

Website-  **edristi.in**



TOKYO 2020



NAVATRA

Monthly Magazine on Current Events

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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 31th day will be given place in the PDFs. The necessity of this is to ensure the contents factual authenticity.

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

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

National

Neeraj Chopra wins gold medal in javelin, first athletics medal in Olympics

Question-Who is become the second Indian to win an individual gold in the Olympics?

(a) Neeraj Chopra (b) Mary Com (c) Satish Kumar (d) Vikas Krishnan

Ans. (a)

Related Facts-

- Star javelin thrower Neeraj Chopra became only the second Indian to win an individual gold in the Olympics on 7 August.
- The 23-year-old farmer's son from Khandra village near Panipat in Haryana produced a second round throw of 87.58m in the finals to stun the athletics world and end India's 100-year wait for a track and field medal in the Olympics.
- Chopra won the country's seventh medal and first gold in this Olympics and joined shooter Abhinav Bindra (2008 Beijing Games) as India's individual gold winners in the showpiece.
- Czech Republic throwers Jakub Vadlejch (86.67m) and Vitezslav Vesely (85.44m) took the silver and bronze respectively.
- No Indian has won a medal in athletics since the country started taking part in the Games in 1920 in Antwerp, Belgium.



Reference- <https://www.thehindu.com/sport/athletics/neeraj-chopra-wins-gold-medal-in-javelin-first-athletics-medal-in-olympics/article35784502.ece>.

August 7 to be marked as 'Javelin Throw Day' to honour Neeraj Chopra

Question : Which date will be marked as 'Javelin Throw Day' to honour Neeraj Chopra?

(a) August 7 (b) August 8 (c) August 9 (d) August 6

Answer : (a)

Related Facts:

- As the javelin thrower bagged the gold medal in men's javelin throw at the 2020 Tokyo Olympics on August 7, 2021.
- The Athletics Federation of India (AFI) decided to name August 7 as 'Javelin Throw Day' in India to honour Neeraj Chopra's first historic Olympic gold.
- The javelin thrower bagged the gold medal in men's javelin throw at the 2020 Tokyo Olympics on August 7.
- The 23-year-old Neeraj is India's second individual Olympic gold medallist after Abhinav Bindra.
- The javelin thrower has scripted history at the Olympic Stadium in Tokyo when he threw the javelin to a distance of 87.58m to end India's medal drought in athletics at the Olympics.
- This is India's first-ever gold medal in athletics in the history of the Olympics.



WORLD ATHELATICS RANKING 2021

Q. As per the World Athletic Ranking 2021, which Athlete hold the 1st rank?

a) Johannes Vetter b) Neeraj Chopra c) Damian Warner d) Ronnie Baker

ANSWER:- a)

RELATED FACTS:-

- Gold medalist Neeraj Chopra has accomplished number 2 rank in the World Athletics ranking after his sensational show in the Tokyo Olympics.
- Neeraj Chopra has been ranked second with a score of 1315.
- The 23-year-old athlete is only behind German athlete Johannes Vetter who has a 1396 score as per the latest update issued by World Athletics.
- Neeraj Chopra created history on August 7 as he became India's first athlete to win a gold in track and field in the Olympics. He threw the javelin to a distance of 87.58m to win the gold medal at the Tokyo Olympics 2020.
- The star athlete's historic golden throw in the Olympics has been listed as one of the 10 magical moments of athletics (track and field) in the Tokyo Olympics by the World Athletics.



LINK

<https://www.livemint.com/news/india/neeraj-chopra-achieves-number-2-spot-in-world-athletics-rankings-11628738737356.html>

PV Sindhu wins bronze medal

Question : PV Sindhu won bronze medal in Tokyo Olympics 2021. She is associated with which sport?

(a) Tennis (b) Baseball (c) Badminton (d) Weightlifting

Answer : (c)

Related Facts:

- PV Sindhu defeated He Bing Jiao in straight games to clinch the bronze medal at the Tokyo Games and become the first Indian woman to win two individual Olympic medals.
- Sindhu defeated He Bing Jiao 21-13 and 21-15 in the bronze medal match.
- She was clinical throughout the contest and didn't give her opponent any chance in the match.
- She had suffered a heart-breaking loss to world no.1 Tai Tzu Ying in the semi-final on Saturday. Sindhu lost the semi-final 18-21, 12-21.
- She is the recipient of the sports honour Rajiv Gandhi Khel Ratna, and India's fourth highest civilian award, the Padma Shri. She was also honoured with Padma Bhushan, the third highest civilian award in India, in January 2020.



▪ **About :**

- She was born in Nirmal, Telangana while Vijaya hails from Vijayawada, Andhra Pradesh.

Reference: <https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/sports/tokyo-olympics/tokyo-olympics-2021-live-updates-pv-sindhu-india-vs-great-britain-hockey-olympic-games-tokyo-2021>

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

Ravi Kumar Dahiya won Silver Medal in Wrestling at Tokyo Olympics 2020

Question- Which of the following wrestler has won the silver medal in Tokyo Olympics 2020?

- (a) Ravi Kumar Dahiya (b) Saurav Gujar (c) Riknu Singh Rajput (d) Virendra Singh

Ans. (a)

Related Facts-



- Ravi Kumar became the second Indian wrestler to clinch an Olympic silver after losing his 57kg final to Russian two-time defending world champion Zaur Uguev.
- This is India's second silver and fifth medal overall at the Tokyo Olympics.
- Ravi Kumar joined the legendary Sushil Kumar to become only the second Indian wrestler to win an Olympic silver.
- Sushil had settled for silver in the 2012 London Olympics.
- Ravi is the fourth Indian male wrestler, and fifth overall, to win a medal at the Olympics.
- His medal also marks the fourth consecutive medal for India at the Olympics in wrestling.

Reference- <https://www.pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=174279>.

Vandana Katariya, First Indian Woman To Score An Olympic Hat-trick

Question : Who became the first Indian Woman To Score An Olympic Hat-trick in Tokyo Olympics 2020?

(a) Vandana Katariya (b) Gurjit Kaur (c) Rani Rampal (d) Brianna Decker

Answer : (a)

Related Facts:



- Vandana Katariya became the first Indian woman hockey player to score an Olympic hat-trick as India beat South Africa by 4-3 at the Oi Hockey Stadium in Tokyo .
- Vandana scored in the first, second, and fourth quarters of India's last match in Pool A of the Tokyo Olympics to etch her names in the history books.
- The forward from Uttar Pradesh netted thrice as India edged out South Africa 4-3 to help her team earn a crucial victory that kept their quarter-final chances alive.

Reference : <https://www.sentinelassam.com/national-news/vandana-katariya-becomes-1st-indian-woman-to-score-an-olympic-hat-trick-549374>

India win bronze medal in Tokyo, first Olympic medal in hockey since 1980

Question: Recently India won bronze medal in Tokyo, first Olympic medal in hockey since 1980. India won this medal to defeat which country?

(a) Brazil (b) Germany (c) Japan (d) China

Answer : (b)

Related Facts:

- Tokyo Olympics, India vs Germany: India men's hockey team have won the bronze medal in Tokyo after defeating Germany 5-4.
- India men's hockey team defeated Germany to win the bronze medal at the Tokyo Olympics on August 5, 2021.
- This is India's first Olympic medal in hockey since they won the gold medal in the 1980 Olympics in Moscow.
- It was a thrilling affair between the two teams that went right down to the middle.



- India saw Germany take an early lead with Timur Oruz scoring within two minutes of the match. Germany troubled Indian defense in the first quarter, but could not find a way to extend their lead.

Reference : <https://www.hindustantimes.com/sports/olympics/olympics-india-win-bronze-medal-in-tokyo-first-olympic-medal-in-hockey-since-1980-101628123640919.html>

RBI : Empanelment of South Indian Bank as ‘Agency Bank’

Question : Which bank has recently(August 2021) been empanelled as an ‘Agency Bank’ by Reserve Bank of India to undertake general banking businesses of Central and State government on behalf of the RBI ?

- a. South Indian Bank b. Tamilnad Mercantile Bank c. Karur Vysya Bank
d. Karnataka Bank

Ans. a.

Related facts —

- South Indian Bank has recently(August 2021) been empanelled as an ‘Agency Bank’ by Reserve Bank of India to undertake general banking businesses of Central and State government on behalf of the RBI.
- South Indian Bank —
- South Indian Bank Limited(SIB) is a major private sector bank headquartered at Thrissur.
- It was the first among the private sector banks in Kerala to become a scheduled bank in 1946.
- It was the first bank in the private sector in India to open a Currency Chest in April 1992.

Link:

<https://www.thehindubusinessline.com/money-and-banking/rbi-empanels-south-indian-bank-as-agency-bank/article35891870.ece>

Karmayogi Digital Learning Lab Platform

Question – Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances & Pensions has recently inaugurated the “Karmayogi” digital learning lab platform for civil servants. Accordingly, which of the following statement is correct ?

Statements —

- Inauguration has been done on August 27, 2021
- Indian Secretariat Training Mission(ISTM) is a premier Central Training Institution
- “Mission Karmayogi” was approved by the Government on 2nd September, 2020

Options —

- (A) Only 1. & 2.
(B) Only 2. & 3.
(C) Only 3. & 1.
(D) All of the above

Answer – (C)

Related facts —

- Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances & Pensions inaugurated the “Karmayogi” digital



learning lab platform at ISTM, Delhi on August 27, 2021.

- Ministry has lauded the ISTM for releasing 75 courses with a running time of 75 hours of digital content on the Karmayogi Digital Learning Lab platform.
- ISTM(Institute of Secretariat Training & Management) is a premier Central Training Institution under the Department of Personnel & Training.
- The Government's most ambitious reform 'Mission Karmayogi' is meant to upgrade the skills of Central Government officers and personnel.
- It is notable that National Programme for Civil Services Capacity Building('NPCSCB') – "Mission Karmayogi" was approved by the Government on 2nd September, 2020 with the objective of enhancing governance through Civil Services Capacity Building.
- The training of Civil Servants at various Academies is being restructured to include optimum use of the digital learning platform of Integrated Government Online Training (iGOT).

Link:

<https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1749634>

Javelin thrower Tek Chand lead India's charge during Opening Ceremony

Question- Who was the flagbearer of the Indian contingent for the opening ceremony in Tokyo 2020 Paralympic Game?

(a) Tek Chand (b) Mariyappan (c) Harvinder Singh (d) Vivek Chikara

Ans. (a)

Related facts-

- Javelin thrower Tek Chand carried the tri-colour as India made its way during the Opening Ceremony of Tokyo 2020 Paralympics on August 24, 2021 at the Japan National Stadium.
- Tek Chand was India's flag-bearer at the Tokyo Paralympics opening ceremony after Thangavelu Mariyappan was quarantined following close contact with a COVID-19 positive person on their flight to Tokyo.
- The Tokyo 2020 Paralympic Games will take place between August 24 and September 5 and will feature 539 medal events across 22 sports. A total of 54 para-athletes from India across nine sports disciplines will be featuring in the Paralympic Games.
- This is India's biggest ever contingent to the Games.
- Earlier, Mariyappan, a Rio 2016 Gold medal winner, was the flag bearer for India.
- However, he and five others of the Indian contingent were quarantined until further notice, as someone near their seats on the flight to Tokyo tested positive for COVID-19.
- In total 4,403 athletes (2,550 male/1,853 female) will compete across 22 sports and 23 disciplines (cycling has two disciplines, track and road).
- With 4,328 athletes, Rio 2016 held the previous record for the most athletes, this means Tokyo now has the record for most athletes at a Games.



Reference- <https://www.hindustantimes.com/sports/olympics/tokyo-paralympics-javelin-thrower-tek-chand-lead-india-s-charge-during-opening-ceremony-101629807134477.html>.

LIC launches mobile app for agents

Question- Which of the following corporation has launched the Ananda mobile app for agents?

(a) LIC (b) Birla Sun Life (c) Bajaj Allianz (d) SBI

Ans. (a)

Related facts-

- The Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC) has launched a mobile app for its agents and intermediaries to onboard prospective customers.
- The app is the latest dimension of the Atma Nirbhar Agents New Business Digital Application or ANANDA, the paperless solution for new business processes that the insurance major had unveiled last year.
- The digital application is a tool for on boarding process to get the insurance policy through a paperless module with the help of the agent/intermediary.
- The mobile app has all the distinctive features of the digital app.



Reference- <https://www.thehindu.com/news/cities/Hyderabad/lic-launches-mobile-app-for-agents/article36101835.ece>.

NFAI's Virtual Film Poster Exhibition

Question : NFAI's Virtual Film Poster Exhibition launched on August 27,2021. What is the title of this exhibition ?

a. Chitrانjali@75 b. Chitrانjali@76 c. Chitrانjali@74 d. Chitrانjali@70

Ans. a.

Related facts —

- NFAI's Virtual Film Poster Exhibition launched on August 27,2021.
- The exhibition titled as "Chitrانjali@75" .
- The exhibition is organized by National Film Archive of India, Pune to commemorate 75 years of India's independence.
- The exhibition presents various expressions of patriotism through 75 film posters.
- Presenting a panorama of visual documentation, this online exhibition takes a look at the country's journey since independence.



Link:

<https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1749618>

First Smog Tower of India

Question: recently in which of the following city in India first Smog Tower of the Country inaugurated?

a) Mumbai b) Delhi c) Chennai d) Ghaziabad

Answer: (b)

Related Facts:-

- On 23 August 2021; the first smog tower of the country inaugurated at Connaught Place in Delhi.
- It should be known that Delhi is one of the most polluted cities in the world, and starting of smog tower here is a path-breaking milestone.
- Chief Minister of Delhi on this occasion said, many such structures can be installed in the national capital if this pilot project yields results.
- It's a new technology to India, which has been imported from the US.
- The structure will suck polluted air from above and release clean air from below.
- According to Delhi CM Mr Kejriwal; it will purify 1,000 cubic metres of air per second.
- The smog tower has 40 fans and 5,000 filters developed by experts at the University of Minnesota.
- Tata Projects Limited (TPL) built the smog tower with technical support from IIT-Bombay and IIT-Delhi, which will analyse its data.
- According to reports, the experimental tower in northern China has brought a noticeable improvement in air quality.
- A Delhi government statement said the 24-metre-high smog tower at Connaught Place, one of the biggest commercial centres in the capital, is based on a downdraft air-flow model.

Links:-

<https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/delhi/40-fans-5k-filters-24m-high-smog-tower-opens-in-cp/articleshow/85573665.cms>

India emerges as second most attractive manufacturing hub globally, says report

Question: India has emerged as at which place in manufacturing hub globally as per Cushman & Wakefield's 2021 Global Manufacturing Risk Index?

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

Answer : (b)

Related Facts:

- India has emerged as the second most sought after manufacturing destination across the world indicating the growing interest shown by manufacturers in India as a preferred manufacturing hub over other countries, including the U.S and those in the Asia-Pacific region, showed Cushman & Wakefield's 2021 Global Manufacturing Risk Index.
- China remains at number one position, the consultant said in its 2021 Global Manufacturing Risk Index, which assessed the most advantageous locations for global manufacturing among 47 countries in Europe, the Americas and Asia-Pacific.
- The Cushman and Wakefield 2021 Global Manufacturing Risk Index stated that India could benefit from relocations from China to other parts of Asia, as it already has an



established base in pharmaceuticals, chemicals and engineering — sectors that continue to be the focus of the US-China trade tensions.

- It, however, stated that reforms in land and labour laws are critical to ensure India's success as a global manufacturing hub.

REFERENCE: <https://www.businesstoday.in/latest/economy/story/india-overtakes-us-to-become-second-most-sought-after-manufacturing-destination-305048-2021-08-24>

Assam celebrates Wanchuwa Festival 2021

Question: Wanchuwa festival is celebrated in which state?

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

Answer : (a)

Related Facts:

- Tiwa tribesmen perform their traditional dances as they take part in Wanchuwa Festival in Assam.
- This festival is celebrated by Tiwa tribesmen to mark their good harvest.
- It comes with songs, dances, a bunch of rituals and people clad in their native attires.
- Tiwa is also known as Lalung.
- It is indigenous community inhabiting the states of Assam and Meghalaya .
- They are also found in some parts of Arunachal Pradesh and Manipur.
- They are recognized as a Scheduled tribe within the state of Assam.
- They practice Jhum or shifting cultivation.



REFERENCE: <https://www.thehindubusinessline.com/multimedia/photo/photos-of-the-day-august-18-2021/article35974879.ece/photo/1/>

India's First Digital Alternate Investment Fund

Question : ASK Investment Managers(ASK IM), registered with SEBI, is one of the largest Portfolio Management Service providers in India. It has recently(August 2021) launched India's First Digital Alternate Investment Fund. Accordingly, which of the following statement is correct ?

Statements —

1. The term of the scheme is 7 years with 2 years of Lock-in
 2. The fund is targeting to raise Rs. 1,000 crore
- Options —
- a. Only 1.
 - b. Only 2.
 - c. Both 1. & 2.
 - d. None of the above

Ans. c.

Related facts —



- ASK Investment Managers(ASK IM), registered with SEBI, is one of the largest Portfolio Management Service providers in India.
- It has launched India's First Digital Alternate Investment Fund(AIF) on August 16, 2021.
- Name & Characteristics —
- "The ASK Emerging Opportunities Fund" is a close-ended Category-III long-only AIF.
- It is a flexi cap portfolio with a midcap bias and will be investing in listed Indian equities.
- This fund aims to invest in beneficiaries of varied sectors including speciality chemicals, footwear, diagnostics, niche digital technologies, etc.
- The term of the scheme is 7 years with 2 years of Lock-in from the Final Closing and will be targeting to raise investments from HNI and UHNI clients who are aiming for consistent wealth creation over long-term.
- The fund is targeting to raise Rs. 1,000 crore.
- Another unique feature of the AIF is that this will be first of its kind in the 9-year-old AIF industry to have the entire process of opening accounts and documentation be entirely paperless and hassle-free.
- ASK IM's platform is enabled for Digital Signatures using the Aadhaar e-Sign platform.

Link:

<https://www.askfinancials.com/media/press-releases.aspx>

NITI Aayog partners with Cisco to foster women entrepreneurship in India

Q. Recently NITI Aayog partners with which company to foster women entrepreneurship in India?

a) TCS b) Cisco c) Reliance Industries Lt. d) None of these

ANSWER:- b)

RELATED FACTS:-

- Building on their shared commitment to empower women entrepreneurs across India, NITI Aayog, the Government's public policy think tank, and Cisco on 26th August, 2021 launched the next phase of the Women Entrepreneurship Platform (WEP).
- Titled "WEP Nxt", this next phase of NITI Aayog's flagship platform will leverage Cisco's technology and experience working with India's startup ecosystem to enable more women-owned businesses across the country.
- WEP, initially launched by NITI Aayog in 2017, is a first-of-its-kind, unified portal that brings together women from diverse backgrounds and offers them access to a multitude of resources, support, and learning.
- WEP Nxt is a significant step to augment these efforts.
- Based on a focused study of Indian women entrepreneurs and their most urgent needs across six key verticals – community and networking, skilling and mentorship, incubation and acceleration programs, and financial, compliance, and marketing assistance – WEP Nxt will be driven by evidence-based decision-making.



- The focused study, fuelling this transition, is also being made available for the benefit of the ecosystem.
- Additionally, as a part of this initiative, Cisco, in collaboration with the Nasscom Foundation, Sattva Consulting, and the DeAsra Foundation, will enable technology-led experiences and engagements to address the challenges faced by women entrepreneurs at individual and enterprise levels and create new opportunities for growth.
- About Cisco
- Cisco (NASDAQ: CSCO) is the worldwide leader in technology that powers the Internet.
- Cisco inspires new possibilities by reimagining your applications, securing your data, transforming your infrastructure, and empowering your teams for a global and inclusive future.

LINK : <https://www.pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1749197>

MANTHAN- 2021 Hackathon

Q. which of the following is related to MANTHAN-2021 Hackathon?

- a) Innovative solution for security challenges b) Water Conservation c) Soil Conservation
d) None of these

ANSWER:- a)

RELATED FACTS:-

- Shri Neeraj Sinha, Additional Director General, Bureau of Police Research and Development (BPR&D) and Prof. Anil D. Sahasrabudhe, Chairman, All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE) jointly launched MANTHAN-2021 here ON 26TH August, 2021.
- Manthan- 2021 is organized by Bureau of Police Research and Development (BPR&D) in coordination with the Innovation Cell of the Ministry of Education and AICTE.
- For MANTHAN 2021, BPR&D has released 20 challenge statements which offer unique opportunity to all our youngsters to think out-of-the-box and develop innovative concepts for solving some of the daunting problems faced by our security agencies.
- MANTHAN 2021 will have two phases. In the first phase, participants are expected to submit their concepts against the problem statements which they wish to solve on the portal.
- These submitted ideas will be evaluated by group of experts in the field and only the innovative ideas will be selected for the Grand Finale or 2nd round scheduled from 28th November 2021.
- During the Grand Finale, selected participants are expected to build the solution to demonstrate their concepts and prove to the juries that their ideas are technically feasible and more importantly implementable. Best ideas will be declared winners.
- Hackathon “MANTHAN 2021” is a unique national initiative to identify innovative concepts and technology solutions for addressing the security challenges of the 21st century faced by our intelligence agencies.



सत्यमेव जयते

Ministry of Education
Government of India

- During this 36 hours online hackathon, scheduled from 28th November to 1st December 2021, selected youths from education institutions across the country and registered start-ups will participate to offer strong, safe and effective technology solutions using their technical expertise and innovative skills.
- Total Prize money worth Rs. 40 Lakh is announced for the winning teams.
- Participants are expected to develop digital solutions under 6 themes for 20 different challenge statements released, using new technologies like Artificial Intelligence, Deep Learning, Augmented reality, Machine Learning, etc. for ever-changing security related challenges, which include photo/video analysis, Fake Content Identification along with the information of creator, predictive Cyber Crime data analytics, etc.

LINK : <https://www.pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1749241>

Ajit Doval chairs BRICS 2021 NSA meeting

Question-Which of the following person has chaired BRICS 2021 NSA meeting?

(a) Ajit Doval (b) Rajnath Singh (c) Amit Shah (d) Piyush Goel

Ans. (a)

Related Facts-

- The 11th Meeting of the BRICS High Representatives Responsible for National Security was held on August 24, 2021, via video conferencing.
- India is the chair for this year's BRICS summit which will fifteenth such meeting of the group which is seen as an economic powerhouse in world economy and post COVID economic recovery.
- Brazil, Russia, China and South Africa are other members in the group.
- The National Security Advisor of India Ajit Doval hosted the meeting, since India is the chair for 2021 BRICS summit.
- The 15th BRICS Summit is scheduled to be held in September 2021.
- NSAs will hold in-depth exchange of views to reach broad consensus on global, regional and national security landscape and cooperation in fields including health, law enforcement, counter terrorism and cyber security.



Reference- <https://newsonair.com/2021/08/24/11th-brics-nsa-virtual-meeting-today-global-regional-and-national-security-issues-on-agenda/>.

Centre launches SAMRIDH programme to boost start-up ecosystem in country

Question- Which of the following ministry has launched the 'SAMRIDH' programme to boost start-up ecosystem in country?

(a) Ministry of Electronics & IT (b) Ministry of Law and Justice (c) Ministry of Defence (d) Ministry of Home Affairs

Ans. (a)

Related Facts-

- SAMRIDH (Start-up Accelerators of MeitY for Product Innovation, Development and growth)



programme, which was launched on August 25, 2021 by Ministry of Electronics & Information Technology.

- The objective of the programme is to create a conducive platform to Indian Software Product star-ups to enhance their products and securing investments for scaling their business.
- The programme is being implemented by MeitY Start-up Hub (MSH).
- The initiative will not only provide the funding support to the startups but will also help in bringing skill sets together which will help them to become successful.
- The SAMRID Hprogramme will focus on accelerating the 300 start-ups by providing customer connect, investor connect, and international immersion in next three years.
- An investment of up to ₹ 40 lakh to the start-up based on current valuation and growth stage of the Start-Up will be provided through selected accelerators.
- It will also facilitate equal matching investment by the accelerator / investor.
- The programme aims to further the Indian start-up growth which has seen the emergence of 63 Unicorns is now the third largest Unicorn hub globally with a total valuation of 168 Bn USD.

Reference- <https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1748914>.

Priyanka Chopra Jonas named Jio MAMI Mumbai Film Festival chairperson

Question-Who is appointed as the chairperson of the Jio MAMI Mumbai Film Festival?

(a) Alia Bhatt (b) Deepika Padukone (c) Priyanka Chopra Jonas (d) Katrina Kaif

Ans. (c)

Related facts-

- Actor-producer Priyanka Chopra Jonas on August 17, 2021, was announced as the chairperson of Jio MAMI Film Festival, almost four months after Deepika Padukone stepped down from the position.
- Chopra Jonas was unanimously nominated by MAMI's Board of Trustees which comprises Nita M Ambani (Co-Chairperson), Anupama Chopra (Festival Director), Ajay Bijli..etc
- The tentative dates of the Jio MAMI Mumbai Film festival are March 11 to March 15, 2022.
- Jio MAMI 2.0 will focus on creating more awards and grants for Indian films and filmmakers and letting go of the International Competition section.



Reference- <https://www.thehindu.com/entertainment/movies/priyanka-chopra-jonas-named-jio-mami-mumbai-film-festival-chairperson/article35971920.ece>.

Jaishankar announces rollout of tech to help protect U.N. peacekeepers

Question- Which of the following Minister has announced the rollout of a technological platform in partnership with the U.N., 'UNITE Aware', to help enhance the safety of U.N. peacekeepers.

- (a) Minister of External Affairs (b) Minister of Home Affairs (c) Minister of defence
(d) Finance Minister

Ans. (a)

Related Facts-



- Presiding over a United Nations Security Council open debate on technology and peacekeeping, his first as External Affairs Minister, S. Jaishankar announced the rollout of a technological platform in partnership with the U.N., 'UNITE Aware', to help enhance the safety of U.N. peacekeepers.
- India, as a major contributing nation to U.N. peacekeeping activities, has been keen on using its month-long UNSC Presidency to prioritise peacekeeping.
- The platform has been used in four U.N. missions.
- The Security Council adopted a resolution that paid tribute to peacekeepers and asked member-states that had hosted them to bring to justice those who had killed or committed acts of violence against them.
- India, which has 5,000 of its personnel deployed across nine missions, has lost 175 soldiers over the decades, according to official estimates.
- Mr. Jaishankar outlined a four-point framework for securing the peacekeepers at the debate.
- First, he called for the deployment of proven, cost-effective, field-serviceable technologies that were environmentally friendly in their construction.
- Second, peacekeepers needed sound information and intelligence, he said, and this would require precise positioning and overhead visualisation, which would help enhance the security of missions.
- India is supporting the U.N. in the rollout of the UNITE Aware Platform across select peacekeeping missions.
- Finally, Mr. Jaishankar called for investment in capacity building and training of peacekeepers with regard to technology, announcing to the Council, a Memorandum of Understanding between India and the U.N., in support of the "Partnership for Technology in Peacekeeping" initiative and the UN C4ISR Academy for Peace Operations (UNCAP).

Reference- <https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/jaishankar-announces-rollout-of-tech-to-help-protect-un-peacekeepers/article35983552.ece>.

Emission reduction of 28% over 2005 levels, against the target of 35% by 2030 already achieved by India

Q. Consider the following statements-

1. India- ISA Energy Transition Dialogue 2021 was organized by the ISA.

2. India has already achieved emission reduction of 28% over 2005 levels, against the target of 35% by 2030 committed in its NDC.

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:-

- India has already achieved emission reduction of 28% over 2005 levels, against the target of 35% by 2030 committed in its NDC (Nationally determined contributions).
- This makes India among one of the few countries globally which has kept to its Paris Climate Change (COP21) commitments along with an exponential increase in renewable energy capacity.
- Considering the pace of development in the energy sector, India is determined to not only achieve, but to exceed its NDC commitments well within the committed time frame.
- This was stated by Union Minister of Power and New & Renewable Energy, and President of International Solar Alliance, Shri R K Singh in his keynote address at the 'INDIA-ISA Energy Transition Dialogue 2021' organized by the International Solar Alliance (ISA) and the Union Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE), here on 24th August, 2021.
- The minister apprised the members that it is a matter of immense joy and pride for the Indian Power Sector to have achieved the coveted milestone of 100 GW of installed Renewable Energy Capacity.
- While 100 GW of capacity has been installed and operationalized, 50 GW of additional capacity is under installation and another 27 GW is under tendering process As on 31st July 2021, 38.5% of India's installed power generation capacity is based on clean renewable energy sources and with this pace we will reach the target of 40% by 2023.
- Presently India stands at 4th position in the world in terms of installed RE capacity 5th in Solar and 4th in Wind energy capacity.
- He further said that under the visionary leadership of the Hon'ble Prime Minister, India plans to continue this momentum in the clean energy sector by systematically scaling up its targets to install 450 GW of renewable energy capacity by 2030 from its existing target of 175 GW by 2022.
- The 100 GW achievements not only marks an important milestone in India's journey towards its target of 450 GW by 2030, but also builds upon the confidence to achieve more and be among the leading countries embarking on a path towards energy transition globally.
- The Dialogue featured two panel discussions and a presentation by the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE) on Citizen Centric Energy Transition- India Story. India's energy transition journey was highlighted in the presentation.
- The dialogue was attended by representatives of ISA member countries, senior government officials, industry partners, academicians, innovators, researchers and various financial institutions from across the world.



- The Dialogue facilitated interventions between global renewable energy stakeholders to accelerate Energy Transition in ISA Member Countries and enable member countries to re-look at their national strategies for energy transition.
- To augment and strengthen the efforts being made towards high-level dialogues like UN HLDE on Energy Transition and COP26.

LINK

<https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1748814>

Highest Altitude Herbal Park of India

Question: In which of the following state, India's highest altitude herbal park was inaugurated recently?

a) Ladakh b) Himachal Pradesh c) Sikkim d) Uttarakhand

Answer: (d)

Related Facts:-



- On August 21, 2021; India's highest altitude herbal park was inaugurated, at Mana village in Uttarakhand's Chamoli district.
- The herbal park is situated at a height of 11,000 feet at Mana village in Uttarakhand is the last Indian village in Chamoli bordering China.
- This herbal park is also adjacent to the famous Himalayan Temple of Badrinath.
- The research wing of the forest department of Uttarakhand has developed the herbal park over three acres of the land given by Mana Van Panchayat.
- It has been developed under the Union Government's CAMPA (Compensatory Afforestation Fund Act, Scheme).
- Medicinal Herbs & other species:
- The herbal park near the Indo-China border has around 40 species that are found in high-altitude alpine areas in the Himalayan region.
- Many of the species in the Herbal Park are endangered and threatened as per the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN).
- State biodiversity Board has also found that many significant medicinal herbs are also threatened.
- The herbal park is divided into the four sections:
- The first section
- The species associated with Badrinath (Lord Vishnu), which includes Badri ber, Badri Tulsi, Badri Tree, and the sacred tree of Bhojpatra are located in the first section.
- Badri Tulsi (scientific name: *Origanum Vulgare*), is found in this area and researchers have also mentioned its multiple medicinal benefits.
- It also has the high religious value and forms a significant part of offering to Lord Badrinath.
- Badri Ber (scientific name: *Hippophae Salicifolia*), which is also locally known as Amaesh, is another nutrition-rich food and is used widely.
- The second section:
- Ashtavarga species are related to the second section, which is a group of eight herbs and are found in the Himalayan region.

- These are namely Riddhi (Habenaria Intermedia), Jeevak (Malaxis Acuminata), Vriddhi (Habenaria Edgeworthii), Rishbhak (Malaxis Muscifera), Kakoli (Fritillaria Roylei), Ksheer kakoli (Lilium Polyphyllum), Maida (Polygonatum Cirrhifolium), and Maha Maida (Polygonatum verticillatum).
- Four herbs in the above given group of eight, belong to the lily family and the other four belongs to the orchid family.
- The Third section:
- The third section consists of Saussurea species.
- It includes Brahmakamal (Saussurea Obvallata) which also happens to be the state flower of Uttarakhand.
- Fourth Section:
- Assorted alpine species such as Ateesh, Meethavish, Choru and Vankakdi Fourth section

Link:

<https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/travel/travel-news/indias-highest-herbal-park-opens-in-uttarakhand-at-a-height-of-11000-ft/as85557382.cms>

First e-vehicle Friendly Highway in India

Question: On 19 august 2021 with the inauguration of India's very first Solar Electric Vehicle (EV) Charging Station. Which of the following Highway has become the first e-vehicle friendly highway in India?

a) Delhi- Agra b) Delhi- Chandigarh c) Delhi –Gwalior d) None of these

Answer: (b)

Related Facts:-

- On 19 august 2021; India's very first Solar Electric Vehicle (EV) Charging Station inaugurated at the Karnal Lake Resort.
- Inauguration of this Charging Station was done by the Union Heavy Industries Minister Dr. Mahendra Nath Pandey.
- With the inauguration of the first solar electric vehicle charging station at the Karnal lake resort, the Delhi-Chandigarh Highway has become the first e-vehicle friendly highway in India.
- This EV charging station is strategically located at the midpoint of the Delhi-Chandigarh highway and is equipped to cater to all types of E-cars plying currently in the country.
- Further, work is in progress for upgrading the other charging stations on this highway, within a year.
- Set up by BHEL under FAME:-
- The network of Solar-based Electric Vehicle Charging stations (SEVCs) is set up by Bharat Heavy Electricals Limited (BHEL).
- These are being set up under the FAME-1 [Faster Adoption and Manufacturing of (Hybrid) & Electric Vehicles in India] scheme of the Ministry of Heavy Industries.
- On the occasion of virtual inauguration ceremony, Arun Goel, Secretary (MHI), Dr. Nalin Shinghal, Chairman & Managing Director, BHEL were also present.



- The setting up of India's very first solar EV station in India is in line with the central government's ardent push towards e-vehicles and green energy.
- PM Narendra Modi in his latest Independence day speech further reiterated his vision and mission to weigh environmental security equally with national security.
- As per the view of central government, environment security has the same importance as national security and that India is making all efforts towards becoming energy independent.
- India is a vibrant voice of environmental security which comprises climate change, energy conservation, clean energy transition efforts, etc.
- It has now clearly exhibiting that the nation's efforts in the environment have started giving desired results.
- A green future ahead:-
- India is inching closer to a green future as the establishment of similar EV chargers at regular intervals of 25-30 km is on the cards.
- The network of EV charging stations on the highway will allay range anxiety among Electric Vehicle users and bolster their confidence for inter-city travel.
- The Solar EV charging stations are equipped with individual grid-connected rooftop solar plants that will supply green and clean energy to the charging stations.

Links:-

<https://newsonair.com/2021/08/20/delhi-chandigarh-highway-becomes-indias-first-ev-friendly-highway/>

Launch of National Monetisation Pipeline

Question : "National Monetization Pipeline" launched on 23 August deals with Brownfield Infrastructure Assets. What is the meaning of brownfield ?

- (a) Abandoned, underutilized or contaminated assets
- (b) Economically significant assets
- (c) Enemy country property
- (d) None of the above

Answer : (a)

Related facts —

- "National Monetization Pipeline" launched on 23 August deals with Brownfield Infrastructure Assets of the Central Government.
- It is notable that Brownfields are abandoned, underutilized or contaminated properties.
- The National Monetisation Pipeline(NMP) comprises a four-year pipeline of the Central Government's brownfield infrastructure assets.
- Besides providing visibility to investors, NMP will also serve as a medium-term roadmap for the Asset Monetisation initiative of the Government.



Link:

<https://pib.gov.in/PressReleaseDetailm.aspx?PRID=1747988>

Student Entrepreneurship Program 3.0

Question: Consider the following statements:

i) Student Entrepreneurship Program 3.0 (SEP 3.0) was launched on August 16, 2021 for the young innovators of Atal Tinkering Labs (ATL).

ii) It is joint initiative of ATL and Ministry of Education.

Which of the above two statements are correct?

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

Ans: a

Context



- Third series of Student Entrepreneurship Program 3.0 (SEP 3.0) was launched on August 16, 2021 for the young innovators of Atal Tinkering Labs (ATL).
- Related Facts
- This program was launched by NITI Aayog under Atal Innovation Mission (AIM) in collaboration with La Fondation Dassault Systemes.
- The Student Entrepreneurship Programme is based on the theme of 'Made in 3D – Seed the Future Entrepreneurs Program', which was conceptualized and rolled out in France by La Main à la Pate Foundation and La Fondation Dassault Systèmes Europe in 2017.
- Working of the Program
- 50 teams from 26 states are selected.
- These teams include the top 20 teams of (Atal Tinkering Lab) ATL Marathon 2019, 10 teams from Aspirational Districts, 10 teams selected by Dassault, and 10 teams from Jammu & Kashmir, Ladakh, and Northeast regions.
- Each team comprises 6 students and a teacher.
- Teams will work towards creating their own start-up, design and prototype their innovation using 3D printing, prepare marketing campaigns, define product pricing and create expansion strategy.
- Seed funding will be allocated for their ventures.

Reference: <https://newsonair.com/2021/08/18/student-entrepreneurship-program-sep-3-0-fostering-young-entrepreneurs-with-innovative-skills/>

National Gene Bank

Question: In which of the following city, state-of-the-art National Gene Bank was recently inaugurated by the Agriculture Minister Narendra Singh Tomar?

a) Hyderabad b) Kolkata c) Lucknow d) New Delhi

Answer: (d)

Related Facts:-



- On 16 August 2021; state-of-the-art National Gene Bank, at the National Bureau of Plant Genetic Resources NBPGR, was inaugurated by Agriculture Minister Narendra Singh Tomar.
- National Bureau of Plant Genetic Resources NBPGR in the Pusa complex, New Delhi.
- This is the world's second largest gene bank located in the national capital.
- It was set up in 1996 to preserve the seeds of plant genetic resources for future generations.
- It has the capacity to preserve about one million germplasm in the form of seeds.
- Presently, it is protecting 4.52 lakh accessions, of which 2.7 lakh are Indian germplasm and the rest have been imported from other countries.
- On this occasion, Tomar recalled the contributions by visionary experts like B P Pal, M S Swaminathan and Harbhajan Singh.
- He further said that these visionary experts had laid a strong foundation for the conservation of diversity of indigenous crops in the country.
- Shri Tomar also said that the farmers of India are fully capable of accepting the challenges faced by the agriculture sector and conquering them.
- He said that our farmers are skilled human resources even without any major educational degree.
- Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi is constantly concerned about the welfare of the farmers.
- Concrete steps have been taken by the government through several schemes to increase the income of the farmer.
- We should keep moving forward with a sense of responsibility towards the future. This revamped state-of-the-art National Gene Bank is a powerful step in that direction.
- The staff working here must have felt satisfaction and happiness that how they are serving the agriculture sector and the country while saving the heritage.
- Today, the need for biofortified crop varieties is being felt, somewhere there is an imbalance.
- The Minister informed that the government in this field is trying to overcome by taking the farmers along.

Links:-

<https://pib.gov.in/PressReleaselframePage.aspx?PRID=1746485>

RBI cancels license of Raigad based Karnala Nagari Sahakari Bank

Q. Recently RBI canceled the license of which of the raigad based bank?

- a) karnala Nagri Sahkari Bank b) Allahabad bank
c) New Bank Of India d) Corporation Bank of India

ANSWER:- a)

RELATED FACTS:-

- The Reserve Bank has canceled the license of Raigad based Karnala Nagari Sahakari Bank Limited in Maharashtra.
- In a press release, RBI said the bank has been directed to cease all its operations from 13th August.
- As informed by the Reserve Bank of India, the license of Karnala Nagari Sahakari Bank was canceled due to insufficient capital and earning prospects and its continuance would have adversely affected depositors.



- RBI has added that the Commissioner for Cooperation and Registrar of Cooperative Societies, Maharashtra has also been requested to issue an order for winding up the bank and appoint a liquidator for the bank.
- RBI has informed that 95 percent of the depositors will receive full amounts of their deposits from Deposit Insurance and Credit Guarantee Corporation.
- On liquidation, every depositor would be entitled to receive deposit insurance claim amount of his/her deposits up to a monetary ceiling of Five lakh rupees.

LINK

<https://newsonair.gov.in/News?title=RBI-cancels-license-of-Raigad-based-Karnala-Nagari-Sahakari-Bank&id=424139>

Six lakh villages will get internet connectivity by 2024

Question- How many villages will get internet connectivity under the Bharat Net programme by 2024?

(a) 6 Lakh (b) 7 Lakh (c) 8 Lakh (d) 9 Lakh

Ans. (a)

Related facts-



- On August 17, 2021, Union Minister of State for Skill Development and Entrepreneurship Rajeev Chandrashekhar said six lakh villages of the country will get internet connectivity under the Bharat Net programme by 2024.
- As of now, around 2.8 lakh villages have got internet facility.
- The Centre had taken up a digital village programme under which a village in each district would be provided with better internet connectivity so that people can access various services from home.
- Around 5,000 digital villages had been developed in the country.
- National Optical Fibre Network (NOFN)- is an ambitious initiative to trigger a broadband revolution in rural areas.
- NOFN was envisaged as an information super-highway through the creation of a robust middle-mile infrastructure for reaching broadband connectivity to Gram Panchayats.
- The National Optical Fibre Network (NOFN) aims to connect all the 2,50,000 Gram panchayats in the country and provide 100 Mbps connectivity to all gram panchayats (GPs).
- Bharat Net- is a project of national importance to establish, by 2017, a highly scalable network infrastructure accessible on a non-discriminatory basis, to provide on demand, affordable broadband connectivity of 2 Mbps to 20 Mbps for all households and on demand capacity to all institutions, to realise the vision of Digital India, in partnership with States and the private sector.
- The entire project is being funded by Universal service Obligation Fund (USOF), which was set up for improving telecom services in rural and remote areas of the country. The objective is to facilitate the delivery of e-governance, e-health, e-education, e-banking, Internet and other services to the rural India.

Reference- <https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/karnataka/six-lakh-villages-will-get-internet-connectivity-by-2024/article35952873.ece>.

National Hydrogen Mission

Question- Consider the following statements-

- (1) The proposal for National Hydrogen Mission was made in the Budget 2021
- (2) Hydrogen being the most abundant element in the universe, is found in complex molecules such as water or hydrocarbons on earth

Select the correct answer using the code given below-

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

Ans. (c)

Related Facts-



- On India's 75th Independence Day, Prime Minister Narendra Modi announced the launch of the National Hydrogen Mission (NHM).
- The objective of the mission is to make India a global hub for the production and export of green hydrogen.
- The proposal for National Hydrogen Mission was made in the Budget 2021 to launch NHM that would enable the generation of hydrogen "from green power sources".
- Hydrogen being the most abundant element in the universe, is found in complex molecules such as water or hydrocarbons on earth.
- Hydrogen is an energy carrier, which means it has to be produced, or extracted, and stored before it can be used.
- Unlike common combustion engines, which creates harmful byproducts like nitrogen oxides, the only byproduct of hydrogen fuel is water.

