master. Mishra won the title when he was 10 years, 9 months and 20 days in 2019, going past Praggnanandhaa who was 10 years, 10 months and 19 days when clinching the IM title.



**Reference-** <https://indianexpress.com/article/sports/chess/indian-origin-american-abhimanyu-mishra-youngest-ever-chess-grandmaster-7383520/>.

**Question: What is the rank of India in Global Cybersecurity Index 2020 released by International Telecommunication Union?**

(a) 10<sup>th</sup> (b) 12<sup>th</sup> (c) 8<sup>th</sup> (d) 24<sup>th</sup>

**Answer: (a)**

**Related facts:**

- International Telecommunication Union (ITU) has released the Global Cybersecurity Index (GCI) 2020.
- The index measures 194 countries towards their commitment to cybersecurity at a global level. It includes raising awareness of the importance and different dimensions of the cybersecurity issue.
- GCI 2020 is the fourth edition of the annual index.
- Parameters taken into account:
  - Each country's level of development or engagement is assessed along five pillars – (i) Legal Measures, (ii) Technical Measures, (iii) Organizational Measures, (iv) Capacity Development, and (v) Cooperation – and then aggregated into an overall score.
- 2020 Index rankings:
  - India is ranked at 10th position with aggregate score of 97.5.
  - Top position is held by United States of America.
  - Second spot is held jointly by United Kingdom and Saudi Arabia.
  - Estonia was ranked third in the index.



**Links:**

<https://www.itu.int/en/myitu/Publications/2021/06/28/13/22/Global-Cybersecurity-Index-2020>

## Economics

### RBI : Loans and Advances – Regulatory Restrictions

**Question : RBI has recently (July 2021) overhauled rules for extending loans to directors of other banks and relatives of directors. Accordingly, how much amount of personal loans allows to other banks' directors without board approval ?**

- a. Up to 5 crore rupees b. Up to 7 crore rupees c. Up to 8 crore rupees  
d. Up to 3 crore rupees

**Ans. a.**

**Related facts —**

- RBI has recently (July 2021) overhauled rules for extending loans to directors of other banks and relatives of directors.
- Accordingly, RBI allows personal loans up to rupees 5 crore allows to other banks' directors without board approval.



- **Enhancement —**

- Now banks can sanction personal loans up to Rs 5 crore to directors of other banks without the approval of their boards.
- Earlier this limit was Rs 25 lakh.

- **Applicability —**

- The regulations apply to directors, including the Chairman/Managing Director, of other banks, any firm in which they are interested as a partner or guarantor, or any company in which they hold substantial interest or is interested as a director or as a guarantor.

- **Background —**

- Along with the statutory ban on banks lending to their own directors/relatives of directors in July 2015, RBI mandated that loans of Rs 25 lakh or more be sanctioned only with the approval of the Board of Directors/Management Committee.

**Link:**

<https://www.rbi.org.in/scripts/NotificationUser.aspx?Id=12132&Mode=0>

## Cairn arbitration: Govt confirms French court order against Indian assets

**Question: Consider the following statements:**

- i) In December 2020, a three-member tribunal at the Permanent Court of Arbitration in the Netherlands ruled against India in its long-running tax dispute with the U.K.-based oil and gas company Cairn Energy.
- ii) The Netherlands, France, and Canada are the other three countries.
- iii) Recently a French court has ordered freezing of certain Indian assets in Paris on a petition by Britain's Cairn Energy, which is seeking to recover USD 1.72 billion from New Delhi.

**Which of the above are correct?**

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

**Ans: c**

**Context**



- The Indian government on 27th July 2021 has confirmed that a French court has ordered the freezing of certain Indian assets in Paris on a petition by Britain's Cairn Energy, which is seeking to recover USD 1.72 billion from New Delhi after winning an arbitration against retro tax.

- **Related Facts**

**What is the dispute?**

- In the Union Budget of 2012, the Income Tax Act, 1961 was amended to make sure that even if a transfer of shares of a company takes place outside India, such a transfer can be taxed.
- This was done when the value of those shares is based on assets in India. And this was applied retrospectively.

- This was used to tax Cairn India which was set up by Cairn Energy ( in 2006 and got listed in India in 2007) by transferring all of its Indian assets into it. Tax demand was put on retrospective basis by tax authorities in India.
- But the tax authorities claimed that in the process of this reorganization, Cairn Energy had made capital gains worth ₹24,500 crores.
- This was challenged and a three-member international arbitration tribunal that consisted of one judge appointed by India, had in December last year unanimously overturned the levy of taxes on Cairn retrospectively and ordered refund of shares sold, dividend confiscated and tax refunds withheld to recover such demand.

**Refernece:** [https://www.business-standard.com/article/economy-policy/cairn-arbitration-govt-confirms-french-court-order-against-indian-assets-121072700818\\_1.html](https://www.business-standard.com/article/economy-policy/cairn-arbitration-govt-confirms-french-court-order-against-indian-assets-121072700818_1.html)

## Women unemployment rate falls to 4.2% in 2019-20

**Question: Consider the following statements:**

- Unemployment rate for women fell to 4.2 per cent in 2019-20 from 5.1 per cent in 2018-19, according to Periodic Labour Force Survey (PLFS) conducted by National Statistical Office.
- The NSO is a wing of the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation.
- This data is from the third Annual Report brought out by NSO on the basis of Periodic Labour Force Survey conducted during July 2019-June 2020.

**Which of the above are correct?**

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

**Ans: c**

**Context**

- Minister of State for Labour and Employment Rameshwar Teli has informed the Lok Sabha on 26th July 2021, about the findings of PLFS.

### ▪ **Related Facts**

- Unemployment rate for women fell to 4.2 per cent in 2019-20 from 5.1 per cent in 2018-19.
- As per the PLFS for 2019-20, of the total employment generated (in person days) in the 2020-21 under MGNREGS, women's share has increased to around 207 crore person days.
- **Efforts by government to increase women's share in labour force**



- A number of protective provisions have been incorporated in the labour laws for creating congenial work environment for women workers. These includes:
  - Enhancement in paid maternity leave from 12 weeks to 26 weeks,
  - Provision for mandatory crche facility in the establishments having 50 or more employees, permitting women workers in the night shifts with adequate safety measures, etc.
- The government has allowed employment of women in the aboveground mines including opencast workings between 7 pm and 6 am and in below ground working between 6 am and 7 pm in technical, supervisory and managerial work where continuous presence may not be required.

- Government is also providing training to women through a network of Women Industrial Training institutes, National Vocational Training Institutes and Regional Vocational Training Institutes.
- **About PLFS**
- The Periodic Labour Force Survey (PLFS) was designed with two major objectives for measurement of employment and unemployment.
- It provides an overview of India's Population, Labor force and Employment at state, cluster and districts levels using PLFS data.
- Data is compiled on annual basis, current report consist of data of 2019-20.
- Data is compiled by National Statistics Office which works under the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation.

**Reference:** [https://www.business-standard.com/article/economy-policy/women-unemployment-rate-falls-to-4-2-in-2019-20-from-5-1-in-2018-19-121072701566\\_1.html](https://www.business-standard.com/article/economy-policy/women-unemployment-rate-falls-to-4-2-in-2019-20-from-5-1-in-2018-19-121072701566_1.html)

## IMF cuts India's GDP growth forecast

**Question: What is the new GDP forecast rate of India's economy as per International Monetary Fund (IMF) recent report?**

a) 10% b) 9.8% C) 9.5% D) 9%

**Ans: c**

**Context**



- On 27th July 2021, IMF has cut down India's GDP forecast to 9.5% for fiscal year of 2021-22.
- **Facts**
- IMF in its report has cut down its economic growth forecast for India to 9.5% for the fiscal year to March 31, 2022 as the onset of a severe second COVID-19 wave.
- It is lower than the earlier forecast of 12.5% announced by IMF for the same fiscal year.
- IMF joins a host of global and domestic agencies which have cut India's growth estimates for the current fiscal.

Agency /Organisation	Growth Forecast	Fiscal year
S&P Global Ratings	9.5%	2021-22
World Bank	8.3 %	2021-22
Asian Development Bank	10%	2021-22
Moody's	9.3%	2021-22



- Overall, the global economy is projected to grow 6 % in 2021 and 4.9 % in 2022.
- Faster-than expected vaccination rates and return to normalcy have led to upgrades, while lack of access to vaccines and renewed waves of COVID-19 cases in some countries, notably India, have led to downgrades

**Reference:** <https://www.thehindu.com/business/Economy/imf-cuts-indias-gdp-growth-forecast-to-95-for-fy22/article35564592.ece>

## IFC gives \$250-million loan to HDFC for affordable housing

**Q. Recently which finance company has extended loan of \$250 million to HDFC Ltd. to boost affordable housing finance in India?**

- a) Asian Development Bank b) African Development Bank c) World Bank  
d) International Finance Corporation

**ANSWER:- d)**

**RELATED FACTS:-**

- International Finance Corporation (IFC), the investment arm of the World Bank group, has extended a loan of \$250 million to HDFC Ltd to boost affordable housing finance in India.
- At least 25 per cent of the financing has been earmarked for green affordable housing, which is likely to encourage this market in India.
- Green housing is regarded as a luxury market in the country, but has climate benefits.
- Green affordable housing can help India on its path to deliver on its commitments under the Paris Agreement, to reduce a third of its carbon emissions by 2030 from 2005 levels.
- Green and energy-efficient housing can help cut emissions, as residential housing accounts for about 24 percent of the nation's electricity consumption.



**LINK**

<https://indianexpress.com/article/business/ifc-gives-250-million-loan-to-hdfc-for-affordable-housing-7422038/>

## Wholesale Price Index

**Question: Recently there was a news of releasing of Wholesale Price Index . Wholesale Price Index is released by which of the following?**

- (a) Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade  
(b) Department of Space (c) Department of Drinking Water and Sanitation  
(d) None of these

**Answer : (a)**

**Related Facts:**

- The Office of Economic Adviser, Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade is released index numbers of Wholesale Price in India (Base Year: 2011-12) for the month of



May, 2021 (Provisional) and for the month of March, 2021 (Final) .

- Provisional figures of Wholesale Price Index (WPI) are released on the 14th of every month (or next working day) with a time lag of two weeks of the reference month based on data compiled from institutional sources and selected manufacturing units across the country.
- After 10 weeks, the index is finalized and final figures are released.
- The annual rate of inflation, based on monthly WPI, was 12.94% (Provisional) for the month of May, 2021 (over May, 2020) as compared to -3.37% in May 2020.
- The high rate of inflation in May 2021 is primarily due to low base effect and rise in prices of crude petroleum, mineral oils viz. petrol, diesel, naphtha, furnace oil etc. and manufactured products as compared the corresponding month of the previous year.
- The annual change in the components of WPI index and inflation in the last three months is given below.

**Reference:** <https://pib.gov.in/PressReleaselframePage.aspx?PRID=1726879>

## Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board of India amends the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board of India

**Question : Recently Government of India has amended Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board of India (Insolvency Resolution Process for Corporate Persons) Regulations, 2016. It will be effective from which date ?**

(a) 14th July, 2021 (b) 14th July, 2021 (c) 14th July, 2021 (d) 14th July, 2021

**Answer :(a)**

**Related Facts:**

- The Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board of India (IBBI) notified the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board of India (Insolvency Resolution Process for Corporate Persons) (Second Amendment) Regulations, 2016 on 14th July, 2021.

- **Highlights:**

- The amendment regulations enhance the discipline, transparency, and accountability in corporate insolvency proceedings:

- a. A corporate debtor (CD) may have changed its name or registered office address prior to commencement of insolvency. The stakeholders may find it difficult to relate to the new name or registered office address and consequently fail to participate in the CIRP. The amendment requires an insolvency professional (IP) conducting CIRP to disclose all former names and registered office address(es) so changed in the two years preceding the commencement of insolvency along with the current name and registered office address of the CD, in all its communications and records.
- b. The interim resolution professional (IRP) or resolution professional (RP) may appoint any professional, including registered valuers, to assist him in discharge of his duties in conduct of the CIRP. The amendment provides that the IRP/RP may appoint a professional, other than registered valuers, if he is of the opinion that the services of such professional are required and such services are not available with the CD. Such appointments shall be made on an arm's length



basis following an objective and transparent process. The invoice for fee shall be raised in the name of the professional and be paid into his bank account.

- c. The RP is duty bound to find out if a CD has been subject to avoidance transactions, namely, preferential transactions, undervalued transactions, extortionate credit transactions, fraudulent trading and wrongful trading, and file applications with the Adjudicating Authority seeking appropriate relief. This not only claws back the value lost in such transactions increasing the possibility of reorganisation of the CD through a resolution plan, but also disincentivises such transactions preventing stress to the CD. For effective monitoring, the amendment requires the RP to file Form CIRP 8 on the electronic platform of the Board, intimating details of his opinion and determination in respect of avoidance transactions. The IBBI has specified the format of CIRP 8 through a Circular issued yesterday. This Form needs to be filed in respect of every CIRP ongoing or commencing on or after 14th July, 2021.

**Note :**

- The amended regulations are effective from 14th July, 2021.

**Reference:** <https://pib.gov.in/PressReleaseDetailm.aspx?PRID=1737438>

## Indian Finance Ministry officer among 25 global tax experts appointed to UN tax committee

**Question- Who among the following has been appointed as a member of the UN tax committee for the 2021 to 2025 term?**

- (a) Rasmi Ranjan das (b) Rajshekhar (c) Tanmay Kumar (d) Suman chatterjee

**Ans. (a)**

**Related facts-**

- Rasmi Ranjan Das, a Joint Secretary in the Ministry of Finance, has been appointed as a member of the UN tax committee for the 2021 to 2025 term.
- Das is among the tax experts from around the world who has been appointed as a member of the UN tax committee.
- The committee, formally known as the UN Committee of Experts on International Cooperation in Tax Matters, guides countries' efforts to advance stronger and more forward-looking tax policies adapted to the realities of globalised trade and investment.
- It assists countries in their efforts to prevent double or multiple taxations as well as non-taxation, broaden their tax base, strengthen their tax administrations, and curb international tax evasion and avoidance.
- Das is Joint Secretary – (FT&TR-I), Central Board of Direct Taxes, Department of Revenue, Ministry of Finance.
- Other members of the UN Tax Committee appointed by UN Secretary-General António Guterres hail from countries such as Nigeria, Chile, South Korea, Malawi, Mexico, Ireland, Indonesia, Myanmar, Angola, Russia, Canada, Norway, Germany, Italy, Sweden and China.



- The Committee gives special focus to developing countries and their policy environment and a majority of the newly appointed members come from developing countries.
- For the first time since its inception, the Committee has a majority of women experts.
- The UN Tax Committee fosters international cooperation on domestic and international tax matters and works closely with observers from government, civil society, business and academia, to develop guidance and encourage an inclusive setting of norms and policies.

**By- Yogesh Pratap Singh**

**Reference-** <https://www.livemint.com/news/india/finmin-officer-rasmi-r-das-among-25-global-experts-appointed-to-un-tax-committee-11626927967233.html>.

## Urban unemployment rate at 20.8% in the Q1 of 2020

**Question: Consider the following statements:**

**i) As per the Annual Periodic Labour Force Survey (PLFS) ,Quarterly Bulletin April-June 2020, quarterly unemployment rate in urban areas for persons of age 15 years and above in the country for April-June 2020 was 20.8%.**

**ii) PLFS on employment and unemployment is conducted by National Statistical Office (NSO), Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation.**

**Which of the above are correct?**

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

**Ans: c**

**Context**

- On July 19, 2021, Labour minister Bhupender Yadav has said that Urban India witnessed an unemployment rate of 20.8% in the quarter of April-June 2020.
- **Related Facts**
- According to the Periodic Labour Force Survey (PLFS) Quarterly bulletin April-June 2020, quarterly unemployment rate for the quarters ending July-Sep 2019, Oct-Dec 2019, Jan-March 2020 and April-June 2020 were 8.3%, 7.8%, 9.1% and 20.8% respectively.
- As per the ministry, the complete employment or unemployment situation of the country can only be assessed only from the survey data for the full year covering both the urban and rural areas.
- The annual PLFS data is available up to the year 2018-19. As per that result, the unemployment rate in the country during 2017-18 and 2018-19 was 6.0% and 5.8%, respectively.
- **Initiative taken by government to boost employment**
- Aatmanirbhar Bharat Rojgar Yojana (ABRY): This scheme is being implemented by the Employees Provident Fund Organization (EPFO). For the companies having up to 1000 employees the government will pay both the employees' contribution (12%) and the employers' contribution (12%) i.e. 24% of the wages towards Employee Provident Fund. For the companies having more than 1000 employees, the government will pay only the employees' share of EPF contribution which is 12% towards Employee Provident Fund. This will be done for a period of 2 years.

- PM- SVANidhi Scheme has facilitated collateral free working capital loan upto Rs.10,000/- for one-year tenure to street vendors, to help them resume their businesses during the post Covid period.
- Pradhan Mantri Mudra Yojana (PMMY) is being implemented by the Government inter alia, for facilitating self-employment. Under PMMY collateral free loans upto Rs. 10 lakh, are extended to micro/small business enterprises and to individuals to enable them to setup or expand their business activities.

**Reference:** <https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1736733>

## Government launches National Logistics Excellence Awards

**Question: On 19 July 2021 , Government of India announced National Logistics Excellence Awards**

**to be given in the recognition of the various players involved in the logistics supply chain in the country. Which ministry will be the nodal ministry for the award?**

- a) Ministry of Shipping b) Ministry of Finance c) Ministry of Commerce & Industry  
d) None of the above

**Ans: c**

**Facts**

- The Awards will give due recognition to various players involved in the logistics supply chain.
- The awards are in two categories, the first group includes logistics infrastructure and service providers and second one is for various user industries.
- The awards will highlight best practices including consolidation, process standardisation, technological upgrade, digital transformations, and sustainable practices.

**Reference:** <https://www.pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1736822>

## RBI nod to Equitas Small Finance Bank

**Question : Recently (July 2021) Equitas Small Finance Bank(SFB) has got the approval of RBI. Accordingly, which of the following statement is correct ?**

- a. SFB gets nod to merge its promoter(Equitas Holdings) with itself  
b. SFB gets nod to merge A U Small Finance Bank with itself  
c. SFB gets nod to merge Capital Small Finance Bank with itself  
d. None of the above

**Ans. a.**

**Related facts —**

- Recently (July 2021) Equitas Small Finance Bank(SFB) has got the approval of RBI. Accordingly, SFB gets nod to merge its promoter(Equitas Holdings) with itself.
- It is notable that as per the SFB licensing guidelines of RBI, a promoter of SFB can exit or cease to be a promoter after the mandatory initial lock-in period of five years (initial promoter lock-in) depending on RBI's





regulatory and supervisory comfort and SEBI regulations at that time.

- In the case of Equitas Small Finance Bank, the said initial promoter lock-in period expires on September 4, 2021.
- Hence, the bank had requested RBI if a scheme of amalgamation of the company with the bank, resulting in the exit of the promoter, can be submitted to RBI for approval, prior to the expiry of the said five years, to take effect after the initial promoter lock-in expires.

**Link:**

<https://bfsi.economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/banking/equitas-sfb-gets-rbi-nod-to-apply-for-amalgamation-of-promoter-into-itself/84295456>

## Framework for setting up ITFS platform released by IFSCA

**Question: In which of the following year IFSCA was established?**

a) April 2020 b) February 2019 c) March 2021 d) None of these

**Answer: (a)**

**Related Facts:-**

- On 12 July 2021; the International Financial Services Centres Authority (IFSCA) released a framework.
- The framework is for setting up and operating an international trade finance services platform (ITFS).
- It will provide trade finance services at international financial services centres (IFSCs).
- It will also enable exporters and importers to avail various types of trade finance facilities at competitive terms, for their international trade transactions.
- According to an official statement the framework will function through a dedicated electronic platform ITFS.
- This will help in their ability to convert their trade receivables into liquid funds and to obtain short-term funding, IFSCA said.
- **This framework will provide an opportunity to the participants to avail trade finance facilities for trade transactions such as-**
  - Export invoice trade financing
  - Reverse trade financing,
  - Bill discounting under letter of credit,
  - Supply chain finance for exporters,
  - Export credit (packing credit), insurance/ credit guarantee,
  - Factoring and any other eligible product, on the ITFS platform
- IFSCA was established in April 2020 under the International Financial Services Centres Authority Act, 2019.
- It is headquartered at GIFT City, Gandhinagar, Gujarat.
- IFSCA is a unified authority for the development and regulation of financial products, financial services and financial institutions at the International Financial Services Centre (IFSC) in India.
- Currently, GIFT IFSC is the maiden international financial services centre in India.



**Link:**

[https://www.business-standard.com/article/economy-policy/ifsca-issues-norms-for-setting-up-operating-itfs-to-provide-trade-finance-121071201075\\_1.html](https://www.business-standard.com/article/economy-policy/ifsca-issues-norms-for-setting-up-operating-itfs-to-provide-trade-finance-121071201075_1.html)

## Global rating agency Standard and Poor's affirms India's sovereign rating at 'BBB-', keeps outlook stable

**Question: Consider the following statements:**

i) Global rating agency Standard and Poor's has kept India's sovereign rating at "BBB-"

ii) It has maintained a stable outlook for Indian economy with gradual recovery.

**Which of the above two are correct?**

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

**Ans: c**

**Facts**

- Global rating agency Standard and Poor's affirmed India's sovereign rating at "BBB-" and maintained a stable outlook on the gradual recovery in the economy.
- As per the agency, India's recovery will gain pace through the second half of fiscal 2022 and into the following year.
- This will stabilise the country's overall credit profile.

**Reference:** [https://www.business-standard.com/article/current-affairs/top-headlines-s-p-keeps-india-s-rating-at-bbb-pm-interacts-with-athletes-121071301214\\_1.html](https://www.business-standard.com/article/current-affairs/top-headlines-s-p-keeps-india-s-rating-at-bbb-pm-interacts-with-athletes-121071301214_1.html)

## UN World Food Program (WFP) partners with Rajasthan to improve Targeted Public Distribution System

**Question: Which state government has partnered with UN WFP to improve targeted Public Distribution System (PDS) in the state?**

a) Rajasthan b) Uttar Pradesh c) Madhya Pradesh d) None of the above

**Ans: b**

**Context**

- The United Nations World Food Programme (WFP) in India and the Rajasthan government have joined hands to improve the Targeted Public Distribution System (TDPS) in the state.
- **Facts**
  - An agreement in this regard was signed on 12th July 2021.
  - The partnership entails, among other things, the use of digitisation, data aggregation and performance dashboards for monitoring of the TDPS.
  - It will also provide a real-time and long-term solution to improve the food and nutritional security for millions in the state.
  - This partnership is part of a wider strategic Memorandum of Understanding signed late last year between WFP and Rajasthan Government.



**Reference:** [https://www.business-standard.com/article/economy-policy/wfp-partners-with-rajasthan-to-improve-targeted-public-distribution-system-121071300866\\_1.html](https://www.business-standard.com/article/economy-policy/wfp-partners-with-rajasthan-to-improve-targeted-public-distribution-system-121071300866_1.html)

## NPCI International arm extends BHIM UPI payments system to Bhutan

**Question: Which country has become the first country in the world to adopt Unified Payment Interface (UPI) standards of India for its quick response (QR) code for money transaction?**

a) Bhutan b) USA c) China d) Pakistan

**Ans: a**

**Context**



- Royal Monetary Authority (RMA) of Bhutan and NPCI International Payments Ltd. (NIPL), international arm of National Payment Corporation of India (NPCI) has joined hands for implementing BHIM UPI in Bhutan.
- Services are rolled out from 13th July 2021.
- With this Bhutan after Singapore has become the second country to have BHIM-UPI acceptance at merchant locations.
- **Facts**
- The collaboration between NIPL and RMA will enable acceptance of Unified Payments Interface (UPI) powered BHIM App in Bhutan.
- This will make Bhutan first country in the world to adopt Unified Payment Interface (UPI) standards of India for its QR deployment.
- Bhutan will also become the only country to both issue and accept RuPay cards as well as accept BHIM UPI.
- Over 2lakhs tourist from India who visit Bhutan will benefit from this facility.
- **About UPI**
- Unified Payments Interface (UPI) is an instant real-time payment system, allowing users to transfer money on a real-time basis, across multiple bank accounts without disclosing details of one's bank account to the other party.
- **About NPCI**
- The National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) is an umbrella organisation for operating retail payments and settlement systems under the ownership of Reserve Bank of India in India.
- It was established by RBI and Indian Banks' Association in 2008 and is a not-for-profit organization.
- It is owned by a consortium of major banks, and has been promoted by the country's central bank, the Reserve Bank of India.

**Reference:** <https://www.thehindu.com/business/npci-arm-to-extend-bhim-upi-payments-system-to-bhutan/article35310936.ece>

## Retail Direct Scheme of RBI

**Question: Consider the following statements regarding Retail Direct Scheme of RBI:**

- i) Through RBI's Retail Direct scheme, a retail investor will be able to bid in G-Secs auctions and buy them in the secondary market as well.  
 ii) Retail investors will need to open and maintain a Retail Direct Gilt Account (RDG Account) with RBI to access its G-Sec platform.  
 iii) NDS-OM platform is RBI's platform for buying and selling G-Secs and other money market instruments in the secondary market.  
 Which of the above statements are correct?

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

Ans: c

Context



- In one of its recent notification RBI has decided to let retail investors directly buy and sell government securities (G-Secs) on its platform.
- **Facts**
- Through RBI's Retail Direct scheme, an investor would be able to bid in G-Secs auctions and buy them in the secondary market as well.
- Retail investors will need to open and maintain a Retail Direct Gilt Account (RDG Account) with RBI to access its G-Sec platform.
- Investors can open the account through an online portal (RBI Retail Direct portal) meant for retail investors.
- Through the portal, Retail investors can access the auctions and the NDS-OM platform — the RBI platform for buying and selling G-Secs and other money market instruments in the secondary market.
- To open an RDG Account, a retail investor should have a savings bank account, PAN (Permanent Account Number), KYC (Know Your Customer) documents, a valid email address and a mobile number. The RDG account can be held either by one person or jointly.
- Only those non-residents retail investors eligible to invest in G-Secs will be allowed to open the RDG Account.
- **About G-Secs**
- Government securities are government debt issuances used to fund daily operations, and special infrastructure and military projects.
- They guarantee the full repayment of invested principal at the maturity of the security and often pay periodic coupon or interest payments.
- They are considered to be risk-free as they have the backing of the government that issued them.

**Reference:** <https://www.livemint.com/money/personal-finance/heres-how-retail-investors-can-buy-g-secs-directly-from-rbi-11626104515576.html>

## Sovereign Gold Bond Scheme 2012-Series-IV

**Q. Consider the following statement regarding the Sovereign gold bond scheme.**

1. it was launched in the year of 2015.

2. **it's one of the objectives is to reduce the demand for physical gold.**

**Which statement/s is/are true?**

a) ONLY 1 b) ONLY 2 c) BOTH 1 AND 2 d) NONE OF THESE

**ANSWER:- C)**

**Related Facts:-**

- On July 9th, 2021 Reserve Bank of India said that The issue price for Sovereign Gold Bond Scheme 2021-22, which will open for subscription for five days from July 12, has been fixed at Rs 4,807 per gram of gold.
- Sovereign Gold Bonds 2021-22 (Series IV) will be opened for the period July 12-16, 2021 with Settlement date July 20, 2021.
- The Government of India in consultation with the Reserve Bank of India has decided to allow discount of Rs 50 (Rupees Fifty only) per gram from the issue price to those investors who apply online and the payment is made through digital mode.
- The scheme was launched in November 2015 with an objective to reduce the demand for physical gold and shift a part of the domestic savings — used for the purchase of the yellow metal — into financial savings.



**LINK**

[https://www.rbi.org.in/scripts/BS\\_PressReleaseDisplay.aspx?prid=51879](https://www.rbi.org.in/scripts/BS_PressReleaseDisplay.aspx?prid=51879)

## India expands mango export footprint; GI certified Fazli mango shipped to Bahrain

**Question : Which place in India holds GI tag for Fazli mango which was recently exported to Bahrain?**

- a) Malda, West Bengal b) Malhibad , Uttar Pradesh c) Nasik ,Maharashtra  
d) None of the above

**Ans: a**

**Context**

- On 10th July 2021, Fazli mango variety from Malda, West Bengal has been exported to Bahrain.
- **Facts**
- Fazli Mango is GI (geographical indicator) tagged variety from Malda district of West Bengal.
- The consignment of Fazil mango was exported by APEDA registered DM enterprises, Kolkata and imported by Al Jazira group, Bahrain.
- **About GI Tag**
- A geographical indication or GI is a sign used on products that have a specific geographical origin and possess qualities or a reputation that are due to that origin.
- They are part of the intellectual property rights that comes under the Paris Convention for the Protection of Industrial Property.



- GI tag in India is governed by Geographical Indications of Goods (Registration & Protection) Act, 1999. It is issued by the Geographical Indications Registry (Chennai).
- It provides legal protection to Indian Geographical Indications thus preventing unauthorized use of the registered GIs by others.
- It promotes economic prosperity of producers of goods produced in a geographical territory.
- The GI protection in India leads to recognition of the product in other countries thus boosting exports.
- **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.
- APEDA has been initiating measures to boost mango exports from the non-traditional regions and states.
- It has been conducting virtual buyer-seller meets and festivals to promote mango exports.
- Earlier APEDA organized a mango promotion programme at Doha, Qatar where nine varieties of mangoes including GI certified from West Bengal & Uttar Pradesh were displayed at the stores of importer Family Food Centre.
- The nine varieties which were exported includes GI certified Khirsapati (Malda, West Bengal), Lakkhanbhog (Malda, West Bengal), Fazli (Malda, West Bengal), Dusshheri (Malihabad, Uttar Pradesh) and Amrapali and Chausa (Malda, West Bengal) and Langda (Nadiya, West Bengal).

**Reference:** <https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1734405>

## Revenue Deficit Grant of Rs. 9, 871 crore released to 17 States

**Question: Consider the following statements:**

**(1) Department of Expenditure has released 4th installment of Revenue Deficit Grant of Rs. 9,871.00 crore to 15 States**

**(2) The Centre provides the Post Devolution Revenue Deficit Grant to the States under Article 275 of the Constitution**

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

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

**Answer: (b)**

**Related facts:**

- On 7 July 2021, the Department of Expenditure, Ministry of Finance, has released the 4th monthly installment of Post Devolution Revenue Deficit (PDRD) Grant of Rs. 9,871.00 crore to the 17 States.
- Summing the fresh release, a total amount of Rs. 39,484.00 crore has been released to eligible States as Post Devolution Revenue Deficit Grant in the current financial year.
- **Constitutional aspect:**



- The Centre provides the Post Devolution Revenue Deficit Grant to the States under Article 275 of the Constitution.
- The grants are released as per the recommendation of the Finance Commission in monthly installments to meet the gap in Revenue Accounts of the States post-devolution (of the divisible tax pool of the Centre).
- The 15th Finance Commission has recommended post devolution revenue deficit grants amounting to about Rs. 3 trillion over the five-year period ending FY26.
- The number of states qualifying for the revenue deficit grants decreases from 17 in FY22, the first year of the award period to 6 in FY26, the last year.
- The eligibility of States to receive this grant and the quantum of grant was decided by the Commission based on the gap between assessment of revenue and expenditure of the State.
- **Progression made in FY 2021-22:**
  - The Fifteenth Finance Commission has recommended a total Post Devolution Revenue Deficit Grant of Rs. 1,18,452 crore to 17 States in the financial year 2021-22.
  - Out of this, an amount of Rs. 39,484 crore (33.33%) has been released so far in 4 installments.
  - The States recommended for PDRD Grant by the Fifteenth Finance Commission are: Andhra Pradesh, Assam, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Karnataka, Kerala, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland, Punjab, Rajasthan, Sikkim, Tamil Nadu, Tripura, Uttarakhand and West Bengal.
- **Article 275:**
  - Article 275 of constitution provides for payment of amount that Parliament may provide as grants-in aid to States which are in need of assistance.
  - Grants are paid out of Consolidated Fund of India each year. Different sums are fixed for different States.