Reference- <https://www.moneycontrol.com/news/trends/current-affairs-trends/pm-modi-launches-national-hydrogen-mission-to-boost-indias-fight-against-climate-change-7338571.html>.

Gati Shakti' master plan to give Rs 100-trillion infrastructure boost

Question-The Prime Minister Gati Shakti Master Plan was announced on-

- (a) 13th August (b) 14th August (c) 15th August (d) 16th August

Ans. (c)

Related facts-

- On India's 75th Independence Day (15 August 2021), Prime Minister Narendra Modi announced that the Centre will launch 'PM Gati Shakti Master Plan', a Rs. 100 lakh-crore project for developing 'holistic infrastructure'.
- PM Modi pegged the project as a source of employment opportunities for the youth in future
- The Gati Shakti plan will help raise the global profile of local manufacturers and help them compete with their counterparts worldwide.
- It also raises possibilities of new future economic zones.



Reference- https://www.business-standard.com/article/economy-policy/modi-promises-infra-boost-jobs-reforms-in-independence-day-speech-121081500250_1.html.

Smart fitness cards

Question: State government of which of the following state recently rolled out Smart Health Cards in the state?

a) Madhya Pradesh b) Uttar Pradesh c) Odisha d) Gujarat

Answer: (c)

Related Facts:-

- On 15 August 2021; Odisha government rolled out Smart Health Cards in the state under the Biju Swasthya Kalyan Yojana (BSKY).
 - Crore people will be benefitted with this scheme launched by the state government in the name of former chief minister of Odisha Late Biju Patnaik.
- The BSKY, the flagship health programme of the state, focuses mainly on providing health services to the economically vulnerable section of the society.
- Odisha is the first state in the country to provide such smart health cards to its citizens.
- Present Odisha Chief Minister, Naveen Patnaik, announced to provide this fitness cards under BSKY scheme.
- Smart health playing cards will be furnished to 3.5 crore human beings in ninety-six lakh families in the state.
- Beneficiaries of countrywide & nation meals protection schemes and Annapurna and Antyodaya initiatives will be provided with these cards.
- Under it, females can avail treatment up to Rs 10 lakh per year.
- Other family contributors will get the advantage of up to Rs 5 lakh each.
- According to the CM, Odisha is the first state in India to grant such smart health cards.
- Health card beneficiaries can avail of health services across 200 health facility chains in India which include in Odisha.
- This will fortify the health protection of the people.
- This initiative was launched in the backdrop of humans promoting land and valuables or dropping their teenagers out of faculties to prepare the cure costs.
- Under it, people will get distressed free and undemanding treatment at the best available fitness care facilities.



Links:-

<https://www.telegraphindia.com/india/odisha-government-rolls-out-smart-health-cards-for-3-5-crore-people/cid/1826684>

E-crop Survey Initiative

Question: Chief Minister of which of the following state has recently launched the e-crop survey initiative?

a) Rajasthan b) Gujarat c) Odisha d) Maharashtra

Answer: (d)

Related Facts:-



- On August 13, 2021; Maharashtra Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray launched the e-crop survey initiative.
- This e-crop survey initiative became effective in Maharashtra from 15 August 2021.
- The project, which was initially introduced as a pilot in two districts, is jointly implemented by the departments of revenue and agriculture along with the Tata Trust.
- Speaking on the occasion, the Chief Minister said the concept will be a role model for the country.
- The e-crop survey app is a proper initiative to reduce the hardships of the farmers as it would provide them crop-related information without hassles.
- The CM said his government had already introduced a digitized 7/12 document, which is an extract from the 'Land Register' that the farmers can now access on their mobile phones.
- Earlier, farmers had difficulty accessing their 7/12 document.
- It should be known that 7/12 Extract or Record of Rights is the extract from the land records register held by the Revenue Department of Government of Maharashtra.
- 7/12 extracts contain complete information about land property in rural areas. While property cards are related to land property in urban areas.
- 7/12 extract document is an important indicator of the legal status of the property (agriculture land).
- CM said that now we need to change with the times and adopt modern technology to ease the hardships of people.

Links:-

<https://newsonair.com/2021/08/14/maharashtra-govt-launches-e-crop-survey-initiative-to-be-effective-from-aug-15/>

<https://www.outlookindia.com/newscroll/maha-ecrop-survey-launched-to-be-effective-from-iday/2141001>

Google doodle honours poet Subhadra Kumari Chauhan on her 117th birth anniversary

Question-Which of the following freedom fighter and poet 117th birth anniversary is celebrated by Google with a striking doodle on its homepage on 16 August 2021?

- (a) Subhadra Kumari Chauhan
- (b) Kamala Surayya
- (c) Sarojini Naidu
- (d) Mahadevi Varma

Ans. (a)

Related facts-

- Google on August 16, 2021, commemorated the 117th birth anniversary of freedom fighter and poet Subhadra Kumari Chauhan with a striking doodle on its homepage.
- Illustrated by New Zealand-based artist Prabha Mallya, the doodle shows Ms. Chauhan dressed in a saree and sitting with a pen and paper.
- The background depicts a scene from her poem 'Jhansi ki Rani', one of the most iconic poems in Hindi literature, on one side and freedom fighters on the other.



- Google described Ms. Chauhan as a “trailblazing writer and freedom fighter” who “rose to national prominence during a male-dominated era of literature”.
- Ms. Chauhan was born on this day in 1904 in Nihampur village in Uttar Pradesh’s Allahabad, now Prayagraj.
- Her poetry and prose primarily focused on hardships that the Indian women overcame “such as gender and caste discrimination”.
- In 1923, Ms. Chauhan’s unyielding activism led her to become the first woman satyagrahi, a member of the Indian collective of nonviolent anti-colonialists, to be arrested in the struggle for national liberation.”
- As part of her contribution to the freedom struggle, Ms. Chauhan continued to make revolutionary statements on and off the page and she published a total of 88 poems and 46 short stories.

Reference- <https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/google-doodle-honours-poet-subhadra-kumari-chauhan-on-her-117th-birth-anniversary/article35933552.ece>.

Four more sites in India added to Ramsar list

Question- Consider the following statements-

- (1) Thol Wildlife Sanctuary near Ahmedabad and Wadhvana wetland in Vadodara are among the four wetlands of the country that have been included on the Ramsar List of Wetlands of International Importance
- (2) With this, the number of Ramsar sites in India are 46 and the surface area covered by these sites is now 1,083,322 hectares

Select the correct answer using the code given below-

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

Ans. (c)

Related Facts-

- Thol Wildlife Sanctuary near Ahmedabad and Wadhvana wetland in Vadodara are among the four wetlands of the country that have been included on the Ramsar List of Wetlands of International Importance.
- With this, the number of Ramsar listed wetlands in Gujarat goes up to three and the listings come nine year after Nalsarovar had earned the tag in 2012.
- Four more wetlands from India get recognition from the Ramsar Secretariat as Ramsar sites are- Thol and Wadhvana from Gujarat and Sultanpur and Bhindawas from Haryana.
- With this, the number of Ramsar sites in India are 46 and the surface area covered by these sites is now 1,083,322 hectares.
- While Haryana gets its first Ramsar sites, Gujarat gets three more after Nalsarovar which was declared in 2012.
- Located 40 km west of Ahmedabad city, Thol was constructed for irrigation in 1912.
- In 1988, it was declared as a wildlife sanctuary by the state government to protect the birdlife found in this open-water wetland site.



- It is on the Central Asian Flyway and more than 320 bird species can be found, making up some 57% of all the bird species of Gujarat.
- More than 110 water bird species have been recorded, about 43% of India's water bird species, with almost 30% of those species being migratory waterbirds.
- More than 30 of the water birds are threatened, such as the critically endangered white-rumped vulture (*Gyps bengalensis*) and sociable lapwing (*Vanellus gregarius*), and the vulnerable sarus crane (*Grus antigone*), common pochard (*Aythya farina*) and lesser white-fronted goose (*Anser erythropus*) etc.
- What is the Ramsar Convention-
- The Ramsar Convention on Wetlands is an intergovernmental treaty adopted on February 2, 1971 in the Iranian city of Ramsar, on the southern shore of the Caspian Sea.
- It came into force for India on February 1, 1982. Those wetlands which are of international importance are declared as Ramsar sites.
- Last year, Ramsar declared 10 more wetland sites from India as sites of international importance.

Reference- <https://indianexpress.com/article/india/4-more-indian-sites-added-to-ramsar-list-as-wetlands-of-international-importance-7453467/>.

NDMC launches 'Cleancity app'

Question-Which of the following Municipal Corporation has launched the "cleancity app" on August 13, 2021?

- (a) North Delhi Municipal Corporation (b) South Delhi Municipal Corporation
(c) East Delhi Municipal Corporation (d) West Delhi Municipal Corporation

Ans. (a)

Related Facts-

- North Delhi Municipal Corporation (NDMC) on August 13, 2021, launched 'Cleancity', a mobile driven application that will help residents living in that area to register complaints regarding picking up garbage in that area.
- The app was launched by North Delhi Mayor Raja Iqbal Singh ahead of the 75th Independence Day.
- With the help of this app citizens can see GPS location of garbage-lifting vehicles, register their complaints and give suggestions to improve the services.

Reference- <https://www.livemint.com/news/india/ndmc-launches-cleancity-app-to-improve-sanitation-ahead-of-independence-day-11628902929065.html>.

INDIA'S FOREIGN TRADE: JULY 2021

Q. Consider the following statement regarding India's Foreign Trade: July 2021-

1. It was released by the Ministry of commerce and Industry.
2. The overall trade balance is Negative.
3. India's overall exports (Merchandise and Services combined) in July 2021 are estimated to be USD 54.95 Billion.

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

- a) Only 1

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

	July 2021 (USD Billion)	July 2020 (USD Billion)	July 2019 (USD Billion)	Growth (%A-19)	Growth (%A-20)
Merchandise					
Exports	35.83	33.84	26.23	49.83	35.05
Imports	46.40	28.47	40.43	82.96	14.77
Trade Balance	-10.57	-4.63	-14.20	-127.37	22.73
Services*					
Exports	19.52	18.71	18.39	16.96	8.35
Imports	10.89	9.69	11.37	12.42	-4.21
Net of Services	8.64	9.02	6.99	23.66	25.53
Overall Trade (Merchandise+Services)*					
Exports	54.95	48.35	44.59	36.19	25.24
Imports	57.29	38.15	51.80	50.15	10.60
Trade Balance	-2.34	-9.80	-7.21	-186.43	67.57

* Note: The latest data for services sector reported by RBI is for June 2021. The data for July 2021 is an estimate, which will be revised based on RBI's subsequent release (A) Data for 2019 and 2020 are revised on previous basis using quarterly balance of payments data.

- b) Only 1& 2
- c) Only 1 & 3
- d) All statements are true.

ANSWER:- d)

RELATED FACTS:-

- India's overall exports (Merchandise and Services combined) in July 2021 are estimated to be USD 54.95Billion, exhibiting a positive growth of 36.19 per cent over the same period last year and a positive growth of 23.24 per cent over July 2019.
- Overall imports in July 2021 are estimated to be USD 57.29Billion, exhibiting a positive growth of 50.15per cent over the same period last year and a positive growth of 10.60 per cent over July 2019.
- India's overall exports (Merchandise and Services combined) in April-July 2021* are estimated to be USD 204.97 Billion, exhibiting a positive growth of 47.87 per cent over the same period last year and a positive growth of 15.35 per cent over April-July 2019.
- Overall imports in April-July 2021* are estimated to be USD 214.71 Billion, exhibiting a positive growth of 72.06 per cent over the same period last year and a positive growth of 0.32 per cent over April-July 2019.
 - MERCHANDISE TRADE
- Exports in July 2021 were USD 35.43 Billion, as compared to USD 23.64 Billion in July 2020, exhibiting a positive growth of 49.85 per cent.
- In Rupee terms, exports were Rs. 2,64,033.76 Crore in July 2021, as compared to Rs. 1,77,305.79 Crore in July 2020, registering a positive growth of 48.91 per cent.
- As compared to July 2019, exports in July 2021 exhibited a positive growth of 35.05 per cent in Dollar terms and 46.27per cent in Rupee terms.
- Imports in July 2021 were USD 46.40 Billion (Rs.3,45,814.93 Crore), which is an increase of 62.99 per cent in Dollar terms and 61.97 per cent in Rupee terms over imports of USD 28.47 Billion (Rs 2,13,499.56 Crore) in July 2020.
- Imports in July 2021 have registered a positive growth of 14.77 per cent in Dollar terms and 24.31 per cent in Rupee terms in comparison to July 2019. Cumulative value of imports for the period April-July 2021 was USD 172.55 Billion (Rs. 12,76,776.03 Crore), as against USD 88.91 Billion (Rs. 6,71,894.74 Crore) during the period April-July 2020, registering a positive growth of 94.08 per cent in Dollar terms and a positive growth of 90.03 per cent in Rupee terms.
- Imports in April-July 2021 have registered a positive growth of 1.18 per cent in Dollar terms and positive growth of 7.92 per cent in Rupee terms in comparison to April-July 2019.
- Oil imports in July 2021 were USD 12.89Billion (Rs. 96,099.67 Crore), which was 97.45 percent higher in Dollar terms (96.22 percent higher in Rupee terms), compared to USD 6.53 Billion (Rs. 48,975.09 Crore) in July 2020. As compared to July 2019, oil imports in July 2021 were 32.27 percent higher in Dollar terms and 43.26per cent higher in Rupee terms.
- Non-oil imports in July 2021 were estimated at USD 33.51 Billion (Rs. 2,49,715.26 Crore) which was 52.73 percent higher in Dollar terms (51.78 percent higher in Rupee terms), compared to USD 21.94 Billion (Rs. 1,64,524.47 Crore) in July 2020. As compared to July 2019, Non-oil imports in July 2021, were 9.21per cent higher in Dollar terms and 18.28 per cent higher in Rupee terms.
- Non-Oil and Non-Gold imports were USD 29.30Billion in July 2021, recording a positive growth of 45.40per cent, as compared to Non-Oil and Non-Gold imports of USD 20.15Billion in July 2020.

○ TRADE IN SERVICES

- As per the latest press release by RBI dated 2nd August 2021, exports in June 2021 were USD 19.73Billion (Rs.1,45,101.10Crore) registering a positive growth of 24.12per cent in Dollar terms, vis-à-vis June2020.
- As per the latest press release by RBI dated 2nd August 2021, imports in June 2021were USD 11.15Billion (Rs. 81,995.44Crore) registering a positive growth of 24.75per cent in Dollar terms
- III.TRADE BALANCE
- MERCHANDISE:
- The trade balance for July2021 was estimated at USD(-) 10.97Billion as against USD(-) 4.83Billion inJuly2020, which is a decline of (-) 127.37 percent. As compared to July 2019 (USD (-) 14.20 Billion), trade balance in July 2021 exhibited a positive growth of22.71 per cent.
- SERVICES:
- As per RBI's Press Release dated 2nd August 2021, the trade balance in Services (i.e. Net Services export) for June 2021is USD8.58Billion. The estimated trade balance in July 2021* is USD 8.64Billion, which is an increase of 22.99 per cent over July 2020 (USD 7.02 Billion) and an increase of23.53 per cent over July2019 (USD 6.99 Billion).
- OVERALL TRADE BALANCE:
- Taking merchandise and services together, overall trade balance for July 2021* is estimated at USD (-) 2.34Billion as compared to USD2.20Billion in July 2020, a decline of (-) 206.43 per cent. In comparison to July 2019(USD (-) 7.21 Billion), trade balance in July 2021 exhibited a positive growth of67.57per cent.

Link

<https://pib.gov.in/PressReleaselframePage.aspx?PRID=1745500>

Investor Summit in Gujarat

Q. Recently at which place the Investor Summit was organized to invite investment for setting up vehicle scrapping infrastructure under the voluntary vehicle Fleet Modernization program?

a) Gujarat b) Uttar Pradesh c) Rajasthan d) Punjab

ANSWER:- a)

RELATED FACTS:-

- On 13th august, 2021 Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi addressed the Investor Summit in Gujarat via video conference.
- The Summit is being organized to invite investment for setting up vehicle scrapping infrastructure under the Voluntary Vehicle-Fleet Modernization Program or the Vehicle Scrapping Policy.
- It will also draw focus on the synergies presented by the ship breaking industry at Alang, for development of an integrated scrapping hub. Union Minister for Road Transport & Highways and Chief Minister of Gujarat were also present on the occasion.
- The launch of Vehicle Scrappage Policy today is a significant milestone in India's development journey.
- The Investor Summit in Gujarat for setting up vehicle scrapping infrastructure opens a new range of possibilities.



- Vehicle scrapping will help phase out unfit and polluting vehicles in an environment friendly manner. “Our aim is to create a viable circular economy and bring value for all stakeholders while being environmentally responsible,” said the Prime Minister in a series of tweets before the event.
- While launching the National Automobile Scrappage Policy, the Prime Minister said that this policy is going to give a new identity to the auto sector and to the mobility of New India.
- This policy will play a big role in the modernization of the vehicular population in the country, removing unfit vehicles from the roads in a scientific manner.
- He said that modernity in mobility, not only reduces the burden of travel and transportation, but also proves to be helpful for economic development. The goal for 21st century India to be Clean, Congestion Free & Convenient Mobility, is the need of the hour.
- The Prime Minister said the new scrapping policy is an important link in the circular economy and in the waste to wealth campaign.
- This policy also reflects our commitment to reduce pollution from the cities of the country and protect the environment and fast development.
- This policy by following the principle Reuse, Recycle and Recovery will also promote the country’s self-reliance in the auto sector and in the metal sector.
- The Policy will bring in a fresh investment of more than Rs 10 thousand crores and will create thousands of jobs.

LINK

<https://pib.gov.in/PressReleaselframePage.aspx?PRID=1745373>

Prime festival of Tamilians

Question: Recently Aadi Pooram festival was in news. It is related to which of the following state primarily?

(a) Kerala (b) Assam (c) Uttar Pradesh (d) Tamil Nadu

Answer : (d)

Related Facts:

- Aadi Pooram also called as Aandal Jayanti is a prime festival of Tamilians.
- Aadi Pooram is the celebration of the birth day of Andal and is celebrated with great enthusiasm and fervour in the places all over the world with Tamil population.
- The day of Aadi Pooram is also observed as the day of Goddess Shakti as it is believed that the Goddess herself comes to Earth in this auspicious day, to bless Her devotees.
- The devotees therefore worship their deity with full dedication to lead a happy and prosperous life.
- The word ‘Aadi’ signifies the fourth month in the Tamil calendar while ‘Pooram’ denotes one of the 27 Nakshatras mentioned in the Hindu Astrology.
- The story of Goddess Andal is known all through the state of Tamil Nadu and her devotion to Sri Ranganatha (a form of Lord Vishnu) is widespread in the whole of southern India.



- The celebrations of Aadi Pooram are very splendid in almost all the Lord Vishnu temples located in Tamil Nadu.
- The day also holds immense significance in Goddess Shakti temples scattered all over the country.
- In the Saiva temples, the day of Aadi Pooram is observed as the festival of 'Valaikappu'.
- In the event, glass bangles are offered to Goddess Andal and then distributed among all devotees.
- It is believed that by wearing these bangles, the couples will be blessed with offspring and also when pregnant women wear these bangles; it shields their child from all the evil forces.

Reference : <https://www.prokerala.com/festivals/aadi-pooram.html>

Bharat Biotech's 1st Nasal Covid Vaccine

Question: India's first nasal vaccine named BBV154 developed by which company?

- (a) Serum Institute of India (b) Bharat Biotech
(c) Zydus Cadila (d) Indian Immunological Limited

Answer : (b)

Related Facts:

- Bharat Biotech has received phase 2/3 human clinical trial nod for its nasal Covid vaccine, BBV154, the Union government informed today. Phase 1 showed that its doses were "well tolerated" and with no serious "adverse event" reported, it said.
- This intranasal vaccine is the first to receive the Biotechnology Industry Research Assistance Council's (BIRAC) approval for late-stage clinical trials, a Press Information Bureau release said.
- "Previously, the vaccine was found to be safe, immunogenic, and well tolerated in the pre-clinical toxicity studies. The vaccine was able to elicit high level of neutralizing antibodies in animal studies," it said.
- BIRAC is a not-for-profit public sector enterprise set up by the Department of Biotechnology under the Union Ministry of Science & Technology. It is an "interface agency to strengthen and empower" emerging biotech enterprises to undertake strategic research and innovation.
- BIRAC Chairperson Dr Renu Swarup, who is also Secretary with the department, said that "the department, through Mission COVID Suraksha, is committed to development of safe and efficacious COVID-19 vaccines".



Reference : <https://www.ndtv.com/india-news/bbv154-bharat-biotechs-1st-nasal-covid-vaccine-gets-phase-2-3-trial-nod-2509898>

RBI to penalise banks for non-availability of cash in ATMs from October

Question : Recently RBI has decided to penalise banks for non-availability of cash in ATMs from which month of 2021?

- (a) October 2021 (b) November 2021



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

(c) August 2021 (d) December 2021

Answer : (a)

Related Facts:

- In a great relief to customers who are in need of withdrawing cash from ATMs, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) on 10 August 2021 decided to impose heavy monetary penalty on banks if their ATMs run out of cash from 1 October 2021.
- "A review of downtime of ATMs due to cash-outs was undertaken and it was observed that ATM operations affected by cash-outs lead to non-availability of cash and cause avoidable inconvenience to the members of the public," RBI said in a statement.
- The Central bank further stated it has been decided that the banks/ White Label ATM Operators (WLAOs) shall strengthen their systems/ mechanisms to monitor availability of cash in ATMs and ensure timely replenishment to avoid cash-outs.
- Any non-compliance in this regard shall be viewed seriously and shall attract monetary penalty.
- While launching the 'Scheme of Penalty for non-replenishment of ATMs', the central bank said that a penalty of Rs 10,000 per ATM will be levied in the event of a cash-out situation for more than 10 hours in a month.

Reference: <https://www.india.com/business/banks-will-have-to-pay-heavy-fines-if-atms-run-out-of-cash-from-october-1-check-rbis-new-guidelines-4879696/>

News Broadcasters Association Renamed To Include Digital Media

Question: Recently the name of News Broadcasters Association has been changed to News Broadcasting and Digital Standards Authority. Who is the current president of News Broadcasters Association?

- (a) Rajat Sharma (b) Anuj Sharma
(c) Anupam Kher (d) Ashwini Vaishnaw

Ans (a):

Related Facts:

- The NBA board decided to rechristen the name of the News Broadcasting Standard Authority (NBSA), a self-regulatory body set up by the Association 14 years ago, as the News Broadcasting and Digital Standards Authority with the inclusion of digital media news broadcasters.
- With the media landscape having changed drastically due to technology, many choices have now become available to viewers to access content on various mediums and digital seems to be the future.
- The NBA Board has decided to change the name of the body to NBDA in order to reflect the addition of digital media news broadcasters as its members.
- NBA had written to the ministry of information and broadcasting, asking for exemption from the new Information Technology (Intermediary Guidelines and Digital Media Ethics

News Broadcasters Association renamed News Broadcasters & Digital Association



Code) Rules 2021, for television news media and its extended presence on digital news platforms as they are already governed by other laws.

Reference : <https://www.livemint.com/industry/media/news-broadcasters-association-renamed-news-broadcasters-digital-association-11628854687550.html>

Fit India Freedom Run 2.0

Question- Which of the following ministry has launched the 'Fit India freedom Run 2.0' programme?

- (a) Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports
- (b) Ministry of Consumer Affairs
- (c) Ministry of Defence
- (d) Ministry of Home Affairs

Ans. (a)

Related Facts-



- Union Minister of Youth Affairs and Sports, Anurag Thakur, launched a nationwide programme of Fit India Freedom Run 2.0 on August 13, 2021 to celebrate the Azadi Ka Amrut Mahotsav.
- Nationwide campaign will be on the concept of “Physical/Virtual Run” in continuum from 13th August to 2nd October 2021 to encourage fitness and help us all to get freedom from obesity, laziness, stress, anxiety, diseases etc. The concept behind this run is that “It can be run anywhere, anytime!”.
- Fit India Freedom Run 2.0 aims at “Jan Bhagidari se Jan Aandolan”
- Fit India Freedom Run to culminate on Gandhi Jayanti, 2nd October, with nationwide Fit India Freedom Run.

Reference- <https://fitindia.gov.in/freedom-run-2.0>.

Union Agriculture Minister Shri Tomar addresses the Sixth Meeting of the Agriculture Ministers of Shanghai Cooperation Organization's (SCO) Member States

Question : Who has addressed the Sixth Meeting of the Agriculture Ministers of Shanghai Cooperation Organization's (SCO) Member States?

- (a) Narendra Singh Tomar (b) Rajnath Singh (c) Narendra Singh (d) Yogi Adityanath

Answer:(a)

Related Facts:

- The Government of India has been taking several steps to develop innovative technologies and their dissemination from Lab to Land to empower rural youth, farmers and farm women.
- This was stated by the Union Minister of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare, Shri Narendra Singh Tomar in the 6th meeting of Agriculture Ministers of the member countries of Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO).
- The Minister in the meeting organized virtually in Dushanbe, Tajikistan stated that the agriculture sector in India performed well even during the severe Covid-19 pandemic.

- Reference: <https://pib.gov.in/PressReleaseframePage.aspx?PRID=1745211>

(a) 100 GW (b) 120 GW (c) 130 GW (d) 175 GW

Answer : (a)

Related Facts:

- The Union Ministry of New and Renewable Energy announced on August 12, 2021 that the country has achieved the milestone of installing 100 gigawatts (GW) of renewable energy capacity.
- This excluded large hydroelectricity capacities installed in the country, the ministry added.
- While 100 GW has been installed, 50 GW is under installation and 27 GW is under tendering. India has also enhanced its ambition to install 450 GW of renewable energy capacity by 2030. If large hydro is included the installed RE capacity increases to 146 GW.
- The achievement is indeed a landmark in India's green portfolio but is still not an encouraging sign of the country attaining its 2022 target of 175 GW installation.
- In 2015-16, the Centre had announced it would install 175 GW of renewable energy (excluding large hydro) by 2022.
- This means, the country has 19 months to install the remaining 75 GW it had intended, considering the government was referring to the financial year of 2022-23.
- Looking at the past performance, the sector will have to make unprecedented progress in these months to achieve the target, according to energy experts.

Reference : <https://www.downtoearth.org.in/news/renewable-energy/india-s-renewable-energy-capacity-at-100gw-still-far-away-from-2022-target-78449>

Vehicle Scrappage Policy

Question: Recently Vehicle Scrappage Policy was in news. When was it launched?

(a) 13 AUG 2021 (b) 14 AUG 2021 (c) 17 AUG 2021

(d) 16 AUG 2021

Answer : (a)

Related Facts:

- The Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi has said that the launch of Vehicle Scrappage Policy on 13th August 2021 is a significant milestone in India's development journey.
- "The launch of Vehicle Scrappage Policy today is a significant milestone in India's development journey.
- The Investor Summit in Gujarat for setting up vehicle scrapping infrastructure opens a new range of possibilities. I would request our youth & start-ups to join this programme.
- Vehicle scrapping will help phase out unfit & polluting vehicles in an environment friendly manner.
- Our aim is to create a viable #circular economy & bring value for all stakeholders while being environmentally responsible."



Reference : <https://pib.gov.in/PressReleaseDetail.aspx?PRID=1745346>

Samagra Shiksha Abhiyan 2.0

Question : In the meeting chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, approval has been given to extend the Samagra Shiksha Abhiyan from which date to which date?

- (a) April 1, 2021 to March 31, 2026
- (b) April 1, 2021 to March 31, 2027
- (c) April 1, 2021 to March 31, 2022
- (d) April 1, 2021 to March 31, 2024

Answer : (a)

Related Facts:



- In the meeting chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, approval has been given to extend the Samagra Shiksha Abhiyan from April 1, 2021 to March 31, 2026.
- The Union Cabinet on Wednesday approved the Samagra Shiksha Abhiyan-2.0, which will cost about Rs 2.94 lakh crore.
- Information and Broadcasting Minister Anurag Thakur and Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan gave this information after the cabinet meeting.
- He said that in the meeting chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, approval was given to extend the Samagra Shiksha Abhiyan from April 1, 2021 to March 31, 2026.
- Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan told reporters that Rs 2.94 lakh crore would be spent on Samagra Shiksha Abhiyan-2.0 and the Centre's share in this amount would be Rs 1.85 lakh crore.

Reference: <https://www.tv9hindi.com/career/cabinet-decisions-samagra-shiksha-mission-extended-till-2026-766742.html>

Quit India' day: Martyrs remembered at Mumbai's August Kranti Maidan

Question : Recently Tributes were paid to martyrs on Monday at an event held at the August Kranti Maidan here to mark the 79th anniversary of the Quit India movement. On which date was it celebrated its 79th anniversary?

- (a) 9th August (b) 10th August (c) 8th August
- (d) 11th August

Answer : (a)

Related Facts:



- August Kranti Day Special Mahatma Gandhi started the Quit India Movement in the country in August 1942.
- The spark of the movement had spread throughout the country as well as in Bihar. The movement in Bihar was led by Dr. Rajendra Prasad.
- The British were also aware of this. On 9 August 1942, Rajendra Babu was in Sadaqat Ashram in Patna. His health was not good.
- He was reading a report of Mumbai in the 'Searchlight' newspaper at Sadaqat Ashram in Patna on this day when in the meantime, District Magistrate Archer Sadaqat came to arrest

him. After his arrest, the atmosphere in Patna had become heated. Then Sudri Devi, sister of Rajendra Prasad, took over the march.

- Between 11-12 noon on August 9, 1942, District Magistrate Archar, along with his team, arrested Rajendra Babu and took him to Bankipur Jail in Patna. Earlier, Archer had called the Civil Surgeon of Patna to know about the health of Rajendra Prasad. The news of this arrest spread throughout the city.

Reference : <http://feedaddy.com/quit-india-day-martyrs-remembered-at-mumbais-august-kranti-maidan/>

Centre launched ‘SonChiraiya’ to market products of SHGs

Question: Which Ministry has launched ‘SonChiraiya’ brand to market products of SHGs?

- a) Ministry of Commerce
- b) Ministry of Micro, Small & Medium Enterprises
- c) Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA)
- d) None of the above

Ans: c

Context

- On 13th August 2021, Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs has launched ‘SonChiraiya’ brand for marketing of urban Self-Help Group (SHG) products.
- Related Facts
 - Along with brand, the ministry also released logo of the brand.
 - This brand and logo was launched in line with government’s priority area of helping women to become financially empowered and live a dignified life.
 - This step will increase visibility and global access for the products made by urban SHG women.
 - Earlier to increase visibility and market access, the MoHUA, have signed agreement with leading e-commerce portals like Amazon and Flipkart to empower the women. This partnership has on-boarded more than 2000 products of some 5000 SHG members from 25 states and UTs, even during the covid-19 pandemic.

Reference: <https://pib.gov.in/PressReleaseDetail.aspx?PRID=1745459>

Government notifies the Plastic Waste Management Amendment Rules, 2021

Question: As per the Plastic Waste Management Amendment Rules, 2021 notified by government on 13th August 2021, what is the cut-off date of banning manufacture, import, stocking, distribution, sale and use of notified single-use plastic, including polystyrene and expanded polystyrene, commodities?

- a) 2 October 2021
- b) 2 October 2022
- c) 1 July 2022
- d) None of the above

Ans: c

Context



- Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC) ,Government of India, has notified the Plastic Waste Management Amendment Rules, 2021, which prohibits identified single use plastic items which have low utility and high littering potential by 2022.
- Related Facts
- On 13th August 2021, MoEFCC has notified that the manufacture, import, stocking, distribution, sale and use of following single-use plastic, including polystyrene and expanded polystyrene, commodities shall be prohibited with effect from the 1st July, 2022:-
- Ear buds with plastic sticks, plastic sticks for balloons, plastic flags, candy sticks, ice-cream sticks, polystyrene [Thermocol] for decoration;
- Plates, cups, glasses, cutlery such as forks, spoons, knives, straw, trays, wrapping or packing films around sweet boxes, invitation cards, and cigarette packets, plastic or PVC banners less than 100 micron, stirrers.
- Light weight carry bags thickness have been increased from fifty microns to seventy five microns with effect from 30th September, 2021 and to one hundred and twenty microns with effect from the 31st December, 2022 to stop the littering and also to allow reuse because of increase in thickness.
- The plastic packaging waste, which is not covered under the phase out of identified single use plastic items, shall be collected and managed in an environmentally sustainable way through the Extended Producer Responsibility of the Producer, importer and Brand owner (PIBO), as per Plastic Waste Management Rules, 2016.
- For effective implementation of Extended Producer Responsibility the Guidelines for Extended Producer Responsibility being brought out have been given legal force through Plastic Waste Management Amendment Rules, 2021.
- Plastic Waste Management Rules, 2016
- These rules were notified by the MoEFCC for managing the plastic wastes in the country.
- It seeks to ban single use plastic, make plastic generators responsible for collecting and recycling the wastes, promote reuse of plastic wastes in road construction, energy production etc.

Reference: <https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1745433>

PM Modi launches ₹11,000 cr oil palm mission

Question : Recently Palm Oil Mission was in news. How much money has been allocated to this mission?

- (a) More than ₹11,000 cr (b) ₹18,000 cr
(c) ₹13,000 cr (d) ₹12,000 cr

Answer : (a)

Related Facts:

- Project aims to make India self-reliant in edible oil.
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched a ₹11,000 crore National Edible Oil Mission- Oil Palm (NMEO-OP) to make India self-reliant.



- Government will ensure that farmers get all the facilities, from quality seeds to technology. The Prime Minister pointed out that today, for the first time, India has reached among the top-10 countries of the world in terms of agricultural exports.
- The country has set new records of agricultural exports during the Corona period.
- When India is becoming recognized as a big agricultural exporting country, it is not right to stay dependent on imports for our needs of edible oil.

REFERENCE: <https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1744019>

Delhi Airport among world's top-50 best airports in 2021

Question- Which of the following airport of India emerged as the world's top-50 best airports in 2021?

- (a) Indira Gandhi International Airport, Delhi
- (b) Chennai International Airport, Chennai
- (c) Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose International Airport, Kolkata
- (d) Jaipur International Airport(Rajasthan)

Ans. (a)

Related Facts-

- Delhi's Indira Gandhi International Airport has emerged among the world's top-50 best airports in the 2021 Skytrax World Airport Award ranking.
- It is for the third consecutive year that Delhi IGI has been crowned the best airport in India.
- Additionally, Mumbai, Hyderabad, and Bengaluru have found a rank in the world's 100 best airports, the UK-based airline review consultancy Skytrax.
- As per the Skytrax 2021 world airport's awards list, Delhi bagged 45th rank (up five places from number 50 in 2020); Hyderabad at 64 (up seven places from 71 in 2020); Mumbai at 65 (down 13 places from 52 in 2020) and Bengaluru at 71 (down three places from 68th rank in 2020).
- Globally, the world's top-5 airports are—Doha Hamad International Airport, Tokyo Haneda airport, Changi airport Singapore, Seoul Incheon International Airport, and Tokyo Narita.
- The Skytrax best airports awards are voted based on customer reviews.
- It is regarded as the quality benchmark for the world airport industry, assessing customer service and facilities over 550 airport.



Reference- <https://www.livemint.com/news/india/this-indian-airport-is-among-world-s-top-50-best-airports-in-2021-11628739827230.html>.

COP-26 head to visit India

Question- The 26th session of the Conference of the Parties (COP 26) will be held in-

- (a) Glasgow, UK
- (b) Paris, France
- (c) New Delhi, India
- (d) Moscow, Russia

Ans. (a)

Related facts-



- The president of the UN Climate Change Conference, also known as COP26, to be held in Glasgow(U.K) in November 2021, and UK government's climate chief Alok Sharma is to visit India next week to meet the leaders of a country that is the biggest emitter of greenhouse gases after the US and China.
- This visit comes in the backdrop of India resisting the pressure of declaring a net zero emission goal.
- The UN's Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) on August 8, 2021, said more frequent and intense extreme weather events will impact lives, livelihoods and businesses in India and elsewhere in South Asia.
- Sharma was earlier the UK's secretary of state for business, energy and industrial strategy and also secretary of state at the Department for International Development.
- The UK is committed to working closely with our partners in India to ensure a successful outcome at COP26 in Glasgow this November.
- As part of this, COP26 President Designate Alok Sharma visited India earlier this year when he met with PM Modi, and has had successful interactions since on various international fora.
- The 26th session of the Conference of the Parties (COP 26) to the UNFCCC was originally scheduled to take place from 9-19 November 2020, in Glasgow, UK.
- On 28 May 2020, the COP Bureau decided that it would take place from 1-12 November 2021, in Glasgow, UK.

Reference- <https://sdg.iisd.org/events/2020-un-climate-change-conference-unfccc-cop-26/>.

India, Saudi Arabia set to carry out first-ever naval exercise

Question- The first ever naval exercise Al-Mohed Al-Hindi 2021 is held between-

- (a) India and Saudi Arabia (b) India and Iran
(c) India and Bangladesh (d) India and Iraq

Ans. (a)

Related Facts-

- India and Saudi Arabia are all set to conduct their first-ever naval exercise, in reflection of their growing defence and military cooperation.
- Indian Navy's guided-missile destroyer INS Kochi reached Saudi Arabia on August 9, 2021, for the "Al-Mohed Al-Hindi 2021" exercise.
- The warship went to Saudi Arabia after carrying out a naval exercise with the UAE Navy off the coast of Abu Dhabi on August 7, 2021.
- The harbour phase of the "Al-Mohed Al-Hindi 2021" exercise began on August 9, 2021, while the sea-based drills are taking place from August 11, 2021.
- The exercise is taking place amid rising tension in the Gulf region after a drone attack on a merchant tanker off Oman killed a British national and a Romanian citizen over a week back.
- The UK and the US pointed fingers at Iran for the attack on MV Mercer Street, operated by an Israeli-owned firm. Tehran has already rejected the charges.
- In December last year, Army Chief Gen MM Naravane visited the UAE and Saudi Arabia in a first-ever visit by a head of the Indian Army to the two important Gulf countries.



Reference- <https://www.pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1745103>.

India, Australia 2 plus 2 ministerial expected in September

Question- Consider the following statements-

- (1) India and Australia are expected to hold the first minister-level “2 plus 2” meeting in September
- (2) 2 plus 2 is usually used to instal a dialogue mechanism between defence and external affairs ministries of two countries

Select the correct answer using the code given below-

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

Ans. (c)

Related Facts-



- India and Australia are expected to hold the first minister-level “2 plus 2” meeting in September.
- The maiden meeting between the Foreign and Defence Ministers is part of the bilateral plan to upgrade Secretary-level “2 plus 2” interactions.
- Foreign Minister Marise Payne and Defence Minister Peter Dutton are expected to visit India and Indonesia in September after holding talks with U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken and Defence Secretary General Lloyd Austin.
- According to a report in Australian media, Prime Minister Scott Morrison may also attend a Quad summit level meeting on the sidelines of the U.N. General Assembly in September in New York.
- Ms. Payne has met her Indian counterpart S. Jaishankar during the pandemic at virtual interactions and the planned September visit is the first that she will meet physically him in Delhi for an official interaction since the pandemic began.
- Defence Minister Peter Dutton is expected to invite India to join the next round of Talisman Sabre exercises in Queensland which include Australia, Japan, South Korea and the U.S.
- The 2021 Talisman Sabre exercise concluded last week and the next edition is scheduled in 2023.
- Talisman Sabre is the biggest war exercise of Australia.
- The Quad countries — Australia, India, Japan and the U.S. — will participate in the annual Malabar exercise near Guam later this month.

Reference- <https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/india-australia-2-plus-2-ministerial-expected-in-september/article35867802.ece>.

India ranks 122nd on new Global Youth Development Index(GDYI)

Question- Consider the following statements-

- (1) India is ranked 122nd on a new Global Youth Development Index, 2020
- (2) GYDI is released by the Commonwealth Secretariat in London

Select the correct answer using the code given below-

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

Ans. (c)

Related Facts-

- India is ranked 122nd on a new Global Youth Development Index measuring the condition of



young people across 181 countries, released by the Commonwealth Secretariat in London on August 10, 2021.

- The triennial rankings of youth development found India among the top five risers on the index between 2010 and 2018, alongside Afghanistan and Russia, advancing their score on average by 15.74 per cent across areas such as education and employment.
- “The top five risers from 2010 to 2018 were Afghanistan, India, Russia, Ethiopia and Burkina Faso,” says the ‘2020 Global Youth Development Index’.
- Singapore ranked topmost followed by Slovenia, Norway, Malta and Denmark.
- Chad, the Central African Republic, South Sudan, Afghanistan and Niger came last respectively.
- The index ranks countries between 0.00 (lowest) and 1.00 (highest) according to the developments in youth education, employment, health, equality and inclusion, peace and security, and political and civic participation.
- It looks at 27 indicators including literacy and voting to showcase the state of the world’s 1.8 billion people between the age of 15 and 29.
- The 2020 Global Youth Development Index reveals that the conditions of young people have improved around the world by 3.1 per cent between 2010 and 2018.
- Overall, the index shows advances in youth’s participation in peace processes and their education, employment, inclusion and health care since 2010.
- Health made the largest gains of 4.39 per cent driven by a 1.6 per cent decline in global youth mortality rates and a 2 per cent drop in HIV, self-harm, alcohol abuse and tobacco use.
- Sub-Saharan Africa made the greatest strides in improving the health of young people.
- Levels of underemployed youth and those not in school, training or work remained constant.
- Advances in equality and inclusion are led by improved gender parity in literacy as well as fewer child marriage cases and pregnancies in girls under 20.
- Yet, the index found no progress occurred in women’s safety.
- The global education score increased by 3 per cent, with South Asia making the largest improvement of 16 per cent.
- Peace and security improved by 3.41 per cent, resulting from fewer young people dying from direct violence.
- Somalia recorded the largest gains in the peace and security of young people, followed by Colombia, Sri Lanka, Eritrea and Russia.
- The index, which draws on multiple data sources, was to be released at the now-postponed Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting (CHOGM) in 2020.
- However, with CHOGM being postponed again until 2022, it was decided to release the index this year.