#### Links:

<https://pib.gov.in/PressReleaselframePage.aspx?PRID=1725539>

### Centre merges dept of enterprises with finance ministry

**Question: Which department was merged with union finance ministry recently by the central government?**

- (a) Department of Science and Technology (b) Department of Personnel and Training  
(c) Department of Expenditure (d) Department of Enterprise

**Answer: (d)**

#### Related Facts:

- The finance ministry was expanded on July 7, 2021 with the addition of a new department – the Department of Public Enterprises (DPE), which so far was part of the Ministry of Heavy Industries and Public Enterprises.
- With this, the finance ministry now has six departments.
- The finance ministry already has five departments – Department of Economic Affairs, Department of Expenditure, Department of Revenue, Department of



Investment and Public Asset Management (DIPAM) and Department of Financial Services.

▪ **Benefits of this measures:**

- The reorganisation is expected to make co-ordination between DPE and DIPAM much easier.
- DPE will be responsible for annual survey of public enterprises residual work relating to erstwhile Bureau of Public Enterprises including industrial management pool; coordination, evaluation and monitoring the performance of PSEs including the memorandum of understanding mechanism.
- Matters relating to permanent machinery of arbitration (PMA) for the PSEs; counselling, training and rehabilitation of employees in CPSEs under Voluntary Retirement Scheme; review of capital projects and expenditure in CPSEs.
- Measures aimed at improving performance of CPSEs and other capacity building initiatives of PSEs; rendering advice relating to revival, restructuring or closure of PSEs.
- It will also deal with matters relating to Standing Conference of Public Enterprises; matters relating to International Center for Public Enterprises and categorisation of CPSEs including conferring “Ratna” status.

**Reference:** <https://www.hindustantimes.com/india-news/centre-merges-dept-of-enterprises-with-finance-ministry-101625690548237.html>

## Saudi Arabia to invest over \$133 Billion in transport sector

**Q. Which Gulf country is to invest over \$133 Billion in transport sector?**

a) UAE b) Saudi Arabia c) Qatar d) Iran

**ANSWER:- b)**

**Related Facts:-**

- On July 5th , 2021 the transport minister said that Saudi Arabia will invest over 500 billion riyals (\$133.34 billion) in airports, sea ports, rail and other infrastructure by the end of the decade in a bid to make the kingdom a global transportation and logistics hub.
- Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman, who is pushing economic diversification to wean Saudi Arabia off oil revenues and create jobs, announced a transport and logistics drive.
- The strategy is the latest economic policy to put Riyadh in competition with the United Arab Emirates, the region’s business, trade and tourism hub.
- Saudi Arabia plans to increase the number of international aviation routes from 99 to over 250 and more than triple total annual passenger traffic from 103 million in 2019 to 330 million by 2030,
- Saudi Arabia earlier announced a new national carrier would be launched as part of the strategy, which aims to make the kingdom the fifth biggest global air passenger transit hub.



**LINK**

<https://www.reuters.com/world/middle-east/saudi-arabia-invest-over-133-bln-transport-sector-minister-says-2021-07-05/>

## Fitch Cut India's GDP growth estimates for year 2021-22

**Question: What is the new reduced growth projection of India's GDP by rating agency Fitch for year 2021-22?**

a) 12% B)11% C)10% D) 9%

**Ans:c**

**Context**



- Recently rating agency Fitch has released its growth projection for India's GDP for year 2021-22.
- **Facts**
  - It has cut its projection for India's real GDP growth in 2021-22 to 10%, from 12.8%.
  - It was because new Covid restrictions placed in the country during the second wave.
  - It warned that medium-term growth hopes of about 6.5% could suffer if business and consumer activity were scarred from the pandemic.
  - The ratings agency also warned that banks' asset quality challenges have increased and will remain under threat due to mobility restrictions, medical exigencies and rising job losses, with MSME and retail loans to low and moderate income borrowers most likely at risk.
  - Fitch expects banks' exposure to stressed MSME and retail borrowers to rise further with the increasing relief outlay and this will prevent their lending acumen.
  - The low vaccination rate makes India vulnerable to further waves of the pandemic; only 4.7% of its 1.37 billion population was fully vaccinated as of 5 July 2021.

**Reference:** <https://www.thehindu.com/business/fitch-cuts-gdp-growth-estimate-to-10-on-slower-recovery/article35201770.ece>

## Selling of 5% stake of Standard Life in HDFC Life Insurance

**Question :** HDFC Life Insurance Company Limited promoter Standard Life has recently(29 June) undertaken a sale of over 10 crore equity shares of the company representing \_ of the total issued and paid-up equity share capital of the company. Fill in the blank with appropriate option given below –

a. About 5% b. About 8% c. 10 percent d. 12 percent

**Ans. a.**

**Related facts —**

- HDFC Life Insurance Company Limited promoter Standard Life has recently(29 June) undertaken a sale of over 10 crore equity shares of the company representing about 5% of the total issued and paid-up equity share capital of the company.
- The Sale is subject to the settlement process prescribed for the stock exchanges under the extant regulation and is expected to be completed on July ,2021.



- After the settlement of the Sale, Standard Life will hold 78,694,105 equity shares (representing approximately 3.89% of the total issued and paid up equity share capital of the company).

**Link:**

[https://www.indiainfoline.com/article/news-top-story/standard-life-to-sell-5-stake-in-hdfc-life-121063000680\\_1.html](https://www.indiainfoline.com/article/news-top-story/standard-life-to-sell-5-stake-in-hdfc-life-121063000680_1.html)

## Financial Stability Report, July 2021

**Question : Financial Stability Report(FSR) reflects the collective assessment of the Sub-Committee of the Financial Stability and Development Council (FSDC – headed by the Governor of RBI) on risks to financial stability and the resilience of the financial system. On which date RBI released its 23rd issue of the FSR ?**

a. Jul 01, 2021 b. June 30, 2021 c. June 28, 2021 d. Jul 02, 2021

**Ans. a.**

**Related facts —**

- RBI has recently(1 July 2021) released the 23rd issue of the Financial Stability Report(FSR), which reflects the collective assessment of the Sub-Committee of the Financial Stability and Development Council (FSDC) on risks to financial stability and the resilience of the financial system in the context of contemporaneous issues relating to development and regulation of the financial sector.

### ▪ **Highlights —**

- Sustained policy support, benign financial conditions and the gathering momentum of vaccination are nurturing an uneven global recovery.
- Policy support has helped in shoring up financial positions of banks, containing non-performing loans and maintaining solvency and liquidity globally.
- On the domestic front, the ferocity of the second wave of COVID-19 has dented economic activity, but monetary, regulatory and fiscal policy measures have helped curtail the solvency risk of financial entities, stabilise markets, and maintain financial stability.
- The capital to risk-weighted assets ratio (CRAR) of scheduled commercial banks (SCBs) increased to 16.03 per cent and the provisioning coverage ratio (PCR) stood at 68.86 per cent in March 2021.
- Macro stress tests indicate that the gross non-performing asset (GNPA) ratio of SCBs may increase from 7.48 per cent in March 2021 to 9.80 per cent by March 2022 under the baseline scenario; and to 11.22 per cent under a severe stress scenario, although SCBs have sufficient capital, both at the aggregate and individual level, even under stress.
- At the aggregate level, the CRAR of scheduled urban co-operative banks (SUCBs) improved to 9.5 per cent in March 2021. NBFCs recorded credit growth at 8.8 per cent during the year while their GNPA ratio declined marginally to 6.4 per cent.





- Network analysis indicates that the total outstanding bilateral exposures among constituents of the financial system have been rising out of the sharp contraction in Q1:2020-21. SCBs continued to have the largest bilateral exposures in the Indian financial system at end-March 2021.
- In terms of inter-sectoral exposures, asset management companies/mutual funds (AMC-MFs), followed by insurance companies, remained the most dominant fund providers in the system, while NBFCs were the biggest receivers of funds, followed by housing finance companies (HFCs).
- Going forward, as banks respond to credit demand in a recovering economy, they will need to reinforce their capital and liquidity positions to fortify themselves against potential balance sheet stress.

**Link:**

[https://www.rbi.org.in/Scripts/BS\\_PressReleaseDisplay.aspx?prid=51832](https://www.rbi.org.in/Scripts/BS_PressReleaseDisplay.aspx?prid=51832)

## Quarterly BSR-1 of RBI

**Question : RBI released “Quarterly BSR-1 : Outstanding Credit of Scheduled Commercial Banks for March 2021” on June 29, 2021. Accordingly, which of the following statement is correct ?**

1. Metropolitan bank branches accounted for 63 percent of bank credit
2. PL to grow at robust pace and recorded 13.5 percent growth(Y-o-Y)
3. Credit to household sector rose by 10.9 percent(Y-o-Y)

**Options –**

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

**Ans.(D)**

**Related facts —**

- RBI released “Quarterly BSR-1 : Outstanding Credit of Scheduled Commercial Banks for March 2021” on June 29, 2021.
- **BSR —**
- Quarterly BSR(Basic Statistical Returns)-1 is a web publication of RBI.
- It is based on granular account-level information, it presents various characteristics of bank credit such as occupation/activity and organisational sector of the borrower, type of account, and interest rates. Data covering 1,26,836 branches of 88 SCBs (excluding Regional Rural Banks) are presented for bank groups, population groups and states.
- **Key points —**
- Bank branches in urban, semi-urban and rural areas recorded double-digit credit growth (Y-o-Y) in March 2021 whereas metropolitan branches, which accounted for 63 per cent of bank credit, recorded 1.4 per cent growth in credit.



- Personal loans continued to grow at robust pace and recorded 13.5 per cent growth (Y-o-Y) in March 2021; industrial loan growth, on the other hand, remained negative during all quarters of 2020-21.
- Credit to household sector rose by 10.9 per cent (Y-o-Y) and its share in total credit increased to 52.6 per cent in March 2021 from 49.8 per cent a year ago; growth in credit to the private corporate sector, however, declined for the sixth successive quarter and its share in total credit stood at 28.3 per cent.
- Working capital loans in the form of cash credit, overdraft and demand loans, which accounted for a third of total credit, contracted during 2020-21.
- Private sector banks recorded higher loan growth when compared to other bank groups: their share in total credit increased to 36.5 per cent in March 2021 from 35.4 per cent a year ago and 24.8 per cent five years ago.
- Weighted average lending rate (WALR) on outstanding credit has moderated by 91 basis points during 2020-21, including a decline of 21 basis points during Q4:2020-21.

**Link:**

[https://rbi.org.in/Scripts/BS\\_PressReleaseDisplay.aspx?prid=51806](https://rbi.org.in/Scripts/BS_PressReleaseDisplay.aspx?prid=51806)

## India reports current account surplus in pandemic-affected FY21

**Question: As per the data released by RBI recently, India has reported a current account surplus in FY 21. What is the amount of this surplus in percentage of GDP of India?**

a) 1% b) 0.9% c) 0.8% d) 2%

**Ans: b**

**Context**

- As per a recent report by Reserve Bank of India (RBI), India has reported a current account surplus of 0.9 per cent of GDP in the pandemic-hit FY21, as against a deficit of 0.9 per cent in FY20.
- **Facts**
  - Current account balance became surplus because of a sharp contraction in the trade deficit to USD 102.2 billion from USD 157.5 billion in 2019-20.
  - External commercial borrowings by India Inc recorded an inflow of \$ 0.2 billion against 21.7 billion in 2019-20.
  - India witnessed an accretion of USD 87.3 billion to foreign exchange reserve on balance of payments basis.
  - Current account deficit in March quarter was high on account of high trade deficit and low net invisible receipts.
  - Private transfer receipts, representing remittances by Indians employed overseas-witnessed increase of USD 20.9 billion. It was higher by 1.7 per cent from 2020 level.
- **Current Account Balance**
  - The current account represents a country's imports and exports of goods and services, payments made to foreign investors, and transfers such as foreign aid.



- The current account may be positive (a surplus) or negative (a deficit); positive means the country is a net exporter and negative means it is a net importer of goods and services.

**Reference:** <https://indianexpress.com/article/india/india-reports-current-account-surplus-in-covid-affected-fy21-7383136/>

## New TDS rules from July 1

**Question: Consider the following statements:**

- i) Non-filer of income tax for past two financial years will be subjected to higher taxation. TDS or TCS will be charged at double rate specified in relevant provision of Income Tax Act or at 5 per cent.
- ii) Tax deduction at source (TDS) in India is a means of collecting tax on income, dividends or asset sales, by requiring the payer (or legal intermediary) to deduct tax due before paying the balance to the payee (and the tax to the revenue authority).
- iii) These new rules have come into effect from July 1.

**Which of the following are correct?**

- a) i, ii b) ii,iii c) i, ii,iii d) none of the above

**Ans: c**

**Context**

- Government has announced change in rules in collecting TDS.

### ▪ **Facts**

- As per the changed rules Non-filer of income tax for past two financial years will be subjected to higher taxation.
- TDS or TCS will be charged at double rate specified in relevant provision of Income Tax Act or at 5 per cent.
- Higher taxes will be levied if such tax deduction was ₹50,000 or more in each of those two years.



### ▪ **About TDS**

- Tax deduction at source (TDS) in India is a means of collecting tax on income, dividends or asset sales, by requiring the payer (or legal intermediary) to deduct tax due before paying the balance to the payee (and the tax to the revenue authority).

### ▪ **About TCS (Tax collected at source)**

- Tax collected at source (TCS) is the tax payable by a seller which he collects from the buyer at the time of sale. Section 206C of the Income-tax act governs the goods on which the seller has to collect tax from the purchasers.

### ▪ **Who will enforce these new rules?**

- Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT) has introduced a utility tool called Compliance Check for Section 206 AB & 206 CCA, to enforce these new rules.
- This tool will ease compliance burden of tax deductions who will use this functionality to identify non-filers. This functionality is already functioning on reporting portal of income tax department.

## Scientific

### Defense/Science Short Notes

#### Exploration of Lithium by GSI

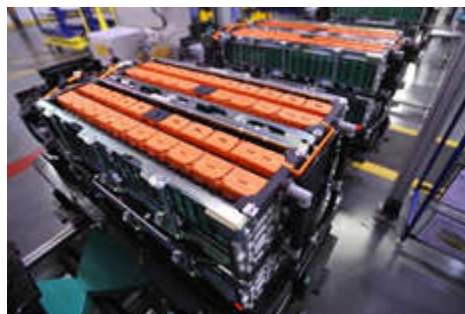
**Question:** On 28 July 2021; the Union government announced in the Parliament exploration of which of the following metal will be done by the Geological Survey of India (GSI)?

a) Lithium b) Magnesium c) Aluminium d) None of these

**Answer:** (a)

**Related Facts:-**

- On 28 July 2021; the Union government announced the Parliament that the Geological Survey of India (GSI) has taken up seven projects for exploration of lithium.
- The government said that GSI, in 2021-22, will go for exploration of lithium reserves in various states of the country.
- Lithium, a strategically important metal and a key element for new technologies.
- Lithium (Li) finds its use in battery, ceramics, glass, telecommunication and aerospace industries.
- The well-known uses of Lithium are in Lithium ion batteries, lubricating grease, high energy additive to rocket propellants.
- It is also used in the optical modulators for mobile phones and as convertor to tritium used as a raw material for thermonuclear reactions i.e. fusion.
- It should be known that at present China is the number one producer of lithium-ion batteries in the world.
- Chinese lithium-ion battery manufacturers are likely to retain their recently acquired number one position in the next five years.
- The U.S. and Sweden may emerge third and fourth by 2025, respectively.
- Above position of China has been reported according to the forecast in Bloomberg New Energy Finance's (BNEF) 'Global Lithium-Ion Battery Supply Chain Ranking.
- Lithium-bearing minerals fall under Part B 'Atomic Minerals' of the First Schedule of the Mines and Minerals Development and Regulation Act, 1957.
- Their reserves are not available in the National Mineral Inventory.
- According to a press release issued by the ministry, the GSI takes up different stages of mineral exploration as per the approved field season program.
- Between 2016-17 and 2020-21, GSI carried out 14 projects on Lithium and associated elements.
- That time GSI had taken in the exploration the states Bihar, Chhattisgarh, Himachal Pradesh, Jammu & Kashmir, Jharkhand, Madhya Pradesh, Meghalaya, Karnataka, and Rajasthan.
- For 2021-22, GSI has taken up seven projects for Lithium exploration in Arunachal Pradesh, Andhra Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, Jammu & Kashmir, and Rajasthan.
- Apart from the GSI, the Atomic Minerals Directorate for Exploration and Research (AMDER) is also present in this field.
- AMDER is a constituent unit of the Department of Atomic Energy.



- AMDER had undertaken exploration for Lithium in potential geological domains in parts of Karnataka and Rajasthan.

#### Links:-

<https://www.indianext.co.in/2021/07/geological-survey-of-india-undertakes-seven-projects-for-lithium-exploration/>  
<https://pib.gov.in/PressReleaseDetailm.aspx?PRID=1739885>

### Centre for Advanced Transportation Technology and Systems

**Question – In July 2021, the Indian Academy of Highway Engineers has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with which Australian university to set up a Center for Advanced Transportation Technology and Systems at IAHE, Noida?**

- (a) University of New South Wales (b) University of Melbourne  
 (c) University of Brisbane (d) University of Adelaide

**Answer—(a)**

**related facts —**

- The Indian Academy of Highway Engineers (IAHE), under the Ministry of Road Transport & Highways (MORTH), has recently (July 2021) signed an Agreement with University of New South Wales (UNSW), Australia for setting up a Centre for Advanced Transportation Technology and Systems (CATTS) at IAHE, Noida.
- The Agreement is for a project for capacity building, technology transfer and creation of enabling environment for establishment of CATTS in IAHE. The UNSW will also deliver a course, certified by it, on smart transport systems and modelling.
- **The broad scope of CATTS is in the following areas:**
  1. Building India specific Macro Model (Computable Equilibrium Model) for entire Nation Highway network and in-principle National Highways by UNSW, including coding of simulation software, calibration & validation and scenario analysis.
  2. Building India specific Urban Pervasive Data Model for City by UNSW including coding of simulation software, calibration & validation and scenario analysis.
  3. A course certified by UNSW on smart transportation systems and modelling will be delivered by UNSW in the form of three workshops in India and three workshops in Australia. Each of the workshops will be of five days' duration and 40 participants will be allowed to participate.
- It will also promote industries and startups from Australia and India in the transportation sector, including opportunities for innovation, research and development of advanced transport systems.



#### Link:

<https://www.pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1735874>

### Geo-imaging Earth Observation Satellite (EOS-03)

**Q. Consider the following statements regarding Geo-imaging Earth Observation Satellite (EOS-03)-**



1. It will enable near real time monitoring of natural disasters like floods and cyclones.
2. The satellite will image the whole country four to five times on a daily basis.

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

a) Only 1 b) Only 2 c) Both 1 & 2 d) None of these

**ANSWER:-c)**

**RELATED FACTS:-**

- The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) will launch a Geo-imaging Earth Observation Satellite (EOS-03) in the coming months as the agency reassesses work following the Covid-19 induced lockdown.
- The launch is scheduled for the third quarter of 2021.
- The EOS-03 satellite will enable near-real-time monitoring of natural disasters like floods and cyclones that have become common in the Indian subcontinent as it goes through major environmental and weather changes.
- The satellite will image the whole country four to five times on a daily basis, sending in key data related to weather and environmental change.
- In addition to natural disasters, EOS-03 will also enable monitoring of water bodies, crops, vegetation conditions, and forest cover changes.
- The first earth observation satellite was launched in 2020 along with nine customer satellites.
- The EOS-1 was intended for applications in agriculture, forestry and disaster management support.



#### LINK

<https://newsonair.com/2021/07/29/geo-imaging-satellite-eos-03-scheduled-for-launch-in-third-quarter-of-this-year/>

### ISRO's merchandiser programme

**Q. Consider the following statements regarding ISRO's merchandiser programme-**

1. ISRO through this programme wants to create awareness and kindling interest of students.
2. After this programme anyone can be able to purchase authorized product connected to ISRO's mission and work.

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

a) Only 1 b) Only 2 c) Both 1 & 2 d) None of these

**ANSWER:- c)**

**RELATED FACTS:-**

- The Indian Space Research Organization's customized space-themed merchandise programme in partnership with industry has taken off with multiple companies on board.
- Now, one will be able to purchase authorized products connected to ISROs missions and work, such as scale models, T-shirts, mugs, space-themed educational games, science toys, and more.



- ISRO believes this brand promotion exercise can play a “game-changing” role in creating awareness and kindling interest of students, children and public, in the domain of space science & technology, and propagating its achievements.
- Eight companies have so far registered with ISRO on a non-exclusive basis with a registration fee regarding customised ISRO-theme-based articles/models.
- According to the terms and conditions, the party (registered companies) shall avoid using the ISRO identifier, imagery, etc. on products such as doormats, slippers, or any such items, which affect the reputation/ image of the organization.

#### LINK

[https://www.isro.gov.in/sites/default/files/article-files/capacity-building/merchandise/merchandise\\_aoo.pdf](https://www.isro.gov.in/sites/default/files/article-files/capacity-building/merchandise/merchandise_aoo.pdf)

## India, Russia Joint Military Exercise INDRA-21

**Question: Where will India, Russia Joint Military Exercise INDRA-21 be held?**

(a) Volgograd (b) Berlin (c) Uttarakhand (d) Ladakh

**Answer : (a)**

**Related Facts:**

- Indian and Russian Armed forces personnel will participate in a joint military exercise from 1 to 13 August in Russia.
- The Joint military exercise, INDRA 2021, will be held at Russia's Volgograd.
- “The 12th edition of Indo-Russia joint military Exercise INDRA 2021 will be held at Volgograd, Russia from 1 to 13 August 2021,” the Ministry of Defence said in a statement on Tuesday (27 July).
- The exercise will entail conduct of counter terror operations under the United Nations mandate by a joint force against international terror groups, the ministry added.
- Exercise INDRA-21 will further strengthen mutual confidence and interoperability between the Indian and Russian Armies and enable sharing of best practices between the contingents of both the countries, the ministry said.
- The exercise will be yet another milestone in strengthening security cooperation and will serve to reinforce the longstanding bond of friendship between India and Russia.

**Reference :** [https://in.news.yahoo.com/india-russia-joint-military-exercise-064710874.html?guccounter=1&guce\\_referrer=aHR0cHM6Ly93d3cuZ29vZ2xlLmNvbS8&guce\\_referrer\\_sig=AQAAAK6d](https://in.news.yahoo.com/india-russia-joint-military-exercise-064710874.html?guccounter=1&guce_referrer=aHR0cHM6Ly93d3cuZ29vZ2xlLmNvbS8&guce_referrer_sig=AQAAAK6d)

## Exercise Cutlass Express 2021

**Question : Which Indian navalship is participating in Exercise Cutlass Express 2021?**

(a) INS Talwar (b) INS Vikramaditya (c) INS Rajput (d) INS Tabar

**Answer : (a)**

**Related Facts:**

- Indian Naval Ship (INS) Talwar is participating in Exercise Cutlass Express 2021, which commenced on July 26, 2021 along the East Coast of Africa.



- It is to improve combined maritime law enforcement capacity and increase interoperability between the regional navies. The exercise will conclude on August 6, 2021.
- The 2021 edition of the exercise involves the participation of 12 Eastern African countries, US, UK, India and various international organisations, like International Maritime Organisation (IMO), United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), Interpol, European Union Naval Force (EUNAVFOR), Critical Maritime Routes Indian Ocean (CRIMARIO) and EUCAP Somalia.

**Reference:** <https://www.indiatoday.in/india/story/ins-talwar-exercise-cutlass-express-2021-mombasa-kenya-1833099-2021-07-27>

## Use liquid thorium in Nuclear Reactor

**Question:** Scientist of which of the following country has recently unveiled plans for this experimental nuclear reactor that does not require water for cooling and uses liquid thorium?

a) India b) China c) Spain d) South Africa

**Answer: (b)**

**Related Facts:-**

- China in near future is going to activate clean nuclear energy through its upcoming experimental nuclear reactor.
- Scientist of the Chinese government has unveiled plans for this experimental nuclear reactor that does not require water for cooling.
- This reactor will run on liquid thorium instead of uranium and is expected to be safer than the traditional reactors.
- As molten salt, when exposed to air, cools and solidifies quickly thus insulating the thorium, causing any potential leak.
- It will spill very little radiation into the environment compared to the leaks from traditional reactors.
- The prototype reactor is expected to be completed in August 2021, with the first tests beginning in September.
- This will pave the way for the construction of the world's first commercial reactor. It is expected to be constructed by 2030.
- The experimental nuclear reactor will not require water and so it will be able to operate in desert regions.



**Links:-**

<https://www.indiatimes.com/technology/science-and-future/china-waterless-nuclear-reactor-thorium-545635.html>

## IIT Ropar students develop AMLEX

**Question:** Which IIT has developed recently a device called AMLEX?

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

**Answer : (a)**

**Related Facts:**

- “AMLEX” an oxygen rationing device, the first of its kind in India, have been developed by researchers from Indian Institute of Technology, Ropar.
- This device can reduce oxygen wastage by regulating the oxygen flow from the cylinder by a patient.
- AMLEX is designed specifically for oxygen cylinders and can be easily connected between the oxygen supply line and the mask worn by the patient.
- A device like this can really help in limiting the use of oxygen in small rural and semi urban health centers.

**Reference:** <https://www.financialexpress.com/lifestyle/health/iit-ropar-students-develops-amlex-a-device-that-supplies-a-required-volume-of-oxygen-to-the-patients/2294237/>

## Earth’s first mission to conduct detailed investigations of Jupiter’s moon Europa

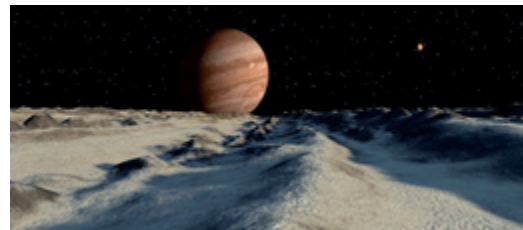
**Question: Recently NASA has selected which of the following agency for Earth’s first mission to conduct detailed investigations of Jupiter’s moon Europa?**

a) ISRO b) SpaceX c) Virgin Galactic d) Blue Origin

**Answer: (b)**

**Related Facts:-**

- NASA has selected SpaceX to provide launch services for Earth’s first mission to conduct detailed investigations of Jupiter’s moon Europa.
- SpaceX (Space Exploration Technologies Corp) has its headquarters at Hawthorne, California, USA.
- The Europa Clipper mission will launch in October 2024 on a Falcon Heavy rocket from Launch Complex 39A at NASA’s Kennedy Space Center in Florida.
- The total contract award amount for launch services is approximately \$178 million.
- Europa Clipper will conduct a detailed survey of Europa and use a sophisticated suite of science instruments to investigate whether the icy moon has conditions suitable for life.
- Key mission objectives are to produce high-resolution images of Europa’s surface, determine its composition.
- It will look for signs of recent or ongoing geological activity; measure the thickness of the moon’s icy shell.
- It will also search for subsurface lakes, and determine the depth and salinity of Europa’s ocean.
- NASA’s Launch Services Program at Kennedy will manage the Europa Clipper launch service.
- NASA’s Jet Propulsion Laboratory in Southern California leads the development of the Europa Clipper mission.
- The JPL is doing it in partnership with the Johns Hopkins Applied Physics Laboratory in Laurel, Maryland.
- The Planetary Missions Program Office at NASA’s Marshall Space Flight Center in Huntsville, Alabama, executes program management of the Europa Clipper mission.



**Links:-**

<https://www.nasa.gov/press-release/nasa-awards-launch-services-contract-for-europa-clipper-mission>

## Delivery of the 100th fuselage for production of AH-64 Apache Combat Helicopters

**Question: At which of the following place, Tata Boeing Aerospace Ltd (TBAL) has established its manufacturing facility in India?**

a) Chennai b) Mumbai c) Hyderabad d) None of these

**Answer: (c)**

**Related Facts:-**

- On 23 July 2021; Tata Boeing Aerospace Ltd (TBAL) announced the delivery of the 100th fuselage for production of AH-64 Apache combat helicopters.
- These helicopters will be produced from manufacturing facility of TBAL in Hyderabad, Telangana.
- The fuselage will be transported to Boeing's manufacturing facility for AH-64 Apache in Mesa in Arizona for integration into the final assembly line.
- TBAL, a joint venture between Boeing and Tata, has been delivering Apache fuselages since May 2018.
- President of Boeing India Salil Gupte said that the TBAL is an example of Boeing's commitment towards Aatmanirbhar Bharat (self-reliant India) initiative.
- He said that TBAL not only move forward for the co-development of integrated systems in aerospace and defence just for the India, but for the world also.
- He further said that the company has quadrupled its sourcing from India in the past two years to more than USD 1 billion.
- He said that skilled talent, robust infrastructure, ease of doing business, and a highly responsive government administration make Telangana an ideal destination for the high-end manufacturing work.
- It should be known that the AH-64 Apache is one of the world's most advanced multi-role combat helicopters and is flown by the US Army.
- The IAF had signed a multi-billion dollar contract with the US government and Boeing Ltd in September 2015 for 22 Apache helicopters.
- Additionally, the Defence Ministry in 2017 approved the procurement of six Apache helicopters along with weapons systems from Boeing at a cost of Rs 4,168 crore for the Army.
- Tata Boeing Aerospace, Boeing's first equity joint venture in India, is the result of a 2015 partnership agreement with TASL.
- TBAL spread over 14,000 square metres, has the state-of-the-art facility, which has been producing aero-structures for Boeing's AH-64 Apache helicopter.
- The TBAL's facility at Hyderabad manufacturing fuselages, secondary structures and vertical spar boxes for customers worldwide.
- Recently, Boeing announced the addition of a new production line to manufacture complex vertical fin structures for the 737 family of aeroplanes.





**Links:-**

<https://www.financialexpress.com/defence/tata-boeing-aerospace-delivers-100th-fuselage-for-apache-combat-chopper-from-hyderabad-facility/2296391/>

## Nauka Lab Module

**Question: Which of the following country has recently sent the Nauka lab module to International space station?**

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

**Answer: (a)**

**Related Facts:-**

- On 21 July 2021; Russia successfully launched the Nauka Lab Module to the International Space Station.
- The mission has been intended to provide space for scientific experiments and crew.
- Nauka has been sent to ISS using a Proton-M booster rocket which lifted off from Russian Space Launch Facility in Baikonur, Kazakhstan.
- After this launch the module set on an eight-day journey to the orbiting International Space Station (ISS).
- After a series of maneuvers, the 20-metric-ton (22-ton) module will dock in automatic mode on the International Space Station on July 29, 2021.
- The navigational antennas and solar arrays were properly positioned after a flawless launch.
- Nauka is also known as the Multipurpose Laboratory Module, was repeatedly delayed due to technical problems.
- It was initially scheduled to go up in 2007 but the launch was cancelled due to some technical problems.
- The module is carried with it the European Robotic arm ERA.
- This robotic arm has been designed to work in the Russian part of the ISS.
- In 2013, experts found contamination in its fuel system, resulting in a lengthy and costly replacement. Other ferry systems were also modernized or repaired.



**Links:-**

<https://blogs.nasa.gov/spacestation/2021/07/21/liftoff-multipurpose-laboratory-module-nauka-launches-to-space-station/>

## Army Skiing Expedition, ARMEX-21

**Q. Recently Indian Army Skiing Expedition, ARMEX-21 conducted by the Indian Army covers which two regions?**

a) Sikkim and Arunachal Pradesh b) Ladakh and Uttarakhand  
c) Jammu & Kashmir and Himachal Pradesh d) None of these

**ANSWER:- b)**

**RELATED FACTS:-**

- On July 23rd, 2021 Raksha Mantri Shri Rajnath Singh flagged-in the Indian Army Skiing Expedition, ARMEX-21, in New Delhi.
- The ARMEX-21 was conducted in the mountain ranges of the Himalayan region to



promote the adventure activity in the country and the Indian Army.

- The expedition was flagged off at Karakoram Pass in Ladakh on March 10, 2021 and culminated at Malari in Uttarakhand on July 06, 2021, covering 1,660 km in 119 days.
- During the expedition, the team travelled through several passes of 5,000-6,500m, glaciers, valleys and rivers.

**Link:**

<https://www.pib.gov.in/PressReleaseDetail.aspx?PRID=1738099>

## DRDO successfully flight tests home-grown man-portable anti-tank guided missile

**Question: Who has developed low weight, fire & forget Man-Portable Anti-Tank Guided Missile (MPATGM) ?**

(A) DRDO (B) ISRO (C) NASA (D) NONE OF THESE

**Answer: (a)**

**Related Facts:**

- The missile (MPATGM) was launched from a man-portable launcher integrated with thermal site and the target was mimicking a tank.
- The missile hit the target in direct attack mode and destroyed it with precision.
- The test has validated the minimum range successfully.
- The man-portable missile is launched using a tripod is designed for a maximum range of 2.5 km with a launch weight of less than 15 Kg, Control Flight Tests have been successfully carried out and Guided Flight Tests (with IIR Seeker) are planned.



**Reference:** <https://www.livemint.com/news/india/drdo-successfully-flight-tests-home-grown-man-portable-anti-tank-guided-missile-11626864322755.html>

## DRDO conducts successful flight test of Akash-NG

**Question: Recently a successful flight test of Akash-NG was conducted by which organization?**

(a) DRDO (b) ISRO (c) NASA (d) Roscosmos

**Answer: (a)**

**Related Facts:**

- Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) conducted a successful flight-test of New Generation Akash (Akash-NG) missile from Integrated Test Range, Chandipur off the coast of Odisha at 1145 hrs on July 23, 2021.
- The test was carried out against a high-speed unmanned aerial target which was successfully intercepted by the missile.
- The flight test has validated the functioning of complete weapon system consisting of the missile with indigenously developed RF Seeker, Launcher, Multi-Function Radar and Command, Control & Communication system.



- The test was carried out amidst inclement weather conditions proving the all-weather capability of the weapon system.
- The system performance was validated through the data captured by a number of Radar, Telemetry and Electro Optical Tracking systems deployed by ITR, Chandipur.
- **Highlights:**
  - Capable of intercepting high speed & agile aerial threats
  - Force multiplier to defence capabilities of Indian Air Force

**Reference:** <https://www.pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1738136>

## Advanced S-500 missile system

**Question: Which of the following Country on 20 July 2021; tested the advanced S-500 missile system for air defence?**

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

**Answer: (d)**

**Related Facts:-**

- On 20 July 2021; advanced S-500 missile system was tested by the Russia.
- It should be known that the S-500 air defence missile has been tested in the scenario of tensions with the US and Britain.
- The missile system was tested on a high-speed ballistic target at a training ground in the Astarkhan region.
- This new missile system claimed to prevent even enemy stealth fighters from the advanced radar of this system.
- The Defense Ministry of the country gave information about this and called the test successful.
- **S-500 will be given to Air Defense Unit—**
  - According to the ministry, the test confirms the strategic and technical capability and fidelity of Russian weapons.
  - The ministry said in its statement that after all the tests completed, the S-500 system will be delivered to the air defense unit of the Moscow region.
  - The S-500 Defense System is also called Promety.
  - Like the S-300 and S-400, this defense system is being developed by the Russian state company Almaz-Antey Corporation.
- **Use of cutting edge technology—**
  - This defense system named S-500 Prometey is capable of shooting down enemy missiles and fighter aircraft from a distance of 400 to 600 km.
  - It has been claimed that it is the most advanced and advanced technology-based anti-missile system ever in Russia's weapons.
  - Only last year, Russian Deputy Prime Minister Yuri Borisov announced a phased trial of an advanced missile defense system.



**Links:-**

<https://www.reuters.com/business/aerospace-defense/russia-releases-footage-new-s-500-air-defence-system-action-2021-07-20/>

## Indian Navy accepts first batch of two MH-60r Multi Role Helicopters

**Question: Recently Indian Navy has received first batch of two MH-60r Multi Role Helicopters from which country?**

(a) USA (b) France (c) Russia (d) Israel

**Answer: (a)**

**Related facts:**

- On 16 July 2021, United States Navy has handed over first batch of two MH-60R Multi Role Helicopters (MRH) to Indian Navy.
- **Key facts:**
  - MH-60R helicopters is manufactured by Lockheed Martin Corporation, USA.
  - It is an all-weather helicopter designed to support multiple missions with state of the art avionics/ sensors. These helicopters are considered as world's most advanced maritime helicopter.
  - Indian Navy is procuring 24 of MH-60R helicopters under Foreign Military Sales from the US Government.
  - Its purchase was cleared by Union Cabinet of India in February 2020 before historic visit of then US President Donald Trump.
  - **Significance:**
    - The induction of these MRH would further enhance Indian Navy's three dimensional capabilities.
    - It will provide India with capability to perform anti-surface and anti-submarine warfare missions.
    - The helicopter is also able to perform secondary missions like vertical replenishment, search & rescue and communications relay.



**Links:**

<https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1736365>

## Third long duration hot test conducted for the liquid propellant Vikas Engine: ISRO

**Question: For which of the following mission, on July 14, 2021, ISRO has successfully conducted the third long duration hot test of the liquid propellant Vikas Engine?**

a) Chandrayaan-3 b) Mangalyaan-2 c) Gaganyaan d) None of these

**Answer: (c)**

**Related Facts:-**

- On July 14, 2021, ISRO has successfully conducted the third long duration hot test of the liquid propellant Vikas Engine.
- This test was done for the core L110 liquid stage of



the human rated GSLV MkIII vehicle of ISRO.

- It was as the part of the engine qualification requirements for the Gaganyaan Programme.
- The engine was fired for the duration of 240 seconds at the engine test facility of ISRO Propulsion Complex (IPRC), Mahendragiri in Tamil Nadu.
- The performance of the engine met the test objectives during the entire duration of the test.
- Scientists at the test complex were fully satisfied that the engine parameters were closely matching with the predictions.
- It should be known that Isro's GSLV Mk III in past successfully carried the Chandrayaan-2 mission to space in its first operational flight.
- GSLV Mk III has three stages the two solid S200 boosters fired at the launch, the core L110 liquid stage, and the upper C-25 cryogenic stage.
- The liquid L110 stage uses a twin liquid engine configuration with 115 tonnes of liquid propellant.
- The C25 Cryogenic upper stage is configured with the fully indigenous high thrust cryogenic engine (CE20) with a propellant loading of 28 tons.
- The objective of the Gaganyaan programme is to demonstrate the capability to send humans to low earth orbit onboard an Indian launch vehicle and bring them back to earth.

**Links:-**

<https://www.isro.gov.in/update/14-jul-2021/third-successful-vikas-engine-long-duration-hot-test-gaganyaan-program>

## MH-60r Multi Role Helicopters

**Question : From which country has Indian Navy accepted the first batch of two MH-60r Multi Role Helicopters ?**

A. USA B. France C. UK D. Russia

**Answer : (a)**

**Related facts —**

- Indian Navy has accepted the first batch of two MH-60r Multi Role Helicopters from USA on July 2021.
- **Venue —**
- Ceremony held at Naval Air Station North Island marked the formal transfer of these helicopters from US Navy to Indian Navy, which were accepted by His Excellency Taranjit Singh Sandhu, Indian Ambassador to USA.
- **About Helicopter —**
- MH-60R helicopters manufactured by Lockheed Martin Corporation, USA is an all-weather helicopter designed to support multiple missions with state of the art avionics/ sensors.
- 24 of these helicopters are being procured under Foreign Military Sales from the US Government.
- The helicopters would also be modified with several India Unique Equipment and weapons.
- **Significance —**





- The induction of these MRH would further enhance Indian Navy's three dimensional capabilities.
- In order to exploit these potent helicopters, the first batch of Indian crew is presently undergoing training in USA.

**Link:**

<https://pib.gov.in/PressReleaseDetail.aspx?PRID=1736365>

## Automated train toilet sewerage disposal system

**Question :Who has developed Cheaper Alternative To Bio-Toilets For Railways?**

- (a) Dr RV Krishnaiah (b) Dr RC Krishnakumar (c) Vibhav Krishna Pandey  
(d) None of these

**Answer: (a)**

**Related Facts:**

- The technology developed by Dr. R.V. Krishnaiah from Chebrolu Engineering College is an automated system for collection of toilet waste from running trains and segregation of different materials and processing into usable things.
- An automated technology for collection of toilet waste which is easy to maintain and 7 times cheaper alternative to the bio-toilets, can be used to maintain the toilet system of the Indian Railways.
- Existing Bio toilets use anaerobic bacteria for converting human waste to gas, but that bacteria can't decompose plastic and cloth materials dumped into toilets by passengers.
- Hence maintenance and removing of such non decomposed materials inside the tank is difficult.
- The technology developed with support from the Advanced Manufacturing Technologies programme of the Department of Science & Technology (DST), Government of India aligned with the 'Make in India' initiative has been granted 5 National patents and is in the testing phase.
- The automated system consists of three simple steps—the septic tank (which is placed under the track, i.e., train line) top cover gets opened when train approaches to the septic tank place by using Radio Frequency Identification (RFID) sensor and reader placed at Engine and septic tank position respectively, sewerage material in toilet tanks is dropped into the septic tank when they are mutually synchronized, and finally the septic tank cover gets closed when train departs away from it.
- The collected sewerage material from train toilets is segregated such that human waste is stored in one tank, and other materials such as plastic materials, cloth materials, and so on are stored in another tank.
- The human waste is further processed separately to convert into usable material.
- The plastic and cloth materials are processed separately.



**Reference :** <https://newsonair.com/2021/07/16/automated-train-toilet-sewerage-disposal-system-could-be-cost-effective-alternative-to-bio-toilets/>

## Astronomers Find One Group Of Appearing And Disappearing Stars

**Question: Astronomers has identified a curious occurrence of how many stars?**

(a) Nine Stars (b) Six Stars (c) Seven Stars (d) Twelve Stars

**Answer: (a)**

**Related Facts:**

- An international collaboration of astronomers has identified a curious occurrence of nine stars like objects that appeared and vanished in a small region within half an hour in an old photographic plate.
- Astronomers collaborating across counties track vanishing and appearing celestial objects by comparing old images of the night sky with new modern one, register unnatural phenomena, and probe deep into such phenomena to record changes in the Universe.
- Scientists from Sweden, Spain, USA, Ukraine, and India, including Dr. Alok C. Gupta, Scientist from ARIES, investigated early form of photography that used glass plates to capture images of the night sky from the 12th of April 1950, exposed at Palomar Observatory in California, USA and detected these transient stars which were not to be found in photographs half an hour later and not traced since then.
- Such a group of objects appearing and disappearing at the same time have been detected for the first time in the history of astronomy.
- The astronomers have not found any explanation in well-established astrophysical phenomena like gravitational lensing, fast radio bursts, or any variable star that could be responsible for this cluster of fast changes in the sky.
- The scientists are still exploring the reasons behind the observation of these strange transient stars and are still not sure about what triggered their appearance and disappearance.
- “The only thing we can say with certainty is that these images contain star-like objects that should not be there. We do not know why they are there,”.
- The astronomers are examining the possibility that the photographic plates were contaminated with radioactive particles causing false stars on the plates.
- But if the observation is proven to be real, another option is solar reflections from reflective, unnatural objects in orbit around Earth several years before the first human satellite was launched.
- The astronomers who belong to the collaboration Vanishing & Appearing Sources during a Century of Observations (VASCO) have still not sorted out the root cause of the “nine simultaneous transients”.
- They are now eager to look for more signatures of solar reflections in these digitized data from the 1950s in a hope to find aliens.



**Reference:** <https://indiaeducationdiary.in/astronomers-find-one-group-of-appearing-and-disappearing-stars/>

### Richard Branson reaches space in his own ship

**Question: Consider the following statements:**

(1) British billionaire Richard Branson reached space on his Virgin Galactic

rocket plane on July 11 2021.

(2) Sirisha Bandla accompanied with Richard Branson has become the third Indian-origin woman to fly into space.

Of the above correct statement/s is/are:

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

**Answer: (c)**

**Related facts:**



- On 11 July 2021, British billionaire, Richard Branson, reached space on his Virgin Galactic rocket plane.
- Branson accompanied with five crewmates reached an altitude of about 53 miles (88 kilometers) over the New Mexico desert.
- At the edge of space, the crew experienced three to four minutes of weightlessness and saw the curvature of the Earth. Afterwards, they also made safe return.
- In doing so, Richard Branson became the first person to blast off in his own spaceship, beating Amazon's Jeff Bezos by nine days.
- Also, He also became only the second septuagenarian (Aged 70-79) to depart for space (John Glenn flew on the shuttle at age 77 in 1998).
- **Significance of the Flight:**
  - The maiden flight of Richard Branson has speeded the space tourism contest between private companies.
  - This successful flight has boosted progress of commercial air travel making customers experience the space and weightlessness.
- **Indian in the Space Flight:**
  - Sirisha Bandla, an Indian origin woman also joined the crew to flew to space with Richard Branson.
  - She became the third Indian-origin woman to fly into space after Kalpana Chawla and Sunita Williams.
  - Sirisha Bandla was born in Guntur district in Andhra Pradesh and her flight role as an astronaut was Researcher Experience.
- **Virgin Galactic:**
  - Virgin Galactic is a British-American spaceflight company, operating in United States.
  - It was founded by Richard Branson in 2004.
  - Virgin Galactic is a developing commercial spacecraft that aims to provide suborbital space flights to space tourists.
  - The company will commence commercial operations in 2022.
  - Ticket for spaceplane has been priced at around \$250,000 per ticket.

**Links:**

[https://www.business-standard.com/article/international/in-first-private-spaceflight-richard-branson-flies-to-edge-and-back-121071200025\\_1.html](https://www.business-standard.com/article/international/in-first-private-spaceflight-richard-branson-flies-to-edge-and-back-121071200025_1.html)

## ‘Exercise Shield’ maritime table- top exercise held at Maritime Warfare Centre (MWC) in Mumbai

**Question: Which of the following nation participated in ‘Exercise Shield’ maritime table- top exercise?**

a) Sri Lanka b) India c) Maldives d) All of the above

**Ans: d**

**Context**

- A tri-nation tabletop ‘Exercise Shield’, was held between Indian and Sri Lankan Navies and Maldives National Defence Force through virtual mode.
- **Facts**
- The tabletop anti-narcotics and maritime search and rescue exercise and simulation were held virtually on July 14 and 15 which was coordinated by Maritime Warfare Centre (MWC) in Mumbai.
- **The exercise was focused on :**
- Enhancing maritime security cooperation and mutual understanding,
- Exchange of best practices/procedures for countering common trans-national maritime crimes such as narcotics smuggling, and
- Evolving modalities for exchanging information/intelligence and to assist each other in maritime search and rescue.
- Tabletop exercises are discussion-based sessions where team members meet in an informal, classroom setting to discuss their roles during an emergency and their responses to a particular emergency situation.

**Reference:** <https://www.aninews.in/news/national/general-news/tri-nation-table-top-naval-exercise-shield-held-at-wnc-mumbai20210716070843/>

## Indian Navy receives tenth P-8I maritime patrol aircraft from Boeing

**Question: Indian Navy has received its 10th anti-submarine warfare and maritime patrol aircraft P-8I Poseidon from which country’s based aerospace company Boeing?**

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

**Answer: (a)**

**Related Facts:**

- Indian Navy has received its 10th anti-submarine warfare and maritime patrol aircraft P-8I Poseidon from the US-based aerospace company Boeing.
- The aircraft is used for maritime reconnaissance and anti-submarine warfare.
- Indian Navy had received its ninth P-8I aircraft in November last year 2020.



**Some interesting facts about the Boeing P-8I:**

(1) Armed with deadly Harpoon Block-II missiles, MK-54 lightweight torpedoes, rockets and depth charges, these sensor and radar-packed aircraft are the country’s “intelligent hawk eyes” over the Indian Ocean Region (IOR) that is increasingly getting militarized.

- (2) The P-8I aircraft is a variant of the P-8A Poseidon aircraft that Boeing developed as a replacement for the US Navy's ageing P-3 fleet.
- (3) 6) Indian Navy became the first international customer for the P-8 aircraft with the conclusion of the nearly US \$ 2.1 billion contract on 01 Jan 2009 for a total of eight aircraft. The first aircraft arrived in India on the 15 May 2013 and as of date; all eight aircraft have been inducted into the Indian Navy .
- (4) With a maximum speed of 907 kmph and an operating range of over 1,200 nautical miles, "with four hours on station", the P-8Is will be able to detect "threats" — and neutralize them if required — far before they come anywhere near Indian shores.
- (5) 3) Its communication and sensor suite includes indigenous equipment developed by defence PSUs and private manufacturers. Equipped with foreign and indigenous sensors for maritime reconnaissance, anti-submarine operations and electronic intelligence missions,.
- (6) The aircraft is fully integrated with state-of-the-art sensors and highly potent anti-surface and anti-submarine weapons.

**Reference:** <https://www.livemint.com/news/india/indian-navy-receives-tenth-p-8i-maritime-patrol-aircraft-from-boeing-11626165998892.html>

## First Conjugate Vaccine against COVID-19

**Question: Which of the following country developed Soberana 2 vaccine first conjugate vaccine against COVID-19.**

a) Cuba b) Brazil c) Argentina d) Columbia

**Answer: (a)**

**Related Facts:**

- Cuba's State-run corporation, BioFarma has developed first conjugate vaccine against COVID-19.
- The farma company said on 9 July 2021, that its indigenously produced Soberana 2 vaccine was 91.2% efficacious in phase-3 trials.
- This follows closely on an announcement that another of its vaccines, Abdala, had reported an efficacy of 92.8% in late stage trials.
- Abdala, technical name CIGB-66, is a COVID-19 vaccine developed by the Center for Genetic Engineering and Biotechnology in Cuba.
- If approved, Cuba will become the first Latin American country to manufacture and produce a vaccine against COVID-19.



**Links:-**

<https://www.thehindu.com/sci-tech/science/cuba-develops-the-worlds-first-conjugate-vaccine-for-covid-19/article35254991.ece>

## Existence of two species of (FEBs) found in Superfluid Helium

**Question: Scientists from which of the following institution discovered the Existence of two species of (FEBs) in Superfluid Helium?**

a) IISc b) CSIR c) TIFR d) None of these

**Answer: (a)**

**Related Facts:-**

- Existence of two species of few electron bubbles (FEBs) found in Superfluid Helium.



- Existence of two species of few electron bubbles (FEBs) in superfluid helium found for the first time.
- Scientists at the Indian Institute of Science (IISc) have experimentally shown this.
- These FEBs can serve as a useful model to study how the energy states of electrons and interactions between them in a material influence its properties.
- The team of scientists at Bengaluru-based IISc has done the research which culminated in this kind of discovery.
- The team included Neha Yadav, a former PhD student at the Department of Physics, Prosenjit Sen, Associate Professor at the Centre for Nano Science and Engineering (CeNSE) and others.
- The study was published in the journal 'Science Advances'.
- The research indicated that an electron injected into a superfluid form of helium creates a single electron bubble (SEB).
- This SEB is like a cavity that is free of helium atoms and contains only the electron.
- The shape of the bubble depends on the energy state of the electron, for instance, the bubble is spherical when the electron is in the ground state (1S).
- There are also MEBs multiple electron bubbles that contain thousands of electrons.
- FEBs, on the other hand, are nanometre-sized cavities in liquid helium containing just a handful of free electrons.
- The number, state and interactions between free electrons dictate the physical and chemical properties of materials.
- Studying FEBs, therefore, could help scientists better understand how some of these properties emerge when a few electrons present in a material interact with each other.
- According to the authors, understanding how FEBs are formed can also provide insights in to the self-assembly of soft materials.
- It can be important for developing next- generation quantum materials. However, scientists have only theoretically predicted the existence of FEBs so far.
- Researcher Neha Yadav said, we have now experimentally observed FEBs for the first time and understood how they are created.
- These are nice new objects with great implications if we can create and trap them.
- Yadav and colleagues were studying the stability of MEBs at nanometer sizes when they serendipitously observed FEBs.



#### Links:-

<https://www.edexlive.com/news/2021/jul/12/iisc-scientists-discover-two-species-of-few-electron-bubbles-in-superfluid-helium-22433.html>

## World's deepest pool opens in Dubai

**Question: Where was the deepest diving pool opened recently?**

(a) Dubai (b) Chennai (c) Adelaide (d) Beijing

**Answer: (a)**

**Related Facts:**

- The world's deepest swimming pool for underwater diving has opened in Dubai, where people can descend 60 metres (197 ft) to a sunken city-themed landscape and play arcade games.
- Dubai, a tourism and business hub with desert terrain and months of scorching summer temperatures, has a reputation for flamboyant and record-breaking attractions such as its snow-filled indoor ski slope, large water parks and the world's tallest building.



- The pool, which holds the equivalent of six Olympic swimming pools, has been verified by Guinness World Records as the world's deepest swimming pool for diving. Deep Dive Dubai says it is 15 metres deeper than any other.
- The facility, shaped like an oyster in reference to the UAE's pearl diving heritage, is also the region's largest underwater film studio.
- Divers go down through a landscape of a sunken city, with sound and lighting. There are two air-filled dry rooms on the way down.
- Visitors can practice scuba diving – with a tank of air – and freediving – where divers simply hold their breath.

**Reference:** <https://www.reuters.com/world/middle-east/worlds-deepest-pool-diving-opens-dubai-2021-07-12/>

## PK WARRIOR

**Question: Who is one of the leading Ayurvedic physicians who died recently?**

(a) Dr PK Warriar (b) Dr CK Warrior (c) Dr Swaminathan (d) Dr K. Sudhakar

**Answer: (a)**

**Related Facts:**

- Dr PK Warriar was the chief physician and managing trustee of the Kottakkal Arya Vaidya Sala, one of the leading Ayurvedic healthcare chains in the country.
- The country had honoured him with the Padma Shree in 1999 and Padma Bhushan in 2010.
- A prominent physician and a visionary who popularised the classical and authentic Ayurveda treatment across the world, Dr Warriar's birth centenary celebrations were held on June 8.
- The renowned Arya Vaidya Sala in Kottakkal near here and the Ayurveda Medical college flourished and became synonymous with Ayurveda after Dr Warriar took over the reins of the institution decades ago.
- Born to Sreedharan Namboodiri and Panniyampilly Kunhi Warrisyar on June 5, 1921, Panniyampilly Krishnankutty Warriar (PK Warriar) had his schooling in Kottakkal and joined KAS at the age of 20.
- **Key memoirs:**
  - He was attracted to the freedom struggle during the Quit India movement and abandoned Ayurveda studies under the tutelage of his uncle and founder of KAS Vaidyaratnam P S Warriar.
  - Dr Warriar returned to studies after he realised that active politics was not his cup of tea.
  - Soon after completion of his studies, he joined the KAS as a trustee at the age of 24.



**Reference:** <https://indianexpress.com/article/india/dr-pk-warrior-kottakkal-arya-vaidya-sala-dead-7398144/>

## INS Chillika hosts passing out parade

**Question: Recently a passing out parade was hosted by INS Chillika . It comes under which naval command?**

(a) Northern Naval Command (b) Southern Naval Command  
(c) Eastern Naval Command (d) Western Naval Command

**Answer: (b)**

**Related Facts:**

- A total of 2142 trainees of Indian Navy and Coast Guard of batch 01/2021 graduated from INS Chilka under Southern Naval Command in a ceremonial Passing Out Parade held on 09 Jul 2021.
- The parade was reviewed by Vice Admiral MA Hampiholi AVSM, NM, Commandant, Indian Naval Academy.
- The passing out parade marked the successful culmination of 21 weeks of their basic training.
- The Chief Guest also awarded medals and trophies to meritorious trainees on the occasion. During his address, the Admiral urged the passing out trainees to hone their skills further and develop a strong foundation of knowledge, willingness to learn and commitment to excel in their respective careers that lay ahead.
- He also urged them to uphold Navy's core values 'Duty, Honour and Courage'
- Ashish Chetry, Senior Secondary Recruit (SSR), Gulshan Kumar, Matric Recruit (MR) from Indian Navy as well as Gaikwad Ajit Suresh, Navik (General Duty) and Rathur Nikhil Vinod, Navik (Domestic Branch) from Coast Guard were adjudged the best trainees in their respective categories.



**Reference:** <https://pib.gov.in/PressReleaseDetail.aspx?PRID=1734411>

## Indian Researchers Spotted an Extremely Bright Supernova

**Question: Indian Researchers, from which of the following institute, Spotted an extremely bright supernova?**

- a) IISc b) IIT Mumbai
- c) Aryabhatta Research Institute of Observational Sciences (ARIES)
- d) None of these

**Answer: (c)**

**Related Facts:**

- On 10 July 2021 Saturday Union ministry of science and technology informed that Indian researchers spotted an extremely bright supernova.
- It was studied by scientists from Aryabhatta Research Institute of Observational Sciences (ARIES) Nainital.
- It should be known that ARIES is a research institute under the Department of Science and Technology (DST).
- This is a hydrogen deficient, fast-evolving supernova named as SN 2020ank that shines with the energy borrowed from an exotic type of neutron star with an ultra-powerful magnetic field.
- The Department of Science and Technology (DST) explained, a deep study of such ancient spatial objects can help probe the mysteries of the early universe.
- Supernovae (SNe) are highly energetic explosions in the universe releasing an enormous amount of energy.
- Such type of supernovae called SuperLuminous Supernova (SLSNe) are very rare.
- This is because they generally originated from very massive stars (minimum mass limit is more than 25 times that of the sun).
- The number distribution of such massive stars in our galaxy or in nearby galaxies is sparse.



- According to the DST, among them, SLSNe-I has been counted to about 150 entities spectroscopically confirmed so far.
- These ancient objects are among the least understood SNe because their underlying sources are unclear.
- Scientists said that their extremely high peak luminosity of such Super Luminous Supernova is unexplained.
- The SN 2020ank, first discovered by the Zwicky Transient Facility on January 19, 2020.
- The apparent look of the SN was very similar to other objects in the field. However, once the brightness was estimated it was found to be superluminous.
- The team observed it using special arrangements at India's recently commissioned Devasthal Optical Telescope (DOT-3.6m).
- The team also observed it along with two other Indian telescopes: Sampurnanand Telescope-1.04m and Himalayan Chandra Telescope-2.0m.
- They found that the outer layers of the onion structured supernovae had been peeled off, and the core was shining with a borrowed energy source.
- The study led by Amit Kumar, a PhD student working under S B Pandey, and published in the Monthly Notice of the Royal Astronomical Society.
- The study suggested a possibly powering source from an exotic type of neutron star with an ultra-powerful magnetic field (magnetar).
- Deeper investigations could explore the underlying physical mechanisms, possible progenitors, and environments hosting such rare explosions.
- Investigative scientists could also provide evidence of their possible associations with other energetic explosions like Gamma-ray bursts (GRBs) and Fast Radio Bursts (FRBs).

#### Links:-

<https://www.thehindu.com/sci-tech/science/indian-researchers-spot-rare-superluminous-supernova-shining-with-borrowed-energy-source/article35246289.ece>

### Laser-powered anti-drone system

**Question : Which country has tested a laser-powered anti-drone system in July 2021 with a view to successfully conduct the 2024 Olympics ?**

a. Russia b. USA c. Japan d. France

**Ans. d.**

#### Related facts —

France has tested a laser-powered anti-drone system in July 2021 with a view to successfully conduct the 2024 Olympics.

#### Location —

The test, conducted near the Atlantic coast in southwestern France, was a first for Europe, adding that the United States and Israel were also working on similar “Star Wars”-inspired weapons.

#### Plan —

France plans to use the system, developed by local startup firm Cilas with public funds, to protect military bases and nuclear plants, as well as major events, against small low-flying drones that can escape radar detection.

#### Test —



- The prototype tested on July can detect lightweight commercial drones from a distance of up to 3 km (1.8 miles), track them and destroy them once they approach within 1 km of the canon.
- Its laser ray is one million times more powerful than the one used by QR code readers.

**Link:**

<https://www.reuters.com/business/aerospace-defense/france-tests-laser-powered-anti-drone-system-2024-olympics-2021-07-07/>

## SPARSH System Implemented by Ministry of Defence

**Question: With which of the following SPARSH system Implemented by Ministry of Defence, related to?**

- a) Internal security b) Pension Administration c) Welfare of women  
d) None of these

**Answer: (b)**

**Related Facts:-**

- Ministry of Defence has implemented System for Pension Administration Raksha (SPARSH).
- SPARSH is an integrated system for automation of sanction and disbursement of defence pension.
- This web-based system processes pension claims and credits pension directly into the bank accounts of defence pensioners.
- Under this system defence pensioners are independent from relying on any external intermediary.
- A Pensioner Portal is available for pensioners to view their pension-related information.
- All the Pensioners, by this portal can access services and register complaints for redressal of grievances, if any, relating to their pension matters.
- SPARSH envisages the establishment of Service Centres to provide last-mile connectivity to pensioners.
- This kind of facility is for those pensioners who may be unable to directly access the SPARSH portal for any reason.
- The two largest banks dealing with defence pensioners – State Bank of India (SBI) and Punjab National Bank (PNB) – have been co-opted as Service Centres.
- It should be known that several offices of the Defence Accounts Department, which are already functioning as Service Centres for pensioners.



**Links:-**

<https://pcdapension.nic.in/pcdapension/Misc/sparsh.htm>

## Army inducts 10m bridging system developed by DRDO

**Question: Recently army inducted 10m bridging system .It is developed by whom?**

- (a) DRDO (b) NSO (c) NASA (d) ISRO

**Answer: (a)**

**Related Facts:**

- The Army on 2nd July 2021 inducted the first production lot of 12 Short Span Bridging System (SSBS)-10m.



- It is designed and developed by the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) in association with Larsen & Toubro Limited, the production agency.
- The SSBS-10m plays a crucial role of bridging the gaps up to 9.5m as a single span providing a 4m wide, fully decked roadway, ensuring faster movement of the troops
- The project involved the development of two prototypes of 5m SSBS on Tatra 6×6 chassis and another two prototypes of 10m SSBS on Tatra 8×8 re-engineered chassis.
- This bridging system is compatible with the Sarvatra bridging system (75 m), where the last span required covering gaps less than 9.5 m.
- The system will help in quick movement of troops and enhance the mobilisation of resources.
- The DRDO has developed a range of bridges for the Army that have already been inducted.



**BY: AMIT GUPTA**

**Reference:** <https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/army-inducts-10m-bridging-system-developed-by-drdo/article35110822.ece>

## Army chief Naravane to inaugurate war memorial for Indian soldiers in Italy

**Question: Who has inaugurated war memorial for Indian soldiers in Italy?**

(a) Narendra Modi (b) Rajnath Singh (c) MM Naravane (d) Dr. Harshvardhan

**Answer: (c)**

**Related Facts:**

- Chief of Army Staff (COAS), General MM Naravane -day visited to the United Kingdom and Italy from July 5 to 8.
- He inaugurated the Indian Army Memorial in the famous town of Cassino .
- He briefed at the Italian Army's Counter IED Centre of Excellence at Cecchingola, Rome.
- During the four-day visit, he met his counterparts and senior military leaders of these countries with an aim of enhancing India's defence cooperation.
- COAS interacted with the Secretary of State for Defence, Chief of Defence Staff, Chief of General Staff and other dignitaries.
- He exchanged ideas on issues of mutual interest.
- The Army Chief held important discussions with the Chief of Defence Staff and Chief of Staff of the Italian Army.



**Reference:** <https://www.livemint.com/news/india/army-chief-naravane-to-inaugurate-war-memorial-for-indian-soldiers-in-italy-will-also-visit-uk-11625395326347.html>

## Fifth generation long range, autonomous, precision-guided missile system 'Sea Breaker'

**Question: Which of the following country has recently unveiled 'Sea Breaker' a fifth generation long range, autonomous, precision-guided missile system?**

a) Israel b) USA c) Russia d) UK

**Answer: (a)**

**Related Facts:**

- On 30 June 2021; Israel unveiled a fifth generation long range, autonomous, precision-guided missile system 'Sea Breaker'
- Sea Breaker missile system is built by the Israeli defence manufacturing company Rafael Advanced Defense Systems Ltd.
- It Enabled Israeli defence forces with significant attack performance against a variety of high-value maritime and land targets.
- Sea Breaker is a naval and artillery unit force-multiplier, designed to overcome the modern warfare arena challenges, using Rafael's legacy of high-end precision guided solutions.
- The company claims Sea Breaker provides surgical, pin-point precision strikes from stand-off ranges of up to 300 km.
- It features an advanced IIR (Imaging Infra-Red) seeker, ideal for engagement of maritime and land targets, stationary or moving.
- Sea Breaker can be launched from naval platforms, varying in size, from fast attack missile boats, to corvettes and frigates.
- The land version is a central part of the shore defence, based on Rafael's highly mobile SPYDER launchers.
- The battery architecture supports standalone launchers, or operation as an integrated solution, with a command and control Unit (CCU) and various sensors, based on customer requirements.