Reference- <https://www.indiatoday.in/india/story/india-ranks-122nd-on-new-global-youth-development-index-1839302-2021-08-11>.

Atmanirbhar Narishakti se Samvad

Question: Consider the following statement:

- i) Atmanirbhar Narishakti se Samvad was a interaction program between PM Modi and women self help groups(SHG).
- ii) These SHGs were part of Deendayal Antyodaya



Yojana-National Rural Livelihoods Mission (DAY-NRLM).

Which of the above are correct?

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

Ans: c

Related facts

- On 12th August 2021, Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi participated in 'Atmanirbhar Narishakti se Samvad' and interacted with women Self Help Group (SHG) members/community resource persons through video conferencing.
- These SHGs were promoted under the Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana-National Rural Livelihoods Mission (DAY-NRLM).
- During the event, the Prime Minister released a compendium of success stories of women SHG members from all across the country, along with a handbook on universalization of farm livelihoods.
- The Prime Minister also released capitalization support funds to the tune of Rs. 1625 Crore to over 4 lakh SHGs.

Reference: <https://pib.gov.in/PressReleaseDetail.aspx?PRID=1745125>

Union Home Minister's Medal for Excellence in Investigation", 2021

Question : The "Union Home Minister's Medal for Excellence in Investigation" for the year 2021 have been awarded to how much Police personnel ?

a. 152 Police personnel b. 142 Police personnel
c. 132 Police personnel d. 122 Police personnel

Ans. a.

Related facts —

- The "Union Home Minister's Medal for Excellence in Investigation" for the year 2021 have been awarded to 152 Police personnel.
- This medal was constituted in 2018, with the objective to promote high professional standards of investigation of crime and to recognize such Excellence in Investigation by investigating officers.
- Among the personnel receiving these awards, 15 are from CBI, 11 each from Madhya Pradesh and Maharashtra Police, 10 from Uttar Pradesh, 9 are from Kerala and Rajasthan Police, 8 are from Tamil Nadu Police, 7 are from Bihar, 6 each are from Gujarat, Karnataka and Delhi Police and the remaining from the other States/UTs. These include twenty eight (28) women Police officials.



Link:

<https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1745060>

Total installed renewable energy capacity

Question : What rank in installed renewable energy capacity has India reached by achieving a significant milestone of 100 GW of installed renewable energy capacity on August 12, 2021 ?

a. Fourth b. Fifth c. Sixth d. Seventh

Ans. a.

Related facts —

- The total installed renewable energy capacity in India, excluding large hydro, has crossed the mile-stone of 100 GW on August 12, 2021.
- Now India stands at 4th position in the world in terms of installed RE capacity, 5th in solar and 4th in wind in terms of installed capacity.
- India has set ambitious targets for itself in the area of Renewable Energy, which the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy is committed to achieve.
- While 100 GW has been installed, 50 GW is under installation and 27 GW is under tendering.
- India has also enhanced its ambition to install 450 GW of renewable energy capacity by 2030.
- If large hydro is included the installed RE capacity increases to 146 GW.
- The achievement of installed RE capacity of 100 GW is an important milestone in India's journey towards its target of 450 GW by 2030.
- Union Minister for Power and New and Renewable Energy Shri R.K. Singh also tweeted on the occasion.

Link:

<https://pib.gov.in/PressReleaseDetail.aspx?PRID=1745254>

Launching of Vehicle Scrappage Policy

Question : On which date Vehicle Scrappage Policy launched ?

a. 13 AUG 2021 b. 10 AUG 2021 c. 11 AUG 2021 d. None of the above

Ans. a.

Related facts —

- Central government launched the Vehicle Scrappage Policy on August 13, 2021.
- Vehicle scraping will help in removing the polluting and unsuitable vehicles gradually and without harming the environment.
- The introduction of the Vehicle Scrap Policy is an important milestone in India's growth journey.
- It may be noted that an investor conference was organized in Gujarat on the above date to set up vehicle scrapping infrastructure.
- Background —
- India has 17 lakh medium and heavy commercial vehicles that are older than 15 years without any valid fitness certificate, 51 lakh light motor vehicles older than 20 years and 34 lakh light motor vehicles older than 15 years, according to the transport ministry.
- The average age of commercial vehicles is over 10 years and the private ones, 10-15 years.
- The purpose of the policy is to reduce pollution, create job opportunities, through the registered scrapping centres, and boost demand for new vehicles.
- In the view of above mentioned reasons Union minister for road transport and highways was announced this policy on 18 march 2021.



Link:

<https://www.aninews.in/news/national/general-news/pm-modi-launches-vehicle-scrappage-policy-urges-youth-start-ups-to-join-programme20210813105058/>

36th meeting of the Parliamentary Committee on Official Language

Question : On which date 36th meeting of the Parliamentary Committee on Official Language was held ?

- a. 10 AUG 2021 b. 09 AUG 2021
c. 08 AUG 2021 d. None of the above

Ans. a.

Related facts —



- The Union Home Minister, Shri Amit Shah, chaired the 36th meeting of the Parliamentary Committee on Official Language in New Delhi on August 10, 2021.
- Home minister said the government is working on translating the entire curriculum of engineering and medical education into Hindi, which would enable students from Hindi medium schools to take medical and engineering entrance exams and realize their dreams of becoming a doctor an engineer.
- It is notable that the Committee of Parliament on Official Language was set up in 1976 under Section 4 of the Official Languages Act, 1963.
- It comprises 30 members of Parliament, including 20 from the Lok Sabha and 10 from the Rajya Sabha.

Link:

<https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1744615>

UP government renames ‘conspiracy’ to Kakori Train Action, pays tribute to martyrs

Question- Consider the following statements-

- (1) The Kakori Train Conspiracy (or Kakori train robbery) was a train robbery that took place at Kakori, a village near Lucknow, on 9 August 1925
(2) It was renamed as to Kakori Train Action from Kakori Train Conspiracy by U.P Govt.

Select the correct answer using the code given below-

- (1) 1 only (2) 2 only (3) Both 1 and 2 (4) Neither 1 nor

Ans. (c)

Related Facts-

- The Uttar Pradesh government has renamed a landmark freedom movement event as Kakori Train Action while paying on August 9, 2021 tributes to the revolutionaries who were hanged for robbing a train at Kakori to buy weapons in 1925.
- The new name was used in official communications to refer to the event, usually described as the ‘Kakori train robbery’ or the ‘Kakori train conspiracy’.
- About Kakori Train Action-
- It was a train robbery that took place on August 9, 1925 in a village called Kakori near Lucknow during Indian Independence Movement against British Raj.

- Robbery was organised by Hindustan Republican Association (HRA). It was conceived by Ram Prasad Bismil and Ashfaqullah Khan.
- Freedom fighters Ram Prasad Bismil, Ashfaqulla Khan and Roshan Singh were hanged to death on December 19, 1927 for their involvement in Kakori robbery.

Reference- <https://www.tribuneindia.com/news/nation/up-government-renames-conspiracy-to-kakori-train-action-pays-tribute-to-martyrs-295273>.

Nation First, Always First' theme for Independence Day celebrations

Question-What is the theme of the for the 75th Independence Day celebrations?

- (a) Nation First, Always First (b) Gandhism and its relevance
(c) Freedom from slavery (d) India best, always best

Ans. (a)

Related Facts-

- 'Nation First, Always First' will be the theme of India's 75th Independence Day celebrations at the Red Fort from where Prime Minister Narendra Modi will address the nation.
- Independence Day is marked as the occasion to celebrate the countless sacrifices and struggles our freedom fighters have made to make India independent from British rule.
- It is observed as a national holiday with a flag hoisting ceremony, parade, and singing the national anthem with patriotic spirit.
- It was on August 15, 1947 that India was freed from British colonialism by gaining independence.
- This year the day will be celebrated in the Red Fort by the address of Prime Minister Narendra Modi with the presence of all Olympians who won medals in The Tokyo Games 2020.
- Due to the pandemic, the event will be restricted to the public with no cultural performance.
- Usually, the day is observed with parades and pageants showcasing the scenes of independence struggle to the cultural diversity of India.



Reference- <https://www.thehindu.com/news/cities/Delhi/nation-first-always-first-theme-for-independence-day-celebrations/article35827512.ece>.

127th Constitution Amendment Bill

Question- Consider the following statements-

- (1) The Bill seeks to restore the power of the states and union territories to to prepare their own list of socially and educationally backward classes (SEBC)
- (2) The Bill seeks to cease the power of the states and union territories to to prepare their own list of socially and educationally backward classes (SEBC)

Select the correct answer using the code given below-

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

Ans. (a)

Related Facts-

- The Lok Sabha, on August 10, passed The Constitution



(One Hundred and Twenty-Seventh Amendment) Bill, 2021.

- The Bill seeks to clarify “some provisions in the 102nd Constitutional amendment Bill” to restore the power of the states and union territories to prepare their own list of socially and educationally backward classes (SEBC).
- The Amendment Bill amends Articles 342 A (clauses 1 and 2) and will introduce a new clause – 342 A (3) specifically authorising states to maintain their state list. There will be a consequential amendment in Articles 366(26c) and 338B (9). The states will thus be able to directly notify SEBCs without having to refer to the National Commission for Backward Classes (NCBC).
- The amendment was necessitated after the Supreme Court, in its Maratha reservation ruling in May, upheld the 102nd Constitutional Amendment Act.
- The Apex Court said the President, based on the recommendations of the NCBC, would determine which communities would be included on the State OBC list.
- The 102nd Constitution Amendment Act of 2018 gave constitutional status to the NCBC, and empowered the President to notify the list SEBCs for any state or union territory.
- The 2021 Bill, however, amends this to provide that the President may notify the list of socially and educationally backward classes only of the central government.
- Thus the amendment Bill bypasses the SC ruling and restores the powers of the state governments to maintain a state list of OBCs.

Reference- <https://www.firstpost.com/politics/127th-constitution-amendment-bill-what-it-is-why-it-is-needed-and-why-the-opposition-supports-it-9874231.html>.

Quality of Life for Elderly Index

Q. According to Quality of Life for Elderly Index which states/ UT ranked first in Aged states Categories?

a) Rajasthan b) Maharashtra c) Bihar d) Tamil Nadu

ANSWER:- a)

RELATED FACTS:-

- Quality of Life for Elderly Index was released by Dr Bibek Debroy, Chairman, Economic Advisory Council to the Prime Minister (EAC-PM).
- The Index has been created by the Institute for Competitiveness at the request of EAC-PM and it sheds light on an issue often not mentioned- problems faced by the elderly.
- The report identifies the regional patterns of ageing across Indian States and assesses the overall ageing situation in India.
- The report presents deeper insight into how well India is doing to support the well-being of its ageing population.
- The Index framework includes four pillars: Financial Well-being, Social Well-being, Health System and Income Security, and eight sub-pillars: Economic Empowerment, Educational Attainment & Employment, Social Status, Physical Security, Basic Health, Psychological Wellbeing, Social Security and Enabling Environment.
- This index broadens the way we understand the needs and opportunities of the elderly population in India.
- It goes far beyond the adequacy of pensions and other forms of income support, which, though critical, often narrows policy thinking and debate about the needs of this age group.



- The index highlights that the best way to improve the lives of the current and future generations of older people is by investing in health, education and employment for young people today.
- The Health System pillar observes the highest national average, 66.97 at an all-India level, followed by 62.34 in Social Well-being.
- Financial Well-being observes a score of 44.7, which is lowered by the low performance of 21 States across the Education Attainment & Employment pillar, which showcases scope for improvement.
- States have performed particularly worse in the Income Security pillar because over half of the States have a score below the national average, i.e., 33.03 in Income Security, which is the lowest across all pillars.
- These pillar-wise analyses help States assess the state of the elderly population and identify existing gaps that obstruct their growth
- Rajasthan and Himachal Pradesh are top-scoring regions in Aged and Relatively Aged States, respectively.
- Chandigarh and Mizoram are top-scoring regions in Union Territory and North-East States category.
- The Aged States refer to States with an elderly population of more than 5 million, whereas Relatively Aged States refer to States with an Elderly population of less than 5 million.

Category-wise Rankings of Quality of Life for Elderly Scores:

Aged States		
States	Scores	Overall Ranking
Rajasthan	54.61	1
Maharashtra	53.31	2
Bihar	51.82	3
Tamil Nadu	47.93	4

Relatively Aged States		
States	Scores	Overall Ranking
Himachal Pradesh	61.04	1
Uttarakhand	59.47	2
Haryana	58.16	3
Odisha	53.95	4

LINK

<https://www.pib.gov.in/PressReleaseDetail.aspx?PRID=1744787>

60th annual Public Enterprises Survey 2019-20

Q. Consider the following statements regarding 60th annual Public Enterprises Survey 2019-20-

1. The Department of Public Enterprises (DPE) published the report.
2. Foreign Exchange Earnings of CPSEs through export of goods and services stood at more than Rs 1 lakh crore in Financial Year 2019-20.

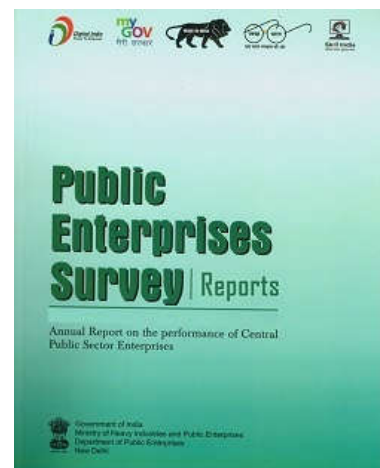
Which of the above statement/ s is/ are true?

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

ANSWER:- c)

RELATED FACTS:-

- The Department of Public Enterprises (DPE), Ministry of Finance, Government of India annually brings out the Public Sector Enterprises Survey on the performance of Central Public Sector Enterprises (CPSEs).
- The Public Enterprises Survey 2019-20 has been laid in the Lok Sabha on 6th August, 2021 and in the Rajya Sabha on 9th August, 2021 respectively.
- The Public Enterprises (PE) Survey 2019-20 is the 60th in the series. PE Survey which is a 100% enumeration of the CPSE universe, captures essential statistical data for all CPSEs on various financial and physical parameters.
- PE Survey divides CPSEs into five sectors namely Agriculture, Mining & Exploration, Manufacturing, Processing & Generation, Services, and Enterprises Under Construction and further into 21 cognate groups.
- The Survey covers those CPSE's wherein Government of



India holds more than 50% equity. Subsidiaries of these companies, if registered in India, in which CPSE(s) has more than 50% equity stake are also categorized as CPSEs. As per the PE Survey 2019-20 as on 31st March, 2020 there are 256 operational CPSEs.

- The Highlights of the performance of Central Public Sector Enterprises (CPSEs), during 2019-20 are as under:
- Total Paid-up Capital in all CPSEs as on 31.3.2020 stood at Rs 3,10,737 crore.
- Total Financial Investment in all CPSEs was Rs 21,58,877 crore.
- Capital Employed in all CPSEs was Rs 31,16,455 crore.
- Gross Revenue from Operations of 256 operating CPSEs during the Financial Year 2019-20 was Rs 24,61,712 crore.
- Profit of 171 profit-making CPSEs stood at Rs 1,38,112 crore in Financial Year 2019-20.
- Loss of 84 loss making CPSEs was Rs 44,817 crore in Financial Year 2019-20.
- Reserves and Surplus of all CPSEs stood at Rs 9,57,579 crore as on March 31, 2020.
- Net Worth of all CPSEs was Rs 12,35,706 crore as on March 31, 2020.
- Dividend declared/paid by 105 CPSEs in Financial Year 2019-20 stood at Rs 72,136 crore.
- Contribution of all CPSEs to Central Exchequer by way of excise duty, custom duty, GST, corporate tax, interest on Central Government loans, dividend, and other duties and taxes stood at Rs 3,76,425 crore in Financial Year 2019-20.
- Foreign Exchange Earnings of CPSEs through export of goods and services stood at Rs 1,21,756 crore in Financial Year 2019-20.

LINK : <https://www.pib.gov.in/PressReleaseDetail.aspx?PRID=1744787>

5th edition of National Public Procurement Conclave

Q. Recently 5th edition of National Public Procurement Conclave was organized. What was the theme of this conclave?

- a) Towards Efficiency, Transparency, and Inclusiveness
- b) Growth for All
- c) Partnering with private player
- d) None of these

ANSWER:- a)

RELATED FACTS:-



- The 5th edition of the National Public Procurement Conclave (NPPC) was organized by Government e-Marketplace (GeM) in association with the Confederation of Indian Industry [CII] on August 9th&10th, 2021 on the theme “Technology enabled Government Procurement – Towards Efficiency, Transparency, and Inclusiveness”.
- The conclave was inaugurated virtually by Minister of State for Commerce and Industry, Smt. Anupriya Patel on August 9, 2021 in the presence of Shri BVR Subrahmanyam, Secretary Commerce and Chairman GeM.
- The conference featured an overview session on GeM which took participants through the platform’s key features and functionalities.
- The Conclave also had an eclectic range of panel discussions ranging from promotion of MSMEs in public procurement to how fintech can enable access to credit for sellers and service providers doing business with the Government.
- Some of the other highlights at NPPC 2021 included the virtual B2B and B2G meetings between Govt. buyers and sellers, training and technical sessions on GeM features and new

developments, a virtual GeM stall to resolve queries on the spot and facilitate registration of sellers and buyers, special session for Services such as Hospitality, Travel and Accommodation bookings, on GeM and DIVE sessions where buyers and sellers made online presentations to the participants.

- This year's Conclave provided an excellent opportunity for Government buyers, sellers, industry, and academia to interact with each other, and served as an online platform for sellers to showcase their products and services through the CII's HIVE Digital Platform.

LINK

<https://pib.gov.in/PressReleaseDetailm.aspx?PRID=1744734>

ITBP inducts its first women officers in combat

Question : First women officers in combat inducted recently by which of the following?

(a) ITBP (b) BSF (c) CRPF (d) ARMY

Answer : (a)

Related Facts:

- The India-China LAC guarding the Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP) force on 8 August 2021 commissioned its first two women officers in combat after they completed their training .
- Mr. Dhama and Mr.Deswal put the ranks of Assistant Commandant, the entry-level officer rank in the paramilitary, on the shoulders of the two women officers—Prakriti and Diksha—after the passing out parade and attestation ceremony where they took oath to serve the country.
- The ITBP started recruiting women combat officers in its cadre from 2016 through an all-India examination conducted by the Union Public Service Commission (UPSC).
- Before this, it only had combat women in the constabulary ranks.
- Out of the total 53 officers, 42 officers are in the general duty combat cadre, while 11 are in the engineering cadre of the about 90,000 personnel strong mountain warfare trained force.
- These officers will now be posted across ITBP formations in the country, including the LAC with China and the anti-Naxal operations theatre in Chhattisgarh.
- The force was raised in the aftermath of the 1962 Chinese aggression and its primary role is to guard the 3,488 km long India-China Line of Actual Control (LAC) apart from rendering a variety of roles in the internal security domain.
- Addressing the young officers who trained for 50 weeks (general duty cadre) and 11 weeks (engineering cadre) in various subjects of combat and strategy, Mr. Dhama said the commanders should “give their best” while performing their duties.



Reference : <https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/itbp-inducts-its-first-women-officers-in-combat/article35799543.ece>

Pradhan Mantri Gramin Digital Saksharta Abhiyan (PMGDISHA)

Question: As per the announcement made by the central government how many beneficiaries have been enrolled

51

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



under PMGDISHA as of August 2, 2021?

a) 1.5 Crore b) 2 Crore c) 5 crore d) None of these

Answer: (c)

Related Facts:-

- On 06 August 2021; the Government of India announced, about the achievement of Pradhan Mantri Gramin Digital Saksharta Abhiyan (PMGDISHA).
- It said that approximately five crore beneficiaries have been enrolled and four crores have been trained under PMGDISHA as of August 2, 2021.
- This information was given by the Union Minister for Women and Child Development, Smt. Smriti, in a written reply in the Lok Sabha.
- The Government through PMGDISHA under Digital India programme targeted to usher in digital literacy in rural India by covering 6 crore rural households (one person per household) by 31-03 March 2022.
- The Scheme aims to bridge the digital divide, specifically targeting the rural population including the marginalized sections of society.
- Marginalized sections of society, as per the central government's pervue are Scheduled Castes (SC) / Scheduled Tribes (ST), Below Poverty Line (BPL), Women, differently-abled persons, and minorities.
- Minister said that more than 2.59 crore women beneficiaries are registered which is 52 % of the cumulative registration count.
- Out of 2.59 crore women beneficiaries registered over 1.78 Crore women beneficiaries are certified under the scheme.

Links:-

<https://pib.gov.in/PressReleaseDetailm.aspx?PRID=1743244>

Inner Line Permit (ILP)

Question: On 6 August 2021; the administration of which of the following state/UT has removed need for an Inner Line Permit (ILP) for Indian nationals?

a) Goa b) Ladakh c) Dadra and Nagar Haveli d) None of these

Answer: (b)

Related Facts:-

- On 6 August 2021; Ladakh Administration removed need for an Inner Line Permit (ILP) for Indian nationals.
- This removal now ceases the requirement of Inner Line Permit (ILP) for all Indian nationals to visit the protected areas of the union territory.
- A notification in this regard was issued by the Home Department of Ladakh Administration on August 06, 2021.
- In a notification, the Administration made amendments, repeals and substitutions in various Statutory Regulatory Orders (SROs).
- Theses SROs were issued in different times and occasions by the erstwhile Jammu and Kashmir Government.



- In past such SROs were issued in the interests of defense and security of the state to regulate the entry of persons into certain areas.
- Similarly, restriction on the stay of foreign tourists is relaxed from seven days to 15 days in tour circuits.
- These tour circuits are located in bordering areas of Nyoma, Nubra and other places of Leh and Kargil districts.
- The move by the Ladakh administration will be helpful for the Indian nationals to move to Ladakh and the extension of foreigners -will boost rural tourism in Ladakh.
- **Inner Line Permit (ILP):-**
- Inner Line Permit (ILP) is an official travel document issued by the concerned state government.
- ILP is used to allow inward travel of an Indian citizen into a protected area for a limited period.
- The document is an effort by the government to regulate movement to certain areas located near the international border of India.

Links:-

<https://newsonair.com/2021/08/07/ladakh-administration-removes-need-for-inner-line-permit-for-indian-nationals-to-visit-protected-areas-in-union-territory/>

Gujarat CM launches eNagar mobile application and portal

Q. Recently which states CM launched the eNagar mobile application and portal ?

a) Rajasthan b) Gujarat c) Punjab d) Himachal Pradesh

ANSWER:- b)

RELATED FACTS:-

- Gujarat Chief Minister Vijay Rupani has launched eNagar mobile application and portal.
- The eNagar covers 10 modules with 52 services including property tax, professional tax, water & drainage, Complaints and grievance redressal, building permission, fire and emergency services.
- Gujarat Urban Development Mission has been appointed as a nodal agency for eNagar project.
- Total 170 locations including 162 municipalities and 8 Municipal Corporations are covered under the eNagar project.

LINK

<https://newsonair.com/2021/08/09/gujarat-cm-launches-enagar-mobile-application-and-portal/>

World's first Bio Bank of Ayurveda at AIIA

Question : At which place will World's first Bio Bank of Ayurveda be establish ?

a. New Delhi b. Haridwar c. Varanasi
d. None of the above

Ans. a.

Related facts —



- Ayush Minister Sarbananda Sonowal has recently(August 2021) assured all help for establishing the first Bio-Bank of the world in Ayurveda at All India Institute of Ayurveda in New Delhi.
- Mr Sonowal and Minister of State for Ayush, Dr. Munjapara Mahendrabhai visited the Institute and inaugurated Multi-Purpose Yoga Hall and Mini Auditorium on August 08, 2021.
- Mr Sonowal appreciated the work done by the institute and assured their full-fledged support for further development of the Institute to make it world's best Ayurveda Institute.

Link:

<https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1743812>

EPC package of waste-to-energy facility in Uttar Pradesh

Question : EPC package of waste-to-energy facility in Uttar Pradesh is expected to be commissioned at Ramna —

- a. By September 30, 2023 b. By September 30, 2021
c. By October 20, 2021 d. None of the above

Ans. d.

Related facts —

- EPC package of waste-to-energy facility in Uttar Pradesh is expected to be commissioned at Ramna by September 30, 2022.
- For this purpose the bids commenced on June 22.
- “NTPC Vidyut Vyapar Nigam Ltd” had invited online bids on a two-stage bidding basis for the EPC (engineering-procurement-construction) package of waste-to-energy facility.
- A waste-to-energy plant with waste segregation facility of 600 tonnes per day fresh Municipal Solid Waste will be installed under the project.

Link:

<https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/industry/energy/power/ntpc-invites-online-bids-for-epc-package-of-waste-to-energy-facility-in-uttar-pradesh/articleshow/84471374.cms>

Government Of India To Host The First Internet Governance Forum In India

Q. Which country will host Internet Governance Forum-2021?

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

ANSWER:- b)

RELATED FACTS:-

- With the theme “Inclusive Internet for Digital India,” the India chapter of the United Nations-based forum Internet Governance Forum-2021 will host a three-day session, beginning October 20, to discuss public policy issues related to the Internet.
- The India Internet Governance Forum (IIGF) was launched on 9TH August, 2021 as a policy discussion platform to bring representatives together from various groups to discuss public policy issues related to the Internet.



- This mode of engagement is referred to as the multi-stakeholder model of Internet Governance, which has been the key feature for the Internet's success.
- The multi-stakeholder concept is well adopted by IGF (Internet Governance Forum) under UN and by the Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers (ICANN).
- The coordination committee for IIGF-2021 includes National Internet Exchange of India CEO Anil Kumar Jain as Chairman, Broadband India Forum president T V Ramchandran as Vice Chairman, President, Centre for Digital Economy Policy Research, Jaideep Bhattacharya as Vice Chairman, former director general of Centre for Development of Advanced Computing Rajat Moona as Vice-Chairman and around 12 members representing government, civil society, industries, trusts, associations and so on.
- Starting August 2021, multiple Pre-IIGF engagement events will be held at several colleges and universities, as a precursor to the IIGF Inaugural event.

LINK

https://www.business-standard.com/article/economy-policy/india-chapter-of-internet-governance-forum-launched-to-host-3-day-session-121080900798_1.html

Google Honours India's First Woman Pilot, Sarla Thukral, With Doodle

Question- Who is the India's first women pilot?

(a) Rashmi Vajpayee (b) Sarla Thukral (c) Vijya Lakshmi (d) Sarla singh

Ans. (b)

Related facts-2

- Google, on August 8, 2021, released a striking doodle to honour the life and achievements of Sarla Thukral, India's first woman pilot.
- On the occasion of her 107th birth anniversary, the doodle recreated the iconic image of the trailblazer, sitting in the cockpit, in a saree.
- Created by artist Vrinda Zaveri, the doodle is described by the search engine giant as a celebration of the "Indian pilot, designer, and entrepreneur."
- Born in Delhi, British India in 1914, Ms Thukral moved to Lahore, in present-day Pakistan.
- It was here that she fell in love with flying, thanks to her husband, who was an airmail pilot and came from a family of fliers.
- After rigorous training at the Lahore Flying Club, at the age of 21, Ms Thukral stepped into the cockpit of a small double-winged plane for her first solo flight.
- Dressed in a saree, her maiden flight meant that the skies were no longer a space reserved for men.
- "Lifting the craft into the sky, she made history in the process," the note attached to the Google doodle said.
- During her training, Ms Thukral also held the distinction of having completed 1,000 hours of flight time, which gained her an A licence. This was another first for Indian women.



Reference-<https://www.ndtv.com/india-news/google-celebrates-sarla-thukral-india-s-first-woman-pilot-with-doodle-2505429>.

Marital rape a good ground to claim divorce, says Kerala HC

Question- Which of the following High Court pronounced the Marital rape a good ground to claim divorce?

- (a) Kerala HC (b) Bombay HC (c) Allahabad HC
(d) Calcutta HC

Ans. (a)

Related Facts-

- Marital rape is a good ground to claim divorce, the Kerala High Court has said, adding that the law not recognising marital rape under penal law does not inhibit the court from recognising the same as a form of cruelty to grant divorce.
- The Kerala High Court said that treating a wife's body as something that is owed to the husband and committing sexual acts against her will is nothing but marital rape.
- "Right to respect for his or her physical and mental integrity encompass bodily integrity, any disrespect or violation of bodily integrity is a violation of individual autonomy," said the bench.
- The court also observed that the need of the hour is that marriage and divorce must come under secular law.
- A bench of Justices A Muhamed Mustaque and Dr Kauser Edappagath said there cannot be any difficulty in having a common code of law for all communities at least for marriage and divorce.
- Individuals are free to perform their marriage in accordance with personal law, but they cannot be absolved from compulsory solemnization of the marriage under secular law.



Reference- <https://indianexpress.com/article/india/marital-rape-a-good-ground-to-claim-divorce-says-kerala-hc-7442347/>.

Government of India to Host the first Internet Governance Forum in India

Question- Consider the following statements-

- (1) Government of India to Host the first Internet Governance Forum in India
(2) The theme of the forum is- "Inclusive Internet for Digital 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-

- With the theme "Inclusive Internet for Digital India," the India chapter of the United Nations-based forum Internet Governance Forum will host a



three-day session, beginning October 20, to discuss public policy issues related to the Internet.

- The India Internet Governance Forum (IIGF) was launched on August 9, 2021 as a policy discussion platform to bring representatives together from various groups to discuss public policy issues related to the Internet.
- This mode of engagement is referred to as the multi-stakeholder model of Internet Governance, which has been the key feature for the Internet's success.
- The multi-stakeholder concept is well adopted by IGF (Internet Governance Forum) under UN and by the Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers (ICANN).
- The coordination committee for IIGF-2021 includes National Internet Exchange of India CEO Anil Kumar Jain as Chairman, Broadband India Forum president T V Ramchandran as Vice Chairman, President, Centre for Digital Economy Policy Research, Jaideep Bhattacharya as Vice Chairman, former director general of Centre for Development of Advanced Computing Rajat Moona as Vice-Chairman and around 12 members representing government, civil society, industries, trusts, associations and so on.
- India is the second-largest broadband subscription country in the world and also has the highest data consumption per user per month.
- Therefore, the aspirations of the Indians should be reflected in International policy formation and stakeholder discussion.
- India Internet Governance Forum is the correct initiative for the country to ensure that the growth of broadband adheres to the lifestyle and requirements of the Indian community.
- IIGF 2021 is adopting the multi-stakeholder concept in organizing the event as per the true spirit of global IGF.
- The coordination committee has apt representation from civil society, Government, Industry, Industrial association, trust, and other stakeholders.
- Starting August 2021, multiple Pre-IIGF engagement events will be held at several colleges and universities, as a precursor to the IIGF Inaugural event.
- The idea behind this is to engage the youth and students for their participation in October event and prepare the next generation to be part of policy formation.

Reference- https://www.business-standard.com/article/economy-policy/india-chapter-of-internet-governance-forum-launched-to-host-3-day-session-121080900798_1.html.

India first bio-bank for heart failure research

Question- India first bio-bank for heart failure research inaugurated at-

- (a) SCTIMST, Thiruvananthapuram(Kerala)
- (b) AIIMS, New Delhi (c) MAX Hospital, New Delhi
- (d) Apollo Hospital, Chennai(T.N)

Ans. (a)

Related Facts-

- The first National Heart Failure Bio-bank (NHFB) in the country that would collect blood, biopsies, and clinical data as a guide to future therapies was inaugurated at the Sree Chitra Tirunal Institute for Medical Sciences and Technology (SCTIMST), , Thiruvananthapuram (Kerala).



- “There are no heart failure bio-banks in the country, and this would greatly help in guiding future therapies and technologies and would benefit the heart failure patients significantly.”
- The bio-bank will provide insights into heart diseases and heart failure among Indian children and adults, which are very different from that seen in the West.
- The facility will be useful for the research and treatment of post-covid heart failure.
- The increase in the observed prevalence of long-COVID symptoms and post-COVID heart failure calls for long-COVID clinics to collect patient data and biospecimens that can be biobank for future research.
- Through the NHFB, researchers can get access to well-annotated biological specimens linked to clinical data while maintaining appropriate standards of quality and security.
- The biosamples include the blood, serum, tissue samples obtained during open-heart surgery and peripheral blood mononuclear cells (PBMCs) and genomic DNA collected from heart failure patients.
- The biobank activity is supervised by a Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) with a member from ICMR.
- The samples are collected after informed consent from patients who are willing to donate specimens.
- The samples stored and catalogued will be linked to clinical data such as physiological measures, imaging data like ECG, Echocardiography MRI, and follow-up data.
- Researchers and clinicians interested in research related to heart failure can collaborate with SCTIMST once the proposal is approved by the TAC and Ethics Committee of SCTIMST.
- The Bio-bank at SCTIMST has already signed an MOU with InStem Bangalore for collaborative research in hypertrophic cardiomyopathy, which runs in families with thickening heart muscles.
- With heart failure emerging as a major health problem in India, ICMR had initiated the National Centre for Advanced Research and Excellence in Heart Failure (CARE-HF) at SCTIMST for scaling up research in the field.
- The Heart Failure Biobank is one of the major components of the project, with a fund allocation of 85 Lakhs for developing state-of-the-art storage facilities.

Reference- <https://dst.gov.in/india-first-biobank-heart-failure-research-inaugurated-sree-chitra-tirunal-institute-medical>.

Pradhan Mantri Gramin Digital Saksharta Abhiyan

Question- Which of the following ministry has implemented the Pradhan Mantri Gramin Digital Saksharta Abhiyan?

- Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology
- Ministry of women and child development
- Ministry of Information and technology
- Ministry of home affairs

Ans. (a)

Related Facts-



- The Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology, Government of India implements a scheme titled “Pradhan Mantri Gramin Digital Saksharta Abhiyan (PMGDISHA)” under

Digital India programme to usher in digital literacy in rural India by covering 6 crore rural households (one person per household) by 31.03.2022.

- To ensure equitable geographical reach, each of the 2,50,000 Gram Panchayats across the country are envisaged to register an average of 200-300 candidates.
- The Scheme aims to bridge the digital divide, specifically targeting the rural population including the marginalised sections of society like Scheduled Castes (SC) / Scheduled Tribes (ST), Below Poverty Line (BPL), Women, differently-abled persons, and minorities.
- Digitally literate persons are able to operate computers/ digital access devices (like tablets, smartphones, etc.), send and receive emails, browse the internet, access Government Services, search for information, undertake cashless transactions, etc. and hence use IT to actively participate in the process of nation-building.
- As on 02.08.2021, approximately 5.01 crore beneficiaries have been enrolled and 4.21 crore have been trained under the PMGDISHA Scheme.
- So far, over 2.59 crore women beneficiaries are registered which is 52 % of the cumulative registration count.
- Out of the above, over 1.78 Crore women beneficiaries are certified under the scheme which is 54 % of the total certified beneficiaries under the PMGDISHA Scheme.
- Department of Higher Education, Ministry of Education is administering 'National Mission on Education through Information and Communication Technology' (NMEICT) Scheme, SWAYAM (Study Webs of Active Learning for Young Aspiring Minds), SWAYAM PRABHA, National Digital Library (NDL), Virtual Lab, e-Yantra, NEAT (National Education Alliance for Technology) etc. to ensure quality education through e-learning to students across the country.

Reference- <https://www.pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1743244>.

Vice President issues commemorative docket stamp on Chaman Lal

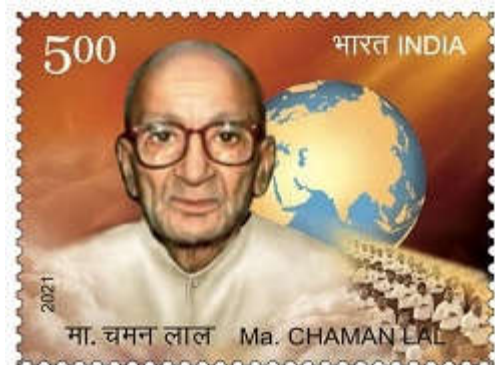
Question: Recently Vice President issued commemorative docket stamp on whom of the following given options?

(a) Chaman Lal (b) Ratan Lal (c) William Rose (d) Sachin Tendulkar

Answer : (a)

Related Facts:

- Vice President Venkaiah Naidu released a commemorative postage stamp on 'Chaman Lal' at a public function at Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel Conference Hall, 6, Maulana Azad Road, New Delhi.
- The life and works of eminent social worker and Sangh Pracharak Chaman Lal are prominently depicted in this commemorative postage stamp.
- Born on March 25, 1920 in Sialkot (now in Pakistan), Chaman Lal was passionate about working for the welfare of the people from an early age.
- Although he was a gold medalist and had received many job offers, he chose the job of meeting the basic needs of the victims of the Partition of India.



Reference: <https://falanadikhana.com/vice-president-issues-commemorative-docket-stamp-on-chaman-lal-who-started-the-project-of-creating-a-global-network-of-the-sangh/>

Rajasthan govt forms three tier committee to monitor women related complaints

Question : Which state government has formed recently three tier committee to monitor women related complaints?

(a) Rajasthan (b) Bihar (c) Haryana (d) Odisha

Answer : (a)

Related Facts:

- The Directorate of Women Empowerment, Women & Child Development Department, Rajasthan is in the process to bring along seven departments of the state government including police, labour, industries, justice, medical and social justice to establish a three-tier grievance redressal system.
- Rashmi Gupta, Commissioner, Women Empowerment, Government of Rajasthan said that as an umbrella program, the three-tier Women Grievance Redressal Committee will monitor all the cases of women-related grievances being reported at existing government agencies such as Sakhi: One-Stop Center, Mahila Suraksha Evam Salah Kendra, Garima helpline and 181 Women Helpline, Rajasthan Sampark, and others.



Reference : <https://www.dnaindia.com/india/report-rajasthan-govt-forms-three-tier-committee-to-monitor-women-related-complaints-2904712>

Indian Railways invites bids for hydrogen fuel-based tech for trains

Question: Indian Railways has decided to introduce the country's first in which state?

(a) Haryana (b) Himachal Pradesh (c) Orissa (d) Assam

Answer :(a)

Related Facts:

- Taking a big leap towards going green, the Indian Railways has decided to introduce the country's first hydrogen-fuelled train.
- Initially, the hydrogen fuel-based technology will be introduced on the 89 km long Sonapat-Jind route.
- The Railways has also floated tenders for retrofitting the existing DEMU rakes into green fuel-based trains.
- A Railway Ministry spokesperson said that the transporter, as part of the National Hydrogen Energy Mission, has taken a leap forward in the development of hydrogen fuel cell-based power movement to kick off the concept of Hydrogen Mobility in the country.
- This will be done by converting or retro fitment of existing DEMU rakes.



Reference: <https://www.thestatesman.com/india/railways-go-green-indias-first-hydrogen-fuelled-trains-1502991299.html>

PM to launch Ujjwala-2 scheme from UP

Question: From which district of Uttar Pradesh , PM Modi will launch Ujjwala 2.0 on 10th August 2021?

a) Prayagraj b) Lucknow c) Lakhimpur-kheeri d) Mahoba

Ans: d

Context



- Prime Minister Narendra Modi will launch Ujjwala 2.0 from Mahoba district of UP on 10th August 2021.
- **Facts**
- Ujjwala 2.0 will provide free cooking gas connections to poor families by handing over domestic LPG cylinder connections at Mahoba in Uttar Pradesh on 10 August.
- **Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana (PMUY)**
- PMUY scheme was launched in 2016 by Prime Minister Narendra Modi.
- The scheme was originally launched to distribute 50 million LPG connections to women below poverty line.
- As of September 2019 , more than 8 crore women have been provided with free LPG connection.
- In the Budget of 2021, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman announced to extend the benefits under the scheme to additional one crore beneficiaries.
- **Ujjwala 2.0**
- Ujjwala 2.0 will provide first refill and hotplate free of cost to the beneficiaries along with free LPG connection.
- The enrollment procedure will require minimum paperwork.
- In Ujjwala 2.0, migrants will not be required to submit ration cards or address proof.
- **Reason for the scheme**
- Primary reason is to safeguard the health of women by providing them smoke free cooking instrument.
- Also helps in reducing pollution because of burning of biomass for cooking purposes.

Reference: <https://www.livemint.com/news/india/pm-modi-to-launch-ujjwala-2-0-from-mahoba-in-up-on-10-august-11628435812186.html>

Twitter appoints a permanent Chief Compliance Officer

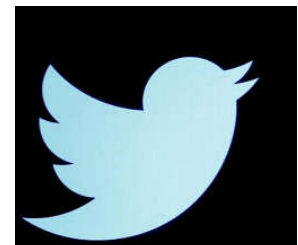
Question : Under which section of the IT act has Twitter recently appointed a permanent Chief Compliance Officer ?

a. Section 79 b. Section 72 c. Section 59 d. None of the above

Ans. a.

Related facts —

- Twitter recently informed the Delhi High Court that it had appointed a permanent Chief Compliance Officer, a Resident Grievance Officer and a Nodal Contact Person on August 4 in compliance with the new Information Technology Rules.



- According to the Court Twitter should be put this development on record by filing a proper affidavit.
- It is notable that the Court posted the case for hearing on August 10.
- **Background —**
- In previous hearings, the court had expressed reservations over Twitter changing the status of the CCO appointment from 'interim' to 'contingent' in its affidavit.
- The Court had said the rules mandated the appointment of a senior employee as CCO, but Twitter, according to its affidavit, has appointed a 'contingent worker' through a third party contractor.
- Earlier, the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology had stated that despite three months time granted to all SSMLs to comply with the Information Technology (IT) Rules, 2021, Twitter has failed to fully comply with the same.
- Section 79 of the IT Act shields social media platforms or intermediaries such as Twitter from liability for any third party information, data, or communication link made available or hosted by it in certain cases.
- **SSMLs —**
- SSMLs stands for — Significant Social Media Intermediaries.

Link:

<https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/officers-appointed-twitter-tells-delhi-hc/article35769914.ece>

Power minister launches e-certification programme to provide regulatory training

Q. Recently launched Regulatory Data Dashboard which is an e-compendium of data containing state-wise details of tariff and power DISCOMS (distribution companies) performance, Developed by which institution?

a) IIT ROPER b) IIT KANPUR c) IIT BOMBAY d) IIT DELHI

ANSWER:- b)

RELATED FACTS:-

- On 6th August, 2021 Power Minister R K Singh launched an e-certification programme, 'reform and regulatory knowledge base for power sector', to provide regulatory training to the practitioners from diverse backgrounds.
- He also launched a Regulatory Data Dashboard which is an e-compendium of data containing state-wise details of tariff and power discoms (distribution companies) performance, developed by IIT Kanpur.
- The Dashboard would assist benchmarking of the sector performance, over time and across the power sector utilities. This would help regulators and policymakers as well as the entities themselves to identify areas for improvement.
- Speaking at the event, the Power Minister expressed his appreciation for IIT Kanpur for the initiative.
- He said that India is preparing itself for the next generation by modernization, but the process of making our system sustainable is work in progress.
- Challenges of energy access and supply have been resolved by establishing capacity generation making us a power surplus nation.