**Links:-**

<https://odishatv.in/news/international/rafael-unveils-fifth-generation-missile-system-sea-breaker-86881>

<https://www.army-technology.com/news/israel-rafael-long-range-missile-system/>

## Concentrated Solar Thermal (CST) based test rig facility

**Question: In which of the following city, Central government has established the Concentrated Solar Thermal (CST) based test rig facility?**

a) Raipur b) Bengaluru c) Hyderabad d) None of these

**Answer: (c)**

**Related facts:-**

- On 7 July 2021; the Union ministry of science & technology announced the establishment of Concentrated Solar Thermal (CST) based test rig facility at Hyderabad.
- CST at Hyderabad can help the growing solar industry in India to test capability and performance of solar thermal components like solar receiver tubes, heat transfer fluids, concentrating mirrors.
- The facility has been set up by the International Advanced Research Centre for Powder Metallurgy and New Materials (ARCI), an autonomous institute of the Department of Science & Technology (DST).
- It will validate solar thermal components such as solar receiver tubes, heat transfer fluids, concentrating mirrors, and AR coated glass tubes, etc. of the CST system in field conditions.



- It will validate the indigenous components by parallelly comparing the performance (heat gain and heat loss properties) of the standard components.
- It will be done with varying the operating parameters (e.g., flow rates of Heat Transfer Fluids (HTFs) operating temperature, pressures, etc.) and different DNI (Direct Normal Irradiance) conditions.
- The development of solar thermal technologies for low and medium-temperature applications requires much attention of indigenous solar thermal components manufacturing facilities.
- There is the need that indigenous solar thermal components should have cost-effective engineering designs because most of the solar thermal companies import solar thermal components, particularly from China and Europe.
- In this regard, ARCI is working on the development of cost-effective solar receiver tubes, anti-reflective (AR) coated glass covers, nanostructure material-based thermic fluids etc.
- There is also the requirement of Development of durable reflective mirrors to enhance the performance and cutting down the cost of the solar thermal systems in India.
- Apart from the development, the testing and validation of the components in real-field conditions are critical for the deployment of solar thermal technology.
- In order to cater to this need, ARCI has established a concentrated solar thermal-based single-axis parabolic trough test rig facility sponsored by the Technology Research Centre (TRC) project, DST, Govt. of India.
- The parabolic-trough test rig facility has features for simultaneous testing of standard and indigenous solar receiver tubes.
- It has a thermic fluid-based closed-loop system which can operate between 50 to 350°C temperature ranges.
- It can conduct heat gain studies in real-field conditions with the actual measurement of solar irradiance condition and has an electrical heater support for measuring the actual heat loss of solar receivers at different operating temperatures.
- ARCI's test rig facility provides the performance of indigenously developed solar thermal components in real-field operating conditions, thus attracting greater interest from the industries.
- Recently, HPCL R&D, Bangalore, has sanctioned a project to ARCI for validating their indigenously developed heat transfer fluids with the comparison of a world-leading commercial product.

#### Links:-

<https://www.pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1733436>

## Biomaterials for Bone Tissue Regeneration

**Question: Which of the following agency instituted the Inspire fellowship?**

- Department of Science & Technology (DST), Government of India.
- IISc
- CSIR
- None of these

**Answer: (a)**

**Related Fact:-**

- A nano biomaterial with a stable link between two molecules or a hormone nanoconjugate called hydroxyapatite-Parathyroid, synthesized by Inspire Faculty fellow Dr. Geetanjali Tomar.
- This Biomaterials may soon will be used for Bone Tissue Regeneration or simply in
- Geetanjali Tomar is Inspire Faculty fellow from Savitribai Phule Pune University.
- It should be noted that the Department of Science and Technology (DST) originated the "Innovation in Science Pursuit for Inspired Research (INSPIRE) Programme in 2008.
- This fellowship targets to bring young Indian talent towards the study of science and technology, leading to careers.

- The research done by Dr. Geetanjali was published in the journal Nanomedicine: Nanotechnology, Biology, and Medicine (NBM).
- She has also synthesised and characterised gold nanoparticles (AuNPs) from a microorganism called Actinomyces, Nocardia opacum NCIM 5124.
- Her gold nanoparticle synthesis published in Applied Microbiology and Biotechnology.
- It paves the way for development of nanocarrier systems for delivery of drugs to bone tissue for regenerative therapies.
- Dr. Geetanjali's lab focuses on studying the properties of stem cells in terms of their suitability for tissue regeneration.
- At the same time, they are also working on development of materials for therapeutic applications in some critical bone defects.
- Their research on the current status of materials and techniques used to fabricate scaffolds for skull and facial bones (craniomaxillofacial bone) tissue engineering was recently published.
- Currently placed as a DST Women scientist (WOS- B), she has developed a polymer system for replicating the bone marrow microenvironment by co-culturing bone cells on its surface.
- This would enable the researchers in therapeutic screening of the target molecules.
- Along with her group, she is currently working on development of a hydrogel-based cell-seeded scaffold to design a minimally invasive regenerative approach for vertebral and inter-vertebral disorders.
- She has started the process for patenting of this technology and is also working as a consultant for many industries for development of therapeutic products.

#### Links:-

<https://www.pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1733433>

## Six Technology Innovation Platforms

**Question: Which of the following ministry of Govt on 2 July 2021 has launched six Technology Innovation Platforms?**

- a) Ministry of Heavy Industries b) Ministry of Science & Technology  
c) Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas d) None of these

**Answer: (a)**

#### Related Facts:-

- On 2 July 2021; Ministry of Heavy Industries has launched six Technology Innovation Platforms.
- Minister of Heavy Industries and Public Enterprises Shri Prakash Javadekar inaugurated these through virtual mode.
- These technology innovation platforms will focus on development of technologies for the globally competitive manufacturing in India.
- Shri Javadekar said that these platforms are the gift to the nation during the celebration of Azadi Ka Amrut Mahotsav-Celebration of 75 Years of Independence.
- These platforms will help in bringing all India's technical resources and the concerned Industry on to one platform.
- These innovation platforms will provide required momentum to kick start and facilitate identification of technology problems faced by Indian Industry and crowd source solutions for the same.
- **The Six Technology Platforms have been developed by-**
- IIT Madras,  
Central Manufacturing Technology Institute (CMTI),



International Centre for Automotive Technology(iCAT),  
Automotive Research Association of India(ARAI),  
BHEL and HMT in association with IISc Bangalore.

- These platforms will facilitate industry start-ups, domain experts/professionals, R&D institutions and academia (colleges & universities), to provide technology solutions, suggestions, expert opinions etc.

**Links:-**

<https://pib.gov.in/PressReleaselframePage.aspx?PRID=1732263>

## Indian naval ship Tabar conducts military exercise with Italian Navy

**Question: Indian naval ship Tabar conducted military exercise recently with which country?**

(a) Japan (b) Italy (c) North Korea (d) Oman

**Answer: (b)**

**Related Facts:**

- As part of the ongoing deployment to the Mediterranean, INS Tabar entered the Port of Naples, Italy on 03 Jul 21.
- The ship was accorded a warm welcome by the Italian Navy.
- During the stay in port the Commanding Officer Captain Mahesh Mangipudi called on the senior officers of the Prefect of Naples Authority, the regional Italian Navy Headquarters and the Coast Guard Headquarters at Naples.
- On departure from port, the ship also undertook a Maritime Partnership Exercise with ITS Antonio Marceglia (F 597), a frontline frigate of the Italian Navy, on 04 and 05 July 2021 in the Tyrrhenian Sea.
- The exercise covered a wide range of naval operations including air defence procedures, replenishment at sea, communication drills and cross deck helo operations by day and night.
- The exercise was mutually beneficial in enhancing interoperability and towards consolidating combined operations against maritime threats.
- The exercise culminated with a 'Steam Past' by the two ships, as per the naval custom.



**Reference:** <https://www.livemint.com/news/india/indian-naval-ship-tabar-conducts-military-exercise-with-italian-navy-11625650983600.html>

## New Naval Base of Egypt

**Question: At which of the following place on 3 July 2021; Egyptian President Abdel-Fattah al-Sisi has inaugurated the largest Naval Base of the country?**

a) Gargoub b) Ezbet El Borg c) Mersa Matruh d) None of these

**Answer: (a)**

**Related Facts:-**

- On 3 July 2021; Egyptian President Abdel-Fattah al-Sisi inaugurated Naval Base in Gargoub on Egypt's northwest coast.
- The new base is considered Egypt's largest naval base covering an area of 10 million square meters along the Mediterranean.





- This Naval Base is a new addition to the Egyptian naval base system, a part of the comprehensive development plan for the naval forces.
- The inauguration ceremony was attended by the Crown Prince of Abu Dhabi Sheikh Mohammed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, and Egyptian Prime Minister Mostafa Madbouly.
- The naval surface units, submarines, and aircraft at the base will provide security for Egypt along the northern and western strategic directions.
- The new base will preserve economic wealth, secure shipping lines, and maintain maritime security of the country.
- The base also provides logistical support for the Egyptian naval forces in the Red and Mediterranean seas.
- It will help the country's naval forces to confront any challenges and risks that may exist in the region and to combat smuggling and illegal immigration.

**Links:-**

[http://www.xinhuanet.com/english/africa/2021-07/03/c\\_1310041495.htm](http://www.xinhuanet.com/english/africa/2021-07/03/c_1310041495.htm)

## Virgin Orbit successfully launched seven Satellites

**Question: Which of the following known as Cosmic Girl by the Richard Branson's space company 'Virgin Orbit'?**

a) Boeing 747 jet b) Launch Pad c) Launch vehicle d) None of these

**Answer: (a)**

**Related Facts:**

- On 30 June 2021; Virgin Orbit successfully launched seven satellites into their planned orbits.
- In this latest launch Richard Branson's Virgin Orbit delivered satellites from three countries into space.
- It was the second successful rocket launch by the company from a jet plane.
- The company's modified 747 jet, named as 'Cosmic Girl' took part in the launch of satellites as it carried with itself a two-stage LauncherOne rocket.
- Cosmic Girl jet took off from California's Mojave Desert, carrying this 70-foot LauncherOne rocket beneath its left wing.
- LauncherOne rocket detached from the jet over the Pacific near the Channel Islands and then it fired its engine to head to space.
- The drop occurred at an altitude of about 37,000 feet.
- LauncherOne rocket carried with itself the satellites from the U.S. Defense Department, the Royal Netherlands Air Force and Poland's SatRevolution company.
- Virgin Orbit later declared success, saying the satellites were in the proper orbit.



**Links:-**

<https://www.space.com/virgin-orbit-launch-seven-satellites>

## Hyderabad-based technology R&D firm Grene Robotics has designed and developed India's first indigenous drone defence dome called "Indrajaal"

**Question: Which of the following is India's first indigenous drone defence dome developed by Hyderabad-based technology R&D firm Grene Robotics?**

(a) Mayajaal (b) Indrajaal (c) Sophia (d) Raftar

**Answer: (b)**

**Related Facts:**

- Hyderabad-based technology R&D firm Grene Robotics has designed and developed India's first indigenous drone defence dome .
- India's first indigenous drone defence dome called "Indrajaal".
- As per the company, the drone defence dome has the capability to autonomously protect an area of 1000-2000 sq km .
- It works against the aerial threats by assessing and acting on aerial threats such as Unmanned Aerial Vehicles (UAVs), loitering munitions, and Low- Radar Cross Section (RCS) targets.
- For the first time in India and many times, globally rogue forces have adopted cutting-edge technologies such as UAVs, Smart Swarms, etc.
- **Why in news:**
  - Jammu Air Base on June 27th was attacked by such technologies to drop explosives next to the Mi-17 hangar," Grene Robotics stated in a press release.
- **Significance:**
  - The ANTI-UAV systems will not only provide protection to defence bases but it will be beneficial for linear infrastructures like international borders against advanced weaponry.
  - The path-breaking development is imperative because manual weapons and point-based defence systems can't defend modern warfares, which are operated by Artificial Intelligence (AI) and robotics.



### Salient features of Indrajaal

- Real-time situational awareness
- Integrated and Intelligent meshed network
- Integrated all current weapons suite and infrastructure
- Honeycombed cell structure for seamlessly built
- Synergic combination of 9-10 technologies
- 24x7 persistent and autonomous monitoring, action and tracking

### Link:

Reference: <https://www.outlookindia.com/website/story/india-news-grene-robotics-develops-indias-first-autonomous-drone-defence-dome-system/386462>

## Tech Company OneWeb sent 36 satellites into orbit

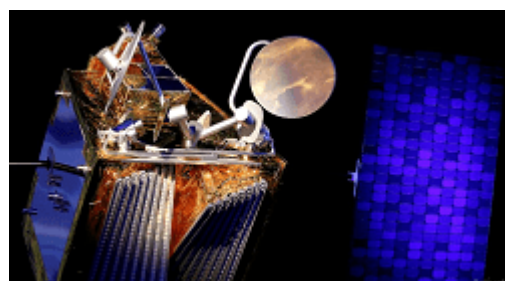
**Q. Recently which tech company sent satellites into orbit to provide internet connectivity ?**

a) Reliance Jio b) One web c) Tesla d) none of these

**Answer (b)**

**Related Facts:**

- Britain-based tech company OneWeb sent 36 satellites into orbit on July 1st , 2021.
- The satellites were blasted into orbit by a Soyuz rocket from Russia's Vostochny cosmodrome.
- According to One web it would pave the way for it to begin rolling out a commercial internet service in swathes of the northern hemisphere this year.
- It listed the United Kingdom, Alaska, Northern Europe, Greenland, Iceland, continental U.S., the



Arctic Seas and Canada as areas that should be offered full connectivity.

- A commercial service should be rolled out by the end of 2021 with a global service following next year.
- Service demonstrations will begin in several key locations this summer, including in Alaska and Canada.

**Link:**

<https://www.livemint.com/companies/news/oneweb-launches-satellites-to-roll-out-northern-internet-service-11625156474931.html>

## Work on the fifth of six nuclear reactors at the Kudankulam begins

**Question: Rosatom is state-run atomic energy corporation of which of the following country?**

a) USA b) Japan c) Russia d) France

**Answer: (c)**

**Related Facts:-**

- On 29 June 2021; Russia's state-run atomic energy corporation on began work on the fifth of six nuclear reactors at the Kudankulam nuclear power plant in India.
- An official ceremony was held to mark the first pouring of concrete for the foundation plate of the fifth reactor building at the Kudankulam nuclear power plant (NPP).
- Work on the crucial project has continued despite disruptions caused by the Covid-19 pandemic, with Russia delivering several critical components on schedule over the past year.
- Russia is currently building the 6,000-MW project at Kudankulam in Tamil Nadu, which will have six VVER-1000 nuclear reactors.
- Russia is also in talks with India to construct six more reactors at a new site that is yet to be identified.
- Two reactors at Kudankulam are currently operational, and India signed a framework agreement with Rosatom in 2017 for constructing the fifth and sixth units.
- The ceremony was held via videoconference because of Covid-19-related restrictions.
- The pouring of the concrete marked the official beginning of the main stage of construction of the fifth nuclear reactor.
- Kudankulam NPP construction project has been a symbol of close cooperation between Russia and India.
- Alexey Likhachev at present is the director general of Russia's state-run atomic energy corporation Rosatom.
- He said that together with our Indian colleagues we are ready to launch the serial construction of the state-of-the-art Generation III+ Russian-designed nuclear power units at a new site in India.
- Rosatom has all the most advanced nuclear power technologies.
- Russian ambassador Nikolay Kudashev described the start of construction of the fifth nuclear reactor at Kudankulam as one of the significant moments in Russian-Indian nuclear energy cooperation.
- He expressed that he start of construction of this unit demonstrates our firm devotion to achieve success in all bilateral undertakings.
- Two reactors at Kudankulam are currently operational, and India signed a framework agreement with Rosatom in 2017 for constructing the fifth and sixth units.



**Links:-**

<https://www.hindustantimes.com/india-news/russian-agency-begins-work-on-5th-reactor-at-kudankulam-nuclear-power-plant-101624982658115.html>

## Japan to hold first joint air force exercises with Philippines

**Question: What is C-130H of Japan?**

a) Fighter aircraft b) Cargo aircraft c) Submarine d) None of these

**Answer: (b)**

**Related Facts:-**

- On 1 July 2021; embassy in Manila announced that the air forces of Japan and the Philippines will hold their first-ever joint exercises.
- This exercise between the two countries will be conducted from July 5 to 8, 2021.
- The exercise being considered as significant milestone will be conducted at Clark Air Base, formerly a United States military facility in the northern Philippines.
- The exercise is being held for air-to-air bilateral training in humanitarian and disaster relief.
- It will include a Japanese C-130H cargo aircraft and its personnel which together with Philippine airmen will simulate delivery of relief goods in isolated areas.
- The exercises will include a Japanese C-130H cargo aircraft and its personnel which together with Philippine airmen will simulate delivery of relief goods in isolated areas.
- It should be known that Japan and the Philippines are both natural disaster-prone countries.
- Maj. Mizuno Masaki, unit commander of the Japanese Air Self Defense Force, said in a statement, there is so much we can share on disaster relief operations for saving lives.
- There is grave reality also that US allies Japan and the Philippines have both been at odds with China over the conduct of its vessels and aircraft in the East and South China seas.
- To be noted that other US allies have already taken greater steps to preserve freedom of navigation and overflight in the region, including navy patrols, amid growing Chinese militarization.
- Japan came to the aid of the Philippines also in 2013 after the devastation caused by super typhoon Haiyan.
- The Philippines signed an agreement to forge closer defense ties in January 2015, and the two countries have since conducted 17 joint naval drills.
- Japan has also transferred defense and technology equipment that could help the Philippines boost patrols in the South China Sea.

**Links:-**

<https://edition.cnn.com/2021/07/01/asia/japan-philippines-joint-air-exercises-intl-hnk/index.html>

## Essential Defense Services Ordinance

**Question: Consider the following statements:**

i) Ministry of Law has notified Essential Defence Services Ordinance on June 30, 2021.

ii) As per the ordinance employees engaged in essential defence services will be prohibited henceforth from taking part in any agitation or strike.

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

a) I b) ii c) i and ii d) None of the above

**Ans: c**  
**Context**

- Ministry of Law has notified Essential Defence Services Ordinance on June 30, 2021.
- **Facts**
  - As per the ordinance, employees engaged in essential defence services will be prohibited henceforth from taking part in any agitation or strike.
- **What is in the ordinance?**
  - Strikes will be illegal.
  - Any person who commences a strike which is illegal under this Ordinance or goes or remains on, or otherwise takes part in shall be:
    - Punished with imprisonment for a term which may extend to one year ;
    - Punished with fine, which may extend to ₹10,000 or both.
  - Persons instigating or inciting others to take part in strike shall also be punishable with imprisonment for a term up to two years and fines.
- **Why the ordinance was needed?**
  - Major federations affiliated with 76,000 employees of Ordnance Factory Board (OFB) have announced that they would go on indefinite strike from July 26 to protest against government's decision to corporatize the OFB.
  - Earlier government has decided to restructure Ordnance Factory Boards from existing 41 entities to 7 entities that will although corporatize but will still be owned by government.
  - The amended law has specified that there will be no change in service conditions of employees of OFB even after corporatization.
- **Who will be covered under provisions?**
  - As per notification, employees involved in production of defence equipment, services & operation; maintenance of industrial establishment connected with military and in repair & maintenance of defence products will come under the purview of Ordinance.



**Reference:** <https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/defence-service-workers-barred-from-strike/article35073372.ece>

## **Tennis** **Wimbledon 2021**

**Question: Consider the following statements:**

- (1) Novak Djokovic has won Men's Singles Wimbledon Championship 2021 title.
- (2) Ashleigh Barty has won Women's Singles title at Wimbledon 2021.

**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 2021 Wimbledon Championships Grand Slam tennis tournament took place at the All England Lawn Tennis and Croquet Club in Wimbledon, London, United Kingdom.
- The Championship was held from 28 June-11 July 2021.
- Novak Djokovic successfully defended the Men's Singles title as he claimed his 20th Grand Slam tournament title.
- The Women's Singles title was won by Ashleigh Barty, who defeated Karolína Pliskova in the final.
- **Winners 2021:**
  - **Men's Single-** Novak Djokovic(Serbia)
  - Runner –up- Matteo Berrettini(Italy)
  - **Women's Single-** Ashleigh Barty(Australia)
  - Runner –up- Karolína Pliskova (Czech Republic)
  - **Men's Doubles-** Nikola Pietrangeli/ Mate Pavić(both Croatia)
  - **Women's Doubles-** Hsieh Su-we(Chinese)/ Elise Mertens(Belgium)
  - **Mixed Dobles-** Neal Skupski (Britain)/ Desirae Krawczyk(United States)

#### Links:

[https://www.wimbledon.com/en\\_GB/scores/results/day21.html](https://www.wimbledon.com/en_GB/scores/results/day21.html)

## Cricket

### ICC welcomes Mongolia, Tajikistan and Switzerland as new Members

**Question :Which of the following countries are not inducted as new member of ICC recently?**

(a) Mongolia, (b) Tajikistan (c) Switzerland (d) Israel

**Answer : (d)**

#### Related Facts:

- The International Cricket Council (ICC) inducted Mongolia, Tajikistan and Switzerland as members at its 78th Annual General Meeting.
- The meeting, which was conducted virtually, welcomed Mongolia and Tajikistan as the 22nd and 23rd members of the Asia region,.
- While Switzerland is Europe's 35th member, with the ICC now comprising 106 members in total, including 94 associates.
- "All three applications demonstrated an impressive commitment to growing the game – particularly amongst women and youth – and we look forward to assisting them in achieving their potential.

**Reference:** <https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/sports/cricket/news/icc-welcomes-mongolia-tajikistan-and-switzerland-as-new-members/articleshow/84525401.cms>

## T20 World Cup 2021

**Question – On 29 June 2021, the ICC made an announcement regarding the organization of the Men's T20 World Cup 2021. Which of the following is not correct in the option regarding the declaration made by ICC ?**

- (a) ICC Men's T20 World Cup 2021 will be held in UAE and Oman.
- (b) BCCI will not host the event.
- (c) T20 World Cup will be held between 17



October 2021 to 14 November 2021.

(d) The matches will be held at Dubai International Stadium, Sheikh Zayed Stadium, Abu Dhabi, Sharjah Stadium and Oman Cricket Academy Ground.

**Answer—(b)**

**Related facts —**

- On 29 June 2021, the ICC made an announcement regarding the organization of the Men's T20 World Cup 2021.
- **Key points —**
- ICC Men's T20 World Cup 2021 will be held in UAE and Oman. (From 17 October to 14 November 2021)
- BCCI will host the event.
- T20 World Cup will be held between 17 October 2021 to 14 November 2021.
- The matches will be held at Dubai International Stadium, Sheikh Zayed Stadium, Abu Dhabi, Sharjah Stadium and Oman Cricket Academy Ground.

**Link:**

<https://www.icc-cricket.com/media-releases/2180451>

## Football

### AIFF Footballer of the Year Award

**Question: Who has been conferred the 2020-21 AIFF Men's Footballer of the Year Award?**

(a) Gurpreet Singh Sandhu (b) Sanju Yadav (c) Both (a) & (b) (d) Sandesh Jhingan

**Answer: (d)**

**Related facts:**

- Senior India defender, Sandesh Jhingan was named the AIFF men's Footballer of the Year 2020-21 season.
- It is the first time that the towering central defender has received the AIFF Player of the Year award, having won the Emerging Player of the Year Award in 2014.
- Midfielder Suresh Singh Wangjam was picked as the Emerging Player for the year award for 2020-21.

**Links:**

<https://indianexpress.com/article/sports/football/sandesh-jhingan-named-aiff-mens-footballer-of-year-suresh-singh-wins-emerging-player-award-7415711/>

## Euro 2020

**Question: Which country has won Euro 2020, a European football championship?**

(a) Italy (b) England (c) Denmark (d) Spain

**Answer: (a)**

**Related facts:**

- Italy has won the European Football Championship, Euro 2020.
- Italy defeated England by 3-2 in penalty shoot-out in the final at Wembley Stadium in London.



- This is Italy's second European championship title after first one in 1968.
- Also, this is the first major international trophy won by Italy since their 2006 FIFA World Cup win.
- Italy's Goalkeeper Gianluigi Donnarumma was named player of UEFA EURO 2020.
- Leonardo Bonucci(Italy) won the Star of the Match award.
- UEFA European Football Championship is a quadrennial (held once in four year) international men's football championship of Europe. It is organized by Union of European Football Associations (UEFA).

#### Links:

<https://www.france24.com/en/live-news/20210711-italy-beat-england-3-2-on-penalties-to-win-euro-2020-final>

## Messi's Argentina beats Brazil 1-0 to win Copa America 2021

**Question- Which of the following country has won the Copa America title 2021?**

(a) Argentina (b) Spain (c) Brazil (d) Portugal

**Ans. (a)**

#### Related facts-

- On July 10, 2021, Lionel Messi's Argentina beat Brazil 1-0 in Copa America final to secure the national team's first title in 28 years and the superstar's first major international trophy.
- Argentina's winning goal at the Maracana Stadium in Rio de Janeiro came in the 22nd minute after Rodrigo de Paul made a long pass to Ángel di Maria.
- The 33-year-old veteran striker counted on some sloppy defending from left-back Renan Lodi to take control and lob it past goalkeeper Ederson.
- It was only the third goal Brazil conceded in the tournament. Neymar tried hard with dribbles and passes, but the Selecao barely threatened Argentina goalkeeper Emiliano Martinez.
- The team of coach Tite had won its previous five matches in the Copa America and scored goals in all of them.
- Messi's performance in the final was not as impressive as in previous matches of the tournament, during which he scored four goals and had five assists. He had a clear opportunity in the 88th minute, tried to dribble Ederson, but the Brazilian goalkeeper stopped him.



**Reference-** [https://www.business-standard.com/article/sports/copa-america-2021-brazil-vs-argentina-final-live-match-time-and-telecast-details-in-india-today-121071000182\\_1.html](https://www.business-standard.com/article/sports/copa-america-2021-brazil-vs-argentina-final-live-match-time-and-telecast-details-in-india-today-121071000182_1.html).

## Chess

## Vantika Agarwal wins National Women Online Chess Title

**Question: Who among the following has won the National Women Online Chess title held in July 2021?**

(a) Vantika Agarwal (b) Arpita Mukherjee (c) Sreeja Seshadri (d) Soumya Swaminathan

**Answer: (a)**

#### Related facts:



- Vantika Agarwal has won the National Women Online Chess title
- She scored 9.5 points from 11 rounds.
- Arpita Mukherjee of West Bengal took the second spot.
- Tamil Nadu's Sreeja Seshadri secured third spot in the competition.
- In the absence of over-the-board events due to the ongoing pandemic, the All India Chess Federation has decided to consider the performance of this online event for selection of players for the Asian individual championship and other events.

#### Links:

<https://sportstar.thehindu.com/chess/vantika-agarwal-wins-womens-national-online-chess-title-raahul-bags-junior-crown/article35569185.ece>

## Viswanathan Anand wins Sparkassen Trophy

**Question- Which of the following person has won the Sparkassen trophy?**

- (a) Viswanathan Anand (b) Vladimir Kramnik  
(c) Magnus Carlsen (d) Fabiano Caruana

**Ans. (a)**

#### Related Facts-

- In a fascinating battle between two former World champions fought over four games in a brand new format of chess, Viswanathan Anand defeated Vladimir Kramnik to win the Sparkassen Trophy at Dortmund, Germany on July 18, 2021.
- Anand needed only a draw in the final game of the No-Castling Chess event, and he got it in 40 moves.
- Castling is not allowed in this format in an effort to make the game more interesting.
- Castling is a special move to protect the king and activate the rook. It is the only time in chess a player can move two pieces in one move.



**Reference-** <https://www.mid-day.com/sports/other-sports/article/debutant-morikawa-closes-in-on-british-open-golf-win-23183549?infinite-scroll=1>.

## Junior Speed Chess Championship: Nihal Beats Checa On Eve Of FIDE World Cup

**Question: Recently Nihal Sarin was in news. He beat whom in chess junior speed chess championship?**

- (a) Nicholas Checa (b) Karthick Venkatrama (c) Nitish Belurkar (d) Magnus Carlsen

**Answer: (a)**

#### Related Facts:

- After just arriving in Sochi, Russia, for the FIDE World Cup, GM Nihal Sarin beat GM Nicholas Checa in the 2021 Junior Speed Chess Championship presented by ChessKid.
- Playing from his hotel, the Indian prodigy won in all three time controls.
- It's one of the perks of online competitions: you can play them from anywhere as long as your internet connection is good enough.



- Nihal (@NihalSarin on Chess.com), who had just won two strong open tournaments in a row in Serbia from where he had flown to Sochi for the FIDE World Cup, played his match with Checa.

**Reference:** <https://www.chess.com/news/view/junior-speed-chess-championship-nihal-checha>

## Badminton

### Badminton player Shri Nandu Natekar

**Q. Recently the famous player Nandu Natekar passed away. He was related to which sport?**

a) Cricket b) Football c) Badminton d) None of these

**Ans : c**

#### **RELATED FACTS:-**

- On 28, 2021 Nandu Natekar, one of the superstars in Indian badminton history, passed away in Pune due to prolonged illness.
- He was 88.
- In the 1950s and 1960s, Natekar was a household name all over India, thanks to his exploits on the court across the globe.
- The first Indian shuttler to win a tournament overseas — the Selangor International crown in Kuala Lumpur in 1956.
- Natekar was among the first batch of the Arjuna Award recipients in 1961 when the awards were introduced.
- His international achievements included making it to the All England Championship quarterfinals in 1954 and representing India in the Commonwealth Games in Jamaica in 1966.
- He bagged six singles, six doubles and five mixed doubles National titles during his glorious career.
- His footwork was often compared to that of a ballet dancer while his deceptive wrist-work left his opponents and connoisseurs spellbound.
- Interestingly, it was another racquet sport — tennis — that was his first love.
- He excelled in tennis as much as badminton, losing to the legendary Ramanathan Krishnan in the 1951 National junior championship final.



#### **LINK**

<https://www.thehindu.com/sport/other-sports/indian-badminton-great-nandu-natekar-dead/article35576017.ece>

### India to host badminton world championship in 2026

**Question: Which country will host badminton world championship in 2026?**

(a) India (b) China (c) United Kingdom (d) Japan

**Answer: (a)**

#### **Related Facts:**

- India will host the World Badminton Championships in 2026, the sport's global governing body, BWF, said on July 13, 2021.





- India were scheduled to organise the Sudirman Cup in 2023 but the Badminton World Federation decided to award the hosting rights of the world mixed team championships to China.
- The BWF was forced to shift this year's Sudirman Cup from Suzhou, China to Vantaa, Finland due to the COVID-19 situation in the Asian country.
- "Suzhou will now stage the 2023 edition of the BWF World Mixed Team Championships, with original 2023 hosts India accepting the opportunity to host the BWF World Championships in 2026.
- "The Badminton World Federation (BWF) can confirm Suzhou, China has been awarded the hosting rights of the TotalEnergies BWF Sudirman Cup Finals 2023.
- "Suzhou was due to host the championships in 2021, but with BWF unable to stage any tournaments in China this year, the event was switched to Vantaa in Finland."
- This will only be the second time that India will be hosting the world championship, with Hyderabad having played hosts to the prestigious event in 2009.
- "Staging a tournament of the stature of World Championships is a great achievement for us at Badminton Association of India as well as for the country," Badminton Association of India (BAI) president Himanta Biswa Sarma said.

#### Note :

- The Olympic-bound P V Sindhu is the reigning world champion in women's singles. Sindhu also has two silver and two bronze medals at the worlds.
- B Sai Praneeth had ended a 36-year-long wait for a men's singles world championships medal at Basel, Switzerland two year ago.

**Reference:** [https://www.business-standard.com/article/sports/india-to-host-badminton-world-championship-in-2026-says-bwf-121071300695\\_1.html](https://www.business-standard.com/article/sports/india-to-host-badminton-world-championship-in-2026-says-bwf-121071300695_1.html)

## Table Tennis

### Ceat Ultimate Table Tennis, 2018

**Question: Which of the following team won the title of the Ceat Ultimate Table Tennis Championship, 2018, held on July 1<sup>st</sup>, 2018?**

(a) Warriors TTC (b) Maharashtra United

(c) Dabang Smashers TTC (d) Empowerji Challengers

**Answer: (c)**

#### Related Facts:

- Final round of Ultimate Table Tennis, 2018 Sponsored by CEAT concluded in Kolkata. (July 1, 2018)
- Six teams participated in competition namely- Dabang Smashers TTC, Empowerji Challengers, Falcons TTC, Maharashtra United, RP-SG Mavericks and Warriors TTC.
- **Competition Results:**
- Winner – Dabang Smashers TTC (by 11-7), prize money – Rs. 1 crore
- Runner Up – Falcons TTC, prize money – Rs. 75 lakhs
- **Competition award:**
- Standout Indian player – Manika Batra (Dabang Smashar)
- Most Valuable Players (MVP), Women – Elizabeta Samara (Maharashtra United)
- CEAT Most Valuable Player (Male) – Liam Pitchford (Falcons)



- Super Saver – Matilda Ekholm (Falcons)
- Ultimate 1 – Yoshida Masaki (Dabang Smashers)

**See also the links below:**

<https://www.ultimatetabletennis.in/news/sathiymanika-power-smashers-to-ceat-utt-finale-triumph>

## Formula One

### British Grand Prix 2021

**Question: Who has won the 2021 Styrian Grand Prix?**

- (a) Max Verstappen (b) Lewis Hamilton  
(c) Sergio Perez (d) Valtteri Bottas

**Answer: (b)**

**Related facts:**

- Lewis Hamilton (Mercedes-Great Britain) has won the British Grand Prix 2021.
- The event marked 99th career win of seven times world champion Hamilton and the fourth win of the current season after 10 races.
- Monaco based Charles Leclerc (Ferrari) stood second. Hamilton's teammate Valtteri Bottas from Finland, finished third.



**Links:**

<https://www.reuters.com/lifestyle/sports/hamilton-wins-home-british-gp-eighth-time-2021-07-18/>

## Athletics

### World Cadet Championship 2021

**Question: Consider the following statements:**

- (1) Indian has won 13 medals, including 5 Gold, 1 Silver and 7 Bronze at the World Cadet Championship 2021 in Budapest, Hungary.  
(2) Priya Malik has won Gold Medal under 73 kg category.

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

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

**Answer: (c)**

**Related facts:**

- Indian has finished the World Cadet Championship 2021 with 13 medals, including 5 Gold, 1 Silver and 7 Bronze.
- The World Cadet Championship 2021 was organized from 19-25 July 2021 at Budapest, Hungary.
- The Indian Men's Team were crowned as Freestyle Champions. It is India's 1st ever team freestyle world title at any level. While the Women's Wrestling Team clinched the Silver Medal.



- The Cadet World Championship is a yearly event organized by United World Wrestling for wrestlers aged 16-17 years. It is held under Greco-Roman, Freestyle and Women category.

### Medal Winners:

Winner	Category	Medal
Priya Malik	Women's 73 kg	Gold
Tannu	Women's 43 kg	Gold
Komal Panchal	Women's 46 kg	Gold
Aman Gulia	Men's 48 kg FS	Gold
Sagar Jaglan	Men's 80 kg FS	Gold
Jaskaran Singh	Men's 60 kg FS	Silver
Chirag	Men's 51 kg FS	Bronze
Jaideep	Men's 71 kg FS	Bronze
Ankit Gulia	Men's 65 kg GR	Bronze
Antim	Women's 53 kg	Bronze
Varsha	Women's 65 kg	Bronze
Sahil	Men's 110 kg FS	Bronze
Sumit	Men's 60 kg GR	Bronze

### Links:

<https://uww.org/event/world-championships-52?tab=results>

First ever Olympic gold medal in skateboarding

**Question: Who has won the first ever Olympic gold medal in skateboarding in Men's category?**

(a) Yuto Horigome (b) Kelvin Hoefler (c) Nyjah Huston (d) Jagger Eaton

**Answer: (a)**

**Related facts:**

- Japan's Yuto Horigome has won the first-ever skateboarding competition at the Olympic Games, taking gold in men's street event at the Ariake Urban Sport in Tokyo.
- Kelvin Hoefler of Brazil won silver in the men's street skating competition, while Jagger Eaton of the United States clinched the bronze.
- In women's category, Momiji Nishiya of Japan has won the gold medal. Rayssa Leal of Brazil won the silver medal, another Japanese Funa Nakayama took bronze medal.



**Links:**

<https://indianexpress.com/article/olympics/olympic-champ-momiji-nishiya-13-shows-in-skateboarding-the-younger-the-better-7423614/>

## AFI names Indian squad for Tokyo Olympic Games

**Question: How many athletes were announced by Athletics Federation of India to compete in Tokyo Olympics 2020?**

(a) 26 (b) 24 (c) 32 (d) 42

**Answer: (a)**

**Related facts:**

- On 5 July 2021, the Athletics Federation of India (AFI) has announced a 26-member team to compete in the Tokyo Olympics.
- The athletics events at the Olympics start on July 31 and it will run through August 9.
- The squad:**
- Men: Avinash Sable (3000m Steeplechase); MP Jabir (400m Hurdles); M Sreeshankar (Long Jump); Tajinderpal Singh Toor (Shot Put); Neeraj Chopra and Shivpal Singh (Javelin Throw); KT Irfan, Sandeep Kumar and Rahul Rohilla (20km Walk) and Gurpreet Singh (50km Walk); 4x400m Relay: Amoj Jacob, Arokia Rajiv, Muhammed Anas, Naganathan Pandi, Noah Nirmal Tom; 4x400m Mixed Relay: Sarthak Bhambri, Alex Antony
- Women: Dutee Chand (100m and 200m); Kamalpreet Kaur and Seema Antil-Punia (Discus Throw) and Annu Rani (Javelin Throw); Bhawna Jat and Priyanka Goswami (20km Walk) and (Mixed 4x400m Relay); Revathi Veeramani, Subha Venkatesan & Dhanalakshmi Sekhar.



**Links:**

<https://www.tribuneindia.com/news/sports/26-member-athletics-squad-announced-for-tokyo-olympics-278640>

## First Indian female swimmer to qualify for Olympics

**Question: Who has become the first Indian female swimmer to qualify for Olympics?**

(a) Shivani Kataria (b) Shikha Tandon (c) Richa Mishra (d) Maana Patel

**Answer: (d)**

**Related facts:**

- Maana Patel has become the first female and only the third swimmer from India to qualify for Tokyo Olympics 2020.
- Earlier, Srihari Nataraj and Sajjan Prakash have qualified for the Olympics 2020.
- 21-year old Gujarati swimmer Maana Patel will compete in the women's 100m backstroke event.
- Sajjan Prakash and Srihari Nataraj will take part in the 200m butterfly and 100m backstroke races respectively.
- About Tokyo Olympics 2020:
- 2020 Summer or Tokyo Olympics will start from 23rd July to 8th August 2021 in Tokyo, Japan. Originally, it was scheduled in 2020 but later got extended due to Covid 19 pandemic.
- Tokyo has become the first city in Asia to host Summer Games twice, first being held in 1964.



**Links:**

<https://www.indiatoday.in/sports/tokyo-olympics/story/maana-patel-first-indian-female-swimmer-to-qualify-for-tokyo-2020-olympics-1823099-2021-07-02>

## Sports Miscellaneous

**Saurabh Chaudhary crashes out in Finals, finishes 7th in 10 M Air Pistol finals**

**Question: Saurabh Chaudhary who participated in Tokyo Olympics and finished at 7th in which sports category?**

(a) Weightlifting (b) Air Pistol (c) Archery. (d) Artistic Gymnastics.

**Answer: (b)**

**Related Facts:**

- Saurabh Chaudhary had made it to the final of the men's 10m air pistol, but he has got the seventh rank in this event.
- Earlier, Saurabh Chaudhary had made it to the final of the men's 10m air pistol, then he finished first in the qualification round. He had scored a total of 586 marks. At the same time, Abhishek Verma of India remained at number 17 with 575 points. Saurabh Chaudhary scored 95, 98, 98, 100, 98 and 97 points in 6 series.
- Saurabh shot a series of 95 in the first series of men's 10m pistol qualification. His first 10 shots were: 10, 10, 10, 10, 10, 9, 9, 9, 9, 9 and after this, he was positioned at the 17th spot.





- Saurabh's second 10 shots added up to 98 and hence he bettered his spot to 9th. In the third series, Saurabh once again put on a cumulative score of 98, and his rank rose further to fifth.
- In the fourth series, Saurabh shot a perfect 10 and his rank got better to second, and he was going all guns blazing. In the fifth and sixth, Saurabh shot 98 and 97 and he finished with a total score of 586.

#### Reference:

<https://www.indiatoday.in/sports/tokyo-olympics/story/tokyo-2020-india-s-saurabh-chaudhary-qualifies-for-10m-air-pistol-men-s-final-finishes-wi>

## Mirabai Chanu created history, India got silver in the Olympics

**Question : Who won India's first medal in Tokyo Olympics 2020 that created remarkable history?**

- (a) Mirabai Chanu (b) Karnam Malleswari (c) Renu Bala Chanu  
(d) Khumukcham Sanjita Chanu

**Answer: (a)**

#### Related Facts:

- Mirabai Chanu created history by winning silver medal in weightlifting on 24th July 2021
- This is India's first medal in Tokyo Olympics.
- Mirabai Chanu has won silver medal in weightlifting.
- Mirabai Chanu was at number two after Snatch. After this, Mirabai Chanu managed to lift 110 kg in her first attempt of clean and jerk.
- Mirabai secured the second position in the 49kg category. However the gold of this event has been won by Jihoi Hou of China.
- **Key Notes:**
- Mirabai is the second woman from India to win a medal in weightlifting. Earlier, Karnam Malleswari had won a bronze medal in the 2000 Sydney Olympics.
- Mirabai secured the second position with a total weight of 202. In snatch, Mirabai lifted 89 kg in second attempt and 115 kg in second attempt in clean and jerk.
- In the second attempt, Mirabai Chanu was successful in lifting 115 kg. However, she failed in the third attempt and had to be satisfied with the silver medal.
- Mirabai Chanu was born in remote Manipur
- Chanu also got interested in weightlifting after considering Imphal's weightlifter Kunjrani as an inspiration.



#### Reference :

[https://olympics.com/en/?utm\\_source=google&utm\\_medium=essence-paid&utm\\_campaign=google\\_cpc\\_long-tail\\_bau\\_hybrid\\_engl](https://olympics.com/en/?utm_source=google&utm_medium=essence-paid&utm_campaign=google_cpc_long-tail_bau_hybrid_engl)

WAKO India Kickboxing Federation granted recognition as national sports federation by sports ministry

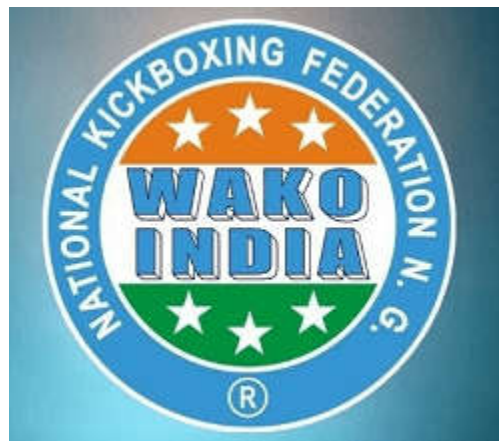
**Question: WAKO India Kickboxing Federation granted recognition as national sports federation by which ministry /organization recently?**

- (a) Ministry of Culture
- (b) The Ministry of Creative Economy, Culture and Sports
- (c) The Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports
- (d) Ministry of Sports

**Answer: (c)**

**Related Facts:**

- The Sports Ministry on Friday announced that it has decided to recognise the WAKO India Kickboxing Federation as a National Sports Federation (NSF), in a bid to promote and develop the sport in the country.
- WAKO India Kickboxing Federation is affiliated to the World Association of Kickboxing Organizations (WAKO), the world body for kickboxing.
- "It is expected that with government recognition of WAKO India Kickboxing Federation as NSF, the sport of kickboxing will develop at a faster pace in the country
- .WAKO has been provisionally recognised member of the International Olympic Committee (IOC) since November 30.
- The recommendation to approve WAKO as a fully recognised member of the Olympic family had been taken by the IOC last month (June 2021).
- "International Olympic Committee (IOC) Executive Board at its meeting on 10th June 2021 has approved the recommendation for WAKO to become a fully recognized member of the Olympic family of sport.
- The full recognition of WAKO will be finally decided by the IOC Session in Tokyo in July 2021.
- To be fully included and accepted in the Olympic movement is important for the recognition and development of the sport of kickboxing.



**Reference:** <http://ddnews.gov.in/sports/wako-india-kickboxing-federation-gets-government-recognition-national-sports-federation>

## Sports Personality

### Olympic gold-winning hockey legend Keshav Datt dies

**Question: Recently Keshav Datt died at the age of 95. From which sports does he belong to?**

- (a) Hockey (b) Cricket (c) Football (d) Judo

**Answer : (a)**

**Related Facts:**

- Two-time Olympic gold medallist in hockey, Keshav Datt, died due to age-related ailments.
- Keshav Datt was part of India's golden era in hockey.
- Keshav Datt was conferred with the Mohun Bagan Ratna award in 2019.
- Two-time Olympic gold medallist in hockey,



Keshav Datt, died.

- A formidable halfback, he was part India's historic feat at the 1948 Olympics where they beat home team Britain 4-0 at the Wembley Stadium in London to win the first gold post Independence.
- Before the 1948 Olympics, Datt had toured East Africa under the leadership of hockey wizard Major Dhyan Chand in 1947.
- Related information about him:
- Born on December 29, 1925 in Lahore, Datt was also part of the Indian team at 1952 Helsinki Games, where they beat Netherlands 6-1 in the summit clash to become the Olympic champions for the fifth consecutive time.
- He was the lone surviving member of the 1948 and 1952 Olympic .
- He was a double Olympic gold medal winner, 1948 and 1952.
- An integral part of the Indian team, Datt also captained the Mohun Bagan hockey squad from 1951-1953 and again in 1957-1958.
- As a Mohun Bagan player he won the hockey league six times and Beighton Cup three times in a
- He was conferred with the Mohun Bagan Ratna award in 2019, becoming the first non-footballer recipient of the honour.

**Reference:** <https://www.thehindu.com/sport/hockey/hockey-legend-keshav-datt-dead/article35185012.ece>

## Short Notes

## Personalities

### New Commissioner of Delhi Police

**Question: Who has been appointed Commissioner of Delhi Police on 27 July 2021?**

(a) Rakesh Asthana (b) S. S. Deswal (c) Dilbag Singh (d) Rishi Kumar Shukla

**Answer: (a)**

**Related facts:**

- On 27 July 2021, Director General of Border Security Force Rakesh Asthana has been appointed as Commissioner of Delhi Police.
- He is a 1984-batch Indian Police Service officer from Gujarat Cadre.
- S. S. Deswal, Director General of Indo-Tibetan Border Police will hold additional charge of the post of DG, BSF.
- The government had given additional charge of Delhi Police to Balaji Srivastava after the retirement of S. N. Shrivastava on 30th of last month.



**Links:**

[https://www.business-standard.com/article/current-affairs/ips-officer-rakesh-asthana-appointed-as-delhi-police-commissioner-121072701722\\_1.html#:~:text=Rakesh%20Asthana%2C%20a%20senior%20IPS,Police%20Commissioner%20with%20immediate%20effect.](https://www.business-standard.com/article/current-affairs/ips-officer-rakesh-asthana-appointed-as-delhi-police-commissioner-121072701722_1.html#:~:text=Rakesh%20Asthana%2C%20a%20senior%20IPS,Police%20Commissioner%20with%20immediate%20effect.)

Jill Kouri

**Question : Who has named as Global Chief Marketing Officer by HCL technologies on July 2021 ?**

a. Jill Kouri b. Milli Saralal c. Sam Kuznets d. Aleen Michale

**Ans. a.**

**Related facts —**

- Jill Kouri has named as Global Chief Marketing Officer by HCL technologies on July 2021.
- A marketing executive with nearly 30 years of corporate and agency B2B services experience, Kouri will lead the company's global marketing programs to advance HCL's focus on helping companies reimagine their business for the digital age.
- Kouri joins HCL Technologies most recently from JLL, where she was Chief Marketing Officer, Americas, for seven years.
- Prior to that, she spent 14 years in increasingly senior marketing leadership roles at Accenture.



**Link:**

<https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/tech/information-tech/hcl-technologies-names-jill-kouri-as-global-chief-marketing-officer/articleshow/84834373.cms>

## Ministerial meeting of the WTO on the fisheries subsidy negotiations

**Question – On July 15, 2021, there was a virtual ministerial meeting of the World Trade Organization regarding subsidy negotiations related to the fisheries industry. Who represented India in this meeting?**

(a) Piyush Goyal (b) Nirmala Sitharaman (c) Bhupendra Yadav (d) Dr. S. Jaishankar

**Answer—(a)**

**related facts —**

- On July 15, 2021, there was a virtual ministerial meeting of the World Trade Organization regarding subsidy negotiations related to the fisheries industry.
- The Commerce and Industry Minister Shri Piyush Goyal represented India in this meeting.
- The meeting was held under the chairmanship of WTO Director-General Ngozi.



**Link:**

<https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1735857>

## Ramesh Nair

**Question – On July 21, 2021, which country's asset advisory company Colliers India appointed Ramesh Nair as the Chief Executive Officer for the Indian business?**

(a) Japan (b) America (c) Britain (d) Canada

**Answer—(b)**

**related facts —**

- On July 21, 2021, US asset advisory company Colliers India appointed Ramesh Nair as the Chief Executive Officer for the Indian business.





- He will also be the Managing Director of the company's Asia Market Development.
- He will partner with Chairman and Managing Director Sankey Prasad in taking the company's business forward in India.
- Prior to this he was working in JLL India.

**Link:**

[https://www.business-standard.com/article/companies/property-consultant-colliers-appoints-ramesh-nair-as-ceo-for-india-121072100459\\_1.html](https://www.business-standard.com/article/companies/property-consultant-colliers-appoints-ramesh-nair-as-ceo-for-india-121072100459_1.html)

## Pramod Bhagat

**Question: Who has been named Differently Abled Sportsman of the Year at Indian Sports Honour for 2019?**

(a) Pramod Bhagat (b) Arunima Sinha (c) Deepak Sharma (d) Girish Sharma

**Answer: (a)**

**Related facts:**

- World No. 1 para shuttler Pramod Bhagat was named Differently Abled Sportsman of the Year at Indian Sports Honour for 2019.
- Indian Sports Honours are awards given annually by the RPSG Group in association with the Virat Kohli Foundation to outstanding sports personalities of India.
- The awards were founded in 2017.
- **About Pramod Bhagat:**
- Pramod Bhagat has won two gold medals and a bronze at the Dubai Para-Badminton Tournament this year.
- He will be participating in singles and mixed doubles events at the Paralympics which opens in Tokyo from August 24 2021.



**Links:**

<https://www.thehindu.com/sport/paralympic-bound-shuttler-pramod-bhagat-named-differently-abled-sportsman-of-the-year/article35507721.ece#:~:text=Credit%3A%20Special%20Arrangement-.Bhagat%20won%20two%20gold%20medals%20and%20a%20bronze%20at%20the,19%20pandemic%2C%20a%20release%20said.>

## Director-General of the Bureau of Civil Aviation Security

**Question: Who has been appointed the Director-General of the Bureau of Civil Aviation Security?**

(a) Nasir Kamal (b) Dilbag Singh (c) Rakesh Asthana (d) Rishi Kumar Shukla

**Answer: (a)**

**Related facts:**

- Senior IPS officer Nasir Kamal has been appointed the Director-General of the Bureau of Civil Aviation Security (BCAS).
- He is a 1986-batch Indian Police Service (IPS) officer of the Uttar Pradesh cadre.
- He will serve as Director General in BCAS for tenure up





to his superannuation on July 31, 2022.

**Links:**

<https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/civil-aviation-security-gets-new-chief/article35528749.ece>

## Gurbux Singh, Palash Nandi to be honoured with Mohun Bagan Ratna

**Question : Which of the following got Mohan Bagan Ratna Award 2020?**

(a) Gurbux Singh (b) Palash Nandi (c) a and b both (d) Sachin Tendulkar

**Answer : ( c )**

**Related Facts:**

- Two-time Olympic gold medal winning Hockey Player Keshav Dutt and former India Football Captain Prasun Banerjee are selected for Mohun Bagan Ratna Award 2020.
- Awards will be given away on annual celebration of Mohun Bagan Day (29 July)
- On 10 July Mohun Bagan had begun their IFA Shield campaign. The tournament continued for the next 19 days with Mohun Bagan declared as the champions.
- About :**
  - Thus, for the first time a native club defeated the British and the British-Indian teams in a football tournament.
  - Since 2001, on 29 July each year is celebrated as the Mohun Bagan Day in honour of the club's victory over East Yorkshire Regiment in the 1911 IFA Shield Final.



**Reference:** [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mohun\\_Bagan\\_A.C.](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mohun_Bagan_A.C.)

## World's oldest student Kerala's Bhageerathi Amma no more

**Q. Recently World's oldest student Bhageerathi Amma passed away. She was a native of which Indian State?**

a) Kerala b) Tamil Nadu c) Karnataka d) Meghalaya

**ANSWER:- a)**

**RELATED FACTS:-**

- On July 23rd, 2021 Bhageerathi Amma, arguably the world's oldest student and recipient of Bharata naree shakthi award has passed away.
- She was 107.
- A native of Prakulam in Kollam, Kerala, Bhageerathi Amma has been the poster girl for literacy and continuing education activities for the State Literacy Mission.
- The Prime Minister had openly praised Bhageerathi Amma when she passed the Class IV Equivalency Examination in the 'Mann Ki Bath' programme.



**LINK**

<https://www.newindianexpress.com/states/kerala/2021/jul/23/worlds-oldest-student-no-more-keralas-bhageerathi-ammapasses-away-at-107-2334263.html>

## Twitter appoints Grievance Officer

**Question: Who has been appointed Grievance Officer for India by Twitter in July 2021?**

(a) Sanjay Lavasa (b) Achyut Pandey (c) Dharmendra Chatur (d) Vinay Prakash

**Answer: (d)**

**Related facts:**

- Social media giant Twitter has appointed Vinay Prakash as the Resident Grievance Officer (RGO) for India.
- Earlier, California-based Jeremy Kessel was appointed as the Grievance Officer for India.
- The appointment came in compliance of the new Information Technology Rules, 2021 under which it is mandated to appoint a grievance officer for issues redressal.
- As per the new IT rules in India, social media platforms with over 50 lakh users are mandated to appoint three key personnel namely chief compliance officer, nodal officer and grievance officer, and all these three personnel have to be residents in India.



**Links:**

<https://www.reuters.com/world/india/twitter-appoints-grievance-officer-india-comply-with-new-rules-2021-07-11/>

## Muhammad Yunus

**Question: Who among the following will receive the Olympic Laurel at the Tokyo Games 2020?**

(a) Muhammad Yunus (b) Kipchoge Keino (c) Jacques Rogge (d) Milkha Singh

**Answer: (a)**

**Related facts:**

- Bangladeshi Nobel Peace Prize winner, Muhammad Yunus will receive the Olympic Laurel at the Tokyo Games.
- **Olympic Laurel:**
- The Olympic Laurel is a distinction awarded by the International Olympic Committee (IOC) to honour those who have “made significant achievements in education, culture, development and peace through sport”.
- It was introduced in 2016 to implement part of recommendation 26 of Olympic Agenda 2020.
- **About the Muhammad Yunus:**
- Muhammad Yunus is a Bangladeshi social entrepreneur, banker, economist, and civil society leader.
- He was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in 2006 for founding the Grameen Bank.
- Yunus founded the Grameen Bank in the 1980s.



**Links:**

<https://sports.ndtv.com/olympics-2020/tokyo-olympics-bangladesh-nobel-laureate-muhammad-yunus-to-receive-olympic-laurel-2486983>

## US Senate confirms Indian-American Seema Nanda as solicitor for labour department

**Question: Recently US Senate confirmed the appointment of an Indian American as solicitor for labour department. Who is she/he?**

(a) Seema Nanda (b) Neena Nanda (c) Abhijit Banerjee (d) Yogendra Puranik

**Answer : (a)**

**Related Facts:**

- The United States Senate has confirmed Indian-American Seema Nanda as the solicitor for the Department of Labour.
- Seema Nanda is presently a fellow at Harvard Law School's Labour and Worklife Programme.
- A former CEO of the Democratic National Committee who also served in the Department of Labour during the Obama Administration.
- She spent over 15 years in various roles as a labour and employment attorney, mostly in government service.
- She grew up in Connecticut and is a graduate of Brown University and Boston College Law School.



**Reference:** <https://www.indiatoday.in/world/indians-abroad/story/us-senate-indian-american-seema-nanda-solicitor-labour-department-1828768-2021-07-16>

## Pedro Castillo declared president-elect of Peru

**Q. Recently who got elected as Peru's new president?**

a) Pedro Castillo b) Keiko Fujimori c) Francisco Sagasti d) None of these

**ANSWER:- a)**

**RELATED FACTS:-**

- On 20th July, 2021, Rural teacher-turned-political novice Pedro Castillo has become the winner of Peru's presidential election after the country's longest electoral count in 40 years.
- The country's election authority announced its verdict after reviewing claims of electoral fraud by his right-wing rival, Keiko Fujimori.
- Mr. Castillo, a 51-year-old former school teacher and union leader, secured just over 50% of the votes.
- He will now be sworn in as Peru's president on 28 July.
- Mr. Castillo won last month's election by a margin of only 44,000 votes – beating Ms Fujimori in her third bid for the presidency.



**LINK**

<https://www.bbc.com/news/world-latin-america-57897402>

## Julia Ducournau

**Question : Julia Ducournau has become the first female director in 28 years to win the Cannes Film Festival's Palme d'or. She belongs to which country ?**

(a) France (b) Peru (c) Mali (d) Rwanda

**Answer : (a)**

**Related facts—**

- Julia Ducournau has recently (July 2021) become the first female director in 28 years to win the Cannes Film Festival's Palme d'or.
- She belongs to France.
- **Titane —**
- It is notable that Julia Ducournau's 'Titane' has won the Cannes Palme d'or.
- Titane is a 2021 body horror-thriller film written and directed by Julia Ducournau. It stars Agathe Rousselle, Vincent Lindon, Garance Marillier and Laïs Salameh.
- **Spike Lee —**
- The awards of the 74th Cannes Film Festival were decided by a jury chaired by Spike Lee and handed out at the event's closing ceremony in the Grand Theatre Lumiere on July 17, 2021.
- **Remarkable fact —**
- For the first time in history, women outnumbered men five to four in the Cannes Film Festival's main international competition jury.
- Ducournau is only the second female director to ever win the Cannes top prize.
- New Zealand's Jane Campion was the first woman to win the Palme d'or for "The Piano" in 1993.

**Link:**

<https://www.dailypioneer.com/2021/trending-news/julia-ducournau-s-titane-wins-cannes-palme-d-or.html>

## Union Minister Piyush Goyal appointed as Leader of House in Rajya Sabha

**Question: Consider the following statement:**

- i) Union Minister Piyush Goyal was appointed as the Leader of the House in the Rajya Sabha on 13th July 2021.  
ii) The term Leader of House of Rajya Sabha has been defined in the constitution.  
**Which of the above are correct?**

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

**Ans: a**

**Context**

- Union Minister Piyush Goyal was recently appointed as Leader of Rajya Sabha. The Leader of the Rajya Sabha is appointed by the party in power at Centre.
- **Facts**
- Piyush Goyal is a Rajya Sabha member from Maharashtra.
- He is also in charge of several key ministries, including commerce and industry, consumer affairs, food and public distribution, and textiles.
- **Leader of House:**



- The term Leader of the House has been defined in Rules of Procedure of the Lok Sabha and the Rajya Sabha.
- Leader of the House, according to Rule 2 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in the Lok Sabha means the prime Minister, if he is a Member of the House or a Minister who is a Member of the House and is nominated by the Prime Minister to function as the Leader of the House.
- The Prime Minister is invariably the Leader of the Lok Sabha.
- The arrangement of Government business is the ultimate-responsibility of the Leader of the House, though the details are settled, subject to his approval, by the Chief Whip.

**Reference;** <https://indianexpress.com/article/india/piyush-goyal-appointed-as-leader-of-house-in-rajya-sabha-7404509/>

## RBI nod to re-appoint Shyam Srinivasan as MD

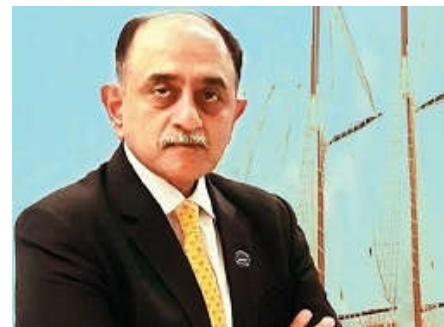
**Q. Recently, RBI gave nod to reappoint Shyam Srinivasan as MD and CEO for three years of which bank?**

a) Federal Bank b) State Bank of India c) ICICI Bank d) None of these

**ANSWER:- a)**

**Related Facts:-**

- On July 9th, 2021, Private sector Federal Bank said it has received approval from the RBI to re-appoint Shyam Srinivasan as its MD and CEO for three years with effect from September 23, 2021 till September 22, 2024.
- Srinivasan took charge as MD and CEO of the lender on September 23, 2010.
- Earlier in July 2020, the South-based lender had received RBI's nod for reappointment of Srinivasan as Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer till September 22, 2021.
- He had joined Federal Bank with the experience of over 20 years with leading multinational banks in India, Middle East and South East Asia.
- He has significant expertise in retail lending, wealth management and small and medium enterprises (SME) banking.
- Srinivasan is an alumnus of the Indian Institute of Management, Calcutta, and Regional Engineering College, Tiruchirapally.



**LINK**

[https://www.business-standard.com/article/finance/federal-bank-gets-rbi-nod-to-re-appoint-shyam-srinivasan-as-md-ceo-for-3-yrs-121070901389\\_1.html](https://www.business-standard.com/article/finance/federal-bank-gets-rbi-nod-to-re-appoint-shyam-srinivasan-as-md-ceo-for-3-yrs-121070901389_1.html)

## Vishal Jood

**Question: Which state's CM seeks Meenakshi Lekhi's help to free Vishal Jood from Australian jail on July 2021 ?**

(a) Haryana (b) Maharashtra (c) Punjab (d) None of the above

**Answer – (a)**

**Related facts —**



- Haryana CM Manohar Lal Khattar on July wrote a letter to minister of state, ministry of external affairs and ministry of culture Meenakshi Lekhi over Kurukshetra youth Vishal Jood's release who is lodged in an Australian prison.

▪ **Charges to Vishal Jood —**

- He is lodged in an Australian prison since April 2021 over charges of being involved in an assault in Sydney.

▪ **Khattar's argument —**

- Urging Lekhi's high priority intervention to secure justice for a 'Son of Haryana' in Australia, Chief Minister has written that he has received representations from various quarters including his family who have conveyed to him that Vishal Jood got into a tussle with a group, that was raising anti-Indian slogans and even desecrating the Indian national flag and these groups have subsequently framed him on false charges.



**Link:**

[https://m.timesofindia.com/city/chandigarh/haryana-cm-seeks-meenakshi-lekhis-help-to-free-vishal-jood-from-australian-jail/amp\\_articleshow/84295959.cms](https://m.timesofindia.com/city/chandigarh/haryana-cm-seeks-meenakshi-lekhis-help-to-free-vishal-jood-from-australian-jail/amp_articleshow/84295959.cms)

## Indian Army names firing range after Vidya Balan

**Q. Indian Army names a firing range in Kashmir after which actress's name?**

a) Rekha b) Vidya Balan c) Keerthy Suresh d) Kajol

**ANSWER:- b)**

**Related Facts-**

- On 6th July, 2021, Honouring Vidya Balan, one of Bollywood's most versatile actresses known for her phenomenal body of work, the Indian Army recently named one of its firing ranges after her.
- A military firing range in Gulmarg, Kashmir, is now known as the Vidya Balan Firing Range.
- Earlier this year, the actress along with her filmmaker husband Siddharth Roy Kapur had even attended the Gulmarg Winter Festival organised by the Indian Army. On the occasion, the filmmaker had expressed his keenness to come back to Kashmir for film shooting.