- He emphasized that in the power sector, regulatory framework is the key to sustainability.
- Regulators exist to maintain a level playing field and at the same time to protect rights of the consumers. He urged that there is great scope for standardization in regulatory framework by research.

LINK

<https://www.psuconnect.in/news/Power-Minister-Launches-e-certification-program-/28890/>

Ladakh launches 'Pani Maah' to raise awareness about clean water

Q. Recently which state/ UT launched a 'Pani Maah' campaign to raise awareness about clean water?

a) Delhi b) Ladakh c) Uttar Pradesh d) Uttarakhand

ANSWER:- b)

RELATED FACTS:-

- The Union Territory of Ladakh launched a month-long campaign—'Pani Maah' (water month) with an aim to increase the pace of implementation of Jal Jeevan Mission in the UT and to inform and engage village communities on the importance of clean water.
- 'Pani Maah' is being run at the Block and Panchayat level in two phases.
- The first phase is being run from August 1-14 and the second phase will run from August 16-30, 2021, informed the official release by the Ministry of Jal Shakti.
- The campaign will adopt a three-pronged approach- focusing on water quality testing, planning and strategizing water supply, and seamless functioning of Pani Sabha in villages.
- Phase two of 'Pani Maah' will focus on organizing the Pani Sabhas/ Gram Sabhas/ Block level meetings and door-to-door visits for effective communication on water quality and service delivery under JJM.
- During this phase, Jal Jeevan Mission implementation, water quality test reports and analysis will be discussed with the villagers in an open forum.
- A village/ block-wise schedule has also been prepared for water sample collection and the Gram Sabhas to ensure maximum participation of villagers in the campaign.
- The Union Territory of Ladakh has also announced an award of Rs 5 lakh per village for the first 5 'Har Ghar Jal' villages of each district in UT and Rs 25 lakh to the first 'Har Ghar Jal' block in each district.
- Outstanding Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRI) members, BDOs, AEEs and other concerned stakeholders will be honoured on Republic Day 2022 for their contribution towards making villages, blocks, and districts, 'Har Ghar Jal'.

LINK

<https://www.aninews.in/news/national/general-news/pani-maah-campaign-to-increase-pace-of-implementation-of-jal-jeevan-mission-in-ladakh20210806055728/>

RBI's Monetary Policy

Question- As per the RBI's latest monetary policy, what is the current repo rate-

(a) 4 % (b) 6% (c) 5% (d) 7%

Ans. (a)

Related Facts-

- The Reserve Bank of India's Monetary Policy Committee has kept the repo rate unchanged at 4 per cent.
- This is the seventh straight MPC, when RBI kept the rates steady.
- RBI Governor S Das said that MPC has decided to leave repo rate unchanged and continue with the accommodative stance as long as necessary to support growth.
- Das said that India is in a much better position as compared to June 2021.
- There's a need to remain vigilant on the possibility of a third COVID wave.
- **Key Highlights-**
- The Repo rate under the liquidity adjustment facility (LAF) unchanged at 4.0 per cent.
- The reverse repo rate under the LAF remains unchanged at 3.35 per cent and the marginal standing facility (MSF) rate and the Bank Rate at 4.25 per cent.



Reference- <https://www.financialexpress.com/economy/rbi-mpc-live-august-2021-reserve-bank-of-india-monetary-policy-committee-repo-rate-shaktikanta-das-inflation/2305428/>.

National Commission of Women chairperson Rekha Sharma gets nominated for another term

Question- Who is the Chairperson of National Commission of Women?

a) Rekha Sharma b) Smriti Z Irani c) Indira Banerjee d) Shobha Chatterjee

Ans. (a)

Related Facts-

- Rekha Sharma has been nominated as Chairperson of the National Commission for Women (NCW) for another term of three years by the Central Government on August 7, 2021.
- Rekha Sharma, 57, assumed the charge of NCW chairperson on August 7, 2018.
- She was also the pioneer in setting up a special 'Happy to Help' task force during the coronavirus pandemic to help the elderly stuck at homes alone.
- She has also been credited for starting a WhatsApp number for women to lodge complaints during the pandemic.



Reference- <https://www.tribuneindia.com/news/delhi/rekha-sharma-gets-3-year-extension-as-national-commission-for-women-chairperson-293979>.

Celebrations begin to mark 150 years of iconic artist Abanindranath Tagore

Question-The 150th birth anniversary of Abanindranath Tagore is celebrated on-

(a) August 7th (b) August 8th (c) August 6th (d) August 9th

Ans. (a)

Related Facts-

- Year-long celebrations marking 150 years of Abanindranath Tagore will kick off on August 7, 2021 with a host of online workshops and talks paying tributes to the leading light of the Bengal School of Art.
- Abanindranath, a nephew of Rabindranath Tagore and a decade younger to the poet, helped shape modern Indian art and was the creator of the iconic 'Bharat Mata' painting.
- The celebration, titled Abanindranath at 150: Bichitra Revisited, is being organised jointly by Victoria Memorial Hall, Kolkata, and DAG.
- "Abanindranath Tagore was arguably the first major exponent of an artistic idiom that sought to modernise the Mughal and the Rajput styles in order to counter the influence of Western models of art under the colonial regime.
- His unique interpretation of swadeshi themes created a new awakening and heralded a revival of Indian art.



Reference- <https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/other-states/celebrations-begin-to-mark-150-years-of-iconic-artist-abanindranath-tagore/article35766597.ece>.

‘PM-DAKSH’ Portal and ‘PM-DAKSH Mobile App’

Question: Which ministry has developed ‘PM-DAKSH’ Portal and ‘PM-DAKSH Mobile App’ which are launched on 7th August 2021?

- Ministry of Environment , Forest and Climate Change
- Ministry of Social justice and Empowerment
- Ministry of Home Affairs
- Ministry of Health and Family Welfare

Ans: b

Context

- Union Minister for Social Justice and Empowerment, Dr. Virendra Kumar, is to launch ‘PM-DAKSH’ Portal and ‘PM-DAKSH’ Mobile App on August 7, 2021 in Nalanda Auditorium at Dr. Ambedkar International Centre, Delhi.
- **Related Facts**
 - Both the portal and Mobile App is developed by Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment, in collaboration with National e-governance division (NeGD).
 - Objective of this portal and app is to make skill development schemes accessible to the target groups of Backward Classes, Scheduled Castes, and Safai Karamcharis.
 - The Pradhan Mantri Dakshta Aur Kushalta Sampann Hitgrahi (PM-DAKSH) Yojana is being implemented by the Ministry from the year 2020-21. Under it, the eligible target groups is being provided skill development training programs.

Reference: <https://newsonair.com/2021/08/07/dr-virendra-kumar-to-launch-pm-daksh-portal-mobile-application/>

India to attain 22,480 MW Nuclear power Capacity by 2031

Question: in which of the following state of India Kakrapar Atomic Power Station is located?

- Tamil Nadu
- Gujarat
- Uttar Pradesh
- Telangana

Answer: (b)

Related Facts:-

- India's nuclear power generation capacity is expected to touch 22,480 MW by 2031.
- On 04 august 2021; Atomic Energy and Space Minister Dr Jitendra Singh gave above information in a written reply in Lok Sabha.
- It should be noted that the present nuclear power generation capacity in India 6,780 MW with 22 reactors.
- In January 2021, one more atomic power plant with 700 MW (Unit 3 at Kakrapar Atomic Power Project (KAPP), Gujarat) was connected to the grid.
- With the start of commercial generation at third unit at KAPP, the total atomic power generation capacity will go up to 7,480 MW.
- According to Nuclear Power Corporation of India Ltd (NPCIL) the KAPP-3 unit is expected to start commercial generation by September 2021.
- As per the information provided by the central government currently there are 10 reactors totalling to 8,000 MW under construction at various stages.
- The Government has also accorded administrative approval and financial sanction for construction of 10 indigenous 700 MW Pressurized Heavy Water Reactors (PHWRs).
- On progressive completion of the projects under construction and accorded sanction, the total nuclear capacity is expected to reach 22,480 MW by 2031.



Links:-

<https://newsonair.com/2021/08/04/indias-nuclear-power-capacity-is-expected-to-reach-22480-mw-by-2031-from-current-6780-mw-jitendra-singh/>

Rail Madad

Q. Which of the following Indian Railway platform provide the integrated & innovative one-stop solution for customer grievance, enquiry, suggestion and assistance through multiple channels, namely, Web, App, SMS, Social Media?

- a) Indian Rail Info. b) IRCTC mobile
c) Rail Madad d) None of these

ANSWER:- c)

RELATED FACTS:-

- Indian Railway has launched Rail Madad(Mobile Application for Desired Assistance During travel), the integrated & innovative one-stop solution for customer grievance, enquiry, suggestion and assistance, providing passengers the choice to access Rail Madad through multiple channels, namely, Web, App, SMS, Social Media and Helpline number (139) during the journey for expeditious resolution of their complaints.
- The app for the first time completely digitized the Complaint management system. It integrates RPGRAMS (Railway Passenger Grievance Redressal and Management System) developed by Northern Railway (Delhi Division).



- It registers complaint of passengers with minimum inputs. It also has option of photo and issues unique ID instantly.
- It relays complaint online to relevant field officials for immediate action. The action taken on complaint is also relayed to passenger through SMS.
- A number of help lines that earlier existed on the Railways for various purposes have been merged into one helpline i.e. 139.
- It can be used for all enquiry needs and for complaint making.
- 139 helpline facilities is available round the clock in 12 languages.
- 99.93% complaints received through 139 helpline get closed and 72% of the feedback given by complainants is 'Excellent' or 'Satisfactory' in FY 2020-21.

LINK

<https://www.pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1743174>

Khel Ratna Award will be called the Major Dhyan Chand Khel Ratna Award: PM

Question- Consider the following statements-

(1) The Khel Ratna award was instituted in 1991-1992 and the first recipient was Chess legend Viswanathan Anand

(2) Rajiv Gandhi Khel Ratna award was renamed as the Major Dhyan Chand Khel Ratna Award
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-

- Prime Minister of India has announced that the Rajiv Gandhi Khel Ratna award will now be known as the Major Dhyan Chand Khel Ratna Award, on August 6, 2021.
- The Khel Ratna award is the highest sporting honour in the nation.
- The Khel Ratna award was instituted in 1991-1992 and the first recipient was Chess legend Viswanathan Anand.
- Among the other winners were Leander Paes, Sachin Tendulkar, Dhanraj Pillay, Pullela Gopichand, Abhinav Bindra, Anju Bobby George, Mary Kom, and Rani Rampal in 2020.
- The now renamed Major Dhyan Chand Khel Ratna award comes with a cash prize of Rs 25 lakh.
- Known as The Wizard, Major Dhyan Chand, a field hockey player, played international hockey from 1926 to 1949, scoring over 400 goals in his career.
- Dhyan Chand, born in Allahabad, was part of the Olympic team that won gold medals in 1928, 1932 and 1936.
- Apart from the Khel Ratna award, the country's highest award for lifetime achievement in sports is known as the Dhyan Chand Award.
- It was instituted in 2002.
- The National Stadium in New Delhi was also renamed as the Dhyan Chand National Stadium in 2002.



Assam-Mizoram to resolve boundary dispute

Question: Consider the following statements:

i) Inter-state boundary dispute between Assam and Mizoram has its root in the colonial era laws.

ii) To settle the dispute peacefully, both state has decided to follow Ministry of Home Affairs directives and deploy only central forces at the areas of dispute.

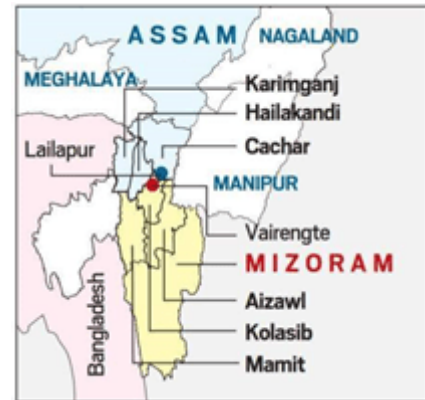
Which of the above are correct?

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

Ans: c

Context

- Senior ministers from governments of Assam and Mizoram held a detailed discussion on August 5, 2021 and released a joint statement stating that boundary disputes would be resolved amicably.
- **Related Facts**
 - On 2nd Augusts 2021, violent clashes erupted at the state border of Assam and Mizoram killing at least five Assam Police personnel due to old border dispute between the two states.
 - Since then situation has been tense between two states and Central Ministry of Home Affairs have to get involved to calm the tension.
 - Now both states have decided to follow the Home Ministry instruction and settle the dispute peacefully.
 - Both states have decided to withdraw state security forces from the disputed border site and only central forces to deployed at the site till the situation is resolved.
- **Background of the Dispute**
 - The boundary between present-day Assam and Mizoram, 165 km long today, dates back to the colonial era, when Mizoram was known as Lushai Hills, a district of Assam.
 - The dispute stems from a notification of 1875 that differentiated the Lushai Hills from the plains of Cachar, and another of 1933, that demarcates a boundary between the Lushai Hills and Manipur.
 - Mizoram follows 1875 demarcation while Assam follows 1933 demarcation leading to dispute.



Reference: <https://indianexpress.com/article/explained/assam-mizoram-border-dispute-notifications-7423681/>

Rajya Sabha passes Constitution (Scheduled Tribes) Order (Amendment) Bill, 2021

Question: Rajya Sabha has passed Constitution (Scheduled Tribes) Order (Amendment) Bill, 2021 on 5th August 2021. By this amendment which Schedule Tribe(ST) of Arunachal Pradesh has been removed from the list of identified STs in that state?

a) Mishmi b) Garo c) Khasi d) Abor

Ans: d

Context

- Rajya Sabha has passed Constitution (Scheduled Tribes) Order (Amendment) Bill, 2021 on 5th August 2021.
- **Related Facts**
 - The Bill seeks to amend the constitutional list of Scheduled Tribes as recommended by Arunachal Pradesh.
 - It removes the Abor tribe from the list of identified STs in that state.
 - It was introduced in the Rajya Sabha on 2nd August 2021.



Proposed changes in list of STs in Arunachal Pradesh under the Bill

Original list	Proposed changes under the Bill
Abor	Deleted from the list
Khampti	Tai Khamti
Mishmi, Idu, and Taroan	Mishmi-Kaman (Miju Mishmi), Idu (Mishmi), and Taraon (Digaru Mishmi)
Momba	Monpa, Memba, Sartang, and Sajolang (Miji)
Any Naga Tribes	Nocte, Tangsa, Tutsa, and Wancho

- Under article 342, the Constitution empowers the President to specify the Scheduled Tribes (STs) in various states and union territories. Further, it permits Parliament to modify this list of notified STs.

Reference: <https://prsindia.org/billtrack/the-constitution-scheduled-tribes-order-amendment-bill-2021>

Cabinet approves continuation of Samagra Shiksha Scheme for School Education from 1st April, 2021 to 31st March, 2026

Q. Recently Cabinet approves continuation of Samagra Shiksha Scheme for School Education from 1st April, 2021 to_____.

- a) 31st January, 2022 b) 31st March, 2024
c) 31st March, 2026 d) 31st January, 2024

ANSWER:- c)

RELATED FACTS:-

- On August 4, 2021 The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs, chaired by Prime Minister has given its approval for continuation of the revised Samagra Shiksha Scheme for a period of five years i.e., from 2021-22 to 2025-26 with a total financial outlay of Rs.2,94,283.04 crore which includes Central share of Rs.1,85,398.32 crore.
- The Samagra Shiksha scheme is an integrated scheme for school education covering the entire gamut from pre-school to class XII.
- The scheme treats school education as a continuum and is in accordance with Sustainable Development Goal for Education (SDG-4).
- The scheme not only provides support for the implementation of the RTE Act but has also been aligned with the recommendations of NEP 2020 to ensure that all children have access to quality education with an equitable and inclusive classroom environment which should take care of their diverse background, multilingual needs, different academic abilities and make them active participants in the learning process.
- In order to enhance the direct outreach of the scheme, all child centric interventions will be provided directly to the students through DBT mode on an IT based platform over a period of time.
- The scheme covers 1.16 million schools, over 156 million students and 5.7 million Teachers of Govt. and Aided schools (from pre-primary to senior secondary level).



LINK

<https://www.pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1742287>

Cabinet approves continuation of Centrally Sponsored Scheme for Fast Track Special Courts for further 2 years

Q. Recently the Union Cabinet chaired by the Prime Minister has approved the continuation of Fast Track Special Court (FTSCs) as a Centrally Sponsored Scheme (CSS) from 01.04.2021 to ____.

a) 31.01.2022 b) 31.03.2023 c) 31.07.2024 d) 31.03.2025

ANSWER:- b)

RELATED FACTS:-

- On 4th August, 2021 The Union Cabinet chaired by the Prime Minister has approved the continuation of 1023 Fast Track Special Court (FTSCs) including 389 exclusive POCSO Courts as a Centrally Sponsored Scheme (CSS) from 01.04.2021 to 31.03.2023 with an outlay of Rs. 1572.86 crore (Rs.971.70 crore as Central Share and Rs.601.16 crore as State share).
- Central Share is to be funded from Nirbhaya Fund. The Scheme was launched on 02.10.2019.
- The Government has always given paramount importance to the safety and security of women and children.
- To bring more stringent provisions and expeditious trial and disposal of such cases, the Central Government enacted "The Criminal Law (Amendment) Act, 2018" and made provision of stringent punishment including death penalty for perpetrators of rape.
- This led to the establishment of the Fast Track Special Courts (FTSCs).



- Fast Track Special Courts are dedicated courts expected to ensure swift dispensation of justice.
- They have a better clearance rate as compared to the regular courts and hold speedy trials. Besides providing quick justice to the hapless victims, it strengthens the deterrence framework for sexual offenders.
- Currently covering 28 States, it is proposed to be expanded to cover all 31 states which are eligible to join the Scheme.
- It is supporting the efforts of State/UT Governments for providing time bound justice to hapless victims of sexual offences in the country including the remote and far – flung areas.

LINK

<https://www.pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1742289>

Government launched ‘Sabki Yojna Sabka Vikas’ campaign for inclusive and holistic preparation of GPDP

Question- Consider the following statements-

(1) People’s Plan Campaign titled ‘Sabki Yojna Sabka Vikas’, was launched from 2nd October, 2020 to 31st January, 2021

(2) It was launched for inclusive and holistic preparation of Gram Panchayat Development Plan (GPDP)

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-

- Panchayats have a significant role to play in the effective and efficient implementation of flagship schemes/programmes on subjects of national importance for transforming rural India.
- With this aim, People’s Plan Campaign titled ‘Sabki Yojna Sabka Vikas’, for inclusive and holistic preparation of Gram Panchayat Development Plan (GPDP) was launched from 2nd October, 2020 to 31st January, 2021 as was done during 2018 and 2019.
- The objectives of ‘Sabki Yojna Sabka Vikas’ broadly include strengthening of elected representatives and Self Help Groups, evidence based assessment of progress made in 2020-21 and proposals for 2021-22 in all 29 subjects of XI Schedule.
- The campaign aimed to help Gram Panchayats (GPs) in preparation of convergent and holistic GPDP through identification of sectoral infrastructural gaps in respective areas.
- The approval of GPDP for the year 2021-22, well in advance, will provide GPs full year for implementation and effective monitoring of works.
- The States will, thus, be in full readiness for effectively utilising the resources available with them and other schematic interventions under GPDP during 2021-22.

Reference– <https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1741910>.

Approval for appointment of VC in 12 central universities

Question : The President of India, who is the Visitor to central universities, has recently(July 2021) approved the appointment of vice chancellors in 12 universities. Which of the following include among that 12 universities ?

- a. Central University of Jammu and North-Eastern hill University
- b. Central Tribal University of Andhra Pradesh and Rajiv Gandhi University
- c. IGNOU and South Asian University
- d. Indira Gandhi National Tribal University and Nagaland Univeristy

Ans.a.

Related facts —

- The President of India, who is the Visitor to central universities, has recently(July 2021) approved the appointment of vice chancellors in 12 universities.
- **Vice-Chancellors have been appointed for the following Central Universities:-**
 - Haryana Central University- Prof. Tankeshwar Kumar
 - Himachal Pradesh Central University- Professor Sat Prakash Bansa
 - Central University of Jammu- Dr. Sanjeev Jain
 - Jharkhand Central University- Prof. Kshiti Bhushan Das
 - Karnataka Central University- Prof. Batu Satyanarayana
 - Tamil Nadu Central University- Prof. Muthukalingan Krishnan
 - Hyderabad Central University- Prof Basuthkar J Rao
 - South Bihar Central University- Professor: Kameshwar Nath Singh
 - North-Eastern Hill University- Prof. Prabha Shankar Shukla
 - Manipur University- Prof. Alok Kumar Chakraborty
 - Guru Ghasidas University- Professor Syed Ainul Hasan
 - Maulana Azad National Urdu University- Professor N Lokendra Singh



Link:

<https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/president-approves-appointment-of-vice-chancellors-to-12-varsities/article35486204.ece>

States' powers to make own OBC lists restored

Question : Consider the following statement:

- i) As per recent Supreme Court verdict, 102nd Constitution amendment took away states' power to declare Socially and Educationally Backward Classes (SEBC) for grant of quota in jobs and admissions.
- ii) 102 Constitutional Amendment act gave constitutional status to National Commission for Backward Classes.

Which of the above are correct?

- a) only I b) only ii c) both i and ii d) None

Ans: c

Context

- Central government has approved a Constitution Amendment Bill on August 4, 2021 that seeks to empower states and UTs to make their own OBC lists.
- **Facts**
- Union cabinet has approved the bill and it will now be introduced in the parliament.
- **Background**
- The 102nd Constitution Amendment Act of 2018 gave constitutional status to National Commission for Backward Classes.
- It inserted Articles 338B 342A. While 338B deals with the structure, duties and powers of the National Commission for Backward Classes, 342A deals with powers of the President to notify a particular caste as SEBC and power of Parliament to change the list.
- Since then opposition parties have accused the government of assaulting the federal structure by taking away the power of the states to identify and list the other backward classes (OBCs).
- Recently The Supreme Court has also dismissed the Centre's plea seeking review of the May 5 majority verdict of the court, which held that the 102nd Constitution amendment took away states' power to declare Socially and Educationally Backward Classes (SEBC) for grant of quota in jobs and admissions.
- In line of all of this union cabinet has decided to bring the above mentioned amendment to give back power of the deciding list of OBCs to states.



Reference: <https://theprint.in/india/governance/cabinet-passes-bill-restoring-power-of-states-uts-to-make-their-own-obc-lists/709423/>

Delhi govt nod to 66 per cent salary hike of MLAs

Q. Recently which State/UT government has increased MLAs salary up to 66%?

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

ANSWER:- c)

RELATED FACTS:-

- Legislators in the Delhi will now draw Rs 90,000 per month as salary and allowances after the AAP government on 3rd August, 2021 approved a 66 per cent hike of the first in the past 10 years in line with the Centre's suggestions.
- The Kejriwal government expressed discontent that the salary was still among the lowest among the states.
- Adding that the Centre turned down its proposal of hiking the salary to Rs 54,000 and restricted it to Rs 30,000.
- Earlier, the MLAs were drawing Rs 54,000 per month, including Rs 12,000 salary with the remaining amount being allowances on.
- The Kejriwal government had requested the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) that the salary and allowances of Delhi MLAs should be at par with those from other states.



- The hike that comes after a decade was given the nod at a Cabinet meeting chaired by Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal and raises the existing monthly salary and allowances from ₹54,000 to ₹90,000, said a Delhi government statement.

LINK

<https://www.livemint.com/news/india/delhi-govt-approves-66-salary-hike-for-mlas-11628000907497.html>

Government Signs US \$ 250 Million Loan Agreement For Second Phase of Dam Rehabilitation & Improvement Project (DRIP)

Q. Recently government has signed US \$ 250 Million Loan Agreement for Second Phase of Dam Rehabilitation & Improvement Project (DRIP) with which institutions?

a) IMF b) World Bank c) European Investment Bank d) Asian Development Bank

ANSWER:- b)

RELATED FACTS:-

- In order to enhance water security in the country and support sustainable development, the Government of India on 4th August, 2021 signed a \$250 million loan agreement with World Bank for the Second Phase of Dam Rehabilitation and Improvement Project (DRIP Phase II) to make existing dams and communities safe and resilient across India.
- The Ministry of Jal Shakti, ten (10) States namely Chhattisgarh, Gujarat, Kerala, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Manipur, Meghalaya, Odisha, Rajasthan, and Tamil Nadu and the Central Water Commission attended the loan signing ceremony.
- The balanced US\$250 million external funding from Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB) is under consideration.
- This DRIP Phase II is the first phase of externally aided DRIP Phase II and Phase III, approved by Government of India in October 2020.
- The Scheme has the participation of nineteen (19) States and three (3) Central Agencies.
- The Budget Outlay for both Phases is Rs 10,211 Cr for an implementation period of ten (10) years. The Scheme will be implemented in two Phases, each of six years' duration, with two years' overlap.
- This new Scheme will strengthen dam safety initiatives taken by Government of India through physical rehabilitation of selected dams by addressing various concerns to improve safety and operational performance, institutional strengthening in various ways, incidental revenue generation for sustainable operation & maintenance of dams etc. The Scheme is designed to infuse global know-how, innovative technologies in dam safety.
- Another major innovation envisaged under the project, that is likely to transform dam safety management in the country, is the introduction of a risk-based approach to dam asset management that will help to effectively allocate financial resources towards priority dam safety needs.
- Also, Scheme implementation will equip the Indian dam owners to gear up their human resources to comprehensively handle many important activities envisaged in proposed Dam Safety Legislation.



- The programme will enable states and dam owners to extend these safety protocols and activities beyond the selected dams to all other dams within their jurisdiction, overall enhancing the culture of dam safety in the country.

LINK

<https://www.pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1742419>

Indian Government Clarifies Status of Cryptocurrency

Question : Recently India has come out with e-RUPI .What is it?

(a) Cryptocurrency (b) Digital Payment Solution (c) Mobile wallet (d) ATM

Answer : (b)

Related Facts:

- The key application of e-RUPI is to provide leak-proof welfare services using a one-time payment mechanism.
- The offering eliminates middlemen by ensuring that the sponsors of the service connect directly to the beneficiaries.
- The platform also does not require the beneficiary to have a bank account – which sets it apart from other digital payments methods.
- The e-RUPI on the other hand, is similar to a digital gift card, replacing physical vouchers.
- It can be used by private companies, government institutions and other service providers to extend benefits with the help of its partner banks.
- Eleven banks are currently live with the service.



Reference: <https://www.moneycontrol.com/news/business/explained-what-is-e-rupi-and-does-it-lay-the-ground-for-rbis-digital-currency-7270201.html>

India's first indigenous home-based rapid Covid test launched

Question : Name the India's first indigenous home-based rapid Covid test launched?

(a) CoviSelf (b) Covidkit (c) Rapid fire (d) Covishield kit

Answer : (a)

Related Facts:

- India's first indigenous home-based coronavirus disease (Covid-19) rapid testing kit that detects the virus within 15 minutes has been commercially launched, and will be available at chemist shops across the country .
- The kit is called CoviSelf, and costs ₹250 per unit.
- "Mylab Discovery Solutions.... announces the commercial launch of its Covid-19 self-test kit, CoviSelf, after receiving approval from the Indian Council for Medical Research (ICMR).
- It is the first test kit for Covid-19 that can be self-administered by citizens at home, in India.
- This indigenous test kit will be distributed through to 95% of the PIN codes in the country and will be available over-the-counter at pharmacies and drugstores across India.



Reference: <https://www.hindustantimes.com/india-news/indias-first-indigenous-home-based-rapid-covid-test-launched-commercially-101622722871422.html>

UP govt to provide ₹2,500 per month to children who lost parents to reasons other than Covid-19

Question : Which state government has announced to provide ₹2,500 per month to children who lost parents to reasons other than Covid-19?

(a) Odisha (b) Kerala (c) Uttar Pradesh (d) Karnataka

Answer : (c)

Reference :



- The Uttar Pradesh Cabinet on 2nd August 2021 approved a proposal to provide financial assistance of ₹2,500 per month under the Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Bal Seva Yojana (general) to children below 18 years who lost their parents due to reasons other than COVID-19.
- The Cabinet also decided that monetary help will be provided to adults between 18 to 23 years who have lost their parents or guardians due to COVID-19 or other reasons and are pursuing education after completing Class 12.
- The cabinet approved the scheme under which children below the age of 18 years who have lost both their parents or either of the parents or a guardian due to reasons other than COVID-19 will be provided financial assistance.

Reference : <https://www.livemint.com/news/india/up-govt-to-provide-rs-2-500-per-month-to-children-who-lost-parents-to-reasons-other-than-covid19-11627954215806.html>

Bhubaneswar becomes first city in India to vaccinate 100% of its population against Covid

Question : Which city has become first city in India to vaccinate 100% of its population against Covid?

(a) Bhubaneswar (b) Noida (c) Patna (d) Lucknow

Answer : (a)

Related Facts:



- Bhubaneswar, the capital city of Odisha, has become the first city in India to have vaccinated 100 per cent of its population against Covid-19.
- Bhubaneswar Municipal Corporation set a goal of immunising cent per cent of its population by July 31.
- During this time, we have administered the second jab to a total of 9,07,000 people above 18 years of age, which includes around 31,000 health workers, 33,000 frontline workers, 5,17,000 people between 18-45 and 3,20,000 above 45.
- As per reports, around 18,35,000 doses of Covid vaccine have been given till July 30 2021.

Reference: <https://www.indiatoday.in/cities/bhubaneswar/story/odisha-bhubaneswar-covid-corona-vaccine-coverage-complete-population-first-indian-city-1835491-2021-08-01>

Shri Kiren Rijiju to attend the Eighth Justice Ministers Meet of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization

Question: Which country will be the host of 8th Justice Ministers Meet of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation(SCO) , which will be organized on 6th August 2021, virtually?

a) India b) China c) Tajikistan d) Russia

Ans: c

Context

- Union Minister of Law & Justice, Shri Kiren Rijiju will be participating in the 8th Justice Ministers Meet of SCO on 6th August 2021, virtually.
- **Related Facts**
 - The Ministers of Law and Justice and senior officials / experts from the Ministries of Law & Justice of India, Kazakhstan, China, Kyrgyz Republic, Pakistan, Russian Federation, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan will be participating in the Meeting.
 - Member States are expected to deliberate on areas of cooperation; the role of coronavirus laws in the pandemic; providing free legal aid to citizens in accordance with national legislation; role of ministries of (law and) justice in countering corruption and other allied areas of cooperation and assistance in legal services.
 - Before this meet, second meeting of the Experts Working Group will be organized on 4th and 5th of August, 2021.
 - Tajikistan is the host country for these meetings and the SCO Secretariat will be providing necessary assistance during the three days' deliberations.



Reference: <https://www.pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1741921>

Lok Sabha passes Tribunals Reforms Bill

Question: Consider the following statements:

- i) On 3rd August 2021, Lok Sabha has passed the Tribunals Reforms Bill 2021
- ii) Bill seeks to provide for uniform terms and conditions of the various members of the Tribunal and abolish certain tribunals.
- iii) Tribunals including the Film Certification Appellate Tribunal (FCAT) will be abolished.
- iv) Bill was passed by voice vote without a debate.

Which of the above are correct?

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

Ans: c

Context

- Lok Sabha passed the Tribunals Reforms Bill on August 3, 2021 that seeks to abolish nine appellate tribunals.
- It was introduced by Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman on August 1, 2021.
- **Related Facts**
 - Tribunal Reforms Bill, 2021 seeks to replace Tribunals Reforms (Rationalisation and Conditions of Service) Ordinance, 2021.



- Tribunals Reforms (Rationalisation and Conditions of Service) Ordinance, 2021 was promulgated on 4th April 2021.
- Bill provides for abolition of tribunals or authorities under several Acts by amending Cinematograph Act of 1952, Copyrights Act of 1957, Customs Act of 1962, Patents Act of 1970, Airport Authority of India Act of 1994 as well as Trade Marks Act of 1999.
- Bill will also abolish the tribunals under Geographical Indications of Goods (Registration and Protection) Act of 1999, Protection of Plant Varieties and Farmers' Rights Act of 2001, and Control of National Highways (Land and Traffic) Act of 2002.
- Film Certification Appellate Tribunal, Airports Appellate Tribunal, Authority for Advanced Rulings, Intellectual Property Appellate Board and the Plant Varieties Protection Appellate Tribunal are the five tribunals which are sought to be abolished by the Bill and their functions are to be transferred to the existing judicial bodies.
- It also provides for uniform terms and conditions of service for chairperson and members of certain tribunals.
- Chairperson and the Members of the various tribunals are to be appointed on the recommendations of the Search-cum Selection Committee.
- Search-cum Selection Committee: It includes the Chief Justice of India, or a Supreme Court Judge nominated by him, as the Chairperson (with casting vote), (ii) two Secretaries nominated by the Union government, (iii) the sitting or outgoing Chairperson, or a retired Supreme Court Judge, or a retired Chief Justice of a High Court; and (iv) the Secretary of the Ministry under which the Tribunal is constituted (with no voting right).

Reference: <https://www.aninews.in/news/national/general-news/lok-sabha-passes-tribunals-reforms-bill-without-debate20210803235927/>

State's can't but Governor can exercise pardon powers for life term prisoners: Supreme Court

Question: Consider the following statements:

i) On 3rd August 2021, Supreme Court has said that Governor of states have power to release the prisoner undergoing life imprisonment even before completion of 14 years term.

ii) This power is under section 433A of CrPC.

Which of the following above are correct?

a) I b) ii c) i and ii both d) None

Ans: a

Context

- On 3rd August 2021, Supreme Court has said that Governor of states have power to release the prisoner undergoing life imprisonment even before completion of 14 years term.
- **Related Facts**
- Governor has a power to grant pardons, reprieves, respites and remissions of punishment or to suspend, remit or commute the sentence of any person under article 161 of the constitution.



- Governor can use the power of article 161 even for those lifers who have not undergone 14 years of prison term awarded under life imprisonment.
- Supreme court has also noted that governor also have power to pardon in case of death sentences.
- Governor's powers under Article 161 of the Constitution are not restricted by Section 433A CrPC.
- Under section 433A of CrPC , states have the power to release those life imprisonment prisoners who have undergone at least 14 years of prison term.
- **Article 161**
- Article 161 of the Indian constitution provides the Governor of a State with power to grant pardons, reprieves, respites or to remit punishment or to suspend, remit or commute sentence of any person convicted of any offence against laws.
- Governor can exercise his power under article 161 in the aid and advise of council of ministers of state government.

Reference: <https://www.livelaw.in/top-stories/governor-pardon-power-article-161-prisoner-14-years-imprisonment-section-433a-crpc-supreme-court-178784>

Survey of illegal constructions in Aravali

Question : Following the Supreme Court's order, the Gurugram Forest department has recently(July 2021) started a survey of illegal constructions in the Aravali range. Accordingly, which of the following statement is correct ?

Statements —

1. Illegal constructions have come up in Sohna and Gurugram
2. Haryana Pollution Control Board has filed a petition in the Supreme Court against 600 illegal structures
3. 430 illegal farmhouses were identified by the HPCB

Options —

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

Ans. D

Related facts —



- Following the Supreme Court's order, the Gurugram Forest department has recently(July 2021) started a survey of illegal constructions in the Aravali range.
- **Key points —**
- Nearly 5,000 illegal farmhouses, houses and other structures have come up in Sohna and Gurugram.
- The Haryana Pollution Control Board has filed a petition in the apex court against 600 of these illegal structures while 1,000 have been served notices by the Gurugram District administration.
- Recently, 430 illegal farmhouses were identified by the Haryana Pollution Control Board and their list was submitted to the Sohna Municipal Council.
- The city council has also given notice to 350 such illegal structures and action has been taken against nearly 40.

Link:

<https://realty.economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/industry/survey-of-illegal-constructions-in-aravalis-begins/84973634>

SAMVEDAN 2021 – Sensing Solutions for Bharat

Question – In July 2021, IIT Madras Promoter Technologies Foundation (IITM-PTF) in association with which company organized a National Hackathon SAMVEDAN 2021?

(i) Wipro India Pvt. Ltd.

(ii) Sony India Software. Pvt Ltd

(iii) Infosys India Pvt. Ltd.

(iv) none of the above

Code-

(a) only (i) and (ii) (b) only (ii) and (iii) (c) only (ii) (d) only (iv)

Answer—(c)

related facts —

- National hackathon(SAMVEDAN 2021 – Sensing Solutions for Bharat) organized by IIT Madras & Sony India encourages citizens to come up with solutions using IoT Sensor Board.
- Registrations for this Grand Challenge Competition have commenced on July 1st, 2021, and are open to all Indian nationals residing in India.
- It is being organized jointly by IIT Madras Pravartak Technologies Foundation (IITM-PTF), along with Sony India Software Centre, and is based on the Sony Semiconductor Solutions Corporation's SPRESENSE™ Board, which participants can use for this challenge.
- It is notable that the future is all about a tight convergence of physical systems with communication, computing, information and data gathering, machine sensing, autonomous decisions and actions and control. Thus sensors of all sorts will play a vital role in the Cyber-Physical Systems.
- **IITM-PTF —**
- It is a Technology Innovation Hub (TIH) for Sensor, Networking, Actuators, and Control Systems (SNACS) area supported by the Department of Science and Technology (DST) under the National Mission on Interdisciplinary Cyber-Physical Systems (CPS).
- **Implementation —**
- A team with maximum of three members can register for the grand challenge, which will be held in three stages — quarterfinals, semi-finals and finals. A total of 75 ideas will be selected for the quarter-finals, and among them, 25 best ideas will be chosen for the semi-finals.
- There will be seven finalists with prizes for every finalist. Prizes worth 3 Lakhs will be awarded to the best teams.
- Apart from the prize money, the winners will be eligible for an entrepreneurial support scheme by IIT Madras Pravartak Technologies Foundation.
- Further, each quarter finalist will be provided with a SPRESENSE™ board free of cost by Sony Semiconductor Solutions Corporation through IITM Pravartak Technologies Foundation.



Link:

<https://pib.gov.in/PressReleaseFramePage.aspx?PRID=1734357>

Tribal Affairs Minister Shri Arjun Munda inaugurates 'Virtual Training of Trainers

Question : Who has inaugurated recently 'Virtual Training of Trainers Programme on Forest Rights Act, 2006'?

(a) Arjun Munda (b) Rajnath Singh (c) Ramnath kovind (d) Narendra Modi

Answer : (a)

Related Facts:

- Minister of Tribal Affairs, Sh. Arjun Munda inaugurated a 'Three day National level Virtual Training of Trainers Programme on Forest Rights Act, 2006,' as part of Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav/Parv in New Delhi on 2nd August, 2021.
- The virtual training programme is being organized jointly by Ministry of Tribal Affairs, National Tribal Research Institute , New Delhi, Tribal Research and Training Institute Chhattisgarh and UNDP from 2nd-4th August, 2021.
- Minister of State for Tribal Affairs, Smt. Renuka Singh Saruta, Secretary, Ministry of Tribal Affairs, Joint Secretary, MoTA, Smt. R. Jaya and Joint Secretary, Shri Nava Jit Kapoor were also present on the occasion along with large number of other officers of Ministry as well as representatives of NTRI and UNDP, State TRIs
- It is hoped that the participants will benefit from the sessions and State Government and the State Tribal Research and Training Institute of Chhattisgarh will take this effort forward and create a cadre of Master trainers on FRA so that the recognition of rights process is strengthened and rights of all eligible claimants are recognized in the state."



Reference : <https://www.pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1741639>

CM Dhami launched Chief Minister Vatsalya Yojana

Question : Which state government has launched Vatsalya Yojana recently?

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

Answer : (b)

Related Facts:

- Uttarakhand Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dhami launched the Mukhyamantri Vatsalya Yojana.
- On this occasion, government financial assistance was given to the children directly in the accounts through DBT (Direct Benefit Transfer).
- In the first phase of the scheme, the beneficiary children will get three thousand rupees every month. Along with financial assistance to all the beneficiary children, their education and health facilities will be provided.



- Beneficiary children will get 3 thousand rupees every month, in the first phase, the beneficiary children will get 3 thousand rupees every month. Along with financial assistance to all the beneficiary children, their education and health facilities will be provided.

Reference : <https://zeenews.india.com/hindi/india/up-uttarakhand/dehradun/benefit-of-vatsalya-scheme-cm-pushkar-singh-dhami-launched-the-chief-minister-vatsalya-vojana-dehradun>

Unemployment rate rose to 13.3% in July-September 2020: NSO survey

Question- Consider the following statements-

- (1) Unemployment rate rose to 13.3 per cent in July-September 2020
- (2) labour force participation rate for all ages was 37 per cent in September quarter 2020
- (3) NSO launched Periodic Labour Force Survey (PLFS) in April 2017

Select the correct answer using the code given below-

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

Ans. (d)

Related facts-

- Unemployment rate rose to 13.3 per cent in July-September 2020 as compared to 8.4 per cent in the year-ago period, according to a periodic labour force survey by the National Statistical Office (NSO).
- Joblessness or unemployment rate (UR) is defined as the percentage of unemployed persons in the labour force.
- The UR was 20.9 per cent in April-June 2020, the eighth Periodic Labour Force Survey (PLFS) showed.
- As per the survey, labour force participation rate for all ages was 37 per cent in September quarter 2020, up from 36.8 per cent in the same period a year ago.
- It was 35.9 per cent in April-June 2020.
- Labour force refers to the part of the population which supplies or offers to supply labour for pursuing economic activities for the production of goods and services and therefore, includes both employed' and unemployed' persons.
- NSO launched PLFS in April 2017.
- On the basis of PLFS, a quarterly bulletin is brought out giving estimates of labour force indicators namely UR, Worker Population Ratio (WPR), Labour Force Participation Rate (LFPR), distribution of workers by broad status in employment and industry of work in Current Weekly Status (CWS).
- The estimates of unemployed persons in CWS give an average picture of unemployment in a short period of 7 days during the survey period.
- In the CWS approach, a person is considered unemployed if he/she did not work even for 1 hour on any day during the week but sought or was available for work at least for 1 hour on any day during the period.
- Labour force according to CWS is the number of persons either employed or unemployed on an average in a week preceding the date of survey.
- LFPR is defined as the percentage of population in the labour force.