**LINK**

<https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/videos/entertainment/hindi/indian-army-names-a-firing-range-in-kashmir-after-vidya-balan-for-her-phenomenal-contribution-to-indian-cinema/videoshow/84166358.cms>

## Thawarchand Gehlot heads to Karnataka

**Question: Who has been appointed as new governor of Karnataka?**

(a) Thawarchand Gehlot (b) PS Sreedharan Pillai (c) Ramesh Bais  
(d) Satyadev Narayan Arya

**Answer: (a)**

**Related Facts:**

- President Kovind approved the appointment of the Governors and changes in portfolios of others amid reports of a reshuffle in the Union Cabinet.
- Gehlot, the Cabinet Minister of Social Justice & Empowerment in India has been appointed as the governor of Karnataka..
- Hari Babu Kambhampati has been appointed as Governor of Mizoram.
- Mangubhai Chhaganbhai Patel is appointed as Governor of Madhya Pradesh.
- Rajendra Vishwanath Arlekar has been appointed as Governor of Himachal Pradesh.
- "Mizoram Governor PS Sreedharan Pillai has been transferred to Goa, Haryana Governor Satyadev Narayan Arya appointed as Tripura Governor.
- Tripura Governor Ramesh Bais appointed as Jharkhand Governor.
- Himachal Pradesh Governor Bandaru Dattatraya appointed as Haryana Governor.



**Reference:** <https://www.livemint.com/news/india/eight-states-get-new-governors-this-is-the-complete-list-11625557967351.html>

## Dilip Kumar Passes Away

**Question: On 7th July 2021, legendary bollywood actor Dilip Kumar has passed away at the age of 98 at Mumbai. He has been recipient of which of the following awards?**

- a) Padma Vibhushan
- b) Dada Saheb Falke award
- c) Pakistan's highest civilian honour Nishan-e-Imtiaz
- d) All of the above

**Ans: d**

**Context**

- On 7th July 2021, legendary bollywood actor Dilip Kumar has passed away at the age of 98 at Mumbai's Hinduja Hospital.
- **Facts**
- Dilip Kumar, who had been facing regular health issues for months now, passed away at Mumbai's Hinduja Hospital.
- Also known as 'tragedy king' of bollywood was considered as the one of the finest method actor ever produced by Hindi Cinema in the country.
- He was born as Mohammed Yusuf Khan on 11 December 1922 at Peshawar, North-West Frontier Province, British India.
- Kumar debuted as an actor in the film Jwar Bhata (1944), produced by Bombay Talkies. In a career spanning over five decades, he worked in over 65 films.
- He was awarded Padma Vibhushan, second highest civilian award by government of India in 2015.
- He was awarded –
- Dadasaheb Phalke Award in 1994
- Padma Bhushan (1991)
- Nominated Member of Parliament in Rajya Sabha from Maharashtra in 2000–2006
- He was the only Indian who was awarded with Pakistan's highest civilian honour, Nishan-e-Imtiaz in 1998.
- He was married to actress Saira Bano in 1966 and resided with his wife in Bandra, a suburb of Mumbai in the state of Maharashtra in India.



## Awards & Honors

### 3 India-based Enterprises in UN Best Small Business Winners

**Question:** Which amongst the following is not included in the India-based enterprises announced Best Small Business by United Nations?

- (a) Edible Routes Private Limited (b) Oorja Development Solutions India  
(c) Taru Naturals (d) Zydus Wellness

**Answer:** (d)

**Related facts:**

- Three enterprises based in India are among the winners of 'Best Small Businesses' global competition announced by the United Nations.
- The winners from India are Oorja Development Solutions India, Edible Routes Private Limited and Taru Naturals.
- These businesses have been recognized for providing diverse, inspiring and impactful solutions in improving access to sustainable and healthy food.
- The UN Food Systems Summit competition 'Best Small Business: Good Food for All' has announced 50 medium and small sized enterprises globally as the winners.
- The winners are from 42 countries.
- Winners will share US Dollar 1,00,000 in prize money.
- Youths constitute of half of the winners and nearly half of the winners are women.



**Links:**

<https://www.thehindubusinessline.com/news/3-india-based-enterprises-among-un-best-small-business-winners-providing-good-food-for-all/article35575450.ece>

## Planning & Project

### Paramparagat Krishi Vikas Yojana

**Question :** Government of India has been promoting Organic farming in the country through dedicated scheme namely Paramparagat Krishi Vikas Yojana (PKVY) since 2015-16. Which of the following statement is correct regarding PKVY ?

1. Farmers are provided financial assistance of Rs 50,000 per hectare/ 3 years
2. 'Post-harvest Management Assistance' is an integral part of the scheme

**Options —**

- A. Only 1.  
B. Only 2.  
C. Both 1. & 2.  
D. None of the above

**Answer- C**

**Related facts —**

- Union Minister of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare Narendra Singh Tomar has given written information regarding PKVY in Lok Sabha on July 28, 2021.
- Accordingly, Government of India has been promoting Organic farming in the country through dedicated scheme namely Paramparagat Krishi Vikas Yojana (PKVY) since 2015-16.

▪ **Key points —**

- The scheme stress on end to end support to organic farmers i.e from production to certification and marketing.
- Post harvest management support including processing, packing, marketing is made integral part of these schemes to encourage organic farmers.
- Under PKVY, farmers are provided financial assistance of Rs 50,000 per hectare/ 3 years, out of which Rs. 31,000 (62%) is provided directly through DBT for inputs (bio fertilizers, bio-pesticides, organic manure, compost, vermi-compost, botanical extracts etc).
- An amount of total Rs 29.59 crore has been released to Assam for 220 clusters benefitting 11000 farmers for 4425 ha area against the target 4451 since 2015-16 to till date.
- Government has initiated Large Area Certification (LAC) programme since 2020-21 to certify large traditional/default organic areas such as hills, islands, tribal or desert belt with no past history of GMO and agro chemical uses.
- Entire certification process gets completed within 3-6 months time. This reduces the conversion period from 2-3 years to few months and allows farmers for marketing of their produce at premium prices.
- Car Nicobar and Nancowry group of Island under the Union Territory of Andaman and Nicobar Islands with 14,491 ha cultivable area is the first Large Contiguous Area declared as certified organic.
- Government of India have already sanctioned and released Rs 11.48 lakh to Union Territory of Ladakh for LAC.



**Link:**

<https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1739994>

## Honey Mission Programme launched by KVIC being implemented to promote BEE keeping activities

**Question- Which of the following commission has launched the Honey Mission?**

- (a) Khadi & Village Industries Commission(KVIC) (b) Ministry of Tribal Affairs  
(c) Ministry of Agriculture and farmers Welfare  
(d) Ministry of Fishing and Animal Husbandry

**Ans. (a)**

**Related Facts-**

- The Honey Mission programme was launched by Khadi & Village Industries Commission (KVIC), under the Ministry of MSME, during 2017-18 and is being implemented to promote





Bee Keeping activities and provide self-sustaining employment opportunities among farmers, Adivasies and unemployed youth in rural India, especially in economically backward and remote areas.

- Under the programme, beneficiaries are provided with Bee Boxes, live bee colonies, tool kits and training.
- Till date, a total number of 15445 beneficiaries have been assisted under the programme.
- Besides, under 'A Scheme of Fund for Regeneration of Traditional Industries' (SFURTI) implemented by the Ministry of MSME, traditional beekeepers are provided with sustainable employment by organizing them into clusters, and supporting them with new machineries and training.
- 29 Honey clusters have been approved under the scheme which will benefit 13388 beekeepers with Government of India financial assistance of Rs.68.65 crore.
- Under National Beekeeping & Honey Mission (NBHM) scheme under Ministry of Agriculture, scientific beekeeping is promoted for holistic growth of the sector, leading to income and employment generation, livelihood support to farm and non-farm households.
- Under the Honey Mission programme of KVIC, it is proposed to form 08 Self Help Groups benefitting 80 beekeepers in the Bundelkhand Region in the financial year 2021-22.

**Reference-** <https://pib.gov.in/PressReleaselframePage.aspx?PRID=1737656>.

## Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi dedicated to the nation several key projects

**Question: Aquatic gallery located in Gujarat has been developed in collaboration with which of the following?**

- (a) Marine Scape Eo-aquarium (b) Marine Cape Eo-aquarium  
(c) Marine Ecape Eo-aquarium (d) Marine Eo-aquarium

**Answer : (a)**

**Related Facts:**

- Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi inaugurated and dedicated to the nation several key projects of the Railways in Gujarat through video conference.
- He also inaugurated the Aquatics and Robotics Gallery, and Nature Park in Gujarat Science City during the event
- The Aquatic gallery spread over an area of 15,000 square meter will be the largest aquarium in India. It has 68 tanks showcasing 188 marine species including Penguins. A key attraction of the aquatic gallery is a 28 metre long unique walk way tunnel. Aquatic gallery has been developed in collaboration with Marine Scape Eo-aquarium, New Zealand.
- Nature Park has many beautiful features like fog garden, chess garden, selfie points, sculpture park and open labyrinth (maze). It includes an interesting labyrinth designed for children.



**Reference:** <https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1736240>



## Gwalior, Orchha in UNESCO's 'Historic Urban Landscape' project

**Q. Recently which Indian cities were selected by UNESCO under its 'Historic Urban Landscape Project'?**

- a) Raipur and Bilaspur b) Jaipur and Jaiselmer c) Gwalior and Orchha  
d) Agra and Mathura

**ANSWER:- c)**

**RELATED FACTS:-**

- On July 19th, 2021 Gwalior and Orchha cities in Madhya Pradesh were selected by UNESCO under its 'Historic Urban Landscape Project' that began in 2011.
- The project aims at the inclusive and well-planned development of fast-growing historical cities while preserving their cultural and heritage value.
- Gwalior and Orchha cities from Madhya Pradesh have been included as the 7th and 8th cities of South Asia under UNESCO's 'Historic Urban Landscape Project'.
- UNESCO will devise the development and management plan for Gwalior and Orchha under its project that will aid in boosting tourism in Madhya Pradesh and creating employment opportunities.
- UNESCO along with the Government of India and Madhya Pradesh will focus on improving the cultural and historical aspects of both cities.

**LINK**

<https://www.jagranjosh.com/current-affairs/gwalior-orchha-in-unescos-historic-urban-landscape-project-all-you-need-to-know-1627033806-1>

## Deep Ocean Mission : India's goal

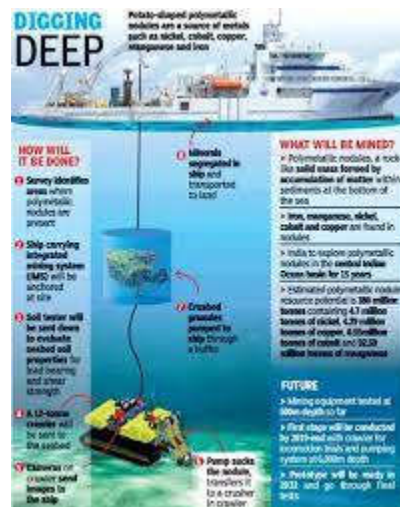
**Question : Which of the following is an aim pertaining to Deep Ocean Mission and Ocean Resources ?**

- (a) Transformation as 40 Billion "Blue Economy"  
(b) Transformation as 60 Billion "Blue Economy"  
(c) Transformation as 80 Billion "Blue Economy"  
(d) None of the above

**Answer : (d)**

**Related facts —**

- Ministry of Earth Science has recently (July 2021) announced that in the years to come, India aims to target over 100 billion "Blue Economy" through its Deep Ocean Mission (DOM) and ocean resources.
- According to the concerned Minister Jitendra Singh this could be a new avenue to supplement the country's economy to the tune of an estimated Rs. 110 billion.
- "Deep Ocean Mission" planned by the Ministry of Earth Sciences will be carried out in collaboration with Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) and it will be a major step in the direction of integrating and bringing together the efforts of the different streams of science operating under different Ministries in the government.
- The "Deep Ocean Mission" will also have far-reaching benefits for the common man. For example, it could help in providing clean drinking water and explore the avenues of desalination of water as well as extracting minerals from the ocean belt.



**Link:**

<https://pib.gov.in/PressReleaselframePage.aspx?PRID=1734881>

## NTPC REL to set up India's first green Hydrogen Mobility project in Ladakh

**Question: Where will India's first green Hydrogen Mobility project set up ?**

(a) Leh (b) Ladakh (c) Jammu (d) Bihar

**Answer:(b)**

**Related Facts:**

- NTPC REL, will set up the country's first green Hydrogen Mobility project in Ladakh.
- "NTPC REL, a 100 per cent subsidiary of NTPC, signed a MoU with the Union Territory of Ladakh, to set up the country's first green Hydrogen Mobility project in the region.
- According to the statement, the signing of the memorandum of understanding (MoU) was also marked with the inauguration of NTPC's first solar installations in Leh in the form of solar trees and a solar carport.
- The MoU will enable NTPC to help Ladakh develop a carbon-free economy based on renewable sources and green hydrogen.
- NTPC has plans to ply five hydrogen buses, to start with, in the region and the company will be setting up a solar plant and a green hydrogen generation unit in Leh towards this end.
- This will put Leh as the first city in the country to implement a green hydrogen-based mobility project.
- NTPC has been aggressively pushing for greening its portfolio and the green hydrogen project is another step towards achieving a low carbon footprint.
- NTPC has also been promoting usage of green hydrogen-based solutions in sectors like mobility, energy, chemical, fertilizer, steel etc.
- NTPC has recently revised its target of achieving 60 GW renewables capacity by 2032, almost doubling the earlier target.
- Recently, NTPC has commissioned India's largest floating solar project of 10 MW at Visakhapatnam.



**Reference:** <https://www.thehindu.com/business/ntpc-rel-to-set-up-indias-first-green-hydrogen-mobility-project-in-ladakh/article35294294.ece>

## “Unity 22” mission

**Question: Recently “Unity Mission” was in News. Who is associated with this mission?**

(a) Kalpana Chawla (b) Sunita Williams (c) Sirisha Bandla (d) Raja Jon Chari

**Answer: (c)**

**Related Facts:**

- “Unity 22” will be Virgin Galactic's next rocket-powered test flight of its SpaceShip- VSS Unity.
- The crew will be flying to the edge of space on July 11 on board the 'Unity' rocket ship developed by Virgin Galactic.
- It will be the 22nd mission for VSS Unity.

- Unity 22 will focus on testing the cabin and customer experience.
- This will be Virgin Galactic's fourth crewed spaceflight.
- It will also be the first to carry a full crew of two pilots and four mission specialists in the cabin, including Virgin Group Founder Richard Branson, who will be testing out the private astronaut experience.
- It will be Virgin Galactic's fourth crewed spaceflight.
- It will also be the first to carry a full crew of two pilots and four mission specialists in the cabin, including Virgin Group Founder Richard Branson, who will be testing out the private astronaut experience.
- At present , two additional test flights remain before the Virgin Galactic plans to commence commercial service in 2022.
- Unity 22 will focus on testing the cabin and customer experience.
- Sirisha Bandla, an astronaut born in India, will be a part of the crew.
- Rakesh Sharma is another Indian who went into space prior to Bandla.
- The purpose of the test flight is to gather data about the spacecraft, including the cabin environment, seat comfort, passenger weightlessness, and the view of the Earth from the passenger area, as well as the efficacy of the Spaceport America training program for its customers.
- Sir Richard will be tasked with evaluating the "private astronaut experience."



**Reference:** <https://newatlas.com/space/virgin-galactic-carry-first-passengers-space>

## Project BOLD to provide livelihood, protect land from degradation

**Question: Recently Project Bold was in news. Which ministry has launched this project?**

- (a) Ministry of Micro, Small & Medium Enterprises
- (b) Ministry of Culture (c) Ministry of AYUSH
- (d) Ministry of Women and Child Development

**Answer: (a)**

**Related Facts:**

- A unique scientific exercise serving the combined national objectives of reducing desertification and providing livelihood and multi-disciplinary rural industry support has been initiated by Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC).
- The project named "Bamboo Oasis on Lands in Drought" (BOLD) is the first of its kind exercise in India which was launched today from the tribal village Nichla Mandwa in Udaipur, Rajasthan.
- 5000 saplings of special bamboo species – Bambusa Tulda and Bambusa Polymorpha specially brought from Assam – have been planted over 25 bigha (16 acres approx) of vacant arid Gram Panchayat land.
- KVIC has thus created a world record of planting the highest number of bamboo saplings on a single day at one location.
- Project BOLD, which seeks to create bamboo-based green patches in arid and semi-arid land zones, is aligned with Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi's call for reducing land degradation and preventing desertification in the country.
- The initiative has been launched as part of KVIC's "Khadi Bamboo Festival" to celebrate 75 years of independence "Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav".



- KVIC is set to replicate the Project at Village Dholera in Ahmedabad district in Gujarat and Leh-Ladakh region by August this year.
- Total 15,000 bamboo saplings will be planted before August 21.
- KVIC Chairman Shri Vinai Kumar Saxena said the green patches of bamboo on these 3 places will help in reducing the land degradation percentage of the country, while on the other hand, they will be havens of sustainable development and food security
- Member of Parliament Shri Arjun Lal Meena said the bamboo plantation program in Udaipur will boost self-employment in the region.
- He said such projects will benefit a large number of women and unemployed youths in the region by connecting them to skill development programs.
- KVIC has judiciously chosen bamboo for developing green patches.
- Bamboos grow very fast and in about three years' time, they could be harvested. Bamboos are also known for conserving water and reducing evaporation of water from the land surface, which is an important feature in arid and drought-prone regions.

**Reference:** <https://www.pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1732621>

## **Treaty & Agreements**

### **Intel India – CBSE partnership**

**Question : On which date Intel announced to launch 'AI For All' initiative in collaboration with CBSE ?**

a. July 29, 2021 b. July 28, 2021 c. July 27, 2021 d. July 26, 2021

**Ans. a.**

**Related facts —**

- Intel announced to launch 'AI For All' initiative in collaboration with CBSE(Central Board of Secondary Education) on July 29, 2021.
- **Objectives —**
- This initiative is launch to create a basic understanding of artificial intelligence(AI) for everyone in India.
- Based on Intel's AI For Citizens program, AI For All is a 4-hour, self-paced learning program that demystifies AI in an inclusive manner.
- It is as applicable to a student, a stay-at-home parent as it is to a professional in any field or even a senior citizen.
- The program aims to introduce AI to 1 million citizens in its first year.
- **How It Works —**
- Anyone interested in the AI For All self-learning online course can sign up for free.
- The 4-hour open content resource is divided into two sections – AI Awareness (1.5 hours) and AI Appreciation (2.5 hours).
- The segment on AI Awareness provides an elementary understanding of AI, misconceptions around AI and its application potential.
- The AI Appreciation segment helps learners understand the key domains of AI, its impact across industries, and gets them started on building personal learning plans.
- At the end of each stage, participants will be given personalized digital badges that can be shared on social media.
- To ensure inclusive access, the program is available in 11 different vernacular languages for anyone with digital access.
- The content is also compatible with various talkback applications to make it accessible for visually impaired people.
- **Background —**



- The pandemic has accelerated India's digital transformation and research suggests that emerging technologies like AI are crucial towards driving more resilience as well as economic growth.
- NITI Aayog's National Strategy for AI is built on the philosophy of 'AI For All' and focuses on leveraging AI for inclusive growth and developing population-scale AI solutions for societal needs.
- India's National Education Policy 2020 also emphasizes preparing students for an AI driven economy.
- As India strives to leverage AI for all and build a digital-ready foundation, it is essential to focus on demystifying AI for the wider population to help them understand how it can positively impact their lives.
- "National Education Policy 2020 acknowledges the importance of AI and emphasizes on preparing everyone for an AI driven economy.

**Link:**

<https://www.intel.com/content/www/us/en/newsroom/news/intel-cbse-launch-ai-for-all-india.html>

## Property rights issues in the proposed India-UK Enhanced Trade Partnership

**Question :** The government has recently(July 2021) sought suggestions from stakeholders and industry bodies on intellectual property rights (IPR) issues in the proposed India-UK Enhanced Trade Partnership. By what period does the formal ' Enhanced Trade Partnership' set a target of doubling the current value of India-UK trade ?

a. By 2030 b. by 2025 c. by 2023 d. by 2027

**Ans. a.**

**Related facts —**

- The government has recently(July 2021) sought suggestions from stakeholders and industry bodies on IPR issues in the proposed India-UK Enhanced Trade Partnership.
- It is notable that India and the UK agreed to a new Enhanced Trade Partnership on May 2021 for doubling and enhancing bilateral trade by 2030.
- According to DPIIT, IPR plays a critical role and this agreement would be of significant importance to IP intensive industries, both creative and technology driven.
- DPIIT stands for – Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade.
- The DPIIT is carrying out consultations on future trade negotiations between India and UK, which will last for a period of one month.
- In this context stakeholders have been asked to submit the details latest by August 10, 2021.
- The DPIIT has asked stakeholders to furnish details on the intellectual property rights areas which are of "prime considerations" such as patent, trademark, copyright, design, geographical indications, enforcement, commercialization and technology transfer, and regulatory approval.



**Link:**

<https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/economy/foreign-trade/govt-seeks-stakeholder-inputs-on-ipr-issues-in-trade-pact-with-uk/articleshow/84828527.cms>



## IFC and HDFC Partnership

**Question :** Under recent(July 2021) IFC and HDFC partnership how much amount of a loan would be provided to hdfc to promote affordable green housing finance for low-income borrowers ?

a. 250 million dollar b. 350 million dollar c. 450 million dollar d. 500 million dollar

**Ans. a.**

**Related facts —**

- Under recent(July 2021) IFC and HDFC partnership an amount of a loan of 250 million dollar would be provided to hdfc to promote affordable green housing finance for low-income borrowers.
- At least 25 percent of the financing has been earmarked for green affordable housing, which is likely to encourage this market in India.
- It's estimated that 275 million people – or 22 percent of India's population – don't have access to adequate housing, spurred by rapid urbanization and the lack of affordable housing finance.
- Recent estimates suggest the urban housing shortage was 29 million units in 2018, increasing by over 54 percent since 2012. The rural housing shortage is estimated to be twice that of urban areas.
- Green affordable housing can help India on its path to deliver on its commitments under the Paris Agreement, to reduce a third of its carbon emissions by 2030 from 2005 levels.
- Green and energy efficient housing can help cut emissions, as residential housing accounts for about 24 percent of the nation's electricity consumption.
- Green housing is largely regarded as a luxury market in the country, but given its climate benefits, IFC intends to challenge that perception and help boost green affordable housing by partnering with HDFC, with its deep penetration in the Indian housing market and significant commitment to promoting green.



**Link:**

<https://pressroom.ifc.org/all/pages/PressDetail.aspx?ID=26526>

## IBM – Bangalore International Airport partnership

**Question :** On which date IBM and Bangalore International Airport(BIAL) announced a ten-year partnership under which IBM and Kyndryl will provide best of breed IT solutions to create a new “Airport in a Box” platform ?

a. July 21, 2021 b. July 20, 2021 c. July 23, 2021 d. July 24, 2021

**Ans. a.**

**Related facts —**

- IBM and Bangalore International Airport(BIAL) announced a ten-year partnership on July 21, 2021 under which IBM and Kyndryl will provide best of breed IT solutions to create a new “Airport in a Box” platform.
- It is notable that BIAL is the operator of Kempegowda International Airport, Bengaluru (KIAB/BLR Airport).

- The recent partnership will support transforming the end-to-end travel experience for passengers at BLR Airport.
- **Background —**
- As one of the fastest-growing airports in the World, BLR Airport needed a nimble, scalable and cost-competitive technology and operations environment that can increase its agility and operational flexibility to handle future growth in passenger traffic.
- To achieve this goal, BIAL has selected IBM Global Business Services, IBM hybrid cloud capabilities and Kyndryl, the new, independent company that will be created following the separation of IBM's Managed Infrastructure Services business, to design and implement a next generation architecture with robust and dynamic delivery model.
- One that is highly efficient, secure, and will enable a seamless travel experience for its passengers.
- The new platform will also enable BIAL to improve employee productivity, better utilization of IT assets, reduce costs through streamlined inventory control and improved incident management.
- **Significance —**
- The state-of-the-art platform IBM is developing to support BIAL's business growth will be enabled by a comprehensive set of IBM technology and services, enabled by an open hybrid cloud approach from IBM and supported Red Hat Ansible Automation.
- The platform also will generate AI-powered insights from IBM Maximo enterprise asset management technology to optimize inventory management and total cost of ownership.
- IBM and BIAL will work to ensure that the platform supports BIAL's commitment to sustainability and the community at large.
- BIAL recently achieved its goal of net energy neutral status in the financial year 2020-21, consuming energy from renewable sources.
- **IBM —**
- IBM works with more than 150 airports globally and has a long history of helping airports, airlines and the aviation industry worldwide to innovate and transform and was named the World's Leading Airport Travel Technology Provider 2020.



**Link:**

<https://in.newsroom.ibm.com/2021-07-21-BIAL-Partners-with-IBM-for-Digital-and-IT-Transformation>

## MoU signed between Institute of Teaching and Research in Ayurveda (ITRA) and Government of Gujarat

**Question :** Recently an MoU was signed between Jamnagar based Institute of Teaching and Research in Ayurveda (ITRA) under Ministry of Ayush and which state government?

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

**Answer: (a)**

**Related Facts:**

- An MoU was signed between Jamnagar based Institute of Teaching and Research in Ayurveda (ITRA) under Ministry of Ayush and the Government of Gujarat.



- It was signed on 15th July 2021.
- Through this MoU all the institutions functioning in the Ayurveda campus in Jamnagar have been brought under the umbrella of ITRA, the only institution under the Ministry of Ayush that has been accorded the status of Institute of National Importance (INI).
- Underlining the importance of the MoU, Shri Nitinbhai said that this will pave the way of the strengthening of the education system in all branches of Ayurveda.
- The MoU was exchanged between the Director, ITRA, Prof. Dr. Anup Thakar and Shri H.P. Jhala, I/C Registrar, Gujarat Ayurveda University.

**Reference :** <https://pib.gov.in/PressReleaseFramePage.aspx?PRID=1736077>

## US – Iraq agreement

**Question :** United States President Joe Biden and Iraqi Prime Minister Mustafa al-Kadhimi has sealed an agreement formally ending the US combat mission in Iraq on July 26, 2021. According to this agreement, when will the combat mission in Iraq end ?

a. By the end of 2021 b. 30 October 2021 c. 1 March 2022 d. 30 September 2021

**Ans. a.**

**Related facts —**

- United States President Joe Biden and Iraqi Prime Minister Mustafa al-Kadhimi has sealed an agreement formally ending the US combat mission in Iraq on July 26, 2021.
- According to this agreement, the combat mission in Iraq will stop by the end of 2021.
- It is notable that ending of this mission has taken a time more than 18 years after U.S. troops were sent to the Iraq.
- The US and its allies sent troops to Iraq 18 years ago to overthrow Saddam Hussein's regime.
- The US military will continue to train and support Iraqi forces against ISIS (Islamic State).

**Link:**

<https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/defence/joe-biden-mustafa-al-kadhimi-to-seal-agreement-on-ending-united-states-combat-mission-in-iraq/articleshow/84754632.cms>

## License agreement for COVID-19 drug 2-DG

**Question :** Which pharma company has recently(July 2021) inked license agreement with DRDE & INMAS to produce,distribute & market COVID-19 drug 2-DG ?

a. Glenmark Pharma b. Sun Pharma c. BDR Pharma d. Cadila

**Ans. c.**

**Related facts —**

- BDR Pharma has recently(July 2021) inked a pact with the Defence Research and Development Establishment (DRDE) and the Institute of Nuclear Medicine and Allied Sciences (INMAS) of the DRDO for manufacturing, distribution, and marketing of 2-DG in the country.
- It is notable that last month, the Drugs Controller



General of India (DCGI) had approved the oral medication for emergency usage as adjuvant therapy in mild to severe COVID-19 patients.

- BDR Pharma has already applied to the Drug Controller General of India (DCGI) for restricted emergency use authorisation to manufacture Drug 2-DG to treat COVID-19 patients in India.
- COVID-19 drug 2-Deoxy-D-Glucose (2-DG) would be priced competitively and will be available in powder form in a sachet that can be consumed orally after being dissolved in water.
- **DRDE —**
  - Defence Research & Development Establishment is an Indian defence laboratory of the Defence Research and Development Organisation.
  - Located in Gwalior, it is primarily involved in the research and development of detection and protection against toxic chemical and biological agents.
- **INMAS —**
  - Institute of Nuclear Medicine & Allied Sciences is a laboratory of the Defence Research and Development Organisation.
  - Located in Timarpur, Delhi, it is involved in Nuclear medicine research and responding to nuclear accidents and explosions.

**Link:**

<https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/industry/healthcare/biotech/pharmaceuticals/bdr-pharma-inks-license-agreement-with-drdo-to-produce-covid-19-drug-2-dg/articleshow/84753067.cms>

## CRPF signs MoU with C-DAC to train manpower of force in advanced technologies

**Q. Recently Central Reserve Police Force, CRPF has signed a MoU with which agency/ Department/ centre to train the manpower of the force in advanced technologies and undertake joint projects?**

- a) Centre for Development of Advanced Computing C-DAC
- b) Narcotics Control Bureau
- c) Enforcement Directorate
- d) Directorate of Revenue Intelligence

**ANSWER:- a)**

**Related facts:-**

- The Central Reserve Police Force, CRPF has signed a MoU with Centre for Development of Advanced Computing C-DAC to train the manpower of the force in advanced technologies and undertake joint projects in July, 2021
- The MoU aims at augmenting the technical capabilities of CRPF by training its manpower in advanced areas like Internet of Things (IoT), Cyber security, Artificial Intelligence, High-Performance Computing and Big Data Analytics.
- The agreement will also provide the expertise of C-DAC in the form of Technology Partner and Knowledge Partner in developing various ICT solutions of CRPF.



**Link**

<https://www.thedispatch.in/crpf-signs-mou-with-c-dac-to-train-manpower-of-force-in-advanced-technologies-undertake-joint-projects/>



## Government of UP and Sapio Analytics join hands to revive MSMEs, distributes automation software

**Question : Which state has joined hands with Sapio Analytics to revive MSMEs, distributes automation software?**

(a) Uttar Pradesh (b) Kerala (c) Manipur (d) Karnataka

**Answer 😊 a)**

**Related Facts:**

- Department of MSME, Government of Uttar Pradesh, signed an MoU with government advisory firm Sapio Analytics, to provide licenses of automation software Accloud, worth Rs. 72 crores, to 20,000 MSMEs of the state.
- The software licenses shall be provided free of cost to the MSMEs who can apply for the same (<https://sapioanalytics.com/accloud/>) through a portal.
- The Government of UP has announced various schemes for the benefits of the micro, small and medium enterprises of the state, with a focus on their growth, as well as initiation of unregistered businesses into the mainstream.
- This begins a cycle of incentives and benefits for the MSMEs of UP, whose insurance needs, foreign exchange needs, and growth consultancy needs shall also be handled through us with our partners such as Parthiv Group,” adds Srivastava, on the long term benefits for the MSMEs that adopt cloud-based automation.
- Recently, Sapio Analytics announced its expansion to the United States, with a focus on transforming developing countries.



**Reference:** <https://www.business-standard.com/content/press-releases-ani/government-of-uttar-pradesh-and-sapio-analytics-join-hands-to-revive-msmes-distributes-automation-software-1210723>

## Kotak Mahindra Bank signs MoU with Indian Navy for Salary Account

**Q. Recently the Indian Navy have signed a memorandum of understanding for salary account with which bank?**

a) STATE BANK OF INDIA b) KOTAK MAHINDRA BANK  
c) UNION BANK OF INDIA d) NONE OF THESE

**ANSWER:- b)**

**RELATED FACTS:-**

- On July 20th, 2021, Kotak Mahindra Bank (KMBL) and the Indian Navy announced that they have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) for Salary Account.
- The MoU enables KMBL to offer its Salary Account proposition to all personnel of the Indian Navy – both serving and retired.
- KMBL will also offer special Salary Account benefits to the Indian Navy.]
- Benefits of the Kotak Salary Account designed especially for the Indian Navy include:
- Enhanced Complimentary Personal Accident Insurance Cover for both on-duty and off-duty incidents. Covers accidental death or total/ partial permanent disability.