- WPR stood at 32.1 per cent in July-September 2020, down from 33.7 per cent in the same period a year ago.
- It was 28.4 per cent in April-June 2020.

Reference- https://www.business-standard.com/article/economy-policy/unemployment-rate-rose-to-13-3-in-july-september-2020-nso-survey-121080201502_1.html.

MoCA grants drone use permission to Directorate of Urban Local Bodies (DULB), Haryana

Q. Ministry of Civil Aviation (MoCA) and Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) have granted conditional exemption from Unmanned Aircraft System (UAS) Rules, 2021 to which States' Urban Local Body?

a) Rajasthan b) Haryana c) Punjab d) Uttar Pradesh

ANSWER:- b)

RELATED FACTS:-

- On 3rd, August, 2021 Ministry of Civil Aviation (MoCA) and Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) have granted conditional exemption from Unmanned Aircraft System (UAS) Rules, 2021 to Directorate of Urban Local Bodies (DULB), Haryana.
- The exemption has been allowed for data acquisition, mapping, and implementation of web-based GIS platform for development of AMRUT cities and property tax survey for Hisar, Panchkula, Ambala urban areas.
- This exemption is valid for a period of one year from the date of approval or until further orders, whichever is earlier and shall be subject to the terms and conditions of the SOP issued by DGCA.
- List of locations of Directorate of Urban Local Bodies (DULB), Haryana approved for drone operations:
- Ambala, Palwal, Bahadurgarh, Panchkula, Bhiwani, Panipat, Faridabad, Rewari, Gurugram, Rohtak, Hisar, Sirsa, Jind, Sonapat, Kaithal, Thanesar, Karnal, Yamunanagar



LINK

<https://www.pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1741850>

The Essential Defence Services Bill, 2021

Question- Consider the following statements regarding Essential Defence Services Bill, 2021-

(1) The Bill allows the central government to prohibit strikes, lock-outs, and lay-offs in units engaged in essential defence services

(2) Persons commencing or participating in illegal strikes will be punished with up to one year imprisonment or Rs 10,000 fine, or both

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 Lok Sabha passed the Essential Defence Services Bill, 2021 on August 3, 2021.



- The Bill allows the central government to prohibit strikes, lock-outs, and lay-offs in units engaged in essential defence services.
- **Key features of the Bill include-**
- **Essential defence services:** Essential defence services include any service in: (i) any establishment or undertaking dealing with production of goods or equipment required for defence related purposes, or (ii) any establishment of the armed forces or connected with them or defence. These also include services that, if ceased, would affect the safety of the establishment engaged in such services or its employees. In addition, the government may declare any service as an essential defence service if its cessation would affect the: (i) production of defence equipment or goods, (ii) operation or maintenance of industrial establishments or units engaged in such production, or (iii) repair or maintenance of products connected with defence.
- **Public utility service:** The Bill amends the Industrial Disputes Act, 1947 to include essential defence services under public utility services. Under the Act, in case of public utility services, a six-week notice must be given before: (i) persons employed in such services go on strike in breach of contract or (ii) employers carrying on such services do lock-outs.
- **Strikes:** Under the Bill, strike is defined as cessation of work by a body of persons acting together. It includes: (i) mass casual leave, (ii) coordinated refusal of any number of persons to continue to work or accept employment, (iii) refusal to work overtime, where such work is necessary for maintenance of essential defence services, and (iv) any other conduct which results in, or is likely to result in, disruption of work in essential defence services.
- **Prohibition on strikes, lock-outs, and lay-offs:** Under the Bill, the central government may prohibit strikes, lock-outs, and lay-offs in units engaged in essential defence services. The government may issue such order if necessary in the interest of: (i) sovereignty and integrity of India, (ii) security of any state, (iii) public order, (iv) public, (v) decency, or (vi) morality. The prohibition order will remain in force for six months, and may be extended by another six months.
- Strikes and lock-outs that are declared after the issue of the prohibition order, or had commenced before the prohibition order was issued will be illegal. The prohibition will not apply to lay-offs made due to power shortage or natural calamity, or lay-offs of temporary or casual workmen.
- **Punishment for illegal lock-outs and lay-offs:** Employers violating the prohibition order through illegal lock-outs or lay-offs will be punished with up to one year imprisonment or Rs 10,000 fine, or both.
- **Punishment for illegal strikes:** Persons commencing or participating in illegal strikes will be punished with up to one year imprisonment or Rs 10,000 fine, or both. Persons instigating, inciting, or taking actions to continue illegal strikes, or knowingly supplying money for such purposes, will be punished with up to two years imprisonment or Rs 15,000 fine, or both. Further, such an employee will be liable to disciplinary action including dismissal as per the terms and conditions of his service. In such cases, the concerned authority is allowed to dismiss or remove the employee without any inquiry, if it is not reasonably practicable to hold such inquiry.
- All offences punishable under the Bill will be cognisable and non-bailable.

Reference- <https://prsindia.org/billtrack/the-essential-defence-services-bill-2021>.

India's lightest and Pune's first metro train set unveiled in Italy

Q. India's lightest metro will be rolled out at which metro station in India?

a) Bangalore Metro b) Hyderabad Metro c) Pune Metro d) Kolkata Metro

ANSWER:- c)

RELATED FACTS:-

- India's lightest and Pune's first Metro train was rolled out in Italy on 2ND, August, 2021.
- According to the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs, it will be delivered in India by December this year.
- Titagarh Wagons Ltd, a company based out of Titagarh in West Bengal, held a virtual ceremony to display its first train manufactured for Pune Metro.
- The company's subsidiary in Europe, Titagarh Firema, was awarded a contract for the design, manufacture and supply of 34 trains of three coaches each to MahaMetro on September 12, 2019.
- These ultra-modern metro coaches combine the highest safety standards with modern Italian styling and are not only lightweight with an Aluminium body, resulting in low carbon emission and better fuel efficiency, but offer the highest safety and convenience features in the trains.
- The Maharashtra Metro Rail Corporation, a 50:50 jointly owned company of the government of India and the government of Maharashtra, is the executing agency of the Rs 11,420 crore Pune Metro project.
- Pune Metro consists of two corridors, namely 17.4 km long PCMC – Swargate with 14 stations and 15.7 km long Vanaz – Ramwadi with 16 stations.



LINK

<https://www.timesnownews.com/pune/article/indias-lightest-and-punes-first-metro-trainset-unveiled-in-italy-pics/793642>

Proposal to implement New Family Planning Policy

Q. Which of the following is not true regarding Family Planning Policy in India?

- a) Government has been implementing the Family Planning programme by providing the needs of family planning.
- b) Mission Parivar Vikas is related to family planning programme.
- c) 28 out of 36 States/UTs have already achieved the replacement level fertility of 2.1 or less.
- d) None of these

ANSWER:- d)

RELATED FACTS:-

- The Government has been implementing the Family Planning programme in line with the policy framework of population stabilization as envisaged in the National Population Policy (NPP-2000), by creating a robust service delivery and demand side mechanism to address the unmet needs for family planning.

Family Planning



- The programme received a further boost through holistic and comprehensive planning with the advent of the National Health Mission (NHM) in 2005.
- The National Health Policy (NHP) 2017 also provides policy guidance and sets out indicative, quantitative goals and objectives for population stabilization.
- Moreover, the Government has also launched Mission Parivar Vikas in 146 high fertility districts of seven high focus states (Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand and Assam) to focus on improving access to contraceptives through promotional schemes, awareness generation activities, capacity building and intensive monitoring.
- As a result of the Government's initiatives for controlling the Population;
- The TFR of the country has declined from 2.9 in 2005 to 2.2 in 2018 (SRS)
- 28 out of 36 States/UTs have already achieved the replacement level fertility of 2.1 or less
- The Crude Birth Rate (CBR) has declined from 23.8 in 2005 to 20.0 in 2018 (SRS)
- The Decadal growth rate has declined from 21.54% in 1990-2000 to 17.64% during 2001-11
- India's Wanted Fertility Rate has declined from 1.9 in NFHS III to 1.8 in NFHS IV.

LINK

<https://www.pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1741849>

India, UK to hold clinical trials of Ashwagandha for promoting recovery from COVID-19

Question- Which of the following ministry has collaborated with UK's London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine (LSHTM) to conduct a study on Ashwagandha for promoting recovery from COVID-19?

- (a) Ministry of AYUSH (b) Ministry of Science and Technology (c) Ministry of Home Affairs
(d) Ministry of Agriculture

Ans. (a)

Related Facts-

- The AYUSH Ministry has collaborated with UK's London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine (LSHTM) to conduct a study on Ashwagandha for promoting recovery from COVID-19.
- The All India Institute of Ayurveda (AIIA), an autonomous body under the Ministry of AYUSH, and LSHTM recently signed a memorandum of understanding to conduct clinical trials of Ashwagandha on 2,000 people in three UK cities — Leicester, Birmingham and London (Southall and Wembley).
- Ashwagandha (*withania somnifera*), commonly known as 'Indian winter cherry', is a traditional herb that boosts energy, reduces stress and makes the immune system stronger.
- It is an easily accessible, over-the-counter nutritional supplement in the UK and has a proven safety profile.
- The successful completion of the trial can be a major breakthrough and give scientific validity to India's traditional medicinal system.
- While there have been several studies on Ashwagandha to understand its benefits in various ailments, this is the first time the Ministry of AYUSH has collaborated with a foreign institution to investigate its efficacy on COVID-19 patients.



- “For three months, one group of 1,000 participants will be administered Ashwagandha (AG) tablets while the second group of 1,000 participants will be assigned a placebo, which is indistinguishable from AG in looks and taste.
- Both patients and the doctors will be unaware of the group’s treatment in a double-blind trial.”
- The participants will have to take the 500 mg tablets twice a day.
- A monthly follow-up of self-reported quality of life, impairment to activities of daily living, mental and physical health symptoms, supplement use and adverse events will be carried out.
- Recently, a number of randomized placebo controlled trials of Ashwagandha in humans in India have demonstrated its efficacy in reducing anxiety and stress, improving muscle strength and reducing symptoms of fatigue in patients treated for chronic conditions.
- It has also been indicated for treating non-restorative sleep, a hallmark of chronic fatigue, for which the trials are currently ongoing.
- After the trial’s success, Ashwagandha will be a proven medicinal treatment to prevent infection and be recognized by the scientific community worldwide.

Reference- <https://www.businesstoday.in/lifestyle/health/story/india-uk-to-hold-clinical-trials-of-ashwagandha-for-promoting-recovery-from-covid-19-302984-2021-08-01>.

PM Modi to chair debate on maritime security at UNSC

Question- Consider the following statements-

(a) Prime Minister Narendra Modi will virtually preside over an open debate on maritime security at the UN Security Council (UNSC)

(b) It will be the first time an Indian Prime Minister will chair an open debate at the UN Security Council.

(c) India is holding the presidency of the UNSC for August, 2021

Select the correct answer using the code given below-

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

Ans. (c)

Related Facts-

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi will virtually preside over an open debate on maritime security at the UN Security Council (UNSC) on August 9.
- It will be the first time an Indian Prime Minister will chair an open debate at the UN Security Council.
- India is holding the presidency of the UNSC for August.
- Following its election to the global body, India said that it will promote responsible and inclusive solutions to international peace and security and would pitch for a new orientation for a reformed multilateral system.
- India began its two-year tenure as a non-permanent member of the UNSC on January 1.
- It is India’s seventh term on the UN Security Council as a non-permanent member.
- India has previously been a member of the UN Security Council in 1950-51, 1967-68, 1972-73, 1977-78, 1984-85, and 1991-92.



NCRB data on Suicides due to Unemployment

Question: Consider the following statements the data recently put on table in parliament by NCRB:

- i) 2,851 people died by suicide due to unemployment in 2019.
 - ii) Suicide cases registered due to unemployment have increased by 24 per cent from 2016 to 2019.
 - iii) Karnataka registered the greatest number (553) of suicides due to unemployment in 2019.
- Which of the above statements are correct?

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

Ans: c

Context

A MATTER OF CONCERN

NATION-WIDE CASES

- 2016 → 2,298
- 2017 → 2,404
- 2018 → 2,741
- 2019 → 2,851

IN THE STATES

States	2016	2017	2018	2019
Karnataka	224	375	464	553
Maharashtra	403	379	394	452
Tamil Nadu	259	357	251	251
Gujarat	295	263	318	219

- National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB) has recently put its report in front of parliament.
- **Facts**
Findings of the report
 - Suicide cases registered due to unemployment have increased by 24 per cent from 2016 to 2019.
 - 2,851 people died by suicide due to unemployment in the country in 2019 in comparison to corresponding figure of 2,298 in 2016.
 - Karnataka registered the greatest number (553) of suicides due to unemployment in 2019.
 - Karnataka is followed by Maharashtra with 452 cases and Tamil Nadu with 251 cases.
 - In UP, 156 people committed suicide in 2019.
 - The figures in these NCRB records pertain to data before Covid-19 hit the country and led to further job losses in the last two years.
- **Impact on Children**
 - Over 24,000 children in the age bracket of 14-18 years died by suicide from 2017-19.
- **National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB)**
 - NCRB is an Indian government agency to collect and analyse crime data in accordance with the Indian Penal Code (IPC) and Special and Local Laws (SLL).
 - It was set-up in 1986 to act as repository of information on crime & criminals.
 - This agency is headquartered in New Delhi and works under Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA).
 - IPS Ramphal Pawar is the current Director of NCRB.

Reference: <https://indianexpress.com/article/india/suicides-due-to-unemployment-went-up-from-2016-to-2019-ncrb-data-7434663/>

President Kovind addresses special function to mark Centenary Celebrations of Madras Legislative Council

Question: Which of the following Legislative council has celebrated its 100 year celebration on 2nd August 2021?

- a) Madras legislative council, Chennai b) Uttar Pradesh legislative council
c) Both a and b d) None

Ans: a

Context

- On 2nd August 2021, President RamNath Kovind has addressed a special function to mark Centenary Celebrations of Madras Legislative Council at Chennai, Tamil Nadu.
- Facts**
 - The first elected legislature in the State of Tamil Nadu, originally called the Madras Legislative Council, was established in 1921 under the Government of India Act, 1919.
 - Current DMK government is celebrating the event as it derives its lineage from Justice Party which was in power during 1921.
 - The legislative body has served many parts of Andhra Pradesh, Telengana, Karnataka, Kerala and some parts of Odisha before the reorganization of states on linguistic basis.
 - In the function, President Kovind unveiled the portrait of the five-time Chief Minister and the late DMK Chief M. Karunanidhi in the Assembly. He praised the contributions made by him to further the cause of Tamil language and the state of Tamil Nadu.



Reference: <https://newsonair.com/2021/08/02/president-kovind-addresses-special-function-to-mark-centenary-celebrations-of-madras-legislative-council/>

Chief of the Air Staff on an official Goodwill Visit to UAE

Question: Which of the following fighter aircrafts provided with refueling facility in air on their way to India from France?

- a) F-35 b) Mirage 2000 c) Rafael d) None of these

Answer: (c)

Related Facts:-

- On 31 July 2021; Air Chief Marshal RKS Bhadauria was on a visit to the United Arab Emirates (UAE).
- In the recent times it depicts that India and UAE heading towards the growing strategic ties with each other.
- The UAE is an influential Gulf country, who's Air Force had provided mid-air refueling to a number of Rafale fighter jets on their journey from France to India in past few months.
- His visit comes nearly eight months after Chief of Army Staff Gen MM Naravane travelled to the Gulf country.
- In December last year, Gen Naravane paid a six-day visit to the UAE and Saudi Arabia in a first-ever trip by a head of the Indian Army to the two important Gulf countries.



- According to an official release it was a goodwill visit by the IAF Chief to the UAE and there are hopes that it will further strengthen bilateral defence cooperation.
- This visit of the Air Chief Marshal Bhadauria to UAE came after on an invitation from Major General Ibrahim Nasser M Al Alawi.
- General Alawi at present is the Commander of the UAE Air Force and Air Defence (UAE AF and AD).
- The IAF and UAE AF and AD have had significant professional interactions in the past few years.
- This visit will further strengthen the defence cooperation and Air Force level exchanges, as part of the comprehensive strategic partnership.

Links:-

<https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1741129>

Remembering the architect of India's national flag

Question- Consider the following statements about Pingali Venkayya-

(1) It was his design on which India's national flag was based upon

(2) He was a Gandhian ideologist

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-



- Pingali Venkayya, born 142 years ago on August 2, was an Indian freedom fighter whom the nation remembers proudly for reasons more than his struggle for our independence.
- It was his design on which India's national flag was based upon.
- Born near Machilipatnam (now in Andhra Pradesh), Venkayya was a Gandhian ideologist.
- He was also a linguist, geologist and a writer.
- In fact, in 1913, he delivered a full-length speech in Japanese.
- Such credentials gave him interesting titles like 'Japan Venkayya', 'Patti (cotton) Venkayya' and 'Jhanda Venkayya'.
- It was during his stint with the British Army that the 19-year-old met Mahatma Gandhi in Africa.
- Venkayya's association with Mahatma Gandhi lasted over 50 years.
- He also published a book in 1916 offering thirty designs of what could make the Indian flag.
- Throughout all Congress sessions between 1918 and 1921, he relentlessly put forward the idea of having a flag of our own.
- Venkayya's design for the National Flag was finally approved by Mahatma Gandhi in a Congress meeting in Vijayawada in 1921.
- Pingali Venkaiah who is working in Andhra National College Machilipatnam, has published a book, describing the flags of the countries and has designed many models for our own National Flag.

Reference- <https://www.indiatoday.in/india/story/who-is-pingali-venkayya-architect-india-national-flag-1303460-2018-08-02>.

Muslim Women's Rights Day

Question-Muslim Women's Rights Day is observed on-

(a) 1st August (b) 2nd August (c) 3rd August (d) 4th August

Ans. (a)

Related Facts-

- Muslim Women's Rights Day is observed across the nation on August 1 to celebrate the enactment of the law against triple talaq.
- The central government enacted the law on August 1, 2019, that has made the practice of instant triple talaq a criminal offence.
- The Union ministry of minority affairs on July, 30 announced that Muslim Women's Rights Day will be observed across the nation on August 1 and it will celebrate the second anniversary of the enactment of the law against triple talaq.
- The Supreme Court in August 2017 declared the practice of triple talaq or a form of divorce based on the husband pronouncing divorce thrice in quick succession as 'unconstitutional'.
- In December 2017, citing the Supreme Court judgment and cases of triple talaq in India, the government introduced the Muslim Women (Protection of Rights on Marriage) Bill in Parliament.
- The bill received assent from President Ram Nath Kovind.
- The legislation, which outlaws instant triple talaq, sets forth three years jail for violations and also make the violator liable to pay a fine.



Reference- <https://www.hindustantimes.com/india-news/muslim-women-s-rights-day-know-its-history-significance-101627777536417.html>.

Union Home Minister lays foundation stone of U. P State Institute of Forensic Sciences in Lucknow

Question- Consider the following statements-

(1) About Rs 200 crore would be spent on the Uttar Pradesh State Institute of Forensic Sciences

(2) It will be built in Lucknow

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-

- Union Home Minister Amit Shah laid the foundation stone of the Uttar Pradesh State Institute of Forensic Sciences in Lucknow on August 2, 2021.
- The Union Home Minister said that the Uttar Pradesh State Institute of Forensic Sciences, with its sprawling campus, will have a grand beginning.
- The Home Minister said that about Rs 200 crore would be spent on the Uttar Pradesh State Institute of Forensic Sciences to be built in Lucknow.



- Along with this, the Government of India has allocated an amount of Rs 15 crore to build a DNA Center here, so that the country's most advanced DNA Center will be built here.
- Home minister said that initially about 150 students will graduate from this institute every year and there will be more than 350 faculty.
- This institute will provide research and development in the field of forensic science and integrate it with practical applications.
- There will also be a resource center for behavioural science and civil and criminal law, which will help in the field of justice in all the states of the entire northern region.

Reference- <https://www.pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1741279>

PM Modi launches Academic Bank of Credit, other initiatives

Q. Consider the following statements regarding Academic Bank of Credit-

1. It is a digital bank that holds the credit earned by a student in any course.
2. Academic Bank of Credits will enable students to select the best courses or combination of courses to suit their aptitude.

Which of the following statement / s is/ are true?

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

ANSWER:- c)

RELATED FACTS:-



- On 29th July, 2021 Prime Minister Narendra Modi announced launching of several initiatives undertaken under the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020 including Academic Bank of Credit and the Artificial Intelligence programme to make the youth future-oriented and open the way for an AI-driven economy.
- Academic Bank of Credit is envisaged as a digital bank that holds the credit earned by a student in any course.
- It is a major instrument for facilitating multidisciplinary and holistic education and multiple entry and exit in higher education.
- A University Grants Commission notification said that the Academic Bank of Credits will enable students to select the best courses or combination of courses to suit their aptitude and to tailor their degrees or make specific modifications or specializations rather than undergoing the rigid, regularly prescribed degree or courses of a single university.
- It said students will be academic account holders to whom the Academic Bank of Credits will provide a variety of services including credit verification, credit accumulation, credit transfer or redemption and authentication of academic awards.
- He launched NISHTHA 2.0 to train teachers as per their needs and they will be able to give their suggestions to the department.
- Modi also launched Structured Assessment For Analysing Learning Levels (SAFAL) a competency based assessment framework for Grades 3, 5 and 8 in CBSE schools and a website dedicated to Artificial Intelligence.

LINK

<https://www.thehindubusinessline.com/news/education/ugc-comes-up-with-academic-bank-of-credits-to-promote-inter-disciplinary-approach/article35601805.ece>

National Sports Education Board (NSEB)

Q. Which of the following is not the aims and objectives of the proposed National Sports Education Board (NSEB)?

- a) Promoting excellence in sports by 'catching those young' and nurturing identified talents.
- b) Promoting alternative career opportunities related to sports in an organized way.
- c) Engaging in sports development by devising better and more effective ways of promoting interest, participation and performance in sport.
- d) None of these.

ANSWER:- d)

RELATED FACTS:-

- On August 2nd , 2021 Minister of Youth Affairs & Sports said the proposed NSEB would allow collaboration with existing boards so that the sportsperson could grow well academically along with sports.
- NSEB would Promote excellence in sports by 'catching them young' and nurturing identified talents.
- The NSEB would work to include transfer of credit points to higher level to increase competition and to help in career prospects from the angle of fear of dropping out.
- **The Aims and objectives of the proposed National Sports Education Board (NSEB) will be as under:-**
 - Initiating large scale participation in sports and promoting personal, social and community development.
 - Promoting excellence in sports by 'catching those young' and nurturing identified talents.
 - Providing assurance to the sports community and parents that practicing sports would not lead to loss in academics, vertical mobility & employment opportunities.
 - Promoting alternative career opportunities related to sports in an organized way.
 - Involving Teachers, PE staff, Coaches, Community Outreach Volunteers, Health Specialists, mental health and wellness psychologists, nutritionist, physiotherapists in preparing and conducting online and face to face modular training, orientations and webinars.
 - Engaging in sports development by devising better and more effective ways of promoting interest, participation and performance in sport.
 - The aim of the NSEB would be to promote sports among all from grassroots level to higher education and then provide opportunities to pursue the same for achieving excellence.



LINK

<https://www.pib.gov.in/PressReleaseDetail.aspx?PRID=1741490>

Visit of US Secretary of State Antony Blinken to India

Question: Consider the following statements:

- (1) US Secretary of State Antony Blinken was on visit to India on 27-28 July 2021.
- (2) USA and India has launched a climate and clean energy agenda 2030 partnership to sustain financial and technological cooperation on climate change.

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:

- US Secretary of State Antony Blinken was on visit to India on 27-28 July 2021.
- This Blinken's first visit to India after assuming charge as U.S. Secretary of State.
- The visit covered variety of topics including U.S. Indo-Pacific policy, the Quadrilateral Security Dialogue—known as the Quad, the Covid 19 pandemic, climate change and largely the Taliban issue in Afghanistan.
- The United States government has proposed to send an additional US\$25 million to support vaccination efforts across India.
- Earlier this year, US India climate and clean energy agenda 2030 partnership was launched to sustain financial and technological cooperation between the two countries to cut greenhouse gas emissions.



Links:

<https://mea.gov.in/incoming-visit-detail.htm?34073/Transcript+of+Press+Statement++Media+Interaction+following+IndiaUS+Ministerial+Meeting>

National Gallery of Australia to return 14 works of art to India

Question: Which country's National Gallery has recently announced to return 14 artworks to India?

(a) Australia (b) Japan (c) Britain (d) Portugal

Answer: (a)

Related facts:

- On 29 July 2021, The National Gallery of Australia announced to return 14 artworks to Indian Government of which six are believed to be illegally exported or stolen.
- The Canberra Gallery has identified the artworks that include a scroll, photographs, and sculptures.
- The artworks identified comprise of a collection largely cultural and religious artifacts, some of which date back to the 12th Century.
- All the 14 artworks have been estimated to be worth about USD 2.2 million.
- **Artworks being returned:**
 - The works being returned are:
 - dancing child-saint Sambandar of 12th century belonging to Chola dynasty,
 - processional standard [alam], from Hyderabad,
 - arch for a Jain shrine (11th-12th century), seated Jina, 1163 from Mount Abu region, Rajasthan,
 - the divine couple Lakshmi and Vishnu [Lakshmi Narayana] (11-12th century), and



- Durga Mahisasuramardini, from Gujarat.

Links:

<https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/india/national-gallery-of-australia-to-return-14-works-of-art-to-india/articleshow/84862221.cms>

Innovations for Defence Excellence (iDEX)

Question: Consider the following statements:

(1) The Department of Defence Production, Ministry of Defence has approved a central sector scheme Innovations for Defence Excellence (iDEX).

(2) The scheme has been allocated budgetary support of Rs. 498.80 crore for the next 5 years from 2021-22 to 2025-26.

Of the above correct statement/s is/are:

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

Answer: (c)

Related facts:



- On 28 July 2021, the Department of Defence Production, Ministry of Defence has approved a central sector scheme viz. Innovations for Defence Excellence (iDEX) with budgetary support of Rs. 498.80 crore for the next 5 years from 2021-22 to 2025-26.
- **Objective:**
 - The objective of the scheme is to provide financial support to nearly 300 Startups/ MSMEs/ individual innovators and about 20 Partner incubators through Defence Innovation Organisation (DIO).
 - Criteria to avail grants of Support for Prototype and Research Kickstart (SPARK):
 - To avail the grants under the grant mechanism of iDEX i.e. Support for Prototype and Research Kickstart (SPARK), the eligibility is as follows:
 - Startups, as defined and recognized by Department of Industrial Policy Promotion (DIPP), now DPIIT, Ministry of Commerce and Industry, Government of India.
 - Any Indian company incorporated under the Companies Act 1956/2013, primarily a Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME) as defined in the MSME Act, 2006.
 - Individual innovators are also encouraged to apply (research & academic institutions can use this category to apply).
 - **Criteria for Incubators:**
 - To avail the grants as iDEX Partner Incubators, the eligibility is as follows:
 - The applicant incubator should be registered in India as a legal entity in public, private or public-private partnership mode, and should have received establishment or grant support from a Ministry/Department of Government of India in the past.
 - The incubator must have been in operation for a minimum of 3 years before application for affiliation with DIO, and experience of having supported at least 25 startups.
 - It should have successfully graduated at least 5 startups in the past 3 years.
 - The incubators should have experience of partnering with the research and academia.

Links:

<https://pib.gov.in/PressReleaseSelfframePage.aspx?PRID=1739954>

Shri Hardeep Singh Puri launches DSF Bid Round-III

Question : Who has launched DSF Bid Round-III recently ?

(a) Shri Hardeep Singh Puri (b) Shri Narendra Modi (c) Shri Rajanath Singh (d) Shri Rahul Gandhi

Answer : (a)

Related Facts:

- 30 JUL 2021 Minister of Petroleum and Natural Gas & Housing and Urban Affairs Shri Hardeep Singh Puri launched the Discovered Small Field (DSF) Bid Round-III.
- Minister of State in the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas Shri Rameswar Teli, Secretary, MoPNG Shri Tarun Kapoor, Additional Secretary, MoPNG Shri Amar Nath, DG, Hydrocarbons Shri SCL Das were present on the occasion.
- A number of investors from India and abroad participated in the event which was held in a hybrid mode.
- Under the bid round, 75 discoveries across 32 Contract areas in 11 basins/locations are being offered. Estimated Hydrocarbon in place of approximately 232 MMTOE of oil and oil equivalent gas are on offer.
- Government has created an investor-friendly ecosystem, by continuously ushering policy reforms and projects that have the potential to transform the landscape of the sector. Some of these are: successful roll out of the HELP and OALP, opening up of entire sedimentary basin area to investors, National Seismic Programme.



Reference: <https://pib.gov.in/PressReleaseDetail.aspx?PRID=1740854>

President of India to grace the commemoration of the 100th year of the Madras Legislative Council

Question : On 2nd August 2021 President of India will commemorate 100th year of the Madras Legislative Council. Madras Legislative Council was formed in which year?

(a) 1861 (b) 1862 (c) 1962 (d) 1961

Answer : (a)

Related Facts:

- The first Indian Councils Act of 1861 set up the Madras Legislative Council as an advisory body through which the colonial administration obtained advice and assistance.
- The Act empowered the provincial Governor to nominate four non-English Indian members to the council for the first time. Under the Act, the nominated members were allowed to move their own bills and vote on bills introduced in the council.
- The President of India, Shri Ram Nath Kovind will grace and address the commemoration of the 100th year of the Madras Legislative Council and unveil a portrait of the former Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu, Dr K. Karunanidhi in Chennai tomorrow (August 2, 2021).



Ministry of Education organises webinar on ‘Towards an Equitable and Inclusive Society

Question : Recently a webinar on ‘Towards an Equitable and Inclusive Society is organized by which ministry?

- (a) Ministry of Education (b) Ministry of Culture (c) Ministry of Defence
(d) Ministry of Women and Child Welfare

Answer : (a)

Related Facts:



- On the occasion of completion of one year of National Education Policy (NEP) 2020, the Ministry of Education (MOE) is launching some important initiatives.
- Director, NCERT welcomed the Minister and other dignitaries. He highlighted the different aspect of the theme in the context of NEP 2020 and appreciated the speakers who would be highlighting the field experiences.
- **The Webinar focussed on three themes which were:**
 - Experiences in Addressing Issues and Challenges in Achieving an Equitable and Inclusive Society
 - Inclusion of Socio-Economically Disadvantaged Groups (SEDGs) with Focus on Girls Education: Taking Forward the provisions of NEP 2020
 - Effective Interventions for Inclusion of All as per Vision of NEP 2020: Reflections from the Field
- Invited speakers from different organisations and intuitions included Rama Krishna Mission, Room to Read, SwaTaleem Foundation, St. Mary's School, National Skill Development Corporation, ITL Public School, Vijnana Vihara Residential School, Bharat Bharti etc. working in the area of inclusive education, including girls' education and empowerment shared their perceptions and experiences in overcoming adversities and making actionable interventions in the field. The sessions were coordinated by NCERT faculty. Each session began with a presentation of the themes and NCERT's recent initiatives in the context of NEP 2020 highlighting equitable and inclusive education.
- **Some highlights of the National Webinar focussing on goals of NEP 2020 were –**
 - Effective implementation of the RPWD Act
 - Constitution of Special Task Force to carry out Foundational Literacy and Numeracy of Children with Hearing Impairment
 - Teaching-Learning Interventions for Inclusive Education
 - Promoting inclusive practice including remote and border areas in the concept of inclusion
 - Focus on skill development for sustainable economic empowerment of girls
 - Enhancing 21st century skills among girls especially leadership and decision making skill
 - Early identification and creation of barrier free environment in and around schools
 - Vocational Education and life skills to be developed especially during ten bag less days
 - Value education to form an important component of school curriculum

- Involvement of Volunteers and community members in educational interventions
- Inclusion to be seen as a way of life by building partnership with various stakeholders
- These deliberations will be disseminated for guiding various stakeholders in realising the goals of NEP 2020 for an equitable and inclusive society.

Reference: <https://pib.gov.in/PressReleaseFramePage.aspx?PRID=1740841>

Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Amendment Bill 2021

Q. Consider the following statements regarding Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Amendment Bill 2021-

1. The amendments include authorizing District Magistrate including Additional District Magistrate to issue adoption orders.
2. Any Child Care Institutions shall be registered after considering the recommendations of the District Magistrate.

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 Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Amendment Bill, 2021, which seeks to amend the Juvenile Justice Act, 2015, was passed in the Rajya Sabha, On 28th July, 2021.
- The bill was introduced in the Parliament by the Government in the Budget session this year. It was passed in Lok Sabha on 24.03.2021.
- The amendments include authorizing District Magistrate including Additional District Magistrate to issue adoption orders under Section 61 of the JJ Act, in order to ensure speedy disposal of cases and enhance accountability.
- The District Magistrates have been further empowered under the Act, to ensure its smooth implementation, as well as garner synergized efforts in favour of children in distress conditions.
- As per the amended provisions of the Act, any Child Care Institutions shall be registered after considering the recommendations of the District Magistrate.
- The DM shall independently evaluate the functioning of District Child Protection Units, Child Welfare Committees, Juvenile Justice Boards, Specialized Juvenile Police Units, Child care Institutions etc.
- The eligibility parameters for appointment of CWC members have been redefined.
- Criteria for disqualification of the CWC members have also been introduced to ensure that only the persons capable of rendering quality service with requisite competence and integrity are appointed to CWC.
- Presently there are three categories (petty, serious and heinous) defined under the Act which are referred to, while considering the cases of children in conflict with law.
- However, it was observed that some of the offences do not strictly fall under any of these categories.

- It has been decided that offences where the maximum sentence is more than 7 years imprisonment but no minimum sentence has been prescribed or minimum sentence of less than 7 years is provided, shall be treated as serious offences within this Act.

LINK

<https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1740011>

36TH EDITION OF INDIA – INDONESIA COORDINATED PATROL (CORPAT)

Q. Recently held 36TH Edition of CORPAT EXERCISE between which of the following countries?

a) India & Maldives b) India & Oman c) India & Indonesia d) India & Australia

ANSWER:- c)

RELATED FACTS:-

- Indian Naval Ship (INS) Saryu, an indigenously built Offshore Patrol Vessel is undertaking coordinated patrol (CORPAT) with Indonesian Naval Ship KRI Bung Tomo from 30 to 31 July 2021.
- The 36th edition of CORPAT between India and Indonesia will also witness participation of Maritime Patrol Aircraft from both nations.
- The 36th edition of IND-INDO CORPAT seeks to bolster the maritime cooperation between the two navies and forge strong bonds of friendship across the Indo Pacific.
- The exercise, being conducted as a 'non-contact, at sea only' exercise in view of COVID-19 pandemic, highlights the high degree of mutual trust and confidence, synergy and cooperation between the two friendly navies.
- India and Indonesia have been carrying out Coordinated Patrols along the International Maritime Boundary Line (IMBL) twice a year since 2002.
- The exercise aim of keeping the vital part of the Indian Ocean Region safe and secure for commercial shipping, international trade and conduct of legitimate maritime activities.
- CORPATs help build understanding and interoperability between navies, and facilitate institution of measures to prevent and suppress Illegal Unreported Unregulated (IUU) fishing, drug trafficking, maritime terrorism, armed robbery and piracy.

LINK

<https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1740798>

NTPC To Set Up India's First Green Hydrogen Fuelling Station In Ladakh

Q. In which state/UTs India's First Green Hydrogen Fuelling Station will be set up?

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

ANSWER:- b)

RELATED FACTS:-

- On July 29th, 2021 National Thermal Power Corporation Renewable Energy Ltd (NTPC REL), NTPC's wholly owned subsidiary has invited a



domestic tender to set up India's first green hydrogen fuelling station in Leh, Ladakh.

- The sale of bid documents would commence from July 31, 2021.
- The tender follows the recent tender floated by NTPC Vidyut Vyapar Nigam Limited (NVVN) for procurement of fuel cell buses for Ladakh.
- NTPC REL and NVVN would jointly be executing the green mobility project in the union territory of Ladakh. A dedicated 1.25 MW solar plant is also being set up in Leh by NTPC REL to make the hydrogen fuelling station completely green.
- NTPC REL had earlier signed an agreement Ladakh for development of green hydrogen technologies in the high altitude region.

LINK

<https://www.ndtv.com/business/ntpc-to-set-up-indias-first-green-hydrogen-fuelling-station-in-ladakh-2497987>

14 tiger reserves get CA|TS accreditation

Q. Which of the following tiger reserves in India have not received accreditation of the Global Conservation Assured Tiger Standards (CA|TS).

- a) Rajaji Tiger Reserve Tiger Reserve b) , Kaziranga Tiger Reserve
c) Parambikulam Tiger Reserve d) Bandipur Tiger Reserve

ANSWER:- a)

RELATED FACTS:-

- ON THE occasion of International Tiger Day on 29TH July, 2021, Union Minister for Environment, Forest and Climate Change announced that 14 tiger reserves in India have received accreditation of the Global Conservation Assured Tiger Standards (CA|TS).
- CA|TS is a globally accepted conservation tool that sets best practice and standards to manage tigers and encourages assessments to benchmark progress.
- Habitats which support tiger populations are the building blocks of wild tiger conservation and effectively managing them is essential for long-term survival of wild tigers.
- CA|TS is being implemented across 125 sites in seven tiger range countries and India has the highest 94 sites, out of which assessment was completed for 20 tiger reserves this year.
- 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 in Karnataka; and Mudumalai and Anamalai Tiger Reserves in Tamil Nadu.



LINK

<https://indianexpress.com/article/india/14-tiger-reserves-get-cats-accreditation-7429266/>

First 'Ekartians with Disabilities' delivery hub

Question : Walmart-owned Flipkart on July 29 said it has added a new delivery hub in North India to its supply chain network that will be managed end-to-end by 50 employees with disabilities, working in various capacities. Where is this delivery hub situated ?

- a. Delhi b. Chandigarh c. Lucknow d. Bhopal

Ans. a.

Related facts —

- Walmart-owned Flipkart on July 29 said it has added a new delivery hub in North India to its supply chain network that will be managed end-to-end by 50 employees with disabilities, working in various capacities.
- This delivery hub is situated in Delhi.
- The move is part of Flipkart's efforts of creating a diverse and inclusive workplace and supply chain.
- Through this effort, Flipkart aims to break stereotypes around the employability of people with disabilities.
- **eDAB programme —**
- Flipkart had introduced its eDAB programme (Ekartians with Disabilities) in its supply chain in 2017 to provide career opportunities for people with disabilities in its supply chain.
- Starting as a pilot, through this programme, Flipkart has over 1,019 people with disabilities across its supply chain.



Link:

<https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/industry/services/retail/flipkart-launches-first-ekartians-with-disabilities-delivery-hub/articleshow/84861582.cms>

Health Ministry announces All India Quota (AIQ) for UG, PG medical, dental courses for OBCs and EWS

Question: Recently health ministry has announced reservation for OBCs and Economically Weaker Sections (EWS) under All India Quota for UG, PG medical, dental courses. What is the percentage of reservation?

- a) 27% of seats for OBCs and 10% for EWS b) 10% of seats for OBCs and 27% for EWS
c) 15% of seats for OBCs and 5% for EWS d) None of the above

Ans: a

Context

- The Union government reserves 27% of seats for OBCs and 10% for EWS in all-India quota admissions UG, PG medical, dental courses for OBCs and EWS.
- **Facts**
- This quota will be applicable from this academic year.
- As per the health ministry, the decision will benefit nearly 1,500 OBC students seeking to join MBBS courses and 2,500 backward category students in postgraduate courses. It will also benefit around 550 EWS students in MBBS and around 1,000 EWS students in postgraduate courses.



▪ **About AIQ Scheme**

- It was introduced in 1986 under the Supreme Court's directions to allow merit-based opportunities to students from any state to study in a medical college in another state.
- It consists of 15% of total available undergraduate seats and 50% of total available postgraduate seats in government medical colleges.
- There was no reservation in the AIQ scheme till 2007. Subsequently, the Supreme Court introduced reservations of 15% for Scheduled Castes and 7.5% for Scheduled Tribes in the AIQ scheme.

Reference: <https://www.livemint.com/news/india/govt-announces-27-reservation-for-obcs-10-for-ews-in-medical-courses-11627553071213.html>

AICTE Creating Database to Promote Higher Education in Regional Languages: PM

Question: Consider the following statements:

- i) PM has said that the All India Council of Technical Education is creating a database of resources to allow colleges to offer more programmes in regional languages.
- ii) It is also developing a tool to translate engineering content into 11 languages.
- iii) This was announced at an event to mark the first anniversary of the National Education Policy, 2020, which placed a strong emphasis on education in the mother tongue.

Which of the above are correct statements?

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

Ans: c

Context

- Recently PM was speaking at an event to mark the first anniversary of the National Education Policy, 2020.
- National Education Policy 2020 was launched on 29 July 2020.
- **Facts**
 - All India Council of Technical Education (AICTE) has announced that it is creating a database of resources so that colleges can offer more programmes in the regional languages of the country.
 - It is also developing a tool to translate engineering content into 11 languages.
 - This step has been taken so as to promote regional languages in the field of technical education as new education policy places strong emphasis on education in Mother tongue.
 - In eight states, 14 engineering colleges are going to start engineering studies in five Indian languages. They are Bengali, Hindi, Telugu, Tamil, and Marathi.
 - The benefit of teaching in the regional languages will open up access to higher education for the students who are from low-income, rural families. These students want and are capable of learning, but not being fluent in English hinders their learning process.

Reference: <https://www.firstpost.com/india/pm-modi-to-address-live-updates-the-nation-today-on-the-first-anniversary-of-nep9847101-9847101.html>

International

The Children's Climate Risk Index

Question : 'The Children's Climate Risk Index' introduced by UNICEF on August, 2021.

Accordingly, which of the following statement is correct ?

Statements —

1. It ranks countries based on children's exposure to climate and environmental shocks
2. Climate crisis puts Indian kids at 'extremely high risk'
3. The 33 extremely high risk countries emit only 9.38 per cent of global greenhouse gas emissions

Options —

- a. Only 1. b. Only 2. c. Only 3. d. All of the above

Ans. d.