- Special Education Benefit for children and Additional girl child benefit: Covers dependent children of up to 22 years in the event of an accident claim by the salary account holder.
- Exclusive benefits on loans and credit cards: Attractive rates and zero processing fees on personal loans, home loans and car loans (Car Loan offered by Kotak Mahindra Prime Ltd) and waiver on joining fees on credit cards.

#### LINK

<https://www.freepressjournal.in/business/kotak-mahindra-bank-signs-mou-with-indian-navy-for-salary-account>

### Agreement between ITRA-Gujarat Government

**Question – On which date a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) has been signed between ITRA (located in Jamnagar) and the Government of Gujarat ?**

a. 15th July 2021 b. 14th July 2021 c. 17th July 2021 d. 18th July 2021

**Ans. a.**

**Related facts —**

- An agreement(MoU) has been signed between ITRA (located in Jamnagar) and the Government of Gujarat on 15th July 2021.
- Through this MoU all the institutions functioning in the Ayurveda campus in Jamnagar have been brought under the umbrella of ITRA, the only institution under the Ministry of Ayush that has been accorded the status of Institute of National Importance (INI).
- This will pave the way of the strengthening of the education system in all branches of Ayurveda.
- This arrangement will result, in due course, in the opening of new doors in the fields of education, research and medicine.
- It is hoped that in the field of Ayurveda, it will be easier to prepare new teaching, medical and research methods and the study-research process will be intensified, expanding the overall scope of Ayurveda education and research.
- In the field of Ayurveda, it will be easier to prepare new teaching, medical and research methods.



**Link:**

<https://pib.gov.in/PressReleaselframePage.aspx?PRID=1736077>

### NCW-BPR&D Agreement

**Question – Which organization has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Bureau of Police Research and Development(BPR&D) on July 16, 2021 to sensitize the police personnel towards gender equality across the country ?**

(a) Women Law Tribunal (b) National Commission for Women  
(c) Central Law Tribunal (d) Women Welfare Association of India

**Answer—(b)**

**Related facts —**

- National Commission for Women has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Bureau of Police Research and Development(BPR&D) on July 16, 2021 to sensitize the police personnel towards gender equality across the country.
- **Gender Sensitization Training Programme for Police Personnel —**
- Gender Sensitization Training Programme for Police Personnel has launched under this MoU.
- The objective of the programme is to ensure gender sensitization of police personnel with respect to legislation and policies concerning women and bringing attitudinal and behavioural changes in police officers while dealing with crimes against women.
- The Commission has been regularly organising gender sensitization programs for police officers to achieve the objective of building trust of women complainants in police.
- It is with this objective that NCW has decided to launch a programme across the country to sensitize officials on gender related issues and empower them to perform their duties effectively, without prejudice and bias especially in cases of gender-based crimes.
- The programme which aims to sensitize police personnel on gender issues will be fully sponsored by the Commission and facilitated by BPR&D with a special module in coordination with its units and other stakeholders.
- The training will be conducted for a duration of three-five days, preferably in residential mode as a short intense course with an expected training of 18-24 hours in total.
- It will have special focus on gender issues, women related laws, role of implementing agencies along with sharing of best practices.



**Link:**

<https://www.pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1736188>

## GIFT City-Based Vman Aviation Signs Aircraft Purchase Agreement With Airbus Helicopters

**Question-Which of the following aviation services has signed Gift city's first aircraft purchase agreement?**

- (a) Vman Aviation services (b) Global aviation services  
(c) Shining aviation services (d) Sigma aviation services

**Ans. (a)**

**Related facts-**

- Indian aircraft leasing company Vman Aviation Services, which is based out of International Financial Services Centre (IFSC) at Gujarat's Gift City, on June 7, 2021 became the first company from the business district to sign an aircraft purchase agreement after placing an order for an Airbus H125 helicopter.
- Vman will soon announce its first dry lease transaction, the company said in a statement.
- A dry lease is a leasing arrangement where an aircraft lessor provides an aircraft without crew, ground staff, etc, to an airline or corporation.



- The union budget announced earlier in the year rolled out several incentives and tax holidays on capital gains on aircraft leasing conducted at Gift city.
- One of the biggest challenges this segment faces is access to leased equipment at reasonable costs.
- However, with recently announced Government initiatives, incentives, IFSCA's policy on aircraft leasing, GIFT city infrastructure and our own extensive domestic market experience, Vman can provide economical leasing solutions to the general, business and helicopter segment in India.
- Two global aircraft financing and leasing companies, and two domestic aviation-related firms will be setting up aircraft leasing arms at the International Financial Services Centre (IFSC) in Gujarat's GIFT City.
- The aircraft purchase signing is a landmark event in the Indian aviation history. This agreement is the result of the efforts put in for the last four to five years to create a viable leasing and financing ecosystem in the country.
- This is a new business segment coming to India and the Government of India shall continue to provide all possible help to promote leasing activities in India under the Atmanirbhar Bharat Abhiyan.

**Reference-** <https://www.livemint.com/companies/news/vman-aviation-services-signs-gift-city-s-first-aircraft-purchase-agreement-11625669635681.html>.

## India & Gambia sign MoU

**Q. India with which country signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) to strengthen and promote bilateral cooperation in personnel administration and governance reforms.**

a) South Africa b) Ghana c) Nigeria d) Gambia

**ANSWER:- d)**

**Related Facts:-**

- On 8th July, 2021 India and Gambia signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) to strengthen and promote bilateral cooperation in personnel administration and governance reforms.
- The cooperation in improving performance management system in government, implementation of contributory pension scheme and e-recruitment in government form part of the areas to be covered under the MoU.
- The MoU was signed by Sanjay Singh, Secretary of the Department of Administrative Reforms and Public Grievances, and Lamin E Singhateh, Charge d'Affairs on behalf of the Public Service Commission of the Gambia.



**LINK**

<https://www.newindianexpress.com/nation/2021/jul/08/india-gambia-sign-mou-to-strengthen-cooperation-in-governance-reforms-2327379.html>

## Rhiti and Kanodia Group collaboration

**Question : Which venture capital fund would be launched in collaboration with Rhiti and Kanodia group ?**

a. Deep Pockets Capital Venture b. Big Wallet Capital Venture  
c. Big Basket Capital Venture d. None of the above

**Ans. a.**

**Related facts —**

- Sports-focused Rhiti Group has recently (July 2021) collaborated with cement maker Kanodia Group to launch Deep Pockets Capital Venture LLP.
- Deep Pockets is a venture capital fund, to incubate budding entrepreneurs as well as fund and scale tech startups.
- **Background —**
- It is notable that India is on the cusp of a revolution in technology, including artificial intelligence (AI) and blockchain, which are set to revolutionise agriculture, finance and entertainment in coming years.
- Rhiti Group aim to help entrepreneurs by providing them capital and resources they need, and are looking at funding businesses with anywhere between Rs 25 lakh to Rs 2 crore.
- Group's objective is to identify highly potential businesses in the early stages and work towards growing together with a long-term vision.
- **Rhiti Group —**
- Rhiti Group, which represents Indian cricketers Mahendra Singh Dhoni, Bhuvneshwar Kumar and Kedar Jadhav, also has interests in sportswear retail and entertainment.



**Link:**

<https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/tech/funding/rhiti-and-kanodia-group-collaborate-for-a-new-venture-capital-fund/articleshow/84199046.cms>

## MoU between Indian Navy & Bharat Electronics Limited

**Question – On 29 June 2021, a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed between the Navy and which company for the creation of a Joint Technology Incubation Forum?**

(a) BEL (b) BHEL (c) HAL (d) L&T

**Answer—(a)**

**related facts —**

- On 29 June 2021, a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed between the Navy and BEL for the creation of a Joint Technology Incubation Forum.
- **TIF —**
- The Technology Incubation Forum reflects the joint vision of Indian Navy and Bharat Electronics Limited towards innovative and creative thinking and fostering development of Emerging Technologies.
- The broad charter of the TIF includes technology development in the domain of Weapons & Sensors, Information Technology and Emerging Technologies such as Artificial Intelligence & Machine Learning, Quantum Computing, Autonomous Platforms/ Robotics, Image Processing and Cognitive Radio.
- The TIF will spearhead mission mode development of deployable products under the Government's 'Atmanirbhar Bharat' initiative with involvement of Industry, Academia and Start-Ups.



**Link:**

<https://pib.gov.in/PressReleaselframePage.aspx?PRID=1731189>



## India joins G20-OECD Tax Framework deal

**Question: India joined the G20-OECD inclusive framework deal recently. When will the consensus agreement come by?**

(a) November 2022 (b) October 2021 (c) December 2022 (d) August 2021

**Answer (b)**

**Related Facts:**

- India has joined the G20–OECD inclusive framework deal that seeks to reform international tax rules .
- It also ensures that multinational enterprises pay their fair share wherever they operate.
- First pillar is about reallocation of additional profit share to market jurisdictions and
- Second pillar comprises of minimum tax and subject to tax rules.
- some significant issues like share of profit allocation and scope of subject to tax rules are open and need to be addressed.
- Technical details of proposal will be worked out soon and a consensus agreement will come by October 2021.
- India will have to roll back the equalisation levy that it imposes on companies such as Google, Amazon and Facebook when the global tax regime is implemented.
- How will it impact India and what will be the solution?
- India will have to roll back the equalisation levy that it imposes on companies such as Google, Amazon and Facebook when the global tax regime is implemented.
- Global Min tax rule will ensure that countries like India gets massive market for MNEs without providing tax safe harbor.
- Outcome :
- If implemented, countries such as the Netherlands and Luxembourg that offer lower tax rates, and so-called tax havens such as Bahamas or British Virgin Islands, could lose their sheen.



**Reference:** <https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/economy/policy/india-joins-g20-oecd-tax-framework-deal/articleshow/84084264.cms>

## Aramex Partners with FIEO to Support MSME Exporters in India

**Question : As part of an agreement announced on July 1st, Aramex India will provide member MSMEs preferential pricing, as well as access to online services for express cross-border shipments. Name the partner of Aramex ?**

- a. Federation of Indian Export Organizations b. EXIM Bank  
c. The Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority  
d. None of the above

**Ans. a.**

**Related facts —**

- Aramex, a leading global provider of comprehensive logistics and transportation solutions, recently (July 1st) announced that it has signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the Federation of Indian Export Organizations to support MSME exporters in India.



- **Objective —**

- This partnership aims to help Indian MSMEs capture global market opportunities by providing access to cost-efficient, seamless, and reliable logistics solutions.

- **Agreement(MoU) —**

- As part of the MoU, Aramex India will provide member MSMEs preferential pricing, as well as access to online services for express cross-border shipments.
- FIEO members can access these services including creating pickup requests, preparing shipments, and making online payments through a dedicated Aramex banner on the FIEO website.
- In addition, Aramex will provide helpdesk support to first-time exporters and MSMEs on customs regulations in Middle East, Africa and Asia, as well as the required paperwork for shipping.



- **Background —**

- The Indian e-commerce market is expected to grow to US \$200 billion by 2026 and has transformed the way business is done in India.
- The MoU will further help FIEO to reach the cottage industries, artisans, house-wives, youths, MSMEs and clusters, even in far-flung areas to develop their orientation towards exports.
- FIEO members will get flat 30% discount on routing service tariffs for express cross-border shipments which will encourage them to start e-commerce exports in a cost-competitive way.
- Through its(Aramex) progressive SME Program, the Company continues to provide training and mentorship programs, to help those businesses grow and thrive.

**Link:**

<https://www.aramex.com/us/en/media/in-the-news/details?contentId=81f88588-b3f2-659d-9310-ff0100e7fe0c&module=stories&page=0>

## SERB-DST Partners with Intel India to Advance Deep Tech-based Research

**Question: which of the following government body has recently launched the 'FIRE' program?**

a) SERB b) ISRO c) DRDO d) None of these

**Answer: (a)**

**Related Facts:-**

- On June 29, 2021; Science and Engineering Research Board (SERB) launched the Fund for Industrial Research Engagement (FIRE).
- SERB has launched it in collaboration with Intel India.
- Through this facility the Indian research community will soon be able to pursue industry-relevant research opportunities.



- Now the research community pursues industry-relevant research in the areas of deep technologies that are novel, transformative, and can have a ground-breaking impact on a national scale.
- It should be known that the SERB is a statutory body of Department of Science and Technology (DST), Government of India.
- It will increase research opportunities in the areas of-
  - Artificial Intelligence (AI)
  - Machine Learning (ML).
  - Platform systems, circuits & architecture.
  - Internet of Things (IoT).
  - Materials & devices, security, and so on from edge to cloud.
- DST Secretary Prof Ashutosh Sharma said that it is our vision to promote research in the upcoming critical areas of science and engineering.
- He said that, it will be promoted with Public-Private Partnerships as elaborated in the draft Science, Technology and Innovation Policy 2021.
- SERB-FIRE is a novel initiative to bring together industry and academia on a common platform to exchange ground-breaking ideas and co-promote innovative research.
- The FIRE program is a joint government and industry initiative with a co-funding mechanism to promote innovative technology solutions.
- This program has the capacity to strengthen academic research through collaboration with key research and development (R&D) organizations in India.
- Having been conceived in collaboration with Intel India, it is also being extended to other industry members, which would increase its impact and reach.

#### Links:-

<https://dst.gov.in/serb-dst-partners-intel-india-launch-first-its-kind-initiative-advance-deep-tech-based-research>

## RIL and ADNOC Signed an Agreement

**Question: ADNOC & RIL have signed an agreement recently for the production of which of the following?**

- a) Natural gas b) Crude oil  
c) Chlor-alkali, ethylene dichloride and polyvinyl chloride (PVC) d) None of these

**Answer: (c)**

#### Related Facts:-

- On 29 June 2021; Reliance Industries Limited (Reliance) and Abu Dhabi National Oil Company (ADNOC) have signed an agreement.
- They have joined for setting up a new world-scale chlor-alkali, ethylene dichloride and polyvinyl chloride (PVC) production facility at TA'ZIZ in Ruwais, Abu Dhabi.
- The agreement capitalizes on growing demand for these critical industrial raw materials.
- The agreement between the two, leverages the strengths of ADNOC and Reliance as global industrial and energy leaders.
- Reliance operates the world's largest refining complex at Jamnagar in Gujarat. It also has petrochemical plants.
- ADNOC too has similar operations besides producing oil.
- Under the terms of the agreement, Ta'ziz and Reliance will construct an integrated plant with a capacity to produce 940,000 tonnes of Chlor-alkali, 1.1 million tonnes of ethylene dichloride and 360,000 tonnes of PVC annually.



- While Chlor-alkali is used in water treatment and in the manufacturing of textiles and metals, ethylene dichloride (EDC) is used for producing polyvinyl chloride (PVC).
- PVC is commonly used in pipes, fittings, profiles, tubes, windows, doors, sidings, wire, cable, film, sheet, and flooring.
- The project will be constructed in the TA'ZIZ Industrial Chemicals Zone, which is a joint venture between ADNOC and ADQ.
- The project represents the first investment by Reliance in the region.
- The agreement continues the momentum of ADNOC's downstream and industry growth plans in line with ADNOC's 2030 strategy.
- Petrochemical, refining and gas growth projects are currently under construction, with a number of projects also recently completed across the downstream and industry portfolio.
- ADNOC is gearing up for growth with investment in excess of AED 18 billion and a number of further growth projects in the downstream and industry sector.
- TA'ZIZ is the world-scale chemicals production hub and industrial ecosystem based in Ruwais, since 2018.
- ADNOC has attracted significant foreign direct investment from international partners in the downstream business including refining, fertilizers and gas pipelines.

**Links:-**

<https://www.adnoc.ae/en/news-and-media/press-releases/2021/adnoc-and-reliance-sign-strategic-partnership-for-world-scale-chemical-projects-at-taziz-in-ruwais>

## Year, Day & Week

### World Nature Conservation Day

**Question: When is the World Nature Conservation Day observed?**

(a) 29 July (b) 12 July (c) 28 July (d) 10 July

**Answer: (c)**

**Related facts:**

- World Nature Conservation Day is observed every year on July 28.
- The day raises awareness about protecting nature and adopting best practices for conserving our natural resources.
- The day recognizes role of a healthy and well-functioning environment to combat global warming, diseases, natural disasters, and spring high temperatures currently being faced by humans.



**Links:**

<https://www.firstpost.com/india/world-nature-conservation-day-2021-on-this-day-pledge-to-save-animals-trees-on-verge-of-extinction-9844031.html>

## World Hepatitis Day

**Question: When is the World Hepatitis Day observed?**

(a) 28 July (b) 12 July (c) 18 July (d) 10 July

**Answer: (a)**

**Related facts:**

- World Hepatitis Day was observed across the world on July 28 2021.

- The day is observed to enhance awareness of viral hepatitis, an inflammation of the liver that causes a range of health problems, including liver cancer.
- 2021 theme for the day is 'Hepatitis Can't Wait'.
- The date, 28 July marks the birthday of Nobel-prize winning scientist Dr Baruch Blumberg, who discovered hepatitis B virus (HBV) and developed a diagnostic test and vaccine for the virus.
- There are five main strains of the hepatitis virus – A, B, C, D and E. Together, hepatitis B and C are the most common cause of deaths.
- WHO is calling on all countries to work together to eliminate viral hepatitis as a public health threat by 2030.

**Links:**

<https://www.worldhepatitisday.org/>

## International Tiger Day

**Question: When is the International Tiger Day observed?**

(a) 29 July (b) 12 July (c) 18 July (d) 10 July

**Answer: (a)**

**Related facts:**

- International Tiger Day is observed every year on 29th July.
- The objective of the day is to promote a global system for protecting the natural habitats of tigers and to raise public awareness and support for tiger conservation.
- The theme/Slogan for the 2021 International Tiger Day celebration is "Their Survival is in our hands".
- The day was founded in 2010 by the signing of the Saint Petersburg declaration by 13 tiger range countries in Russia.
- The governments of these tiger range countries had resolved to double tiger numbers across their global range by 2022.
- **Tiger Population in India:**
  - As of the fourth cycle of the All India Tiger Estimation 2018, India's tiger population stands at 2967 which is 70 percent of the global tiger population.
  - Madhya Pradesh has the highest number of tigers at 526, followed by Karnataka at 524 and Uttarakhand with 442 tigers.



**Links:**

[https://tigers.panda.org/news\\_and\\_stories/stories/the\\_world\\_celebrates\\_world\\_tiger\\_day/](https://tigers.panda.org/news_and_stories/stories/the_world_celebrates_world_tiger_day/)

<https://pib.gov.in/PressReleaseDetail.aspx?PRID=1641759>

## World Drowning Prevention Day

**Question: When is the World Drowning Prevention Day observed?**

(a) 25 July (b) 26 July (c) 27 July (d) 31 July

**Answer: (a)**

**Related facts:**

- World Drowning Prevention Day is observed annually on July 25.

- The global organisation dedicated this day for the global advocacy of drowning prevention in April this year through a resolution, moving towards a more sustainably developed world.
- This year, the World Health Organisation (WHO) will lead the preparations for World Drowning Prevention Day by hosting a global launch event of the special day.
- WHO will be producing related advocacy materials and support national and local activities in countries and communities around the world.

**Links:**

<https://www.un.org/en/observances/drowning-prevention-day>

## Income Tax Day

**Question: When is Income Tax Day celebrated by CBDT?**

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

**Answer: (d)**

**Related facts:**

- The Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT) observed the 161st Income Tax Day (also known as Aaykar Diwas) on 24 July 2021.
- The day was first celebrated in 2010.
- On 24 July 1980, Income Tax was introduced for the first time in India by Sir James Wilson.
- The purpose of this tax was to compensate for the losses incurred by the British regime during the first war of independence against British Rule in 1857.



**Links:**

<https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1738493>

## World Brain Day

**Question-What is the theme of the 'World Brain Day' 2021?**

(a) Stop Multiple Sclerosis (b) Our Brain, Our Future  
(c) Move Together To End Depression (d) Migraine: The Painful Truth

**Ans. (a)**

**Related Facts-**

- World Brain Day is dedicated to raising awareness and promoting advocacy related to brain health.
- It is celebrated on July 22.
- This year, the World Federation of Neurology (WFN) and MS International Federation (MSIF) are at the forefront, leading the campaign to spread awareness about multiple sclerosis (MS).
- Multiple sclerosis is a neurological disease whose effects range from cognitive impairment to significant physical disability.
- Theme-The theme of this year's World Brain Day is "Stop Multiple Sclerosis", which entails raising global awareness about multiple sclerosis.
- The World Federation of Neurology (WFN) was established on July 22 1957 in Brussels, Belgium.





- It was suggested by the Public Awareness and Advocacy Committee that 22 July 2014 should be celebrated as “World Brain Day”.
- The day was first observed in 2014 and this is the eighth World Brain Day.
- This proposal was announced at WCN, Council of Delegates meeting on 22 September, 2013 and the proposal was received with a warm welcome by delegates. The Board of Trustees meeting in February 2014 endorsed this proposal as an annual activity.

**Reference-** <https://wfneurology.org/about-us>.

## National Broadcasting Day 2021

**Q. National broadcasting day is observed on which date?**

a) 21st of July b) 22nd of July c) 23rd of July d) 24th of July

**ANSWER:- c)**

**RELATED FACTS:-**

- National Broadcasting Day is observed on July 23 across the country every year.
- The Indian Broadcasting Company (IBC) started organizing radio broadcasting from Bombay station on this day in 1927.
- To mark the event, All India Radio (AIR) conducted a symposium on Creation of New India and Broadcasting Medium in New Delhi.
- Radio broadcasting services began in India during the British rule in 1923 under the initiative of the Radio Club of Bombay.
- It was permanently renamed as Indian State Broadcasting Service (ISBS) in May 1932.
- Later, it was changed to All India Radio (AIR) on June 8, 1936 and became Akashwani in 1957. Since then, it gained popularity and changed the socio-economic life of people.
- AIR derives programming in 23 languages and 146 dialects. Currently, AIR is one of the largest broadcasting organisations in the world in terms of the number of languages of broadcast, the spectrum of socio-economic and cultural diversity it serves.



**LINK**

<https://www.news18.com/news/lifestyle/national-broadcasting-day-2021-history-and-significance-3995678.html>

## World Fragile X Awareness Day

**Question- World Fragile X Awareness day is celebrated on-**

(a) July 22 (b) July 21 (c) July 24 (d) July 25

**Ans. (a)**

**Related Facts-**

- 22nd July is organised as World Fragile X Awareness Day.
- On this day various landmarks and monuments are illuminated by various communities globally.
- **About World Fragile X day-**
- World Fragile X Day celebrates the families who have been impacted by Fragile X and highlights the progress of cure finding research.
- On World Fragile X Day monuments and landmarks across the globe are illuminated.



- World Fragile X Day began with FRAXA Research Foundation joining hands with the various communities around the world to raise Fragile X awareness while making progress toward effective treatments and a cure.
- Fragile X syndrome (FXS) is genetic disease inherited from the parents to their children that causes developmental and intellectual disabilities.
- Martin-Bell syndrome is another name of Fragile X Syndrome.
- Among boys, the most common hereditary mental disability disease is the FXS and 1 in 4,000 boys are affected.
- It's less common in girls with 1 in every 8,000 being affected.
- People suffering from FXS usually experience developmental and learning problems.
- This disease is a chronic condition and only some people who are suffering from FXS are able to live independently.

**Reference-** <https://fragilex.org/get-involved/national-fragilex-awareness-month/>.

## World Chess Day

**Question: When is the World Chess Day observed?**

(a) July 17 (b) July 25 (c) July 20 (d) July 10

**Answer: (c)**

**Related facts:**

- World Chess Day is observed every year on July 20.
- The day is being observed since 1966, to celebrate one of the most ancient and most popular games in history that promote fairness, equality, mutual respect and understanding among nations.
- World Chess Day marks the foundation day of International Chess Federation (FIDE) in 1924.
- The idea to celebrate the day as the international chess day was proposed by UNESCO and a resolution officially recognizing it was signed by the United Nations in 2019.
- Chess was invented in India in the fifth century, originally named as “Chaturanga”.
- The first modern chess tournament was held in London in 1851 and won by German Adolf Anderssen.



**Links;**

<https://www.un.org/en/observances/world-chess-day>

## World Day for International Justice

**Question: When is the World Day for International Justice observed?**

(a) July 17 (b) July 25 (c) July 2 (d) July 10

**Answer: (a)**

**Related facts:**

- World Day for International Justice is observed every year on July 17.
- The day is observed to support and recognize the work of the International Criminal Court (ICC).
- This year's theme for the Day of International Criminal Justice is “social justice in the digital economy”.
- **Background:**



- World Day for International Justice marks the anniversary of the adoption of the Rome Statute on July 17, 1998, the treaty that created the International Criminal Court.
- It came about when 120 states adopted a statute in Rome.

**Links:**

<https://www.hindustantimes.com/world-news/world-day-for-international-justice-2021-theme-history-and-significance-101626493252467.html>

## World Asteroid Day

**Question – On which day ‘International Asteroid Day’ is celebrated every year?**

(a) 26 June (b) 28 June (c) 16 June (d) 30 June

**Answer—(d)**

**related facts —**

- Day ‘International Asteroid Day’ is celebrated every year on 30 June.
- **Concept —**
- In December 2016 the United Nations General Assembly adopted resolution A/RES/71/90, declaring 30 June International Asteroid Day in order to “observe each year at the international level the anniversary of the Tunguska impact over Siberia, Russian Federation, on 30 June 1908, and to raise public awareness about the asteroid impact hazard.”
- International Asteroid Day aims to raise public awareness about the asteroid impact hazard and to inform the public about the crisis communication actions to be taken at the global level in case of a credible near-Earth object threat.
- The General Assembly’s decision was made based on a proposal by the Association of Space Explorers, which was endorsed by Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space (COPUOS).
- Near-Earth objects (NEOs) represent potentially catastrophic threats to our planet.
- NEO is an asteroid or comet, which passes close to the Earth’s orbit. According to NASA’s Center for NEO Studies, there are over 16 000 Near Earth Asteroids discovered.
- The Tunguska asteroid event in Siberia, Russian Federation, on 30 June 1908, was the Earth’s largest asteroid impact in recorded history.



**Link:**

<https://www.un.org/en/observances/asteroid-day>

## Books

### Book-An Ordinary Life: Portrait of an Indian Generation

**Question: Who is the author of book An Ordinary Life: Portrait of an Indian Generation?**

(a) Ashok Lavasa (b) Amrita Pritam (c) Ruskin Bond (d) Vikram Seth

**Answer: (a)**

**Related facts:**

- Former Election Commissioner Ashok Lavasa has published a book titled “An Ordinary Life: Portrait of an Indian Generation”.
- In this book, Ashok Lavasa talks about his father Udai Singh and his own experience, how his father’s principles acted as a moral compass in his life, and can in our lives too.
- Ashok Lavasa resigned from the Election Commissioner in August 2020 and was appointed Vice President of the Asian Development Bank in Manila, Philippines.

**Links:**

<https://theprint.in/softcover/new-book-by-former-ec-lavasa-aims-to-disseminate-grounded-wisdom-of-ordinary-indian-lives/703296/>

## Book-The Light of Asia

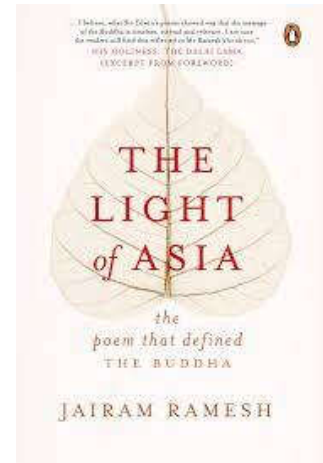
**Question: Who has authored the book The Light of Asia?**

(a) Ruskin Bond (b) Salman Rushdie (c) Jackie Chan (d) Jairam Ramesh

**Answer: (d)**

**Related facts:**

- A new book titled “The Light of Asia” is authored by Jairam Ramesh.
- The book is a biography of an epic bio-poem on the Buddha. It will uncover and narrate the story of the phenomenal poem.
- The Light of Asia is an epic poem by Sir Edwin Arnold that was first published in 1879.
- Jairam Ramesh, the author, is a Member of Parliament, former Union Minister, and Congress leader.



**Links:**

<https://scroll.in/article/996908/the-light-of-asia-jairam-rameshs-new-book-is-a-biography-of-an-epic-bio-poem-on-the-buddha>

## Book-RSS(Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh)

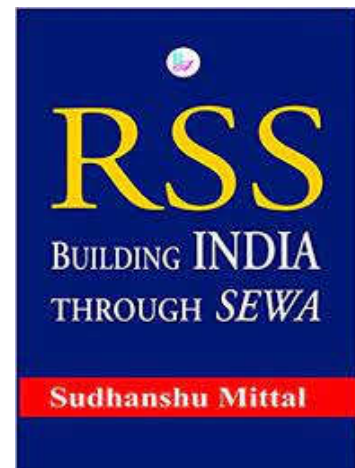
**Question: Who is the author of the book RSS(Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh)?**

(a) Boria Majumdar (b) Gaurav Das  
(c) Sudhanshu Mitta (d) Khushwant Singh

**Answer: (c)**

**Related facts:**

- BJP leader Sudhanshu Mittal’s book on the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) has now been translated into the Chinese language. “RSS: Building India Through SEWA”.
- The book talks about RSS’s history, ideology and policies, and their subsequent impact on the nation.
- The book was brought out by Har-Anand Publications in 2019. The Chinese translation is by Jack Bo.



**By-Amar Mani Upadhyay**

**Links:**

<https://in.style.yahoo.com/sudhanshu-mittals-book-rss-now-100058033.html>

## Book-Bank With A Soul: Equitas

**Question: Who is the author of the book Bank With A Soul: Equitas?**

- (a) Amrita Pritam (b) Amitav Ghosh  
(c) Kaushik Basu (d) C K Garyali

**Answer: (d)**

**Related facts:**

- Former RBI Governor, Duvvuri Subbarao has unveiled a book 'Bank With A Soul: Equitas' authored by Dr. C K Garyali.
- Dr. Garyali is a founder trustee of EDIT (Equitas Development Initiative Trust).
- The book chronicles the journey of Equitas and EDIT in transforming the lives of women with frequent social reform initiatives helping them set up micro-enterprises.



**Links:**

<https://indiaeducationdiary.in/former-rbi-governor-duvvuri-subbarao-unveils-dr-c-k-garyalis-book-bank-with-a-soul-equitas/>

## Book-Palleku Pattabhishekam

**Question: Who is the author of the book Palleku Pattabhishekam?**

- (a) Boria Majumdar (b) Gaurav Das (c) Yalamanchili Sivaji  
(d) Khushwant Singh

**Answer: (c)**

**Related facts:**

- Vice President of India, M Venkaiah Naidu has released a book titled 'Palleku Pattabhishekam'.
- The book has been authored by former Member of Parliament Yalamanchili Sivaji.
- The theme of the book is based on rural India and agriculture.



**Links:**

<https://www.latestly.com/socially/india/news/vice-president-m-venkaiah-naidu-released-the-book-palleku-pattabhishekam-by-former-mp-latest-tweet-by-prasar-bharati-news-services-2631180.html>

## Perumkulam is Kerala's first 'village of books'

**Question- Which of the following village is announced as the Kerala's first village of books?**

- (a) Perumkulam (b) Kombanad (c) Nellaya (d) Koppam

**Ans. (a)**

**Related Facts-**

- On June 19, Perumkulam, a village in Kerala's Kollam district, was declared a Pusthaka Gramam (village of books) by Kerala Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan.



- The announcement made on June 19, National Reading Day, makes it Kerala's first such village.
- Inspiration for it came from Bhilar, in Maharashtra's Satara district, which was declared Pustakanch Gaav (village of books) in 2017.
- Bhilar, a tiny hamlet in Satara district of Maharashtra is the India's first 'book village'.
- The concept of book village is inspired by Britain's Hay-on-Wye, which is a Welsh town located in the United Kingdom, famous for its bookstores and literature festivals.

**Reference-** <https://indianexpress.com/article/books-and-literature/how-perumkulam-became-keralas-first-village-of-books-7409878/>.