Related facts —

- "The climate crisis is a child rights crisis" is a report recently(August 2021) released by UNICEF.
- Report introduces the Children's Climate Risk Index(CCRI).
- Which ranks countries based on children's exposure to climate and environmental shocks.
- Key points of CCRI —



1. Climate crisis puts Indian kids at 'extremely high risk'
2. The 33 extremely high risk countries emit only 9.38 per cent of global greenhouse gas emissions
3. One billion children are at 'extremely high risk' of the impacts of climate change. That is nearly half of all children.
4. India ranked at 26th place on the index.
5. CCRI finds children in the Central African Republic, Chad, Nigeria, Guinea, Guinea Bissau and Somalia are the most at risk.
6. Central African Republic ranked at 1st place on the index.
7. Both Chad and Nigeria ranked at 2nd place on the index.
8. Guinea, Guinea Bissau and Somalia jointly ranked at 4th place.
9. Iceland, Luxembourg, New Zealand and Finland are the countries where children are least at risk.
10. Iceland ranked lowest at 163rd place on the index.
11. While Luxembourg, New Zealand and Finland are placed at 162, 161 and 159 rank respectively.

Link:

<https://www.unicef.org/reports/climate-crisis-child-rights-crisis>

Academic Ranking of World Universities(ARWU) 2021

Question: Which Indian institute has been awarded top position among Indian universities in Academic Ranking of World Universities (ARWU), 2021 also known as Shanghai Ranking?

- a) IIT-Delhi b) IISc Bengaluru c) University of Delhi d) University of Calcutta

Ans: b

Related facts —

- The ARWU (Academic Ranking of World Universities), also called Shanghai Ranking has recently released its 2021 list of universities..
- **Key points —**
- Harvard University of USA topped the list followed by Stanford University (USA) and University of Cambridge (UK).
- Fourteen Indian Universities have made it to the ARWU, 2021.
- Indian Institute of Science ,Bengaluru was ranked first among Indian institutes and was placed in 401-500 ranks among global institutes.
- University of Calcutta was ranked second and Banaras Hindu University was ranked third (3-8 rank) among Indian institution.
- None of the Indian institute made the top 100.
- **About ARWU**
- The Academic Ranking of World Universities (ARWU) was first published in June 2003 by the Center for World-Class Universities (CWCU), Graduate School of Education (formerly the Institute of Higher Education) of Shanghai Jiao Tong University, China.
- Since 2009 the Academic Ranking of World Universities (ARWU) has been published and copyrighted by ShanghaiRanking Consultancy.
- ShanghaiRanking Consultancy is a fully independent organization dedicating to research on higher education intelligence and consultation.

Link:

<http://www.shanghairanking.com/rankings/arwu/2021>

Ain Dubai the World's largest and tallest observation wheel to open

Question- Which of the following place the world's largest and tallest observation wheel will open?

(a) Dubai, UAE (b) Paris, France (c) New Delhi, India (d) New York, USA

Ans. (a)

Related Facts-

- The world's largest and tallest observation wheel will open in the UAE on October 21, the latest landmark to join Dubai's long list of record-breaking attractions.
- The observation wheel called as 'Ain Dubai' is 250 m (820 ft) in height, located at Bluewaters Island.
- At nearly twice the height of the London Eye, Ain Dubai will take visitors to a height of 250 metres from where they could enjoy a majestic view of Dubai's picturesque skyline.
- Located at Bluewaters Island, it will offer experiences starting with one rotation of approximately 38 minutes, up to two rotations of approximately 76 minutes.



Reference- <https://www.thehindu.com/news/international/ain-dubai-worlds-largest-and-tallest-observation-wheel-to-open/article36093627.ece>.

WHO's medical alert on fake Covishield Vaccines

Question: In which of the following countries , WHO has raised alert on fake Covishield Vaccines?

a) India b) Nepal c) UK d) France

Ans: a

Context

- On 17th August 2021, WHO issued a medical product alert referring to fake Covishield in South-East Asia and Africa.
- **Related Facts**
- World Health Organization's (WHO) global surveillance and monitoring system for substandard and fake medical products identified fake Covishield in India and Uganda.
- Serum Institute of India (SII), which is mass producer of Oxford-AstraZeneca's Covishield in India has confirmed that some vaccine vials reported at the patient-level were fake.
- WHO has urged government to increase vigilance on hospitals, clinics, health centres, distributors, wholesalers, pharmacies, and other suppliers of medical products. It also asked to increased vigilance in the supply chains which are likely to be affected by fake vaccines.



Reference: <https://www.livemint.com/science/health/who-issues-medical-alert-on-fake-covishield-vaccines-11629224524851.html>

US & UK to hold G7 meet on Afghanistan

Question: A future G7 meeting will be organized as per US and UK . Which topic will be discussed specifically in this meet?

a) Covid-19 b) Afghanistan c) World Economic Outlook d) None of the above

Ans: b

Context

- On 17th August 2021, United States President, Joe Biden and British Prime Minister, Boris Johnson agreed to hold a virtual G7 meet on Afghanistan.
- **Related Facts**
- Need of continued close coordination among allies and democratic partners on Afghanistan was discussed.
- Discussion on ways the global community can provide further humanitarian assistance and support for refugees and other vulnerable Afghans took place.
- US president stuck to his troop withdrawal decisions.
- **Group of Seven (G7)**



- It is an inter-governmental political forum comprising of France, Canada, Italy, Germany, Japan, the United Kingdom and the United States. Members of G7 are the largest IMF advanced economies worldwide and wealthiest liberal democracies.

Reference: <https://www.reuters.com/world/biden-uks-johnson-discuss-afghanistan-agree-hold-g7-meeting-2021-08-17/>

The Second most polluted City in the World in 2020

Question: According to a recently published report by a British company HouseFresh which of the following city was the second most polluted City in the World in 2020?

a) Hotan b) Gaziabad c) Manikganj d) None of these

Answer: (b)

Related Facts:-

- According to a recently published report Ghaziabad was the second most polluted city in the world in 2020.
- A British company HouseFresh has prepared this report named as 50 'most polluted cities' in the world.
- The report also declared the Bangladesh as the most polluted country in the world in 2020.
- The report has stated that after Bangladesh, Pakistan, India and Mongolia, were the most polluted countries in 2020.
- About Ghaziabad the report stated that the city had an average air quality index (AQI) of 2.5 particulate matter (PM) in 106.6µg/m³.
- The report stated that China's Hotan province is the most polluted city in the world as it recorded PM2.5 of 110.2µg/m³.
- The report attributed the poor air quality level in Hotan to sandstorms resulting due to its proximity to the Taklimakan Desert.
- After Hotan and Ghaziabad, Bangladesh's Manikganj was ranked as the third most polluted city of the world with a PM2.5 of 80.2µg/m³.



Links:-

<https://www.timesnownews.com/india/article/ghaziabad-was-second-most-polluted-city-in-2020-reveals-british-report/798868>

Pilot Launch of International Bullion Exchange

Q. Recently which institution has pilot/ soft launched the International Bullion Exchange?

- Industrial Development Bank of India (IDBI)
- Export Credit Guarantee Corporation of India (ECGC)
- Board for Industrial and Financial Reconstruction
- International Financial Services Centres Authority (IFSCA)

ANSWER:- d)

RELATED FACTS:-

- On 18th August, 2021 Shri Injeti Srinivas, Chairperson, International Financial Services Centres Authority (IFSCA), launched the pilot run/soft launch.



- The International Bullion Exchange is scheduled to go live on October 1, 2021 the Foundation Day of IFSCA.
- Following the announcement by Union Minister for Finance & Corporate Affairs in Union Budget 2020-21, the International Financial Services Centres Authority (Bullion Exchange) Regulations, 2020 were notified on December 11, 2020 which inter alia covers the Bullion Exchange, Clearing Corporation, Depository and Vaults.
- Government has also taken steps to notify bullion spot trading and bullion depository receipts with underlying bullion as financial products and bullion related services as financial services.
- The International Bullion Exchange shall be the “Gateway for Bullion Imports into India”, wherein all the bullion imports for domestic consumption shall be channelized through the exchange.
- The exchange ecosystem is expected to bring all the market participants at a common transparent platform for bullion trading and provide an efficient price discovery, assurance in the quality of gold, enable greater integration with other segments of financial markets and help establish India’s position as a dominant trading hub in the World.
- Pursuant to Memorandum of Understanding between National Stock Exchange of India Limited (NSE), the Multi Commodity Exchange of India Limited (MCX), India INX International Exchange (IFSC) Limited (INDIA INX), National Securities Depository Limited (NSDL), Central Depository Services (India) Limited (CDSL), the holding company India International Bullion Holding IFSC Ltd. (IIBH) has been created for setting up and operationalising International Bullion Exchange, Bullion Clearing Corporation and Bullion Depository in IFSC, GIFT City.

LINK

<https://www.pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1746963>

World’s second-largest refurbished ‘Gene Bank’

Q. Recently which country has established a world’s second largest refurbished gene Bank?

a) China b) India c) Indonesia d) Australia

ANSWER:- b)

RELATED FACTS:-

- Taking an imperative towards conserving the diversity of indigenous crops in the country, Union Minister for Agriculture and Farmers Welfare, Narendra Singh Tomar has inaugurated the world’s second-largest refurbished state-of-the-art National Gene Bank at the National Bureau of Plant Genetic Resources (NBPGR), Pusa, New Delhi.
- The National Gene Bank will work towards preserving the seeds of Plant Genetic Resources (PGR) for future generations, and has the capacity to preserve about one million germplasm in the form of seeds.
- **The Genesis and purpose of National Gene Bank**
- Established in 1996, the National Gene Bank (NGB) works towards preserving the seeds of Plant Genetic Resources (PGR) for future generations. Presently, the bank is protecting 4.52 lakh accessions, of which 2.7 lakh are Indian germplasm and the rest have been imported from other nations. National Bureau of Plant Genetic Resources is meeting the need of in-situ and ex-situ germplasm conservation through Delhi Headquarters and 10 regional stations across India.

- Primarily, NGB has four kinds of facilities, namely, Seed Gene bank (- 18°C), Cryogene bank (-170°C to -196°C), In vitro Gene bank (25°C), and Field Gene bank, to cater to long-term as well as medium-term conservation of the indigenous crops namely cereals, millets, medicinal and aromatic plants and narcotics, among others.
- National Bureau of Plant Genetic Resources**
 - Set up in January 1977, the 'National Bureau of Plant Introduction' was renamed as 'National Bureau of Plant Genetic Resources' (NBPGR). It is one of the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) Institutes.
 - The Bureau has played a pivotal role in the improvement of various crop plants and diversification and development of agriculture in India through germplasm introduction from various institutes, organizations located in foreign countries and germplasm collection from within the country and abroad and conservation thereof.

LINK

<https://newsonair.com/2021/08/17/taking-the-legacy-of-conserving-indigenous-crops-with-worlds-second-largest-refurbished-gene-bank/>

India organises the IBSA (India, Brazil and South Africa) Tourism Ministers' virtual meet

Question- Which of the following country has organized the IBSA (India, Brazil, and South Africa) Tourism Ministers' virtual meet?

(a) India (b) Brazil (c) South Africa (d) Russia

Ans. (a)

Related Facts-

- India organized the IBSA (India, Brazil and South Africa) Tourism Ministers' virtual meeting on August 12, 2021.
- During virtual meeting, the Minister for Tourism, Shri G Kishan Reddy highlighted the aggressive vaccination programme of the Government of India which has completed over 500 million doses of vaccine, making it the 2nd largest country in the world.
- The Ministers emphasised the importance of domestic tourism in reigniting the tourism economy as it can prepare the domestic tourism industry for the arrival of international visitors.
- The IBSA Tourism Ministers' Meeting recognized the importance of strengthening cooperation in tourism to overcome the impact of Covid 19 pandemic on the tourism sector.
- The Ministers resolved to work together to realise the full potential of IBSA countries through cooperation in the tourism sector.
- The significant aspect of the meeting was the adoption of the IBSA Tourism Ministers Joint Statement, an outcome document on cooperation and promotion for speedy recovery of travel and tourism.



- The Ministers also agreed to implement various tourism activities to be actioned by respective member countries.
- IBSA is a trilateral, developmental initiative between the Government of India, The Government of Federative Republic of Brazil and The Government of the Republic of South Africa to promote South-South cooperation and exchange.
- The aim of the IBSA Tripartite Agreement is for strengthening relations between the member countries for economic development and for promoting cooperation in the field of tourism and expansion of tourism relations with a view to understand and appreciate each other's history, culture and way of life.

Reference- <https://pib.gov.in/PressReleaseFramePage.aspx?PRID=1745420>.

Pakistan successfully test-fires surface-to-surface ballistic missile Ghaznavi

Question- Which of the following country is carried a successful training launch of surface-to-surface nuclear-capable ballistic missile called Ghaznavi?

(a) Pakistan (b) Afganistan (c) Iraq (d) Iran

Ans. (a)

Related facts-

- Pakistan successfully test-fired a nuclear-capable surface-to-surface ballistic missile which can strike targets up to 290 kilometres on August 12, 2021.
- The successful training launch of ballistic missile 'Ghaznavi' was aimed at ensuring operational readiness of Army Strategic Forces Command, besides re-validating technical parameters of the weapon system.
- Missile Ghaznavi is capable of delivering multiple types of warheads up to a range of 290 kilometres.



Reference- <https://www.thehindu.com/news/international/pakistan-successfully-test-fires-nuclear-capable-surface-to-surface-ballistic-missile/article35876138.ece>.

NMHC to be developed as an international tourist destination

Question- Which of the following is to be developed as an international tourist destination?

- (a) National Maritime Heritage Complex
(b) Shiva temples, Odisha (c) Great living chola temples
(d) Monuments of Buddha

Ans. (a)

Related Facts-

- National Maritime Heritage Complex (NMHC) is conceptualized as an international tourist destination, dedicated to the legacy of maritime heritage of India, at Lothal, Gujarat.
- It comprises the various tourist facilities/amenities such as National Maritime Heritage Museum, Heritage Theme Park, Maritime Research Institute, landscaping and recreational



venues, to attract tourists besides pavilion for each coastal states and union territories to showcase the maritime heritage of India.

- **There has been plans for providing digital tourism. Details are as follows:**
- Augmented/virtual reality to offer immersive experience of maritime heritage.
- Sound and light shows
- Touch screen kiosks
- Short films on important events related to the Maritime history

Reference – <https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1744554>.

China Plans to Become Carbon-Neutral by 2060

Question- Which of the following country is plan to become Carbon-Neutral by 2060?

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

Ans. (b)

Related facts-

- The most-populous nation(China) has set itself the ambitious goal of becoming carbon-neutral by 2060, a challenging target given it hasn't even reached its emissions peak. 1. What is carbon neutral?
- It means cutting as much of your carbon dioxide emissions as possible and then offsetting what you can't eliminate.
- For a country, this could mean switching to renewable energy such as solar power instead of coal and investing in projects that absorb carbon dioxide, such as reforestation.
- Carbon neutral has become a goal of companies and countries alike to address public concerns about the impact emissions have on the climate.
- **What is China's goal?**
- Even though China is the world's second-largest economy, it's still classified as a developing nation and hasn't reached its emissions peak.
- That's forecast to come by 2030, with Xi committing to carbon neutrality by 2060, 10 years after the U.S. deadline set by President Joe Biden.
- If China pulls it off, it would be the fastest decline from peak emissions among major economies, speedier than Europe's goal of 70 years and the U.S. target of 40 years.
- China's plan, which the country's climate envoy said includes all greenhouse gases and not just carbon dioxide, would boost global efforts to limit the rise in temperatures and potentially give it greater sway in global matters.



Reference- <https://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2021-08-10/how-china-plans-to-become-carbon-neutral-by-2060-quicktake>.

International Army Games – 2021

Question : How many members contingent of the Indian Army will proceed to Russia to participate in International Army Games – 2021 from 22 August to 04 September 2021 ?

a. 81 member b. 75 member c. 50 member d. None of the above

Ans. d.

Related facts —

- A 101 members contingent of the Indian Army will proceed to Russia to participate in International Army Games – 2021 from 22 August to 04 September 2021.
- The contingent will participate in Army Scout Masters Competition (ASMC), Elbrus Ring, Polar Star, Sniper Frontier and Safe Route games showcasing various drills in High Altitude Area terrain, operations in snow, sniper actions, combat engineering skills in obstacle ridden terrain in the various competitions.
- The contingent will also contribute two observers (one each) for the Open Water and Falcon Hunting games in which Pontoon Bridge laying and UAV crew skills will be showcased by the participating teams.
- The Indian Army contingent has been selected out of the best from various arms after three levels of screening.
- Participation in these annual games is a reflection of the level of professionalism of the Indian Army amongst the world Armies.
- The competition also fosters military to military cooperation while building upon the best practices of participating nations.
- Previously India stood first amongst the eight countries that had participated in Army Scouts Master Competition 2019 in Jaisalmer.

Link:

<https://www.pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1743916>

2nd IEEE International Conference on Range Technology (ICORT-2021)

Q. Consider the following statement regarding on ICORT-2021-

1. **It was held virtually.**
2. **It was organized by Integrated Test Range (ITR) Chandipur.**

Which of the above statement/ s is/ are not true?

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

Answer:- c)

RELATED FACTS:-

- On 05 AUG 2021 the 2nd Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers (IEEE) International Conference on Range Technology (ICORT-2021) is being held virtually.
- The conference has been organised by Integrated Test Range (ITR) Chandipur, a laboratory of Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO).
- It was inaugurated by Secretary, Department of Defence R&D and Chairman DRDO Dr G Satheesh Reddy.
- The event will host speakers from across the globe, who will present their technological achievements in multiple subjects related to Test and Evaluation of defence systems.



- The conference will be a very effective platform for all the Range Technology enthusiasts to interact with each other and stay updated with recent developments in relevant fields.
- More than 250 technical articles were submitted by experts on the relevant subjects, out of which 122 articles have been selected by a specialised technical committee.
- The technical presentation will be done in four parallel sessions during August 05-06, 2021.
- A virtual industrial exhibition is also being held in which more than 25 industries and organisations from India and abroad will display their products and technologies.

LINK

<https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1742740>

Japan marks 76th anniversary of Hiroshima atomic bombing

Question- Consider the following statements-

(1) Hiroshima marked the 76th anniversary of the world's first atomic bombing August 6, 2021

(2) The United States dropped the world's first atomic bomb on Hiroshima on Aug 6, 1945

Select the correct answer using the code given below-

(1) Only 1 (2) Only 2 (3) Both 1 and 2 (4) Neither 1 nor 2

Ans. (c)

Related Facts-

- Hiroshima marked the 76th anniversary of the world's first atomic bombing on August 7, 2021, as the mayor of the Japanese city urged global leaders to unite to eliminate nuclear weapons, just as they are united against the coronavirus.
- Mayor Kazumi Matsui urged world leaders to commit to nuclear disarmament as seriously as they tackle the pandemic that the international community recognizes as "threat to humanity".
- The United States dropped the world's first atomic bomb on Hiroshima on Aug 6, 1945, destroying the city and killing 140,000 people.
- It dropped a second bomb three days later on Nagasaki, killing 70,000.
- Japan surrendered on Aug 15 that year, ending World War II and its nearly half-century of aggression in Asia.
- But countries stockpiled nuclear weapons during the Cold War and a standoff continues to this day.
- The Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons took effect in January after years of civil effort joined by atomic bombing survivors, or hibakusha. Though more than 50 countries have ratified it, the treaty notably lacks the US and other nuclear powers as well as Japan, which has relied on the US nuclear umbrella.



Reference- <https://www.hotstar.com/news/2021/aug/07/hiroshima-marks-76th-anniversary-of-bombing/>.

Germany became the 5th country to sign upon ISA Framework Agreement

Question: With which of the following, ISA Framework Agreement is related to?

a) Solar Energy b) Nuclear Energy c) Hydro-power d) None of these

Answer: (a)

Related Facts:-



- On 04 August 2021; Germany signed upon the International Solar Alliance Framework Agreement.
- Now the Germany became the 5th country to sign upon ISA frame work agreement
- Germany came forward to take this step to join ISA frame work Agreement after amendments to it entered into force on 8th January 2021.
- New amendments provided the way for opening its Membership to all Member States of the United Nations.
- On 04 August 2021; Ambassador of Germany to India Walter J. Lindner deposited signed copies of International Solar Alliance Framework Agreement with Ministry of External Affairs, the depositary of Agreement.
- ISA membership was previously limited to 121 countries that were partly or wholly located within the tropics.
- In the beginning it did not allow major solar energy economies such as Germany to join the coalition that was increasingly seen as a foreign policy tool.
- The initiative was launched by Prime Minister Narendra Modi at the India Africa Summit in November 2015 just before the United Nations Climate Change Conference in Paris.
- In November 2016, the Framework Agreement for the International Solar Alliance was opened for signature in Marrakech, Morocco.

Links:-

<https://newsonair.com/2021/08/04/germany-becomes-5th-country-to-sign-international-solar-alliance-framework-agreement/>

Coalition for Disaster Resilient Infrastructure(CDRI)

Question: Which country has recently joined CDRI?

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

Ans: a

Context



- Recently Bangladesh has joined the Coalition for Disaster Resilient Infrastructure.
- **Related Facts**
- India has expressed its happiness that Bangladesh has decided to accept the invitation to join the Coalition for Disaster Resilient Infrastructure (CDRI).
- **About CDRI**

- The Coalition for Disaster Resilient Infrastructure (CDRI) is an international coalition of countries, United Nations (UN) agencies, multilateral development banks, the private sector, and academic institutions.
- Its objective is to promote disaster-resilient infrastructure and to promote research and knowledge sharing in the fields of infrastructure risk management, standards, financing, and recovery mechanisms.
- CDRI was launched by the Prime Minister of India, Narendra Modi at the 2019 UN Climate Action Summit in September 2019 at New York, United States.
- It is headquartered at New Delhi, India.
- As of July 2021, it has 25 countries and 7 organisations as its members.

Reference: <https://newsonair.com/2021/08/05/india-welcomes-bangladesh-for-accepting-invitation-to-join-coalition-for-disaster-resilient-infrastructure/>

Thailand bans coral-damaging sunscreens in marine parks

Q. Recently which country has banned coral-damaging sunscreens in marine parks?

a) Philippines b) Thailand c) Malaysia d) Singapore

ANSWER:- b)

RELATED FACTS:-

- Thailand has banned sunscreens containing chemicals that damage coral from all of its marine national parks.
- Concerns are growing that lotions tourists use for sun protection are harming slow-growing corals.
- The Thai Department of Conservation said four ingredients commonly found in sun creams were shown to destroy coral larvae, obstruct coral reproduction and cause reef bleaching.
- Anyone flouting the ban can be fined up to 100,000 baht (£2,100).
- The banned lotions are those containing oxybenzone, octinoxate, 4-methylbenzylidene camphor or butylparaben.
- Similar bans have been introduced by the Pacific island of Palau and the US state of Hawaii.
- Maya Bay, on the island of Phi Phi Leh – made famous by its appearance in the film The Beach – has been closed since 2018 after most of its coral was destroyed.



LINK

<https://www.bbc.com/news/world-asia-58092472>

Alaskas volcanoes

Question- Consider the following statements-

(1) Alaska has 80 percent of all the active volcanoes in the United States and 10 percent of those found in the world

(2) For many years Alaska has averaged at least one volcanic eruption per year.

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-

- Three remote Alaska volcanoes are in different states of eruption.
- One of the volcanos is producing lava while other two is blowing steam and ash.
- Alaska has 80 percent of all the active volcanoes in the United States and 10 percent of those found in the world.
- When Mount Novarupta blew its top on June 6, 1912, it was the largest eruption ever recorded.
- Nearly 100 years later, it is still the largest. Located in what is now Katmai National Park and Preserve, the eruption dumped 700 feet of ash in a 40 square mile area that is called the Valley of Ten Thousand Smokes.
- For many years Alaska has averaged at least one volcanic eruption per year.



Reference- <https://avo.alaska.edu/volcanoes/hazards.php>.

Agaléga Island

Question- Agalega Island is situated in-

(1) Mauritius (2) Phillippines (3) Maldivies (4) Bangladesh

Ans. (1)

Related facts-

- On August 3, Al Jazeera published an extensive investigation into the development of a military facility on North Agaléga island, which is part of the island nation of Mauritius.
- It revealed that Indian workers are laying the groundwork for what is expected to be an Indian naval military facility.
- Although both the Mauritian and Indian governments are denying it.
- The small, remote Mauritian island of North Agalega located in the south-western Indian Ocean, 1,122 kilometres north of Mauritius.



Reference- <https://www.lowyinstitute.org/the-interpreter/agalega-glimpse-india-s-remote-island-military-base>.

Red Tide: Karenia Brevis

Question- Karenia brevis was sometimes seen in the news. It is related to-

- (a) It is a light pollution identified throughout the globe recently
- (b) It is a new plant species discovered in Amazon emitting CO₂ on large scale
- (c) It is an algae that cause red tide in Florida coast
- (d) It is a new frog specis discovered in eastern ghats

Ans. (c)

Related Facts-

- In Florida, red tide is caused by the accumulation of Karenia brevis, a type of single celled organism called a dinoflagellate.
- Red tides occur around the world and are not all caused by the same species, nor are they always red.



- In fact, most dinoflagellates are harmless.
- Though some, including *K. brevis*, produce neurotoxins that can cause respiratory problems in humans and attack the central nervous systems of fish and other wildlife.
- Many scientists refer to blooms of *K. brevis* as harmful algal blooms (HABs) due to the impacts they can have on the environment, humans, and our coastal economies.
- Red tides are not always red.
- When *K. brevis* blooms in high enough concentrations, the water can appear red, brown, rusty orange or green. Sometimes, the hue of the water will remain normal, even during a bloom.
- Red tide blooms in Florida begin 10-40 miles offshore in the bottom waters of the Gulf of Mexico, where *K. brevis* is almost always present at low and harmless concentrations.
- *K. brevis* cells that hang out at the bottom are brought to the surface by a phenomenon known as upwelling, a process in which deep, cold and nutrient-rich water rises to the surface.
- ***K. brevis*, like all algae, requires three things to grow and survive:**
 - Optimal light
 - Temperature
 - Nutrients, specifically nitrogen and phosphorus.
- The sources of these nutrients vary among the offshore, nearshore, and estuarine environment.
- Various algae species cause red tides all around the globe.
- But, *K. brevis* is found almost exclusively in the Gulf of Mexico.
- Because red tides are transported by currents, some, including last year's bloom, have even been carried by the Gulf Stream current into the Atlantic Ocean.
- *K. brevis* is considered harmful because it produces a variety of natural toxins, the most important of which are the neurotoxic brevetoxins.
- Through inhalation, direct contact or ingestion, these toxins, in high enough concentration, can harm and kill fish, birds, and marine mammals.
- The last red tide resulted in serious impacts to fish, marine mammals, marine birds, residents and coastal businesses.
- These types of impacts are typical during severe red tide events. However, more fish have died during the most recent red tide in Lee and Charlotte counties compared to past severe red tide events.
- "Brevetoxin is very deadly to fish of all life stages. Invertebrates are generally less affected during red tides, but studies have shown that bivalve larvae have a dramatically reduced survival rate when exposed to *K. brevis*, and this could be the case for other species of invertebrates as well."

Reference- <https://www.floridamuseum.ufl.edu/earth-systems/blog/red-tide-karenia-brevis/>.

Sri Lanka: World's largest star sapphire cluster found in backyard

Question- World's largest star sapphire cluster was found in-

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

Ans. (a)

Related facts-

The world's largest star sapphire cluster has been unearthed by accident in a backyard in Sri Lanka.

Sri Lankan authorities say that the cluster was found by workmen digging a well in the backyard of a house in the gem-rich area of Ratnapura.

The name Ratnapura, in fact, means city of gems, and it is known as Sri Lanka's gem capital.

The sapphire cluster, which weighs around 510 kilograms or 2.5 million carats, was discovered in the house of a gem trader.



Sri Lanka is a leading exporter of sapphires and other precious gems.

Reference- <https://www.bbc.com/news/world-asia-57981046>.

Nuclear football

Question : Some days back a term called Nuclear football was in news .It relates to which of the following country's security ?

(a) USA (b) UK (c) INDIA (d) BRAZIL

Answer : (a)

Related Facts:

- The nuclear football is also known as the atomic football, the president's emergency satchel, the Presidential Emergency Satchel,[1] the button, the black box, or just the football.
- It is a briefcase, the contents of which are to be used by the President of the United States to authorize a nuclear attack while away from fixed command centers, such as the White House Situation Room or the Presidential Emergency Operations Center.
- It functions as a mobile hub in the strategic defense system of the United States. It is held by an aide-de-camp.

Reference: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nuclear_football

Iran's new President Ebrahim Raisi

Question: Who was inaugurated as Iran's president recently?

(a) Ebrahim Raisi (b) Ayatollah Ali Khamenei (c) Hassan Rouhani
(d) Nazma

Answer : a)

Related Facts:

- Ultraconservative Ebrahim Raisi was inaugurated as president of Iran, a country whose hopes of shaking off a dire economic crisis hinges on reviving a nuclear deal with world powers.
- "Following the people's choice, I task the wise,



indefatigable, experienced and popular Hojatoleslam Ebrahim Raisi as president of the Islamic Republic of Iran. It was remarked about him.

- Raisi replaces moderate president Hassan Rouhani, whose landmark achievement was the 2015 nuclear agreement between Iran and six major powers.

Reference: <https://www.timesnownews.com/international/article/iran-ultraconservative-ebrahim-raisi-inaugurated-as-president/794185>

UAE to grant golden visas to all resident doctors

Question : Which country has granted golden visas to all resident doctors recently?

(a) UAE (b) UK (c) USA (d) PAKISTAN

Answer: (a)

Related Facts:

- The Federal Authority for Identity and Citizenship (ICA) has launched a series of Golden Residency services to facilitate issuing golden visas to doctors residing in the UAE.
- This is in line with the directives of His Highness Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Vice President and Prime Minister of UAE and Ruler of Dubai.
- The services will help in granting doctors and their families 10-year residency visas, in line with the UAE government's vision to enhance its global competitiveness as a preferred destination for work, living and study, and as an incubator of talent and academic excellence.
- The ICA is collaborating with its partners from the Ministry of Health and Prevention (MoHAP) and other concerned authorities to implement Sheikh Mohammed's decision by streamlining the procedures for registered doctors to obtain golden visas, Al Khaili emphasised.
- This investment in the future shows the UAE leadership's keenness to ensure and enhance the excellence of its healthcare ecosystem.



Reference : <https://www.khaleejtimes.com/news/government/uae-to-grant-golden-visas-to-all-resident-doctors>

General Assembly creates new Permanent Forum of People of African Descent

Question- The UN General Assembly has approved a resolution establishing a Permanent Forum of People of –

(a) African Descent (b) Asian Descent (c) Afghanistan
(d) European Descent

Ans. (a)

Related Facts-

- On August 2, 2021, the UN General Assembly approved a resolution establishing a Permanent Forum of People of African Descent to provide



expert advice on addressing the challenges of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and intolerance.

- The resolution adopted by consensus by the 193-member world body also calls for the forum to serve as “a platform for improving the safety and quality of life and livelihoods of people of African descent” and their full inclusion in the societies where they live.
- The forum’s establishment comes during the International Decade for People of African Descent, established by the General Assembly, which began on January 1, 2015, and ends on December 31, 2024.
- It is focusing on the themes of recognition, justice and development.
- The new body’s creation comes ahead of the 20th anniversary of the controversial September 2001 UN World Conference Against Racism in Durban, South Africa, which was dominated by clashes over the Middle East and the legacy of slavery.
- The US and Israel walked out during the meeting over a draft resolution that singled out Israel for criticism and likened Zionism to racism.
- That language was dropped in the final documents, which condemned and called for the eradication of the scourges of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and intolerance.
- The Permanent Forum of People of African Descent was given a series of mandates. They include helping to ensure “the full political, economic and social inclusion of people of African descent”, and providing expert advice and recommendations on addressing racism to the Geneva-based Human Rights Council, the General Assembly’s main committees and UN agencies.
- The documents also expressed deep regret at the human suffering caused by slavery, and acknowledged that slavery and the slave trade are crimes against humanity and should always have been so.
- The resolution said the forum will consist of 10 members — five elected by the General Assembly from all regions and five appointed by the Human Rights Council following consultations with regional groups and organizations of people of African descent.
- It calls for the forum’s first session to take place in 2022.
- It also calls for annual reports to the assembly and the council on the forum’s activities, and an evaluation of its operation by the General Assembly after four sessions, based on an evaluation by the Human Rights Council.

Reference- <https://indianexpress.com/article/world/un-creates-permanent-body-to-address-challenges-of-racism-7436332/>.

Amazon hit with record EU data privacy fine

Question- Consider the following statements-

- 1) Amazon has been hit with an \$886.6 million (746 million euro) European Union fine for processing personal data**
- 2) Fine was imposed by Luxembourg National Commission for Data Protection (CNPD)**
- 3) GDPR requires companies to seek people’s consent before using their personal data or face steep fines**

Select the correct answer using the code given below-

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

Ans. (d)

Related Facts-

- Amazon.com Inc has been hit with an \$886.6 million (746 million euro) European Union fine for processing personal data in violation of the EU's General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR).
- The Luxembourg National Commission for Data Protection (CNPD) imposed the fine on Amazon Europe Core in a July 16 decision.
- EU's General Data Protection Regulation, or GDPR, requires companies to seek people's consent before using their personal data or face steep fines.
- The Wall Street Journal had reported in June that the company could be fined more than \$425 million under the European Union's privacy law, citing people familiar with the matter.
- In December, France's data privacy watchdog handed out its biggest ever fine of 100 million euros (\$118.82 million) to Google for breaching the nation's rules on online advertising trackers. (\$1 = 0.8416 euros).



Reference- <https://www.livemint.com/companies/news/amazon-hit-with-886-million-eu-data-privacy-fine-11627652289090.html>.

Abdulla Shahid

Question: Who has been elected the President of 76th Session of the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA)?

(a) Abdulla Shahid (b) Zalmi Rassoul (c) Volkan Bozkir (d) Maria Garces

Answer: (a)

Related facts:

- On 23 July 2021, the President-elect of the 76th session of the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) and Foreign Minister of the Maldives, Abdulla Shahid, called on Prime Minister Narendra Modi.
- Foreign Minister of Maldives Abdulla Shahid won the Presidency of the 76th Session of the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) in June 2021.
- This is for the first time in the history of the United Nations (UN), Maldives will hold the office of President at the UNGA.
- Maldives is a small archipelagic state in South Asia situated in the Indian Ocean. It lies southwest of Sri Lanka and India, about 700 kilometres from the Asian continent's mainland.

Links:

<https://mea.gov.in/press-releases.htm?dtl/34050/Call+on+Prime+Minister+by+PresidentElect+of+the+76th+UN+General+Assembly+and+Foreign+Minister+of+Maldives+HE+Abdulla+Shahid>

Agri Exporters from the remote Districts of India connected to the international buyers from USA, the UAE, and Japan

Question : For the first time, Agri Exporters from the remote Districts of India connected not to the international buyers from the following countries as per government information?

(a) USA (b) UAE (c) Japan (d) North Korea

Answer : (d)

Related Facts:

- Under the Districts as Export Hubs initiative, the Directorate General of Foreign Trade (DGFT) under Department of Commerce in partnership with the Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA) and Invest India conducted a 2 Day Virtual Outreach Event connecting exporters from the Districts to the buyers outside India.
- Following the opening ceremony, a virtual trade fair was held where 197 exhibitors participated from the states of Punjab, Himachal Pradesh, and Union Territories of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh.
- The event provided a platform to small sellers from areas earlier not known for exports, apart from large exporters from India. 28 stalls from Jammu and Kashmir and 5 from Ladakh were highlighted in the exhibition.
- The virtual outreach event saw a footfall of over 300 visitors and importers from domestic and international buyers inclusive of the USA, the UAE, and Japan.
- Putting a spotlight on agricultural products under five categories namely spices and tea, food grains and agro-products, fruits and vegetables, dry fruits, and processed food, three buyer-seller interactive sessions were held with the support of Indian Embassies from the USA, the UAE, and Japan.
- Few leading supermarkets such as Spinney, Walmart, and Lulu also participated during the interactive sessions and showed keen interest in India's agricultural products.
- The event marked the beginning of a series of events to be held to boost India's exports and commemorate 75 years of India Independence under the Districts as Export Hubs initiative.



Reference : <https://pib.gov.in/PressReleaseDetailm.aspx?PRID=1740864>

Economics

Infosys becomes 4th Indian company to touch \$100 bn market capitalisation

Question-Which of the following company has become the fourth Indian company to touch a market valuation of \$100 billion?

(a) Infosys (b) Redington India Ltd (c) Tech Mahindra Ltd (d) Mphasis Ltd

Ans. (a)

Related Facts-

- On August 24, 2021 Infosys became the fourth Indian company to touch a market valuation of \$100 billion.
- The IT services major has joined the league of TCS, Reliance Industries and HDFC Bank for crossing the \$100 billion-mark in terms of market capitalisation (m-cap).
- The milestone was achieved during the morning trade when



the scrip was trading at its 52-week high value of Rs 1,755.6 on the BSE, which took the m-cap to Rs 7.47 trillion or \$100.78 billion.

- However, during the close of the trading session, it pared the earlier gains and settled 1.06 per cent lower at Rs 1,720.75.
- On the National Stock Exchange (NSE), the shares had opened at Rs 1,750 apiece and then jumped to its 52-week high value of Rs 1,757.
- It closed the counter at Rs 1,721.5, lower 0.99 per cent as compared with the previous close.
- According to the latest m-cap data, RIL is the most-valued firm at Rs 13.7 trillion, followed by Tata Consultancy Services (TCS) at Rs 13.4 trillion and HDFC Bank at Rs 8.42 trillion.

Reference- https://www.business-standard.com/article/markets/infosys-becomes-4th-indian-company-to-touch-100-bn-market-capitalisation-121082500067_1.html.

Platform for Regulated Entities for Integrated Supervision and Monitoring

Question : Which of the following is about to establish 'PRISM'(Platform for Regulated Entities for Integrated Supervision and Monitoring) ?

a. RBI b. SEBI c. IRDAI d. TRAI

Ans. a.

Related facts —

- On August 2021 RBI disclosed about his plan of establishing 'PRISM'.
- PRISM stands for — Platform for Regulated Entities for Integrated Supervision and Monitoring.
- This move is aimed at helping supervised entities to strengthen their internal defences and resilience and bringing focus on root cause analysis (RCA).
- PRISM will have various functionalities (inspection; compliance; incident functionality for cyber security; complaints; and returns functionalities), with built-in remediation workflows, time tracking, notifications and alerts, management information system (MIS) reports and dashboards.



Link:

<https://www.thehindubusinessline.com/money-and-banking/rbi-to-put-in-place-a-prism-to-strengthen-compliance-by-lenders/article35962530.ece>

Axis Bank : Fund raising via overseas AT1 issue

Question : How much of fund has Axis Bank decided recently(August 2021) to raise up via overseas AT1 issue ?

a. 1.0 billion dollar b. 0.5 billion dollar c. 1.5 billion dollar d. 2.5 billion dollar

Ans. a.

Related facts —

- Axis Bank has recently(August 2021) decided to raise up 1.0 billion dollar funds via overseas AT1 issue.

- The issue is expected to be launched in a week or two from Gujarat GIFT City depending on the outcome of the Jackson Hole policy meeting in the US.
- This move should help the Mumbai-based private sector lender reduce its financing costs.
- **AT1 issue —**
- A bond is nothing but an acknowledgement of debt by a borrower (bond issuer) wherein an investor lends a loan to a borrower for a fixed rate of interest with a predefined payment frequency and a maturity date on which the borrower should repay the principal.
- AT1((Additional Tier-1) bonds are different from other bonds in the sense is that they never mature which means that bond issuers will never ever pay back the principal.



Link:

<https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/markets/bonds/axis-to-raise-up-to-1bn-via-offshore-at1-bonds-marked-as-esg/articleshow/85632610.cms>

Union Cabinet approves proposal for FDI of Rs 15000 crores in India

Question : Union Cabinet has recently approved the proposal for FDI of Rs 15000 crores in India. Accordingly, which of the following statement is correct ?

Statements —

- 1 The FDI proposal approve by Cabinet Committee of Economic Affairs(CCEA)
- 2 The proposal comes from M/s Anchorage Infrastructure Investment Holding Ltd
- 3 CCEA chaired by Prime Minister approved this proposal on August 25, 2021.

Options —

- a. Only 1 b. Only 2 c. Only 3 d. All of the above

Ans. d.

Related facts —

- Union Cabinet has recently approved the proposal for FDI of Rs 15000 crores in India.
- **Key points —**

1. The FDI proposal approve by Cabinet Committee of Economic Affairs(CCEA)
2. CCEA chaired by Prime Minister approved this proposal on August 25, 2021.
3. The proposal comes from M/s Anchorage Infrastructure Investment Holding Ltd
4. The investment also includes transfer of share of Bangalore International airport Limited to Anchorage, and investment of Rs. 950 crore in M/s Anchorage Infrastructure Investment Holding Ltd by 2726247 Ontario Inc., a wholly-owned subsidiary of OAC which is the administrator of OMERS', one of Canada's largest defined benefit pension plans.
5. The investment will considerably substantiate government of India's plan to develop world class Airport and transport related infrastructure through private partnership.



Link:

<https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1748835>

India's exports to ASEAN seen at \$46 billion in FY22

Q. Consider the following statements regarding India's Trade with ASEAN Region-

1. **ASEAN is India's third largest engineering export market and the fifth largest trade partner.**
 2. **ASEAN is the biggest trading partner of India.**
- Which of the above statement / s is/ are true?**

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

ANSWER:- a)

RELATED FACTS:-

- India is likely to record exports worth \$46 billion to the ASEAN region, Minister of State of Commerce and Industry said on 24TH August, 2021.
- Addressing the India-ASEAN Engineering Partnership Summit organised by EEPC India, she noted that as one of the largest destinations for Indian exports, the Association of South East Asian Nations will be an important region for India in meeting the global export target of \$400 billion in financial year 2021-22.
- India's engineering exports to the world during the first four months (April-July) of fiscal 2021-22 was recorded at \$35.3 billion and is expected to achieve the target set for fiscal 2021-22 at \$105 billion.
- The minister emphasised on the need for opening up new avenues of bilateral cooperation in order to enhance engineering trade and investments between India and the ASEAN.
- India's bilateral trade with ASEAN economies is expected to reach \$300 billion by 2025, and it is the fifth largest trading partner for India following North America, EU, North-East Asia and GCC-West Asia.
- ASEAN is India's third largest engineering export market and the fifth largest trade partner. Engineering goods account for 40 per cent share in India's total exports to ASEAN.



LINK

https://www.business-standard.com/article/economy-policy/india-s-exports-to-asean-seen-at-46-billion-in-fy22-minister-121082401144_1.html

ADB, India Sign \$500 Million Loan to Expand Metro Rail Network in Bengaluru

Q. Recently which institution has signed a \$500 million loan to expand the metro rail network in Bengaluru with the construction of two new metro lines?

a) World Bank b) Asian Development Bank c) International Monetary Fund d) None of these

ANSWER:- b)

RELATED FACTS:-

- The Asian Development Bank (ADB) and the Government of India on 19 November, 2021 signed a \$500 million loan to expand the metro rail network in Bengaluru with the construction of two new metro lines totaling 56 kilometers (km) in length.



- TOD-based urban development model will target realigning growth and increase the city's economic productivity by creating higher-density, compact, mixed-use, mixed-income, safe, resource-efficient, and inclusive neighborhoods.
- TOD also aims to raise land values along these corridors, generating capital revenues for the state government to meet the city's long-term investment needs.
- MMI will aim to provide people-oriented, environment-friendly solutions and a safe total mobility solution for all Bangalore residents through the seamless integration of different modes of public transport.
- The project will construct two new metro lines, mostly elevated, along Outer Ring Road and National Highway 44 between Central Silk Board and Kempegowda International Airport with 30 stations.
- This will help decongest traffic in the city area and provide seamless connectivity to the airport.
- The needs of vulnerable groups, such as the elderly, women, children, and differently abled persons, will be reflected in the metro facilities.
- An additional \$2 million technical assistance grant from ADB will help the state government formulate urban development plans and their implementing frameworks, focusing on TOD and MMI.
- The grant will also be used to strengthen the capacity of the Bangalore Metro Rail Corporation Limited and other state agencies to implement these initiatives.
- ADB is committed to achieving a prosperous, inclusive, resilient, and sustainable Asia and the Pacific, while sustaining its efforts to eradicate extreme poverty.
- Established in 1966, it is owned by 68 members—49 from the region.

LINK

<https://www.adb.org/news/adb-india-sign-500-million-loan-expand-metro-rail-network-bengaluru>

2021 Global Manufacturing Risk Index

Q. Consider the following statements regarding Global manufacturing Risk Index 2021-

1. It was released by real estate consultant Cushman & Wakefield.
2. India got 2nd rank after China.

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)

- India has overtaken the United States (US) to become the second-most sought-after manufacturing destination globally, driven mainly by cost competitiveness, according to real estate consultant Cushman & Wakefield.
- China remains at number one position, the consultant said in its 2021 Global Manufacturing Risk Index, which assessed the most advantageous locations for global manufacturing among 47 countries in Europe, the Americas and Asia-Pacific (APAC).
- India takes the second spot after China as the most sought-after manufacturing destination globally,” Cushman and Wakefield said in a statement.



- The US is at third position, followed by Canada, Czech Republic, Indonesia, Lithuania, Thailand, Malaysia and Poland.
- In the last year's report, the US was at second position while India ranked third.
- The consultant said that this indicates the growing interest shown by manufacturers in India as a preferred manufacturing hub over other countries, including the US and those in the APAC region.
- The statement said that the growing focus on India can be attributed to India's operating conditions and cost competitiveness. Also, the country's proven success in meeting outsourcing requirements has led to the increase in the ranking year-on-year.
- The rankings in the report are determined based on four key parameters, including the country's capability to restart manufacturing, business environment (availability of talent/labour, access to markets), operating costs, and the risks (political, economic and environmental).
- The baseline ranking for top manufacturing destinations is determined on the basis of a country's operating conditions and cost effectiveness.
- "This year, India and the US switched places (second and third) taking India one rank above from the rankings released last year, when India stood at the third place.
- "This switch in ranking is attributed to the plant relocations from China to other parts of Asia due to an already established base in pharma, chemicals and engineering sectors, that continue to be at the centre of the US-China trade tensions," it said.
- As far as the cost scenario ranking goes, India continued to retain the third spot like last year, while Vietnam is pushed to the fourth position from the third.
- "Despite being among the top-three countries in the baseline and cost scenario rankings, there is a long road for India to traverse when it comes to areas like managing the geopolitical risks involved in running business and its ability to restart its manufacturing business after a devastating second wave of the Covid-19 virus," Cushman said.

LINK

<https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/business/india-business/india-pips-us-to-rank-2nd-in-list-of-most-attractive-manufacturing-hub-globally-china-1st/articleshow/85589771.cms>

Finance Ministry meeting with Infosys regarding irregularities in e-filing portal of Income Tax Department

Question : Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman has met with Salil Parekh, MD & CEO, Infosys regarding irregularities in e-filing portal of Income Tax Department on August 23, 2021. When was the new income tax e-filing portal launched ?

a. 05 May 2021 b. 01 January 2021 c. 01 April 2021 d. None of the above

Ans. d.

Related facts —

- Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman has met with Salil Parekh, MD & CEO, Infosys regarding irregularities in e-filing portal of Income Tax Department on August 23, 2021.
- It is noteworthy that earlier this week, Finance Ministry had announced that glitches are expected to be resolved in two-three weeks.
- Background —



- The issue began from launching of new income tax e-filing portal since June 7.
- The new income tax e-filing portal was launched with the motive to ease tax filing process and expedite refund issue.
- However, taxpayers faced many problems accessing and using the portal since the day of its launch.
- Infosys was given the contract to develop the website in starting of year 2019.
- Since January 2019 till June 2021, Infosys has been paid ₹164.5 crore to develop the portal.
- Finance Ministry had called a meeting with IT firm officials on June 22 to discuss the glitches in the new income tax portal and garner suggestions from external shareholders to fix them.
- In the meeting, ICAI (national professional accounting body of India under the jurisdiction of Ministry of Corporate Affairs) representatives highlighted the issues faced by taxpayers and tax professionals on the portal.

Link:

<https://www.livemint.com/news/india/income-tax-portal-finmin-summons-infosys-ceo-salil-parekh-tomorrow-over-persistent-glitches-11629622328549.html>

The provisional payroll data of EPFO released

Question : The provisional payroll data of EPFO has recently released. Accordingly, which of the following statement is correct ?

Statements —

1. Payroll data released on 20th August, 2021
2. During June, 2021 EPFO adds 12.83 lakh net subscribers
3. Nearly 48 percent of 'total net additions' are in the age group of 18-25 years.

Options —

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

Answer- d

Related facts —

- The provisional payroll data of EPFO has recently released.
- **Key points —**

1. Payroll data released on 20th August, 2021
2. During June, 2021 EPFO adds 12.83 lakh net subscribers
3. Nearly 48 percent of 'total net additions' are in the age group of 18-25 years.
4. Month-on-month analysis reveals an increase of 5.09 lakh additions in net subscribers during June, 2021 as compared to the previous month of May, 2021.
5. Of the total 12.83 lakh net subscribers added during the month, around 8.11 lakh new members have come under the social security coverage of Employees' Provident Funds Scheme for the first time.
6. Majority of subscribers opted to continue their membership with EPFO, using transferring of funds from previous job to the current PF account rather than applying for final withdrawal of their PF accumulations.
7. Regarding age-wise comparison of payroll data, the age-group of 18-25 years has registered highest number of net enrolments with around 6.15 lakh additions, which is 47.89% of total net additions during the month of June, 2021.



8. Gender-wise analysis indicates that net female addition during the month stood at 2.56 lakh, which is around 0.79 lakh more than those added during May 2021.
9. State-wise comparison of payroll shows that states of Maharashtra, Haryana, Gujarat, Tamil Nadu and Karnataka are still at the forefront of payroll addition with addition of approximately 7.78 lakh subscribers during the month.
10. Industry-wise payroll data indicates that 'expert services' category (consisting of manpower agencies, private security agencies and small contractors etc.) constitutes 41.84% of total subscribers addition during the month.

Link:

<https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1747642>

Major boost in HCL Technologies Market Capitalization

Question: Recently to what mark HCL Technologies market capitalization (market-cap) touched for the first time?

- a) Rs 3 trillion b) Rs 2 billion c) Rs 3.2 billion d) None of these

Answer: (a)

Related Facts:-

- HCL Technologies market capitalization (market-cap) touched Rs 3 trillion for the first time.
- HCL now become the fourth Indian information technology (IT) firm to achieve this milestone after Tata Consultancy Services (TCS), Infosys and Wipro.
- Shares of HCL Tech hit a fresh record high of Rs 1,118.55, up 2 per cent on the BSE in intra-day trade.
- This time the company has Surpassed its previous high of Rs 1,101, which it touched on 12th Aug in intra-day deal.
- HCL Tech is the third-largest Indian IT services organization by revenue, after TCS and Infosys.
- The company has a strong globally diversified presence and provides comprehensive IT services to an established customer base.
- It has strong expertise in engineering and R&D services and its end customers are spread across industry segments.



Links:-

<https://www.business-standard.com/article/markets/hcl-technologies-becomes-4th-it-firm-to-hit-rs-3-trillion-market-cap->

India's foreign exchange reserves : Recent data

Question : India's foreign exchange reserves has recently touched a record high .What is that figure ?

- (a) 620.57 billion dollars (b) 800 billion dollars (c) 1000 billion dollars (d) None of the above

Answer : (a)

Related facts —

- India's foreign exchange reserves increased by \$ 9.42 billion to a record level of \$ 620.57 billion in the week ended 30 July 2021.

- It is noteworthy that the foreign exchange reserves had declined by \$ 1.581 billion to \$ 611.149 billion in the week ended 23 July 2021.
- The recent increase in foreign exchange reserves was due to increase in foreign currency assets (FCAs), which constitute a major component of the overall reserves.
- During this period, FCA increased by \$8.596 billion to \$576.224 billion.
- Gold reserves were up by USD 760 million to USD 37.644 billion in the reporting week.
- Meanwhile the special drawing rights (SDRs) with the International Monetary Fund (IMF) rose by USD 6 million at USD 1.552 billion.
- India's reserve position with the IMF also increased USD 65 million to USD 5.156 billion in the reporting week.



Link:

<http://www.businessworld.in/article/Forex-Reserves-Surge-By-USD-9-42-Bn-To-All-Time-High-Of-USD-620-57-Bn/07-08-2021-399805/>

Enhancement of collateral free loans to Self Help Groups (SHGs) under DAY-NRLM

Question : On which date RBI released the notification of the enhancement of collateral free loans to self help groups under DAY – NRLM ?

a. August 9, 2021 b. August 7, 2021 c. August 5, 2021 d. None of the above

Ans. a.

Related facts —

- RBI released the notification of the enhancement of collateral free loans to self help groups under DAY – NRLM on August 09, 2021.
- DAY – NRLM stands for — Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana – National Rural Livelihoods Mission.
- It is the flagship programme of Government of India for promoting poverty reduction through building strong institutions of the poor, particularly women, and enabling these institutions to access a range of financial services and livelihoods.
- Enhancement of collateral free loans to self-help groups —
- Security and Margin:
 1. For loans to SHGs up to ₹10.00 lakh, no collateral and no margin will be charged. No lien should be marked against savings bank account of SHGs and no deposits should be insisted upon while sanctioning loans.
 2. For loans to SHGs above ₹10 lakh and up to ₹20 lakh, no collateral should be charged and no lien should be marked against savings bank account of SHGs. However, the entire loan (irrespective of the loan outstanding, even if it subsequently goes below ₹10 lakh) would be eligible for coverage under Credit Guarantee Fund for Micro Units (CGFMU)."



- All other provisions of the Master Circular remain unchanged.

Link:

<https://rbi.org.in/Scripts/NotificationUser.aspx?Id=12143&Mode=0>

Amendment in the Companies Act on Disclosure Norms in Financial Statements

Question : Announcement of the amended of Which Schedule of the Companies Act, 2013 has been made by the Ministry of Corporate Affairs on August 10, 2021 ?

a. 10 AUG 2021 b. 09 AUG 2021 c. 08 AUG 2021 d. None of the above

Ans. a.

Related facts —

- Announcement of the amended of Schedule 3 of the Companies Act, 2013 has been made by the Ministry of Corporate Affairs on August 10, 2021.
- In order to bring in greater transparency in reporting of financial statements, the Ministry of Corporate Affairs (MCA) vide notification dated 24.03.2021 has amended the Schedule III to the Companies Act, 2013 effective from 01st April, 2021 to mandate various disclosures by companies in their financial statements.
- The Minister stated that the new disclosures with respect to the virtual currency/crypto currency transactions and CSR spending undertaken by companies during a financial year are:-



1. Details of Crypto Currency or Virtual Currency

Where the Company has traded or invested in Crypto currency or Virtual Currency during the financial year, the following shall be disclosed:-

- (a) profit or loss on transactions involving Crypto currency or Virtual Currency
- (b) amount of currency held as at the reporting date,
- (c) deposits or advances from any person for the purpose of trading or investing in Crypto Currency/virtual currency.

2. Details of Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR)

Where the company covered under section 135 of the companies act, the following shall be disclosed with regard to CSR activities:-

- a. amount required to be spent by the company during the year,
- b. amount of expenditure incurred,
- c. shortfall at the end of the year,
- d. total of previous years shortfall,
- e. reason for shortfall,
- f. nature of CSR activities,
- g. details of related party transactions, e., contribution to a trust controlled by the company in relation to CSR expenditure as per relevant Accounting Standard,

h. where a provision is made with respect to a liability incurred by entering into a contractual obligation, the movements in the provision during the year should be shown separately.

Link:

<https://pib.gov.in/PressReleaselframePage.aspx?PRID=1744542>

SIDBI unveils “Digital Prayaas” lending platform

Q. Recently which finance institution unveiled ‘Digital Prayaas’ an app based digital-lending platform to facilitate loans to entrepreneurs from low income groups?

a) IDBI b) SIDBI c) SBI d) HDFC

ANSWER:- b)

RELATED FACTS:-

- Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI), engaged in promotion, financing and development of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) has unveiled ‘Digital Prayaas’ an app-based digital-lending platform to facilitate loans to entrepreneurs from low-income groups.
- The objective is to sanction a loan by the end of the day.
- To cater to those from the urban area, SIDBI has tied up with BigBasket to provide loans to its delivery partners for purchase of e-bikes and e-vans.
- Debasish Panda, Secretary, Department of Financial Services, while unveiling the two initiatives, said the SIDBI-BigBasket initiative would create digital footprints that would further facilitate loans to the borrower’s family members for their own micro enterprises.
- He also emphasised that SIDBI should enter into similar arrangements with more partner-institutions to increase its outreach.
- The app facilitates speedy onboarding of loan applicants in a digital and integrated process which has made the entire programme scalable with better risk management and would further improve customer satisfaction.



LINK

<https://www.thehindu.com/business/sidbi-unveils-digital-prayaas-lending-platform/article35841208.ece>

ADB’s 112 million dollar loan to improve water supply infrastructure in Jharkhand

Question : ADB has approved 112 million dollar loan to improve water supply infrastructure in Jharkhand on August 02, 2021. Name the place covered in the Jharkhand Urban Water Supply Improvement Project ?

- a. Towns of Hussainabad, Jhumri Telaiya, Medininagar, and Ranchi
- b. Herhanj, Balumath and Manika towns of Latehar
- c. Padma and Churchu towns of Hazaribagh
- d. Towns of Jamshedpur and Chaibasa

Ans. a.

Related facts —

- ADB has approved 112 million dollar loan under the “Jharkhand Urban Water Supply Improvement Project” to improve water supply infrastructure in Jharkhand on August 02, 2021.
- Jharkhand Urban Water Supply Improvement Project —
- The project supports the “Jharkhand Vision and Action Plan 2021” to improve the quality of life of its urban residents through better quality urban infrastructure.
- The project will ensure continuous and quality water supply, which will also improve the health and hygiene situation in the area, particularly in post-pandemic scenario.
- The Project covers the towns of Hussainabad, Jhumri Telaiya, Medininagar, and Ranchi, will construct four water treatment plants, with a combined capacity of 275 million liters per day, to provide clean drinking water meeting the national drinking water quality standards.
- It will establish 940 kilometers of water distribution network to provide continuous water supply to about 115,000 households, including those below the poverty line, scheduled caste and scheduled tribe members, and other vulnerable groups.
- **Project cost —**
- Total project cost is \$160 million, of which \$48 million will be financed by the Government of Jharkhand. The project is expected to be completed in 2028.



Link:

<https://www.adb.org/news/112-million-adb-loan-improve-water-supply-india>

SEBI allows payments banks to act as investment bankers

Q. Recently SEBI allowed payments banks to act as a———.

a) Commercial Bank b) Investment banker c) None profit Organization d) None of these

ANSWER:- b)

RELATED FACTS:-

- On 3rd, August, 2021 To provide easy access to investors to participate in public and rights issues by using various payment avenues, markets regulator SEBI allowed payments banks to carry out the activities of investment bankers.
- Non-scheduled payments banks, which have prior approval from the Reserve Bank of India (RBI), will be eligible to act as a banker to an issue (BTI), Sebi said in a circular.
- This is subject to fulfilment of the conditions stipulated in the BTI rules.
- Further, payments banks registered as a BTI will also be permitted to act as self-certified syndicate banks, subject to the fulfillment of the criteria laid down by the SEBI in this regard from time to time.
- In a notification dated July 30, the regulator amended the Bankers to an Issue rules, thereby permitting such other banking company, as may be specified by the Sebi, from time to time, to carry out the activities of Bankers to an Issue (BTI), in addition to the scheduled banks.



LINK

https://www.business-standard.com/article/economy-policy/sebi-allows-payments-banks-to-act-as-investment-bankers-121080301626_1.html

Parliament passes bill to amend Airports Economic Regulatory Authority Act

Q. Consider the following statements regarding Airports Economic Regulatory Authority of India (Amendment) Bill, 2021(AERA Act)-

1. It proposes to amend the definition of 'major airport' under the AERA Act 2008.
2. The amendment will allow AERA to regulate tariff and other charges for aeronautical services for major as well as a group of airports together.

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 4th, August, 2021 The Parliament passed a bill which seeks to encourage smaller airports to expand air connectivity to relatively remote and far-flung areas.
- Rajya Sabha passed the Airports Economic Regulatory Authority of India (Amendment) Bill, 2021, after a brief discussion.
- The bill, which will amend the Airports Economic Regulatory Authority of India Act, 2008, was moved on the floor of the house for passage and consideration by Civil Aviation Minister Jyotiraditya Scindia.
- It proposes to amend the definition of 'major airport' under the Airports Economic Regulatory Authority Act, 2008 (AERA Act).
- According to the bill, the Airports Economic Regulatory Authority of India Act, 2008 provides for the establishment of an Airports Economic Regulatory Authority to regulate tariff and other charges for the aeronautical services rendered at airports and to monitor performance standards of airports.
- Being an independent regulator for protection of the interests of airports, airlines and passengers, the Airports Economic Regulatory Authority of India has, since its inception, been determining the tariffs of aeronautical charges at major airports in the country.
- The amendment will allow AERA to regulate tariff and other charges for aeronautical services for not just major airport with annual passenger traffic of more than 3.5 million, but also a group of airports together.



LINK

<https://indianexpress.com/article/india/parliament-passes-bill-to-amend-airports-economic-regulatory-authority-act-7438421/>

Historic SDR allocation of 650 billion dollar

Question : Which historic decision has been taken by the IMF to help the weaker countries battling the corona virus pandemic and economic slowdown ?

a. Historic SDR allocation of 650 billion dollar

- b. Historic SDR allocation of 450 billion dollar
- c. Historic SDR allocation of 350 billion dollar
- d. Historic SDR allocation of 550 billion dollar

Ans. a.

Related facts —

- IMF on August 02 has been taken a historic decision to help the countries battling the corona virus pandemic and economic slowdown.
- **Decision —**
- The Board of Governors of the IMF has approved a general allocation of Special Drawing Rights (SDRs) equivalent to US\$650 billion (about SDR 456 billion) on August 2, 2021, to boost global liquidity.
- The general allocation of SDRs will become effective on August 23, 2021.
- The newly created SDRs will be credited to IMF member countries in proportion to their existing quotas in the Fund.
- About US\$275 billion (about SDR 193 billion) of the new allocation will go to emerging markets and developing countries, including low-income countries.
- One key option is for members that have strong external positions to voluntarily channel part of their SDRs to scale up lending for low-income countries through the IMF's Poverty Reduction and Growth Trust (PRGT).
- Concessional support through the PRGT is currently interest free.
- The IMF is also exploring other options to help poorer and more vulnerable countries in their recovery efforts.



Link:

<https://www.imf.org/en/News/Articles/2021/07/30/pr21235-imf-governors-approve-a-historic-us-650-billion-sdr-allocation-of-special-drawing-rights>

Narendra Modi meets Australian special envoy on Free Trade

Question: Who was the Australian Prime Minister's Special Trade Envoy for India who visited India from August 2 to 6, 2021?

- a) A. Gilchrist b) Brett Lee c) Tony Abbott d) None of the above

Ans: c

Context

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi met with Former Australian Prime Minister Tony Abbott, on August 6, 2021.
- **Related Facts**
- Both the leaders addressed measures to strengthen bilateral trade, investment, and economic cooperation with the objective of realising full potential of India-Australia Comprehensive Strategic Partnership.
- They noted that improved economic cooperation between India and Australia would help both countries in better addressing the economic problems posed by the Covid-19



pandemic, as well as realising their shared vision of a stable, stable, and prosperous Indo-Pacific region.

- Indo-Pacific region was also discussed.
- PM Modi also recalled his virtual summit of 2020 with Prime Minister Morrison and expressed his desire to host Australian PM in India.
- **Comprehensive Economic Cooperation Agreement (CECA)**
- Negotiations for a CECA between India and Australia started in 2001 and it was finally materialised in 2020.
- With the CECA, India now has a better access to world's 12th largest economy i.e. Australia.

Reference: <https://www.indiatoday.in/india/story/pm-modi-meets-former-australian-pm-tony-abbott-discusses-ways-to-strengthen-bilateral-trade-1837392-2021-08-05>

Airports Economic Regulatory Authority of India Bill 2021

Question : On which date the Airports Economic Regulatory Authority of India Bill 2021 was passed in Parliament ?

a. 04 AUG 2021 b. 03 AUG 2021 c. 01 AUG 2021 d. None of the above

Ans. a.

Related facts —

- The Airports Economic Regulatory Authority of India Bill 2021 was passed in Parliament on August 04, 2021.
- **Key points —**
- Bill amends definition of 'major airport' allowing tariff determination of a 'group of airports'.
- The bill to encourage the development of smaller airports
- The intention of the government is to develop not only the high traffic volume & profitable airports but also the low traffic volume of non-profitable airports.
- The revenue earned by AAI from these airports will be utilized for the development of airports in Tier-II and Tier-III cities.
- This approach would help in the development of more airports through the PPP route thus, expanding the air connectivity to relatively remote and far-flung areas.

Link:

<https://pib.gov.in/PressReleaseIframePage.aspx?PRID=1742540>

India registered its highest ever annual FDI Inflow

Q. Consider the following statements regarding FDI Inflow in India-

1. Since 2014 the FDI inflow in India has increased year after year.
2. The FDI inflow dropped significantly in the year of 2020-2021 due to pandemic.

Which of above statement/ s is /are true?

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

ANSWER:- a)

RELATED FACTS:-

- Make in India is an initiative which was launched on 25th September, 2014 to facilitate investment, foster innovation, build best in class infrastructure, and make India a hub for manufacturing, design, and innovation.
- Development of a robust manufacturing sector continues to be a key priority of the Indian Government.
- It was one of the first 'Vocal for Local' initiatives that exposed India's manufacturing domain to the world.
- The sector has the potential to not only take economic growth to a higher trajectory but also to provide employment to a large pool of our young labour force.
- Make in India initiative has made significant achievements and presently focuses on 27 sectors under Make in India 2.0. Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade is coordinating action plans for manufacturing sector, while Department of Commerce is coordinating service sector.
- India has registered its highest ever annual FDI Inflow of US \$81.72 billion (provisional figure) during the last financial year 2020-21 as compared to US \$ 45.15 billion in 2014-2015.
- In the last seven financial years (2014-20), India has received FDI inflow worth US\$ 440.01 billion which is 58 percent of the FDI reported in the last 21 years (US\$ 763.58 billion).
- Year wise FDI inflow since 2014 is given in below table-

Sl. No.	Year	FDI (in US\$ billions)
1	2014-15	45.15
2	2015-16	55.56
3	2016-17	60.22
4	2017-18	60.97
5	2018-19	62.00
6	2019-20 (P)	74.39
7	2020-21 (P)	81.72

- (P): Data is Provisional. Subject to reconciliation with RBI

LINK

<https://www.pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1742401>

Announcement of 100% waiver on home loan processing fee

Question : Which of the following has recently(July 2021) announced 100% waiver on home loan processing fee ?

a. SBI b. Canara Bank c. PNB d. Indian Bank

Ans. A.

Related facts —

- Public sector lender SBI announced a 100% waiver on processing fees on home loans on July 31, 2021.
- This is a significant reduction from the existing processing fees of 0.40%.
- The lender is also offering a 5 basis points concession on interest rates for a home loan applied through YONO App.
- This Offer is for a limited period ending on 31.08.2021.
- It is notable that YONO is an integrated digital banking platform offered by State Bank of India to enable users to access a variety of financial and other services such as flight, train, bus and taxi bookings, online shopping, or medical bill payments.



Link:

<https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/industry/banking/finance/banking/sbi-announces-100-waiver-on-home-loan-processing-fee/articleshow/84921749.cms?from=mdr>

General Insurance Business (Nationalisation) Amendment Bill,2021 passed

Question: In which company Government Of India will lower its stake by passing General Insurance Business (Nationalisation) Amendment Bill?

a) Life Insurance Corporation b) IDBI Bank c) General Insurance Corporation of India
d) None of the above

Ans: c

Context

- On August 2, 2021, Lok Shabha has passed the General Insurance Business (Nationalisation) Amendment Bill,2021.
- Facts**
 - Bill seeks to amend the General Insurance Business (Nationalisation) Act, 1972. The Act was enacted to nationalise all private companies undertaking general insurance business in India.
 - Through the amended bill government wants to increase the private sector participation in the public sector insurance companies regulated under the Act.
 - The proposed amendments to the Bill is meant for removing mandatory requirement of Central government holding not less than 51% of the equity capital in a specified insurer.
 - Bill has also changed the definition of general insurance business and transferred the power of appointing majority of directors of specified insurer & power over its management or policy decision from the government.



- **About General Insurance Business (Nationalisation) Act, 1972.**
- The 1972 Act set up the General Insurance Corporation of India (GIC).
- The businesses of the companies nationalised under the Act were restructured in four subsidiary companies of GIC: (i) National Insurance, (ii) New India Assurance, (iii) Oriental Insurance, and (iv) United India Insurance.
- The Act was subsequently amended in 2002 to transfer the control of these four subsidiary companies from GIC to the central government, thereby making them independent companies.
- Since 2000, GIC exclusively undertakes reinsurance business.

Reference: <https://prsindia.org/billtrack/the-general-insurance-business-nationalisation-amendment-bill-2021>
<https://www.hindustantimes.com/india-news/lok-sabha-clears-insurance-divestment-bill-101627905806646.html>

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/PressReleaseIframePage.aspx?PRID=1741110>

Coconut Development Board (Amendment) Bill 2021

Q. Which of following is not true regarding Coconut Development Board (Amendment) Bill 2021?

- It will make the post of the Chairman non-executive.
- The amendment also seeks to raise the number of members of the Board to six from the current four.
- Andhra Pradesh and Gujarat will also be able to nominate their representatives to the Board.
- None of these.

ANSWER:- d)

RELATED FACTS:-

- The Rajya Sabha on 30TH July, 2021 passed the Coconut Development Board (Amendment) Bill, 2021, making the post of the Chairman non-executive.
- The amendment also seeks to raise the number of members of the Board to six from the current four.
- Andhra Pradesh and Gujarat will also be able to nominate their representatives to the Board.
- The amendments would benefit coconut growers and improve the coconut cultivation in the area. The Bill was passed amid uproar from the Opposition.

LINK

<http://www.uniindia.com/news/parliament/rajya-sabha-passes-coconut-development-board-amendment-bill-2021/2463450.html>

Inland Vessels Bill 2021

Q. Which of the following is not true regarding inland Vessels Bill, 2021-

- To operate in the inland waterways, vessels will need a survey certificate.
- The new law will replace the century-old Inland Vessels Act of 1917.

Which of the above statement / s is / are not true ?

- Only 1
- Only 2
- Both 1 & 2
- None of These

ANSWER:- c)

RELATED FACTS:-

- The Inland Vessels Bill, 2021 that was passed by Lok Sabha on July 21, 2021 will help domestic cargo movement with potentially lower rates, which is expected to help small businesses.
- The proposed law is in line with the government's aim to develop inland ports and harness India's 7,500km coastline and potentially navigable waterways.



- The government expects its programme to create 1 crore new jobs, including direct employment of 40 lakh people, in the next 10 years, reduce logistics costs and speed up cargo movement.
- The new law will replace the century-old Inland Vessels Act of 1917 for the regulation of security, safety as well as registration of inland vessels.
- The Inland Vessels Bill, 2021 seeks to replace separate rules framed by states with a uniform regulatory framework for inland vessel navigation to support countrywide operation of registered boats, ships, container vessels, sailing vessels and ferries.
- However, to operate in the inland waterways, vessels will need a survey certificate, which will be issued by states.
- With the new law, the centre will prescribe the minimum number of people that vessels must have, for various roles.
- Violation of these requirements may attract a penalty of up to Rs 10,000 for the first offence and Rs 25,000 for subsequent offences.
- The centre will also prescribe standards for qualification for the crew as well as training, examination and grant of certificate of competency, which indicate the fitness of the recipients to serve in the specified roles.
- The certificates will be granted by the state governments.
- The bill will ensure that vessels follow specifications for signals and equipment to ensure navigation safety including ones pertaining to responding to distress signals.

LINK

<https://www.moneycontrol.com/news/business/explained-what-is-inland-vessels-bill-2021-and-how-does-it-benefit-the-country-7252491.html>

Scientific

Defense/Science Short Notes

Peacekeeping exercise Shared Destiny-2021

Question: In which of the following country, the Peacekeeping exercise Shared Destiny-2021, will commence from September 6 to 15, 2021?

a) India b) China c) Mongolia d) Sri Lanka

Answer: (b)

Related Facts:-

- From September 6 to 15, 2021; peacekeeping exercise called Shared Destiny-2021 will be organised in China.
- Militaries of China, Mongolia, Thailand and Pakistan are set to take part in this multinational exercise.
- Exercise Shared Destiny-2021 will be conducted at the combined-arms tactical training base in central Henan province of China.
- The People's Liberation Army of China will lead this exercise with its four friendly countries.
- This is the first multinational peacekeeping live exercise, involving four nations.
- All the participating countries will dispatch about 1,000 troops to be the part of drills.



- 1000 troops will involve units of infantry, security, fast response, engineering, helicopter, transportation and medical service.
- Exercise will be held in close-to-real battlefield environment that will be set in accordance with international, professional and realistic combat standards.
- **In the peacekeeping exercise, battlefield environment will be created by:-**
- **Conducting drills of battlefield reconnaissance.**
- **Security guarding & patrol.**
- **Protection of civilians.**
- **Protection to armed escort.**
- **Response to violent & terrorist attacks,**
- Construction of temporary operation base and battlefield first aid & pandemic control for responding to UN's Action for Peacekeeping initiative.
- Spokesperson for China's Ministry of National Defence Senior Colonel Tan Kefei informed the plan of this exercise in an online media briefing.
- Tan said that the Chinese military will continue to take a more active part in UN peacekeeping operations and always be a staunch defender of the world peace.

Links:-

<https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/defence/china-pakistan-thailand-mongolia-to-hold-military-exercise/articleshow/85655156.cms>

Indo-kazakhstan joint training exercise to commence on 30 august 2021

Question- KAZIND-21 is a joint training exercise between Indian and

(a) Kazakhstan (b) Afghanistan (c) Iran (d) Bangladesh

Ans. (a)

Related facts-

- As part of military diplomacy and to strengthen the growing strategic relation with Kazakhstan, the 5th edition of Indo- Kazakhstan Joint Training Exercise, "KAZIND-21" will be conducted at Training Node, Aisha Bibi, Kazakhstan, from 30 August to 11 September 2021.
- The exercise is a joint training between both the Armies, which will boost the bilateral relations between India and Kazakhstan.
- The Indian Army contingent represented by a battalion of The Bihar Regiment consists of a total of 90 personnel led by a Contingent Commander.
- The Kazakhstan Army will be represented by a company group.
- The Exercise will provide an opportunity to the Armed Forces of India & Kazakhstan to train for Counter Insurgency/ Counter Terrorism operation in mountainous, rural scenario under UN mandate.
- The scope of Joint Exercise includes professional exchange, planning & execution of operation in Counter terrorism environment at sub unit level and sharing expertise on skills at arms, combat shooting and experiences in Counter Insurgency/ Counter Terrorism operations.



- The exercise will culminate after a 48 hours long validation exercise which will involve a scenario of neutralization of terrorists in a semi-rural hideout.
- The exercise will strengthen mutual confidence, inter-operability and enable sharing of best practices between the Armed Forces of India and Kazakhstan.

Reference- <https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1748756>.

Counter Terrorism Exercise Gandiv

Question: Which of the following security force, recently participated in the counter terrorism exercise named as Gandiv, which begin in multiple cities of India?

a) ITBP b) NSG c) BSF d) CRPF

Answer: (b)

Related Facts:-

- On August 22, 2021; counter terrorism exercise named as Gandiv begin in multiple cities of India.
- The Exercise Gandiva is being conducted by NSG commandos is an extensive exercise to test its preparedness to thwart the nefarious designs of the enemies started
- This exercise will end on 28 August.
- Through this exercise, NSG's unmatched ability to respond quickly and meet challenges in situations like hijacking and hostage will also be demonstrated.
- Gandiv is the name of the bow of Arjuna, the maestro of Mahabharata.
- This exercise covers places in various cities of the National Capital Region, Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh and Gujarat, which can be targets of terrorist acts.
- 30-35 such places have been selected for the exercise.
- The Ministry of External Affairs, Home Ministry, Central Armed Police Forces, state agencies and foreign representatives will witness these exercises.
- The Anti-Terrorist Force NSG was formed in the year 1984. NSG commandos are skilled in dealing with terrorist activities.
- The Special Squad of NSG is currently providing security to at least 13 VVIPs of the country.
- Apart from the NSG's Manesar headquarters, it has five hubs at Gandhinagar, Mumbai, Kolkata, Hyderabad and Chennai.



Links:-

<https://www.defencexp.com/nsg-commandos-undertake-mock-counter-terrorist-drills-across-country/>

New Advanced Oxidation Technology Developed By Delhi-Based TERI

Question: Recently a new advanced oxidation technology to enhance waste water reuse at lower cost has been developed by which of the following?

(a) Delhi-Based TERI (b) IIT Ropar (c) IIT Bombay (d) IIT Delhi

Answer : (a)

Related Facts:



- A new technology developed by the Indian scientists may soon enhance the reuse of waste water in an affordable and sustainable manner.
- The technology which uses UV-Photocatalysis has been developed by The Energy and Resources Institute (TERI), New Delhi.
- It can treat municipal sewage and highly polluting industrial wastewater streams and increase its reuse as a technological option in industrial as well as municipal wastewater treatments, an official release said on 25 August.

Reference: <https://swarajyamag.com/news-brief/new-advanced-oxidation-technology-developed-by-delhi-based-teri-to-enhance-waste-water-reuse-at-lower-cost>

Naval Exercise Malabar- 2021

Q. Which of the following country is not the part of Malabar- 2021 Naval Exercise?

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

ANSWER:- a)

RELATED FACTS:-

- Indian Navy is participating in the sea phase of Exercise Malabar 2021 from 26 – 29 August 2021 along with the US Navy (USN), Japanese Maritime Self Defence Force (JMSDF) and the Royal Australian Navy (RAN).
- Malabar series of maritime exercise commenced in 1992 as an IN-USN Exercise.
- In 2015, JMSDF joined Malabar as a permanent member.
- The 2020 edition witnessed participation of the Royal Australian Navy. This year marks the 25th edition of Ex Malabar, being hosted by USN in the Western Pacific.
- The Indian Navy's participation includes INS Shivalik and INS Kadmat and P8I patrol aircraft led by Rear Admiral Tarun Sobti, VSM, Flag Officer Commanding Eastern Fleet. The US Navy will be represented by USS Barry, USNS Rappahannock, USNS Big Horn and P8A patrol aircraft.
- The Japanese Maritime Self Defence Force will be represented by JS Kaga, Murasame and Shiranui, in addition to a submarine and P1 patrol aircraft.
- The Royal Australian Navy will be represented by HMAS Warramunga.
- MALABAR-21 would witness complex exercises including anti-surface, anti-air and anti-submarine warfare drill, and other manoeuvres and tactical exercises.
- The exercise will provide an opportunity for participating navies to derive benefit from each other's expertise and experiences.



LINK : <https://www.pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1749126>

India's first Green Hydrogen Electrolyser Manufacturing Unit

Question: In which of the following Indian city India's first green hydrogen electrolyser manufacturing unit has recently started?

a) Chennai b) Chandigarh c) Mumbai d) Bengaluru

Answer: (d)

Related Facts:-

- On 24 August 2021; Ohmium International, through its Indian subsidiary, started India's first green hydrogen electrolyser manufacturing unit at Bengaluru.
- It should be known that Prime minister of India Narendra Modi, in his Independence Day speech on 15 August 2021, has announced green hydrogen roadmap for the country.
- The company is already in talks with some state-run majors and private players keen on hydrogen projects for supply of electrolyzers.
- According to Pashupathy Gopalan, an Ohmium Investor, Ohmium International will supply electrolyzers from its electrolyser gigafactory in Karnataka.
- This comes at a time when industry majors like Reliance Industries, Adani Group and state-run Indian Oil Corporation (IOC) etc. have evinced interest in becoming part of India's green hydrogen roadmap.
- It should be known that blue hydrogen is created from fossil sources, while the green hydrogen is made from non-fossil sources.
- To produce green hydrogen through any process, electrolysis is required. Electrolysis is the process used to split water into oxygen and hydrogen.
- An electrolyser is the system in which electrolysis is done, making it the most vital part in terms of making hydrogen economically viable.
- Arne Ballentine, founder of Ohmium International expressed hope that making green hydrogen in India will definitely give a cost advantage.
- The proton exchange membrane (PEM) hydrogen electrolyzer is at the heart of production of green hydrogen.
- The company said PEM hydrogen electrolyzer uses power generated from renewable resources to break water into hydrogen and oxygen.
- The manufacture of electrolyser by Ohmium will ensure availability of end-to-end solution within the country and cut down dependence on imports.
- The company aims to become a pioneer in enabling the production of Green Hydrogen in India.
- The factory has a capacity of manufacturing approximately 0.5 GW per year today.
- The company is hopeful that it can quickly expand manufacturing that to 2 GW per year.
- The idea of National Hydrogen Mission was first mooted in the Budget 2021 putting an effort to tap green energy sources for manufacturing hydrogen.
- India has already set a target of achieving 450 GW renewable energy by 2030.
- According to industry data, the world is currently producing around 70 million metric tonne of hydrogen (blue), out of which 6 MT is coming from India.



Links:-

https://www.business-standard.com/article/economy-policy/boost-for-hydrogen-mission-india-gets-first-electrolyser-unit-in-bengaluru-121082400652_1.html

India, Vietnam carry out bilateral maritime drill in South China Sea

Question- India and Vietnam navies have carried out bilateral maritime exercise in which of the following place?

(a) South China Sea (b) Arabian sea (c) Bay of Bengal (d) Coast of Odisha

Ans. (a)

Related facts-

- India and Vietnam navies have carried out bilateral maritime exercise in the South China Sea on August 18, 2021.
- Indian Naval Ship (INS) Ranvijay and INS Kora undertook bilateral maritime exercise with the Vietnam People's Navy frigate VPNS Ly Thai To (HQ-012).
- The bilateral interaction aims to consolidate the strong bond shared by the two navies and would be another step towards strengthening India-Vietnam defence relations.
- The Indian naval ships arrived at Cam Ranh, Vietnam, on August 15 for harbour phase, which included professional interactions with the Vietnam People's Navy, maintaining all Covid-19 protocols.
- The sea phase included surface warfare exercises, weapon firing drills and helicopter operations.
- INS Ranvijay is a guided-missile destroyer and the latest of the Rajput class.
- The ship was commissioned on December 21, 1987 and is equipped with an array of weapons and sensors, including surface-to-surface missiles, anti-air missiles and guns, heavy weight torpedoes, anti-submarine rockets.
- It is also capable of carrying anti-submarine helicopter (Kamov 28).
- INS Ranvijay is in company with INS Kora which is the lead ship of Kora class missile corvette. The ship is fitted with surface-to-surface missiles and anti-air guns.



Reference- https://www.business-standard.com/article/current-affairs/india-vietnam-carry-out-bilateral-maritime-drill-in-south-china-sea-121081801220_1.html.

India conducts maritime exercise with Philippine Navy

Q. Consider the following the statements regarding India Maritime exercise with Philippines Navy-

1. It was conducted in Western Pacific including in South China Sea.
2. 50 Indian warships participated in the exercise.

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

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

ANSWER:- a)

RELATED FACTS:-

- Continuing with its deployment in Western Pacific, including in the South China Sea, the Indian Navy carried out a Maritime Partnership Exercise with the Philippine Navy on 23RD August, 2021.
- Two Indian warships, INS Ranvijay, Guided Missile Destroyer, D55 and INS Kora, Guided Missile Corvette, P61, on deployment to the Western Pacific participated in the exercise with BRP Antonio Luna, Frigate, FF 151 of the Philippine Navy in the West Philippine Sea.



- The Navy said in a statement that Joint evolutions conducted during the exercise included several operational manoeuvres and the participating ships of both navies were satisfied with the consolidation of interoperability achieved through this operational interaction at sea.
- The Navy mentioned that India and the Philippines “share a very robust defence and security partnership built over several years and spanning across all domains” and their navies “remain committed to further strengthening bilateral collaboration in the maritime domain towards a collective aim of ensuring a stable, peaceful and prosperous Indo-Pacific”.
- This is in a series of exercises that India is conducting with littoral nations that share their maritime boundaries with China as part of its deployment.
- Two Indian warships had reached Guam on 22nd August, 2021 to participate in the multilateral Malabar Naval Exercise starting later this week with the four member nations of the Quad — India, the US, Japan and Australia — participating.