## Book-The India Story

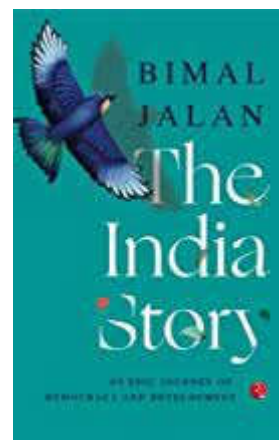
**Question: Who is the author of the book The India Story?**

(a) Bimal Jalan (b) C. Rangarajan (c) Montek Singh Ahluwalia (d) Raghuram Rajan

**Answer: (a)**

**Related facts:**

- Former RBI governor Bimal Jalan has authored a new book titled 'The India Story'.
- The book explores India's economic history and aims to provide a pathway for the future of India's political economy.
- The author Bimal Jalan has traced India's economic policies from 1991 to 2019 to offer insights on learning from the past, before moving 'Beyond the Metrics of Economy' to talk about the role of governance in implementing these policies.
- He has previously written three books on various aspects of India's economic and political history, namely 'India Then and Now' (2020), 'India Ahead' (2018) and 'Politics Trumps Economics' (2012), the latter co-authored with economist Pulapre Balakrishnan..



**Links:**

<https://theprint.in/softcover/former-rbi-governor-bimal-jalan-traces-indias-economic-history-lessons-for-future-in-a-new-book/697944/>

## PM receives first copy of the book, 'The Ramayana of Shri Guru Gobind Singh Ji'

**Question: Recently PM received first copy of the book, 'The Ramayana of Shri Guru Gobind Singh Ji'. Who has penned this book?**

(a) Baljit Kaur Tulsi Ji (b) Tulsiram (c) Sunny Deol (d) Captain Amarinder Singh

**Answer:(a)**

**Related Facts:**

- The Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi has received the first copy of the book, 'The Ramayana of Shri Guru Gobind Singh Ji' penned by Late Mrs. Baljit Kaur Tulsi Ji, who is the mother of noted lawyer Shri KTS Tulsi Ji.
- The book has been published by IGNCA (Indira Gandhi National Centre for the Arts).
- The learned Shri KTS Tulsi Ji spoke about the noble tenets of Sikhism and also recited Gurbani Shabad.



## Miscellaneous

### Most-desired brands list

**Question** Which market research firm publishes ‘Most – desired brands list’ and which brand topped this list ?

- a. TRA Research ; Dell b. RNB Brand Research ; Apple  
c. TNS Best Brand Report 2021 ; IBM d. None of the above

**Ans. a.**

**Related facts —**

- MDB 2021(India’s most desired brands 2021) report released on July 2021.
- It is a syndicated research by “TRA Research”(a market research firm).
- According to the report Dell tops most-desired brands list.
- **Key points —**
  - Chinese smartphone maker Xiaomi’s ‘Mi’ has emerged as the second-most popular brand.
  - While the LG Televisions has emerged as the third one and the rival Samsung TV has ranked at the fourth position.
  - Apple’s iPhone has been ranked as the fifth most-desired brand, down three positions from the previous ranking of 2020.
  - Samsung mobile phone, which was a four-time leader, has now fallen by seven ranks to take eighth rank in the latest report.
  - MDB 2021 has ranked 1000 brands. Of which the top ten are given below —



MDB 2021	MDB 2020	Rank Diff.	Brand Name	Super Category	Category
01	06	05	Dell	Technology	Laptops
02	12	10	MI	Gadgetry	Mobile Phones
03	15	12	LG	Consumer Electronics	Televisions
05	02	-03	Apple iPhone	Gadgetry	Mobile Phones
06	33	27	Oppo	Gadgetry	Mobile Phones
07	29	22	LG	Consumer Electronics	Refrigerators

08	01	-07	Samsung	Gadgetry	Mobile Phones
09	04	-05	Sony Entertainment Television	Media – TV	Hindi – Gec
10	23	13	Vivo	Gadgetry	Mobile Phones
04	07	03	Samsung	Consumer Electronics	Televisions

- There are 29 categories in the top-50 showing a diverse consumer choice. However, mobile phones are the most-desired category with nine entrants, followed by laptops and televisions (four brands each).

**Link:**

<http://trustadvisory.info/tra/home.php>

### King Chilli ‘Raja Mircha’

**Question : King Chilli ‘Raja Mircha’ from Nagaland exported to which city for the first time ?**

(a) London (b) Paris (c) Moscow (d) Dubai

**Answer : (a)**

**Related facts —**

- In a major boost to exports of Geographical Indications (GI) products from the north-eastern region, a consignment of ‘Raja Mircha’ also referred as king chilli from Nagaland was today(28 July 2021) exported to London via Guwahati by air for the first time.
- The consignment of King Chilli also considered as world’s hottest based on the Scoville Heat Units (SHUs).
- The consignment was sourced from Tening, part of Peren district, Nagaland and was packed at APEDA assisted packhouse at Guwahati.
- The chilli from Nagaland is also referred as Bhoot Jolokia and Ghost pepper. It got GI certification in 2008.
- APEDA in collaboration with the Nagaland State Agricultural Marketing Board (NSAMB), coordinated the first export consignment of fresh King Chilli.
- Naga king chilli has been considered as the world’s hottest chilli and is constantly on the top five in the list of the world’s hottest chilies based on the SHUs.
- In 2021, APEDA has facilitated exports of Jackfruits from Tripura to London and Germany, Assam Lemon to London, Red rice of Assam to the United States and Leteku ‘Burmese Grape’ to Dubai.

**Link:**

<https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1739945>

## Over It: How to Face Life's Hurdles with Grit, Hustle, and Grace Hardcover

**Question:** Recently a book named 'Over It' was in news. Who has penned it?

(a) Lolo Jones (b) William Jones (c) Sachin Tendulkar (d) Vijay Malaya

**Answer:** (a)

**Related Facts:**

- Over It is a high-octane dose of encouragement, storytelling, and hard-won advice from Lolo Jones, three-time Olympian and world champion hurdler and bobsledder.
- Lolo is perhaps better known today not for all the races she's won but for the millisecond mistake that cost her an Olympic gold medal over a decade ago.
- With stunning authenticity about her own struggles, longings, and losses, she shows us how to face our challenges head-on and keep working to overcome them.
- Lolo challenges us to:
  - handle failure while pursuing our dreams;
  - recognize the difference between achieving a goal and experiencing success;
  - turn our most painful moments into the most successful;
  - use thankfulness and faith to develop healthy hindsight; and
  - give and receive forgiveness as the path back to life.



**Reference:** <https://www.amazon.com/Over-Lifes-Hurdles-Hustle-Grace/dp/1400224195>

## KCC for Animal Husbandry

**Q. Which of the statement is not true regarding KCC?**

- a) It was launched in 1998.
- b) It aims of providing short-term formal credit to farmers.
- c) KCC facility has been extended to Animal Husbandry farmers and Fisheries.
- d) None of these.

**ANSWER:- d)**

**RELATED FACTS:-**

- On 27th July, 2021 The Minister of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying Shri Parshottam Rupala in the Lok sabha in a written reply said The Reserve Bank of India has extended KCC facility to Animal Husbandry farmers and Fisheries for their working capital requirements.
- Wherein farmers either individual or joint borrower, Joint Liability Groups or Self Help Groups including tenant farmers having owned /rented/leased sheds are eligible for getting benefits under the scheme.
- The loan limit is arrived at based on the Scale of Finance (SoF) methodology.
- The Scale of Finance is fixed by the State Level Technical Committee (SLTC) in consultation with District Level Technical Committee (DLTC) based on local cost worked out on the basis of per acre/per unit/per animal/per bird etc.



## ABOUT KCC:-

- The Kisan Credit Card scheme is a Government of India scheme which provides farmers with timely access to credit.
- The Kisan Credit Card (KCC) scheme was launched in 1998 with the aim of providing short-term formal credit to farmers and was created by NABARD (National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development).

## LINK

<https://www.pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1739462>

## 31.6% rise in e-waste generation last year

**Q. Which of the following statement is not true regarding e-waste generation in India?**

- a) In India e-waste generation last year dropped significantly due Pandemic.
- b) Data regarding e-waste is only available in the country from 2017-18 onwards.
- c) The e-Waste (Management) Rules were notified in 2016.
- d) None of these.

**ANSWER:- a)**

## RELATED FACTS:-

- India generated 10,14,961.2 tonnes of e-waste last year, a massive 31.6 per cent increase from the previous year, Minister of State for Environment, Forests and Climate Change, Ashwini Kumar Choubey informed the Rajya Sabha on 26TH July, 2021.
- The minister informed Parliament that data regarding e-waste is only available in the country from 2017-18 onwards, that too only National data.
- In 2017-18, India generated 7,08,445 tonnes of e-waste and 7,71,215 tonnes in 2018-19 – an increase of 8.86 per cent.
- The e-Waste (Management) Rules were notified in 2016 which got amended from time to time. So far, the Environment Ministry has notified 21 types of electrical and electronic equipment (EEE) as e-waste.
- According to the rules, the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) issues EPR authorisation to the producers of EEE along with e-waste collection targets on annual basis.
- As per the information provided by CPCB, a total no of 1,766 producers have been registered for EPR Authorisation and also 57 Producers Responsibility Organizations (PROs) have obtained registration.
- Presently, 400 dismantlers/recyclers of e-waste are operating in 20 States.



## LINK

<https://indianexpress.com/article/india/31-6-rise-in-e-waste-generation-last-year-ashwini-choubey-to-rajya-sabha-7424095/>



## First consignment of vegetables from Uttarakhand exported to UAE

**Question : First consignment of vegetables from Uttarakhand was exported to which country recently?**

(a) UK (b) UAE (c) USA (d) BRAZIL

**Answer : (b)**

**Related Facts:**

- In a major boost to agricultural exports from Uttarakhand, the first consignment of vegetables, sourced from farmers of Haridwar, was exported to Dubai, UAE on 26th July 2021.
- The export of vegetables, including curry leaf, okra, pear, and bitter gourd, comes after a consignment of millets was exported to Denmark in May, 2021 from Uttarakhand.
- Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA), in collaboration with Uttarakhand Agriculture Produce Marketing Board (UKAPMB) & Just Organik, an exporter, sourced and processed ragi (finger millet), and jhingora (barnyard millet) from farmers in Uttarakhand.



**Reference:** <https://www.livemint.com/news/india/first-consignment-of-vegetables-from-uttarakhand-exported-to-uae-11627300107359.html>

## Bangladesh develops a social media platform dubbed as Jogajog

**Question : Which country has announced to develop a social media platform dubbed as Jogajog?**

(a) India (b) Iran (c) Iraq (d) Bangladesh

**Answer : (d)**

**Related Facts:**

- Bangladesh is going to develop a social media platform dubbed 'Jogajog'. This platform will play a role as an alternative to Facebook.
- The main purpose of this platform is to help the local entrepreneurs to create their own marketplace .
- They can share information and data without depending on any foreign platform.
- The government of Bangladesh is working to develop a communication app called 'Alapan' as an alternative to Whatsapp.
- Bangladesh will develop alternative social media platforms for Facebook, Whatsapp. also will develop a social media platform named 'Jogajog' as an alternative to Facebook.



**Reference :** <https://thefinancialexpress.com.bd/sci-tech/bangladesh-to-launch-jogajog-as-alternative-to-facebook-says-palak-1627130728>

## IATA's Turbulence Aware platform

**Question: Qatar Airways and the IATA has recently(July 2021) announced that Qatar Airways will become the first airline in the Middle East to join the IATA**

## **Turbulence Aware platform. What does IATA means ?**

- A. International Air Traffic Association B. International Aviation Traffic Association  
C. International Air Transport Association D. None of the above

**Answer- C**

### **Related facts —**

- Qatar Airways and the IATA has recently(July 2021) announced that Qatar Airways will become the first airline in the Middle East to join the IATA Turbulence Aware platform.
- **Mitigation of the impact of turbulence —**
- IATA's Turbulence Aware helps airlines mitigate the impact of turbulence, a leading cause of passenger and crew injuries and higher fuel costs each year.
- This mitigation would be done by pooling and sharing anonymised turbulence data from multiple participating airlines and thousands of daily flights.
- The real-time, accurate information enables pilots and dispatchers to choose optimal flight paths, avoiding turbulence and flying at optimum levels to maximise fuel efficiency and thereby reduce CO2 emissions.
- **Turbulence Aware initiative —**
- It is notable that Qatar Airways was the first Middle Eastern airline to participate in the Turbulence Aware initiative when it was launched as a pilot project in December 2018.
- Turbulence Aware has since expanded into a fully operational platform with over 1500 reporting aircraft sharing real-time turbulence data.
- With recent announcement Qatar Airways has equipped 120 aircraft with the Turbulence Aware platform, with plans to expand to the rest of its fleet.
- **IATA —**
- IATA stands for — International Air Transport Association.



FILE PHOTO: A Qatar Airways plane lands at the King Khalid International Airport, in Riyadh Saudi Arabia. (REUTERS)

### **Link:**

<https://www.livemint.com/news/world/qatar-airways-joins-iata-s-turbulence-aware-platform-first-airline-in-middle-east-to-join-the-initiative-11625790367063.html>

## **Pandemic Pool to manage risks on long-term basis**

**Question: Which organisation has recently (July 2021) urged for a creation of a pandemic pool to manage risks on long-term basis ?**

- A. CII B. FICCI C. SIYAM D. NASSCOM

**Answer- A**

### **Related facts —**

- CII has recently (July 2021) urged for a creation of a pandemic pool to manage risks on long-term basis.
- **Background —**
- It is notable that devastating impact of the COVID-19 crisis has made financial, administrative and social systems fragile and vulnerable.
- A majority of the pandemic-related risks have been covered by insurance companies in the form of life and health claims.



- But, the interruptions and halt in the economic machinery could not be covered by insurance companies in most countries as the loss due to the peril of state-imposed lockdown has not been an explicit inclusive clause in the standard insurance contracts.
- Although overall, insurance companies have been able to cover losses caused by the pandemic, the total capital available with them is less than the capital required to absorb those losses.
- In the backdrop of above mentioned reasons the CII urges all stakeholders for creation of a pandemic pool to manage risks on long-term basis.
- **CII —**
- The Confederation of Indian Industry is a non-governmental trade association and advocacy group based in New Delhi, India founded in 1895.
- CII engages business, political, academic, and other leaders of society to shape global, regional, and industry agendas.

**Link:**

<https://www.moneycontrol.com/news/business/economy/cii-calls-for-creation-of-a-pandemic-pool-7189261.html>

## United Nation's Global Survey on Digital and Sustainable Trade Facilitation

**Question- Consider the following statements-**

**(a) The Global Survey on Digital and Sustainable Trade Facilitation is conducted every two years by UNESCAP**

**(b) The 2021 Survey includes an assessment of 58 trade facilitation measures covered by the WTO's Trade Facilitation Agreement**

**(c) India has achieved a 100% score for the Transparency index and 66% in the "Women in trade" component**

**Select the correct answer using the code given below-**

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

**Ans. (c)**

**Related Facts-**

- India has scored 90.32% in United Nation's Economic and Social Commission for Asia Pacific's (UNESCAP) latest Global Survey on Digital and Sustainable Trade Facilitation.
- The Survey hails this as a remarkable jump from 78.49% in 2019.
- **After evaluation of 143 economies, the 2021 Survey has highlighted India's significant improvement in the scores on all 5 key indicators, as follows:**
  - Transparency: 100% in 2021 (from 93.33% in 2019)
  - (2) Formalities: 95.83% in 2021 (from 87.5% in 2019)
  - (3) Institutional Arrangement and Cooperation: 88.89% in 2021 (from 66.67% in 2019)
  - (4) Paperless Trade: 96.3% in 2021 (from 81.48% in 2019)
  - (5) Cross-Border Paperless Trade: 66.67% in 2021 (from 55.56% in 2019)
- The Survey notes that India is the best performing country when compared to South and South West Asia region (63.12%) and Asia Pacific region (65.85%).



- The overall score of India has also been found to be greater than many OECD countries including France, UK, Canada, Norway, Finland etc. and the overall score is greater than the average score of EU.
- India has achieved a 100% score for the Transparency index and 66% in the “Women in trade”.
- **About the Survey-**
- The Global Survey on Digital and Sustainable Trade Facilitation is conducted every two years by UNESCAP.
- The 2021 Survey includes an assessment of 58 trade facilitation measures covered by the WTO’s Trade Facilitation Agreement.

**Reference-** <https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1737948>.

## 5th North-East India Traditional Fashion Week (NEIFW) 2021

**Q. Consider the following statements regarding “5th North-East India Traditional Fashion Week (NEIFW) 2021”-**

- 1) It aims to empower and uplift the Divyangjan from the various tribes and ethnic groups of North-East.
- 2) Union Minister for Social Justice and Empowerment Dr. Virendra Kumar virtually inaugurated the event.

**Which of the above statement /s is/ are true?**

a) ONLY 1 b) ONLY 2 c) BOTH 1 & 2 d) NONE OF THESE

**ANSWER:- c)**

**Related Facts:-**

- On July 24th, 2021 Dr. Virendra Kumar, Union Minister for Social Justice and Empowerment, virtually inaugurated the “5th North-East India Traditional Fashion Week (NEIFW) 2021”.
- The event targets to enrich the ‘Make In India’ Movement by mainstreaming divyangjan along with promoting the indigenous culture and art-forms of North-East India.
- NIEPVD, Dehradun is organizing the NEIFW 2021 with the objective to cater to the divyang populace and stakeholders from the North East to promote the arts and artisans of North-East India.
- It aims to empower and uplift the Divyangjan from the various tribes and ethnic groups of North-East and to encourage the textile and craft industry to take an inclusionary approach.
- The NEIFW has focused on- Skilling and Entrepreneurship Building; Artisan Training Workshop; Exhibition of Divyang Artisans; Traditional Dress Show and Traditional Cultural Festival.
- That will not just create awareness about the skills and abilities of divyangjan but also help promote their employment avenues.



**LINK**

<https://www.pib.gov.in/PressReleaseDetail.aspx?PRID=1738644>

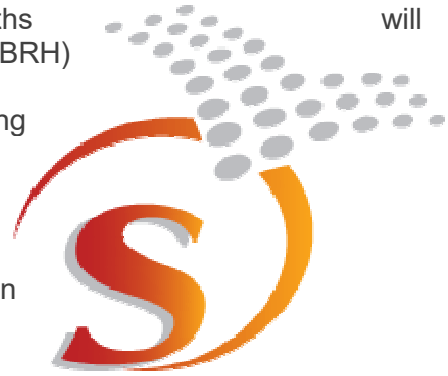
**Question : Which wireless communication and semiconductor chipset company has recently(July 2021) received 5G broadcast trial spectrum from the telecom department ?**

a. Saankhya Labs b. Samsara c. SmartKem d. None of the above

**Ans. a.**

**Related facts —**

- Wireless communication and semiconductor chipset company Saankhya Labs has recently(July 2021) received 5G broadcast trial spectrum from the telecom department.
- It is notable that 5G broadcast trial spectrum is essential to test in-house products that enable convergence of broadcast and mobile broadband networks before launching them in the US.
- The experimental 5G spectrum allocation for six months will be used to test the company's broadcast radio head (BRH) product and also an internally developed prototype broadcast-enabled mobile handset capable of receiving broadcast signals.
- Post trials in the 700 MHz and 600 MHz bands in Bengaluru, Saankhya's BRH product will be deployed by US private broadcaster Sinclair Broadcast Group for offering live television services on mobile phones in the US market.
- Separately, Saankhya plans to showcase its broadcast-enabled prototype handset to global original equipment manufacturers and offer the chipset reference design for integration in their phones.
- Saankhya's core BRH product, which is already certified by US Federal Communications Commission (FCC), enables convergence of broadcast and mobile broadband networks, allowing digital terrestrial broadcasters to boost their reach and, potentially, market share.
- The company is targeting its commercial launch in the US by the third quarter of calendar 2022.



**Link:**

<https://telecom.economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/saankhya-labs-gets-5g-trial-spectrum-ties-up-with-us-broadcaster-sinclair-for-live-tv-services-on-mobile-phones/84610453>

## Acquisition of US edtech firm Epic

**Question : Recently(July 2021) which Indian edtech startup has announced the acquisition of US edtech firm Epic for 500 million dollar ?**

a. Byju's b. Brainly c. Classplus d. Doubtnut

**Ans. a.**

**Related facts —**

- Recently(July 2021) an Indian edtech startup(Byju's) has announced the acquisition of US edtech firm Epic for 500 million dollar.
- **Significance —**





- Epic has 50 million users(children) in the United States who access digital books for free as well as through subscriptions. Epic had around 20 million users in 2019.
- Markosian and Donahue(founders of the Epic) will continue to run the business.
- Byju's foray into the overseas & Indian market —
- It is notable that acquisition is a part of Byju's foray into the overseas market, from where it expects annual revenue of 300 million dollar this financial year.
- In 2019, Byju's had acquired US-based maker of educational games Osmo for 120 million dollar.
- Acquisition of Epic is its second-biggest buyout after brick-and-mortar coaching network Aakash Institute, which it snapped up earlier this year for nearly 1 billion dollar(950 million dollar).
- **Target —**
- Byju's aims to invest around 1 billion dollar in North America over the next couple of years.

**Link:**

<https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/tech/startups/byjus-acquires-us-edtech-firm-epic-in-500-million-deal/articleshow/84612454.cms>

## Magnetic Levitation Train

**Question: Which of the following country, on 20 July 2021 unveiled a fastest homegrown magnetic levitation train?**

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

**Answer: (b)**

**Related Facts:**

- On 20 July 2021; China unveiled a homegrown magnetic levitation train.
- This new train can achieve the speed of 600 kph, and is the fastest train ever built by the country.
- Sun Yongcai, chairman of CRRC, said "Chinese high-speed maglev trains can become a viable industry.
- China Railway Rolling Stock Corporation (CRRC) is the state-owned developer of the train.
- It is noteworthy that the new train's speed approaches the 603 kph world record set by a Japanese maglev built by Central Japan Railway.
- This achievement by Chinese maglev is now ushering in an intense competition for technical supremacy in the high-speed train market.
- The development of China's maglev, which comes in sets of five cars, began in 2016, with a successful trial run in June 2020.
- CRRC, the world's biggest manufacturer of train cars, had been fine-tuning the maglev before July 20 unveiling.
- CRRC touts the maglev's lightness and durability as its strengths. The train can make the trip from Beijing to Shanghai in three and a half hours, including wait times.
- According to a 2019 estimate, the new train cuts about two hours from the time needed for a conventional bullet train to travel the same distance.
- The company has yet to release a detailed plan for commercializing the maglev. CRRC exports trains worldwide, especially to countries that have signed onto Beijing's Belt and Road infrastructure initiative.
- The rollout of the maglev promotes China's technical prowess.



- Japan's maglev is under development by JR Central. The train attained the record 603 kph during a test run in 2015.
- JR Central is building a maglev line connecting Tokyo and Nagoya on which the train will run at a maximum operating speed of 500 kph.
- CRRC earned a net profit of 11.3 billion Yuan (\$1.74 billion) last year on sales of 227.6 billion Yuan. The company formed in 2015.

#### Links:-

<https://asia.nikkei.com/Business/Transportation/China-unveils-600-kph-superfast-maglev-train>

## Kongu Nadu

**Question: Recently Kongu Nadu was in news. From where it relates to?**

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

**Answer: (a)**

#### Related Facts:

- 'Kongu Nadu' is neither a place with a PIN code nor a name given formally to any region. It is a commonly used name for part of western Tamil Nadu.
- In Tamil literature, it was referred to as one of the five regions of ancient Tamil Nadu. There were mentions of 'Kongu Nadu' in Sangam literature as a separate territory.
- In the present state of Tamil Nadu, the term is informally used to refer to a region that includes the districts of Nilgiris, Coimbatore, Tirupur, Erode, Karur, Namakkal and Salem, as well as Oddanchatram and Vedsandur in Dindigul district, and Pappireddipatti in Dharmapuri district. The name derives from Kongu Vellala Gounder, an OBC community with a significant presence in these districts.
- The region includes prominent businesses and industrial hubs at Namakkal, Salem, Tirupur and Coimbatore. It has also been considered an AIADMK stronghold in the recent past, and is also where the BJP's limited influence in the state is concentrated.



**Reference:** <https://indianexpress.com/article/explained/kongu-nadu-a-region-not-formally-defined-yet-the-subject-of-a-bifurcation-debate-in-tamil-nad>

## Discovery of Subglacial lakes in Antarctica

**Question: What is the name of US satellite that has discovered the hidden lake system under the ice in Antarctica?**

a) ICESat-2 b) CALIPSO c) Aquarius d) None of these

**Answer: (a)**

#### Related Facts:-

- Scientists have discovered the two new subglacial lakes below the thick ice surface in Antarctica using NASA's Ice, Cloud and land Elevation Satellite-2 (ICESat-2).
- ICESat-2 allowed to precisely map these subglacial lakes beneath the Antarctic ice.



- We know that at the surface, the Antarctic Ice Sheet look like a calm, perpetual ice blanket that has covered Antarctica for millions of years.
- The ice sheet in Antarctica can be thousands of meters deep at its thickest, and it hides hundreds of melt water lakes where its base meets the continent's bedrock.
- Deep below the surface, some of these lakes fill and drain continuously through a system of waterways that eventually drain into the ocean.
- ICESat-2 has the most advanced Earth-observing laser instrument NASA has ever flown in space.
- With the help of this satellite scientists have improved their maps of these hidden lake systems under the West Antarctic ice sheet.
- The satellite measures the height of the ice surface, which, despite its enormous thickness, rises or falls as lakes fill or empty under the ice sheet.
- The study was published in July 7 in Geophysical Research Letters.
- The new study integrated the height data from ICESat-2's predecessor, the original ICESat mission, as well as the European Space Agency's satellite dedicated to monitoring polar ice thickness, CryoSat-2.

**Links:-**

<https://www.nasa.gov/feature/goddard/2021/nasa-space-lasers-map-meltwater-lakes-in-antarctica-with-striking-precision>

## Relaxation of timelines for bourses to modify commodity derivative contracts

**Question : Sebi has recently(July 2021) relaxed the advance intimation requirement for exchanges for carrying out modifications in the contract specifications of commodity derivatives contracts. What is the present advance intimation timelines for category second and third contract modifications ?**

a. 10 days b. 30 days c. 14 days d. 7 days

**Ans. b.**

**Related facts —**

- Sebi relaxed the advance intimation requirement for exchanges for carrying out modifications in the contract specifications of commodity derivatives contracts on July 8, 2021.
- The move is aimed at bringing in uniformity while giving effect to the contract modifications so that they have the desired impact and the modified contract represents a healthy replica of the physical market.
- **Changes/relaxation —**
- Sebi has been decided, in consultation with the stock exchanges, to reduce the number of days of advance intimation for all the three categories i.e. Category A, Category B and Category C, to 10 days.
- At present, the advance intimation timelines are 10 days for category first and 30 days for category second and category third contract modifications.
- **Contract modifications categories —**
- In November 2019, Sebi had categorised the modifications in contract specification parameters in three categories.
- The first one was non-material modifications which could be made at the exchange level in yet to be launched and running contracts.



- The second pertained to “material modifications which can be made at the exchange level in yet to be launched contracts or running contracts which have nil open interest.”
- The third category required Sebi’s go ahead 30 days in advance with regard to contract launch calendar, trading period, daily price limit, among others.

**Link:**

[https://www.business-standard.com/article/markets/sebi-relaxes-timelines-for-bourses-to-modify-commodity-derivative-contracts-121070801121\\_1.html](https://www.business-standard.com/article/markets/sebi-relaxes-timelines-for-bourses-to-modify-commodity-derivative-contracts-121070801121_1.html)

## ‘Smart Fill’ machine to reduce plastic waste

**Question : Which company has recently(July 2021) introduced ‘Smart Fill’ machine to reduce plastic waste ?**

A. HUL B. ITC Ltd C. Patanjali Ayurved Ltd D. Dabur

**Ans. A.**

**Related facts —**

- HUL has recently(July 2021) introduced ‘Smart Fill’ machine to reduce plastic waste.
- This initiative offers consumers an option to reuse their plastic bottles by refilling products from HUL’s brands like Surf Excel, Comfort and Vim through the use of this smart refillery.
- **Background —**
- HUL aims to bring about a positive change in our society and make continuous progress towards a circular economy.
- The launch of Smart Fill vending machines is yet another step to address one of the challenges of managing plastic packaging waste.
- This innovation is expected to bring awareness and give consumers an opportunity to contribute effectively in managing plastic waste.
- **Partnership for ‘Smart Fill’ machine —**
- Currently, HUL has partnered with Reliance Smart and has installed vending machines at Reliance Smart Acme Mall in Mumbai on a pilot basis offering consumers a refilling option.
- HUL aims to use learnings from this pilot project to create a scalable refill business model in partnership with prominent retailers and modern trade outlets across the country.



**Link:**

<https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/industry/cons-products/fmcg/hul-introduces-smart-fill-machine-to-reduce-plastic-waste/articleshow/84270265.cms>

## Govt launches mobile app ‘Matsya Setu’ for Indian Fishermen

**Question-Which of the following ministry has launched the ‘Matsya Setu App’ for fishermen?**

- (a) Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying
- (b) Ministry of ports, Shipping and Waterways
- (c) Ministry of Home Affairs (d) Ministry of defence

**Ans. (a)**

**Related facts-**

- Union Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying Minister Giriraj Singh on July 6, 2021 launched a mobile app 'Matsya Setu' to disseminate the latest freshwater aquaculture technologies to the country's aqua farmers.
- The app has been developed by the ICAR-Central Institute of Freshwater Aquaculture (ICAR-CIFA), Bhubaneswar, with the funding support of the National Fisheries Development Board (NFDB), Hyderabad.
- Matsya Setu app has species-wise/ subject-wise self-learning online course modules, where renowned aquaculture experts explain the basic concepts and practical demonstrations on breeding, seed production and grow-out culture of commercially important fishes like carp, catfish, scampi, murrel, ornamental fish, and pearl farming.
- Better management practices to be followed in maintaining the soil and water quality, feeding and health management in aquaculture operations have also been provided in the course platform.
- The modules are divided into small video chapters for the convenience of the learners, along with additional learning materials.
- To motivate the learners and provide a lively learning experience, quiz/test options have also been provided for self-assessment.
- Upon successful completion of each course module, an e-certificate can be auto-generated. Farmers can also ask their doubts through the app and get specific advisories from experts.



**Reference-** [https://www.business-standard.com/article/economy-policy/govt-launches-mobile-app-matsya-setu-for-indian-aqua-farmers-121070601428\\_1.html](https://www.business-standard.com/article/economy-policy/govt-launches-mobile-app-matsya-setu-for-indian-aqua-farmers-121070601428_1.html).

## Robust, mobile OxyJani can cater to acute & chronic oxygen needs at grassroots level

**Question: Which organization /department has developed Robust, Mobile OxyJani to cater acute oxygen chronic needs?**

- (a) Department of Science & Technology
- (b) Defence Research and Development Organisation
- (c) The Indian Council of Medical Research
- (d) National Institute of Virology

**Answer(a)**

**Related Facts:**

- A team from Jawaharlal Nehru Centre for Advanced Scientific Research, an autonomous institute under the Department of Science & Technology, Government of India.
- It developed a new solution with the name 'OxyJani' for addressing these novel challenges in adsorption science and engineering.
- OxyJani is based on the principles of Pressure Swing Adsorption (PSA) technology. The team replaced lithium zeolites (LiX) .
- It is usually used in oxygen concentrators, with sodium zeolites which does not generate toxic solid waste and can be manufactured in India.





- **Why it was needed :**

- The second wave of COVID-19 led to an acute shortage of medical oxygen.
- While the crisis in the bigger cities was more about rapidly responding by overcoming supply chain limitations, in smaller cities and villages, the crisis exposed the chronic lack of medical oxygen infrastructure in the country.
- Overcoming the crisis required two types of solutions — 5 to 10 lpm personalized O2 concentrators for home uses and 500 lpm PSA plants for large hospitals.
- While the 500 lpm plants for hospitals were robust, they lacked the portability required for deployment on resource-poor settings.
- While personal concentrators were too fragile to be used on a sustained basis in a hospital setting.
- This created a need for a robust technology with necessary portability.
- The concentrator is modular and capable of delivering a range of solutions, conversion of medical air to medical oxygen.
- Hence is an entirely off-grid solution including all modules that can facilitate deployment in rural areas.

**Reference:** <http://ddnews.gov.in/health/robust-mobile-oxyjani-can-cater-acute-chronic-oxygen-needs-grassroots-level>