LINK

<https://indianexpress.com/article/india/india-conducts-maritime-exercise-with-philippine-navy-7467671/>

OneWeb launched of 34 satellites in Low Earth Orbit (LEO)

Question: Recently a British company OneWeb launched of 34 satellites in Low Earth Orbit (LEO). This programme is backed by which of the following Indian Multinational telecom company?

a) Idea b) Bharti Telecom c) Reliance Telecom d) None of these

Answer: (b)

Related Facts:-

- On 22 august 2021; the British company OneWeb launched 34 satellites in Low Earth Orbit (LEO).
- These are communications satellite backed by Indian telecom company Bharti, on
- The satellites were taken into the space by Arianespace Soyuz rocket from the Baikonur Cosmodrome in southern Kazakhstan.
- The latest launch brings the company’s total in-orbit constellation to 288 satellites.
- OneWeb said it is on track to commence service this year and deliver global service in 2022.
- The company is committed to introduce commercial service and focus on scaling to global service.
- The satellites would form part of OneWeb’s 648 LEO satellite fleet that aim to deliver high-speed, low-latency global connectivity.
- OneWeb remains on track to deliver global service as seeing growing demand from telecommunications providers, ISPs, and governments worldwide.
- Through this big constellation of satellites the company came forward to offer its low-latency, high-speed connectivity services to the hardest to reach places.
- Since early 2021, OneWeb has announced distribution partnerships across various industries and businesses.



- It has collaborated most recently with Northwestel in Canada and BT in the UK.
- OneWeb is fully-funded to deliver its constellation and take its satellites into commercial service.

Links:-

https://www.business-standard.com/article/technology/bharti-group-backed-oneweb-launches-34-more-satellites-into-orbit-121082300651_1.html

Advanced Chaff Technology for IAF Fighter Aircrafts

Question: In which of the following city DRDO's High Energy Materials Research Laboratory (HEMRL) is located?

a) Pune b) Ahmedabad c) Jodhpur d) None of these

Answer: (a)

Related Facts:-

- The DRDO's Defence Laboratory Jodhpur (DLJ) has developed an Advanced Chaff Technology for IAF fighter aircrafts.
- The technology will be used to safeguard fighter aircraft of the Indian Air Force (IAF) against hostile radar threats.
- The DRDO's DLJ has developed this advanced chaff material in collaboration with High Energy Materials Research Laboratory (HEMRL), Pune.
- This is known by the name abd chaff cartridge-118/I, and capable of meeting qualitative requirements of the IAF.
- IAF has started the process of induction of this technology after completion of successful user trials.
- The Advanced Chaff Technology is an electronic countermeasure technology that militaries worldwide use to safeguard their assets, like naval vessels and aircraft.
- It protects the assets from radar and radio frequency.
- The technology has been developed months after the DRDO developed a similar technology in three variants for Navy ships to protect them from missile attacks.
- The Indian Navy had conducted trials of all three variants in the Arabian Sea on Indian Naval Ship and found the performance satisfactory.
- The Navy vessels use chaff rockets that are deployed in the air. These act as multiple targets for missile guidance system.
- The importance of this (advanced chaff) technology lies in the fact that very less quantity of chaff material deployed in the air acts as decoy to deflect enemy's missiles for ensuring safety of the fighter aircraft.



Links:-

<https://www.timesnownews.com/india/article/drdo-develops-advanced-chaff-technology-to-safeguard-fighter-iaf-aircraft-against-hostile-radar-threats/801034>

Cooperation in Remote Sensing Satellite Data Sharing

Question: On August 18 which of the following group has signed an agreement for cooperation in remote sensing satellite data sharing?

a) BRICS b) G-7 c) NATO d) ASEAN

Answer: (a)

Related Facts:-

- On August 18, 2021 BRICS nations have signed an agreement for cooperation in remote sensing satellite data sharing.
- The agreement was signed Under the India's BRICS Chairship.
- The BRICS Space Agencies Heads have signed an agreement for cooperation in remote sensing satellite data sharing in the presence of Mr. Sanjay Bhattacharyya Secretary (CPV&OIA).
- Chairman, Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO)/ Secretary, Department of Space Dr. K. Sivan was also present on the occasion.
- Mr. Zhang Kejian, Administrator, China National Space Administration (CNSA) and heads of the space agencies of rest of the BRICS nations were also present.
- This Agreement enables building a virtual constellation of specified remote sensing satellites of BRICS space agencies and their respective ground stations will receive the data.
- ISRO said in a statement that this will contribute in strengthening multilateral cooperation among BRICS space agencies.
- BRICS reached major landmark with the signing of this agreement as it will promote cooperation & use space data & applications for development & social objectives outlined in SDGs, providing benefit for the citizens.
- Such challenges are global climate change, major disasters and environmental protection.



Links:-

<https://www.isro.gov.in/update/18-aug-2021/brics-space-agencies-leaders-signed-agreement-cooperation-remote-sensing>

Shri Rajnath Singh launches Defense India Startup Challenge 5.0

Q. Consider the following statement regarding Defense India startup challenge 5.0(DISC)-

1. It was launched by the defense minister Rajnath singh.
 2. It was launched under the Innovation for Defense Excellence Defense Innovation Organization (iDEX-DIO).
 3. The iDEX initiative was launched by Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi in April 2018.
- Which of the above statement / s is/ are true?**

- a) Only 1 & 2
- b) Only 2 & 3
- c) Only 3
- d) All statements are true.

ANSWER:- d)

RELATED FACTS:-

- Raksha Mantri Shri Rajnath Singh launched Defense India Startup Challenge (DISC) 5.0 under Innovations for Defense Excellence – Defense Innovation Organization (iDEX-DIO) through video conferencing on August 19, 2021.



- Thirty five Problem Statements – 13 from the Services and 22 from Defense Public Sector Undertakings (DPSUs) – were unveiled under DISC 5.0.
- These are in areas such as Situational awareness, Augmented Reality, Artificial Intelligence, Aircraft-trainer, Non-lethal devices, 5G network, Under-water domain awareness, Drone SWARMS and Data Capturing.
- The Problem Statements, designed to ensure military advantage in the foreseeable future, are the highest in any edition, so far.
- Lauding the efforts of iDEX-DIO, Shri Rajnath Singh, in his address, termed DISC 5.0 as another step towards independence in the defense sector as the launch comes at a time when the country is celebrating 'Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav'.
- Stating that DISC 5.0 is a reflection of Government's resolve of creating an 'AatmaNirbhar' defense sector, he exuded confidence that this challenge will move forward from its earlier editions and take innovation, design & development to newer heights.
- He shed light on the previous four editions of DISC and said that more than 80 startups, MSMEs and individual innovators have joined as winners in over 40 technological areas.
- He added that modern and futuristic problem statements launched in DISC 5.0 demonstrate the confidence of young entrepreneurs and innovators in DISC.
- The launch of DISC 5.0 by iDEX-DIO comes three years after the launch of DISC 1.0.
- The launch of DISC 5.0 is a massive leap towards leveraging the startup ecosystem to develop India's defense technologies, equipment design and manufacturing capabilities.
- It will encourage startups to become more attuned to innovative concepts and inculcate the approach of creative thinking in India's budding entrepreneurs.
- The iDEX initiative was launched by Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi in April 2018 to achieve self-reliance and foster innovation & technology development in defense and aerospace sectors.

LINK

<https://www.pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1747370>

IndiGau

Question: On 13 august 2021; Science & Technology Minister Dr Jitendra Singh launched the IndiGau. What is this IndiGau?

a) High-speed Train b) Electric Bus c) Chip d) A Cow breed

Answer: (c)

Related Facts:-

- On 13 august 2021; Science & Technology Minister Dr Jitendra Singh launched the IndiGau, India's first Cattle Genomic Chip.
- IndiGau chip has been launched for the conservation of pure varieties of indigenous cattle breeds like, Gir, Kankrej, Sahiwal, Ongole etc.
- This indigenous chip was developed by the concerted efforts of scientists of National Institute of Animal Biotechnology (NAIB), Hyderabad.
- NAIB is an autonomous institution under the aegis of the Department of Biotechnology.
- At this occasion, of launching the chip, Dr. Renu Swarup, Secretary, DBT, Senior scientists of NIAB and senior officials of DBT were present.



- Dr Jitendra Singh on this occasion said that it become possible only due to the calibre of India's Scientists and Prime Minister Narendra Modi's vision of AtmaNirbhar Bharat.
- He said, Prime Minister always underline to apply scientific knowledge and innovations for "Ease of Living" for all sections of society.
- Dr Jitendra Singh said that IndiGau is purely indigenous and the largest cattle chip of the world. It has 11,496 markers (SNPs) more than that placed on 777K Illumina chip of US & UK breeds.
- The Minister said, this CHIP of our own indigenous cows is a great example of self-reliant India / "ATMA NIRBHAR BHARAT".
- He said, this chip will have practical utility in the Governments schemes to achieve the goal of conservation of our own breeds with better characters and help towards doubling of farmers' income by 2022.
- He took pride that even Departments like DBT and NIAB are contributing to the welfare and income augmentation of farmers. The Minister also launched two booklets on the occasion.
- Dr. Renu Swarup, Secretary DBT speaking in the occasion thanked the Union Minister for releasing the IndiGau chip and also congratulated NAIB for this achievement.
- Dr. Swarup also informed that DBT is looking forward to implement this technology in the field with the help of other agencies like NDDDB, DAHDF, ICAR etc.
- To further the use of this chip in generating phenotypic and genotypic correlations, NIAB has entered into a collaborative agreement with National Dairy Development Board (NDDDB).
- Since NDDDB has well organized presence in the field for collection of phenotypic record, NIAB and NDDDB complement each other to undertake this research for generating information for low density SNP chip for any important trait detection, like high milk yield or heat tolerance etc.
- This will eventually help in elite bull selection and improvement of productivity characters of Indian cattle.
- NIAB has also entered into a MoU with private industry to generate capability within India for designing and making our own SNP chips.
- These may be very low density SNP chips in the beginning and slowly this technology can be further strengthened for bigger chips, making India self-reliant in this field.

Links:-

<https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1745479>

Indian Navy takes part in US Navy-led multinational SEACAT exercises

Question: Recently SEACAT exercises was in news and Indian navy took part in it actively. It is led by which country?

(a) India (b) USA (c) UK (d) Australia

Answer : (a)

Related Facts:

- The Indian Navy demonstrated its maritime maneuvers in U.S. Navy-led Southeast Asia Cooperation and Training (SEACAT) military exercise in Singapore.
- The military exercise also included navies of 20 other partner nations as well.



- Nations like Australia, Bangladesh, Brunei, Canada, France, Germany, Indonesia, Japan, Malaysia, Maldives, New Zealand, Philippines, South Korea, Singapore, Sri Lanka, Thailand, East Timor, United Kingdom, United States, and Vietnam took part in SEACAT.
- The maritime exercise aimed to foster enhanced cooperation between Southeast Asian countries by incorporating tactics, standardized training, and procedures to combat contingencies or illegal activities in the maritime domain.
- Further, the drill is designed to encourage countries to use their naval forces to bolster understanding of the operational environment, build capacity for humanitarian support missions, and uphold international laws and norms.
- In total, the exercise witnessed close to 400 personnel and 10 ships, including the U.S. Navy's littoral combat ship Tulsa, P-8A Poseidon aircraft from Task Force 72, along with personnel from Task Forces 73 and 76, and the Pacific and 7th fleets.
- Interestingly, the location of maritime exercise is dubbed as one of the most busiest waterways around the globe and has become an increasing focus of maritime interest.

Reference: <https://newsonair.com/2021/08/13/indian-navy-takes-part-in-us-navy-led-seacat-exercises-with-19-other-indo-pacific-nation-in-singapore/>

Resumption of activities at Sriharikota Spaceport

Question : From which date ISRO will resume activity at Sriharikota spaceport with the launch of GSLV?

a. August 10, 2021 b. August 11, 2021 c. August 12, 2021 d. None of the above

Ans. c.

Related facts —

- ISRO will resume activity at Sriharikota spaceport with the launch of GSLV on August 12, 2021.
- This will revive the Indian Space Research Organisation's programmes, which had faced a setback due to the Covid-19 pandemic.
- It is notable that ISRO was able to achieve only two of its planned 18 launches a year since 2020.

Link:

<https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/india/isro-to-resume-activity-at-sriharikota-spaceport-with-launch-of-gslv-on-august-12/articleshow/85157033.cms>

Zayed Talwar 2021

Question: Which naval force undertook bilateral exercise 'Zayed Talwar 2021' with UAE Navy on 7th August off the coast of Abu Dhabi?

a) India b) China c) Australia d) USA

Ans: a

Facts

- Indian Navy undertook bilateral exercise 'Zayed Talwar 2021' with UAE Navy on Saturday off the coast of Abu Dhabi.
- The main objective of the 'Zayed Talwar 2021' naval exercise was to enhance interoperability and synergy between the two navies.



- Indian Navy participated with INS Kochi, with two integral Sea King MK 42B helicopters, deployed in the Persian Gulf.
- UAE participated with UAES AL – Dhafra, a Baynunah class guided missile corvette and one AS – 565B Panther helicopter.

Reference: <https://newsonair.com/2021/08/08/indian-navy-undertakes-bilateral-exercise-zayed-talwar-2021-with-uae-navy/>

Health (QUEST) Study

Question: Which of the following organisation has recently launched the program Health (QUEST) Study?

a) ICMR b) IMA c) AIIMS d) ISRO

Answer: (d)

Related Facts:-

- On 04 August, 2021 Chairman ISRO Dr K Sivan, formally inaugurated the ISRO's Health (QUEST) study.
- It is ISRO's gesture for Quality Upgradation Enabled by Space Technology which will be undertaken by 20 private hospitals across India.
- Dr Devi Prasad Shetty, Chairman, Narayana Health was the guest of honour and spoke on the occasion.
- The objective of the study is to strive towards reducing human errors and achieve zero defect and quality service.
- It will be applied in the Emergency and Intensive Care units of hospitals.
- The study aims to upgrade the healthcare systems standards of the country in line with the ISRO quality standards and best practices.
- The procedures and practices of Quality Assurance mechanism in vogue in ISRO will be shared with the study team for setting the parameters to establish health care quality standards.
- During his inaugural address Dr. Sivan assured the support from ISRO for completing the study and achieving the quality goal.
- The event was co-organised by Association of Health Care Providers India (AHPI) and Society for Emergency Medicine in India (SEMI).
- The CEOs and Coordinators of the 20 hospitals have participated in the virtual event.

Links:-

<https://www.isro.gov.in/update/04-aug-2021/secretary-dos-chairman-isro-dr-k-sivan-virtually-inaugurated-health-quest-study>

New Bug Bounty Platform

Question: Recently launched New Bug Bounty Platform is associated with which of the following?

a) Google b) Facebook c) WhatsApp d) None of these

Answer: (a)

Related Facts:

- On 27 July 2021; Google launched a new bug bounty platform to celebrate the ten-year anniversary of its Vulnerability Rewards Programme.
- The new site is called bughunters.google.com.
- It allows bug hunters to submit issues with a single intake form for vulnerabilities related to Google, Android, Chrome, and Play Store.
- It has been informed by the Google that the platform will conduct competition, run country-wise leaderboards and enable chances of winning awards for certain bugs.
- Bug Hunters can also learn from content available in Google's new Bug Hunter University, the company added.
- The tech giant said people can also earn rewards by submitting patches for open source, and sending research papers on security of open source software.
- Google said that when they launched very first VRP, they had no idea how many valid vulnerabilities – if any – would be submitted on the first day.
- According to Google Technical Programme Manager Jan Keller of VRP Everyone on the team put in their estimate, with predictions ranging from zero to 20.



Links:-

<https://www.thehindu.com/sci-tech/technology/google-launches-new-bug-bounty-platform/article35577170.ece>

New method of producing hydrogen from water using magnets

Question : Which of the following institution & person involved in new method of producing hydrogen from water using magnets ?

- A team of researchers from IIT Bombay led by Prof. C. Subramaniam
- A team of researchers from IIT Kanpur led by Prof. Anubha Goel
- A team of researchers from IIT Palakkad led by Prof. B. Lohani
- A team of researchers from IIT Madras led by Prof. Mukesh Sharma

Ans. a.

Related facts —

- A team of researchers from IIT Bombay led by Prof. C. Subramaniam have recently(August 2021) come up with an innovative route that provides viable solutions to many challenges.
- **Key Points —**
- New method of producing hydrogen from water using magnets shows energy-efficient route to manufacturing of the fuel.
- It involves electrolysis of water in the presence of an external magnetic field.
- In this method, the same system that produces 1 ml of hydrogen gas required 19% lower energy to produce 3 ml of hydrogen in the same time.
- This is achieved by synergistically coupling the electric and magnetic fields at the catalytic site.
- The simple approach also provides the capability to retrofit any existing electrolyser (that uses electricity to break water into hydrogen and oxygen) with external magnets without drastic change in the design, leading to increased energy efficiency of H₂ production.
- This proof-of-concept demonstration for producing hydrogen has been published in ACS Sustainable Chemistry & Engineering.

- The electrocatalytic material — cobalt-oxide nanocubes that are dispersed over hard-carbon based nanostructured carbon florets, is of prime importance to achieve this effect and was developed with the support of the Department of Science & Technology's Material for Energy Storage program at Technology Mission Division.
- It was put to use for magneto-electrocatalysis through the DST-SERB grant.
- The interface between the carbon and cobalt oxide is key to magneto-electrocatalysis.
- It is advantageous as it forms a system that does not require the constant presence of the external magnetic field and is able to sustain the magnetisation for prolonged time periods; the magnitude of the enhancements achieved (650% increase in current density, 19% lowering of energy required and a 3-fold increase in volumetric hydrogen production rate) is unparalleled, the intermittent magnetic field required is similar to what a fridge magnet can provide.

Link:

<https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1742220>

Human-based models to study neurodevelopmental disorders such as autism

Question : Dr. Yogita K Adlakha, an INSPIRE faculty fellow has recently(August 2021) developed human-based models to study neurodevelopmental disorders such as autism. When INSPIRE(Innovation in Science Pursuit for Inspired Research) scheme was approved ?
a. November 2008 b. July 2021 c. March 2012 d. June 2020

Ans. a.

Related facts —

- Dr. Yogita K Adlakha, an INSPIRE faculty fellow has recently(August 2021) developed human-based models to study neurodevelopmental disorders such as autism.
- It is notable that since decades, animal models have been used to understand brain-related disorders, and the drugs which function in animal models have failed in clinical trials.
- The dearth of human models has led to lack of knowledge of the pathophysiology of such disorders, an essential requirement for designing their treatment strategies.
- Dr. Yogita K Adlakha filled this gap by generating human-based stem cell model to understand brain development and dysfunction at the National Brain Research Centre, Manesar, Haryana.
- Along with her research group, she established a protocol from India for the first time by generating and producing induced pluripotent stem cells (iPSCs) from human peripheral blood.
- They have further refined the protocol of differentiation of iPSCs into the brain-specific stem cells, i.e., neural stem cells (NSCs).
- Along with her group, she derived induced pluripotent stem cells (iPSCs) from human peripheral blood and differentiated them into neural stem cells (NSCs).
- Since levels of microRNA-137 are less in neurodevelopmental disorders such as ASD and ID, her study demonstrates crucial roles of this miRNA during human NSC fate determination with an elaboration of underlying molecular mechanisms.
- This study was published in the journal "STEM CELLS".
- Significance —



- Her study provides the first evidence that a brain enriched miRNA-137 induces neuronal differentiation and inhibits proliferation using human neural stem cells derived from iPSCs.
- During the study, it was observed that miRNA-137 not only accelerates mitochondrial (powerhouse) biogenesis but also induces oxidative phosphorylation, generating ATP or energy currency of the cell.

Link:

<https://pib.gov.in/PressReleaseframePage.aspx?PRID=1742164>

First indigenous aircraft carrier conducted sea trials

Question: What is the name of India's first indigenous aircraft carrier which has conducted its maiden sea trials on August 4, 2021?

a) INS Vikramaditya b) INS Vikrant c) INS Arihant d) None of the above

Ans: b

Context

- Indian Navy conducted maiden sea trials of India's first indigenous aircraft carrier INS Vikrant on 4th August, 2021.
- **Related Facts**
 - INS Vikrant is first indigenously designed and built aircraft carrier of India.
 - Sea trial of INS Vikrant began off the coast of Kochi.
 - This landmark achievement will put India in the list of only a few countries that have the capacity to manufacture aircraft carriers.
- **About INS Vikrant**
 - INS Vikrant is a 44000-tonne carrier, built at the cost of Rs 23,000 crore.
 - It has been built at state-owned Cochin Shipyard in Kochi, Kerala with the participation of about 550 Indian firms including 100 MSMEs.
 - It is the largest and most complex warship that has been designed and built in India for the first time.
 - So far countries like US, UK, Russia, Japan, Italy and France have capability to design and build an aircraft carrier . South Korea is also pursuing a carrier programme.



Reference: <https://indianexpress.com/photos/india-news/indias-1st-indigenous-aircraft-carrier-begins-sea-trials-ins-vikrant-7437858/4/>

Production of Green Hydrogen

Question: With which of the following country the company JSW Future Energy, belongs to?

a) Australia b) India c) USA d) Japan

Answer: (b)

Related Facts:-

- JSW Future Energy of India has entered into a framework agreement with Australia's Fortescue Future Industries (FII) for production of green hydrogen.



- The two companies have joined together to explore green hydrogen development, and its use in industrial and transport sectors in India.
- JSW Energy this agreement is for assessing the potential of green hydrogen for green steel making, hydrogen mobility and green ammonia etc.
- Many companies are now working on the manufacturing processes to make green hydrogen.
- This Green Hydrogen is being touted as a future fuel and the Budget 2020-21 has announced a National Hydrogen Energy mission to boost prospects.
- It should be known that JSW Energy has laid out a strategic blueprint to become a 20 GW capacity power generating company by 2030.
- JSW Energy has planned to come out with about 85 per cent of the portfolio comprising of green and renewable energy sources by the end this decade.
- JSW Energy is preparing itself to adopt innovative technologies like green hydrogen, offshore wind, and battery energy storage among others.
- The Indian company is hopeful that this agreement with FFI can help fulfil their net zero commitments earlier than the target set for 2050.
- FFI CEO, Julie Shuttleworth said, “FFI is actively establishing a portfolio of projects associated with renewable green hydrogen and green industrial products.
- JSW Future Energy:
- JSW Future Energy is a wholly owned subsidiary of JSW Energy.
- It is part of the JSW Group – a diversified business conglomerate in India with interests across Steel, Energy, Infrastructure, Cement, Paints, Sports and Venture Capital.
- JSW Energy currently has 4,559 Mw of operational Thermal, Hydro and Solar Power capacity.
- The Company has around 2,500 Mw of Renewable energy projects under construction which are likely to be completed by 2023, a JSW statement said.
- Fortescue Future Industries (FFI):-
- FFI is the renewable energy and industry company of Fortescue Metals Group (Fortescue).
- It has an initial plan to produce 15 million tonnes per annum of green hydrogen by 2030.
- Fortescue targets to achieve carbon neutrality by 2030.
- FFI is a key enabler of achieving this target through the development of its green electricity, green hydrogen, green ammonia and other green industrial projects.

Links:-

https://www.business-standard.com/article/companies/jsw-energy-australia-s-fortescue-future-join-hands-for-green-hydrogen-121072901103_1.html

High-tech carbine ‘TriCa’

Question : Which of the following ordnance factory has unveiled the high-tech carbine ‘TriCa’ ?

- Ordnance Factory Tiruchirapalli
- Ordnance Factory Bhandara
- Ordnance Factory Khamaria
- Ordnance Factory Dehradun

Ans. a.

Related facts —

- Ordnance Factory Tiruchirappalli, Tamil Nadu has recently(July 2021) unveiled the high-tech carbine 'TriCa'.
- **Specialities —**
- Its range is more more effective than a typical sub-machine gun and small enough to be packed in the jacket of security personnel.
- TriCa has a special muzzle booster which helps in hiding the flash and mitigating the sound when fired
- An advantage is that it can use ammunition and magazines as well as the inter-changeable parts of general assault rifles (TAR and AK-47).
- **Significance —**
- The lighter and compact weapon, the 7.62X39 mm carbine TriCa is designed for the infantry combat vehicle, helicopter crew and security personnel for operations that call for a compact and relatively powerful individual automatic weapon.
- The weapon is also for paratroopers, police and security personnel guarding highly secure facilities such as airports, and for use by the Special Operation Forces.



Link:

<https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/defence/ordnance-factory-in-tamil-nadu-launches-high-tech-carbine-trica/articleshow/84887491.cms>

Eutelsat Quantum

Question: Which of the following space agency launched the world's first commercial fully re-programmable satellite Eutelsat Quantum?

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

Answer: (b)

Related Facts:-

- On 30 July 2021; European Space Agency (ESA) launched, Eutelsat Quantum (EQ), the world's first commercial fully re-programmable satellite.
- The satellite was placed in orbit some 36 minutes after the launch.
- Eutelsat Quantum lifted off from French Guiana on board an Ariane 5 rocket and with launch a new era begins in the field of more flexible communications.
- The European Space Agency (ESA) declared that the Eutelsat Quantum satellite is the first commercial fully flexible software-defined satellite in the world.
- EQ, which weighs 3.5-tonne, has been developed under an ESA partnership project with satellite operator Eutelsat and prime manufacturer Airbus.
- It can respond to changing demands for data transmission and secure communications during its 15-year lifetime because it can be reprogrammed in orbit.
- Its beams can be redirected to move in almost real-time to provide information to passengers onboard moving ships or planes.
- **A fully re-programmable satellite:**



- The Eutelsat Quantum has an advantage over the conventional satellites as it allows users to tailor the communications to their needs — almost in real-time.
- It should be known that conventional models that are designed and “hard-wired” on Earth and cannot be repurposed once in orbit.
- EQ can be reprogrammed while orbiting in a fixed position 35,000 kilometers (22,000 miles) above the Earth.
- According to the ESA it can respond to changing demands for data transmission and secure communications during its 15-year lifetime.
- **communication beams for mobile coverage:**
- EQ has eight communications beams, each of which can be modified to change its area of coverage and also the power of the telecommunications signal it emits.
- Using software made available to the customer, these changes can be made in a matter of minutes, according to Eutelsat.

Links:-

<https://www.hindustantimes.com/world-news/worlds-first-commercial-fully-re-programmable-satellite-lifts-off-here-s-all-you-need-to-know-101627694453032.html>

INS Tabar

Question: On 29 July 2021; INS Tabar, as part of the ongoing Overseas Deployment, reached which of the following country?

a) Australia b) Sweden c) France d) Canada

Answer: (b)

Related Facts:-

- On 29 July 2021; INS Tabar, as part of the ongoing Overseas Deployment, reached Stockholm, Sweden.
- This visit of INS TABAR came after its participation in the 325th Russian Navy Day at St Petersburg Russia.
- INS Tabar arrived at Stockholm, for a three day goodwill visit.
- During the stay in Stockholm the ship’s crew will participate in various bilateral professional interactions with the Swedish Navy.
- It will also undertake a Maritime Partnership Exercise at sea with the Swedish Navy on departure from Stockholm.
- This is the first visit of an Indian Navy Ship to Stockholm in nearly two decades. The ship was received by Brig Gen Peder Ohlsson, and Group Captain Pankaj Mittal, Indian Defence Attache (DA) at Sweden.
- Brig Gen Peder Ohlsson is Deputy Chief of Royal Swedish Navy.
- He visited the ship and was presented a Guard of Honour onboard and during the walk around, he was explained about the key functionalities of the ship.
- While extending a warm welcome, he conveyed that Tabar visit to Stockholm would only consolidate the long standing ties between the Indian Navy and the Royal Swedish Navy.
- Captain Mahesh Mangipudi, the Commanding Officer (CO) presented him with the ship’s crest on completion of the visit.



Links:-

<https://pib.gov.in/PressReleaseSelfframePage.aspx?PRID=1741039>

EOS-03 satellite

Question: Consider the following statements:

(1) ISRO will launch Geo-imaging satellite EOS-03 in third quarter of 2021.

(2) The satellite would enable near-real time monitoring of natural disasters like floods & cyclones.

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:

- Union Minister of Science & Technology informed Rajya Sabha that Geo-imaging satellite “EOS-03” is scheduled for launch in third quarter of 2021.
- It would enable near-real time monitoring of natural disasters like floods & cyclones.
- EOS-03 is capable of imaging the whole country 4-5 times daily.
- In addition to natural disasters, EOS-03 would also enable monitoring of water bodies, crops, vegetation condition, forest cover changes etc.



Links:

<https://ca.movies.yahoo.com/geo-imaging-satellite-eos-03-090817411.html>

NISER (NASA-ISRO Synthetic Aperture Radar) satellite

Q. Consider the following statements regarding NISER Satellite-

- 1. It is a joint mission of ISRO-NASA.**
- 2. NISER is proposed to be launched in early 2023.**

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:-

- India plan to launch NISER (NASA-ISRO Synthetic Aperture Radar) satellite, a joint ISRO-NASA mission, with the goal to make global measurement of land surface changes using advanced radar imaging.
- NASA-ISRO Synthetic Aperture Radar (NISER) has not been launched yet. NISER is proposed to be launched in early 2023.
- NISAR is a joint Earth-Observation mission between ISRO and NASA for global observations over all land masses including Polar cryosphere and Indian Ocean region.
- It is a dual band (L-band and S-band) Radar imaging mission with capability of full polar metric and interferometric modes of operation to observe minor changes in land, vegetation and cryosphere.

- NASA is developing L-band SAR and associated systems and ISRO is developing S-band SAR, spacecraft bus, the launch vehicle and associated launch services.
- The major scientific objectives of the mission are to improve understanding of the impact of climate change on Earth's changing Ecosystems, land and coastal processes, land deformations and Cryosphere.

LINK

<https://pib.gov.in/PressReleaseDetail.aspx?PRID=1739511>

Merchandiser programme launched by ISRO

Question : The Indian Space Research Organisation on July 29 formally launched its theme-based merchandise programme. What will be customised ISRO-theme based products ?

a. Gadgets b. FMCG products c. Home appliances d. T-shirts, toys etc

Ans. d.

Related facts —

- The Indian Space Research Organisation on July 29 formally launched its theme-based merchandise programme.
- For this purpose ISRO has selected the first batch of nine registered ISRO merchandisers.
- Customised ISRO-theme based products will be T-shirts, toys etc.
- **Objective —**
- Customised ISRO-theme based products can play a 'game- changing' role in creating awareness and kindling interest of the students, children and public, in the domain of space science & technology, propagating the achievements and laurels that ISRO brings to the nation.
- The merchandise programme has not been rolled out with a commercial interest; rather, the intent is outreach and creating awareness through common products such as toys, Do-it-Yourself kits and T-shirts, among others, which kindle curiosity and serve as "reminiscence" of ISRO success.
- **Registered ISRO merchandisers —**
- The registered ISRO merchandisers as on date are Ankur Hobby Centre (Gujarat), Black White Orange Brands Private Ltd (Maharashtra), Indic Inspirations India Private Ltd (Maharashtra), Dhruva Space Private Limited (Telangana), EENG Private Ltd (Tamil Nadu), Imagic Creatives Private Ltd (Karnataka), Touchstone Enterprises Private Ltd (Karnataka) and Mankutimma Studios Private Ltd (Karnataka) and Specific Impulse Technologies Private Ltd (Punjab).



Link:

<https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/india/isro-launches-merchandiser-programme-theme-based-t-shirts-toys-etc-available/articleshow/84856243.cms>

Sports

Football

Durand Cup 2021: Kolkata to host 130th edition of Durand Cup from September 5 to October 3

Question-Which of the following state will host the 130th edition of Durand Cup?

(a) Kolkata(W.B) (b) Indore(M.P) (c) Delhi (New Delhi) (d) Bhubaneswar(Odisha)

Ans. (a)

Related Facts-

- Durand Cup, the oldest football tournament in the country, will return for its 130th edition in Kolkata from September 5 to October 3, 2021.
- The month-long tournament will feature 16 sides including four defence teams and will be supported by the All India Football Federation, India Football Association.
- Indian defence forces, the organisers, were forced to cancel the tournament last season due to the Covid-19 pandemic while Indian Super League and I-League were the only football events held last year.
- Durand Cup began in 1888 in Shimla and from 1940 to 2018 it was held in Delhi.
- Apart from the hosts' four teams, six teams each from the ISL and I-league are expected to join the tournament.
- Apart from taking home a purse of Rs 40 lakh, the triumphant team will stand to receive the rolling Durand Cup, the President's Cup and the Shimla Trophy.
- Mohun Bagan and East Bengal are the most successful teams in the history of the Durand Cup winning it sixteen times each.



Reference- <https://indianexpress.com/article/sports/football/durand-cup-returns-kolkata-to-host-16-teams-7450677/>.

Athletics

U20 World Athletics Championships 2021

Q. Which country is hosting the ongoing World Athletics Championship 2021?

a) South Africa b) Kenya c) Chad d) Nigeria

ANSWER:- b)

RELATED FACTS:-

- The World Athletics Under-20 Championships begin at Kasarani Stadium in Nairobi, Kenya from 18TH August to 22th August, 2021.
- Earlier the tournament was scheduled between August 17-22 but it begin one day late on August 18.



- It will conclude on August 22. It was first to be held from July 7-12, 2020 but got deferred due to the Covid-19 pandemic.
- Nairobi won the hosting rights in 2018 after conducting 'an outstanding final edition' of the IAAF World U18 Championships in 2017.
- According to reports, at least 60,000 watched the U18 championships at Nairobi's Moi International Sports Centre. But this time, the fans will not be watching the action due to Covid-19 restrictions.
- Indian athletes comprising 17 boys and 10 girls reached Nairobi on 15th August morning.
- Interestingly, no boys have been listed in the individual race even though they are participating in men's 4x400m. Even in mixed relay, Indians are missing from the provisional list.

LINK

<https://indianexpress.com/article/sports/sport-others/focus-shifts-to-nairobi-for-world-athletics-u20-championships-from-august-18-to-22-7454929/>

Short Notes

Personalities

Mansukh Mandaviya takes charge as Stop TB Partnership Board chairman

Q. Recently who has took charge as the Chairman of Stop TB Partnership Board?

a) Dr. Harshvardhan Bajpai b) Mansukh Mandaviya c) Tedros Adhanom d) None of these

ANSWER:- b)

RELATED FACTS:-

- On 26th August, 2021 Union Health Minister Mansukh Mandaviya took charge as the Chairman of Stop TB Partnership Board.
- The Minister will hold the responsibility with immediate effect until 2024.
- He will lead the efforts of the Stop TB Partnership Secretariat, partners, and the TB community at large, towards reaching the UN TB targets by 2022.
- It is known that India has set a target to end the TB by 2025.
- **About Stop TB Partnership:-**
- The Stop TB Partnership is leading the way to a world without tuberculosis (TB), a disease that is curable but still kills three people every minute.
- Founded in 2001, the Partnership's mission is to serve every person who is vulnerable to TB and ensure that high-quality diagnosis, treatment and care is available to all who need it.



LINK

<https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1749251>

Question : The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has appointed Ajay Kumar as Executive Director (ED) with effect from —

(a) 20 August, 2021 (b) 16 August, 2021 (c) 12 August, 2021 (d) None of the above

Answer : (a)

Related facts —

- India's central bank has appointed Ajay Kumar as Executive Director (ED) with effect from August 20, 2021.
- Over a span of thirty years he had served in foreign exchange, banking supervision, financial inclusion, currency management and other areas in the RBI.
- Ajay will now look after the departments of currency management, foreign exchange and premises department.



Link:

<https://www.thehindu.com/business/rbi-elevates-ajay-kumar-as-executive-director/article36127788.ece>

RBI approves re-appointment of Sandeep Bakhshi as MD and CEO of ICICI Bank

Question- Which of the following person is re-appointed as MD and CEO of ICICI Bank?

(a) Sandeep Bakhshi (b) Rajdeep Singh (c) Sanjeet Pratap Singh (d) Ashwani Bhatia

Ans. (a)

Related Facts-

- The Reserve Bank of India has approved the re-appointment of Sandeep Bakhshi as Managing Director and CEO of ICICI Bank with effect from October 15, 2021 till October 3, 2023.
- Bakhshi was appointed the MD & CEO of the bank, with effect from October 15, 2018.
- RBI had approved a three-year stint for Bakhshi back then as opposed to a five-year stint that the bank had sought.
- Bakhshi took over as the CEO of the bank after Chanda Kochhar, who was facing inquiry on allegations of alleged quid pro quo in extending loans to certain entities, resigned as the CEO of the bank.



Reference- https://www.business-standard.com/article/finance/rbi-approves-re-appointment-of-sandeep-bakhshi-as-icici-bank-md-ceo-121082401408_1.html.

Olympian and FIFA referee Syed Shahid Hakim dies aged 82

Question : Recently Syed Shahid Hakim died .He belonged to which of the following sports?

(a) Cricket (b) Football (c) Badminton (d) Chess

Answer: (b)

Related Facts:

- Former Olympic footballer and ex-national football coach Syed Shahid Hakim passed away in a private hospital in Gulbarga on Sunday. He was 82.
- Hakim 'saab' as he was popularly known, was 82 years old at the time of his death. He had very recently suffered a stroke after which he was admitted to a hospital in Gulbarga.
- In his more than five-decade association with Indian football, Hakim, a Dronacharya Awardee, has also been an assistant coach to late PK Banerjee during the 1982 Asian Games in Delhi and also independently has been in charge of the national team during a tournament in Merdeka.
- At the domestic level, his finest hour as coach came when he guided Mahindra & Mahindra (now Mahindra United) to the Durand Cup title in 1988, beating a formidable East Bengal team. He has also coached Salgaocar and his last serious coaching assignment was with Bengal Mumbai FC in 2004-05.
- He has been a FIFA badge holder international referee having officiated in Asian Club Cup games and was also conferred with the prestigious Dhyan Chand Award.
- A former Squadron Leader of the Indian Air Force, Hakim was also a Regional Director of Sports Authority of India and his last assignment was as Project Director in charge of scouting before the 2017 U-17 FIFA World Cup.



REFERENCE: <https://www.indiatoday.in/sports/football/story/olympian-and-fifa-referee-syed-shahid-hakim-dies-aged-82-1843955-2021-08-22>

Former England captain Ted Dexter passes away

Question : Recently Ted Dexter passes away. He belonged to which of the following sports?

(a) Cricket (b) Hockey (c) Football (d) Badminton

Answer : (a)

Related Facts:

- Former England captain Ted Dexter has died at Wolverhampton after a bout of illness as per the Marylebone Cricket Club (MCC)
- He was 86.
- A powerful middle-order batsman and medium-pace bowler, Dexter played 62 Tests between 1958 and 1968, leading the side in 30 of those and scoring 4502 runs at an average of 47.89, besides taking 66 wickets.
- Known for his ability to dominate top-class fast bowling, he slammed nine hundreds, six of which were scores of above 140.
- He was inducted into the ICC Cricket Hall of Fame earlier this year.

REFERENCE: <https://www.thehindu.com/sport/cricket/former-england-captain-ted-dexter-passes-away/article36114655.ece>

Olympic medalist Mirabai Chanu signs brand endorsement deal with Amway

Question- Which of the following person has appointed as the brand ambassador for Amway and its Nutrilite range of products?

(a) Mirabai Chanu (b) P V Sindhu (c) Neeraj Chopra (d) Ravi Kumar dahiya

Ans. (a)

Related Facts-

- Direct selling FMCG firm Amway India on August 17, 2021 announced that it has appointed Olympian Saikhom Mirabai Chanu as the brand ambassador for Amway and its Nutrilite range of products.
- Chanu will spearhead the company's campaigns focused on product ranges such as Nutrilite Daily, Omega and All Plant Protein among others.
- Chanu, a weightlifter, won the silver medal at the 2020 Tokyo Olympics in the women's 49kg category.
- Nutrilite, the flagship brand of Amway, has a legacy of over 80 years of plant-based approach to supplementation.
- The company recently launched Chyawanprash by Nutrilite and Nutrilite Vitamin C Cherry Plus, a targeted supplement in the food for special dietary usage (FSDU) segment, further strengthening the nutrition portfolio.



Reference- <https://www.livemint.com/companies/news/amway-india-appoints-mirabai-chanu-as-brand-ambassador-for-nutrilite-range-11629187709123.html>.

Sheikh Sultan bin Ahmed al-Qasimi

Question : Ruler of UAE's Sharjah has recently appointed new deputy. Name the person ?

- a. Sheikh Sultan bin Ahmed al-Qasimi b. Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum
c. Saif bin Zayed Al Nahyan d. Mansour bin Zayed Al Nahyan

Ans. a.

Related facts —

- The ruler of Sharjah, the third largest of the United Arab Emirates, has recently (August 2021) appointed Sheikh Sultan bin Ahmed al-Qasimi as deputy ruler as well as chairman of the Sharjah Petroleum Council.
- It is notable that emirate's previous deputy ruler died last year.
- The appointments came in decrees by the conservative emirate's 82-year-old ruler Sheikh Sultan bin Mohammed al-Qasimi, who has led Sharjah since 1972.
- Ruler Sheikh Sultan had two sons, both of whom died.
- His new U.S.-educated deputy has held several senior posts, such as chairman of the Sharjah Media Council and of the Sharjah National Oil Company.
- **The UAE federation —**
- It founded in 1971, groups seven emirates including business and tourism hub Dubai and the capital Abu Dhabi, which holds most of the Gulf Arab state's oil wealth.

Link:

<https://www.thenationalnews.com/uae/government/2021/08/09/sharjah-appoints-sheikh-sultan-bin-ahmed-as-new-deputy-ruler/>

Tamilnadu : Trained aspirants of all castes as priests in temples

Question : On which date Tamilnadu government appointed as many as 24 trained ‘archakas’ of various communities as priests in shrines ?

- a. August 08, 2021 b. August 10, 2021 c. August 11, 2021
d. None of the above

Ans. d.

Related facts —

- On August 14, 2021 Tamilnadu government appointed as many as 24 trained ‘archakas’ of various communities as priests in shrines.
- Implementing its electoral promise of appointing aspirants belonging to all castes as temple priests, the Tamilnadu government on this occasion handed over the appointment orders of the Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowments Department to 75 persons here marking appointments to 208 positions under various categories.
- The appointments include 24 aspirants who had formally completed training in a state-run centre for becoming priests in Hindu temples, 34 others who completed ‘archaka’ training in other ‘patashalas.’
- The 208 appointees include “Bhattacharyas,” “Odhuvars” Poojaris and technical and office assistants who were recruited after due process.
- While Bhattacharyas are Vaishanaite priests, Odhuvars are trained in Tamil Shaivite tradition to recite and sing devotional hymns composed by Shaivite saints including Appar and Manickavasagar in praise of Lord Shiva.



Link:

<https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/politics-and-nation/dmk-government-appoints-trained-aspirants-of-all-castes-as-priests-in-temples/articleshow/85328699.cms>

Recommendation of nine names for appointment as Supreme Court judges

Question: The Supreme Court Collegium, in its meeting held on August 17, has recommended nine names for appointment as Supreme Court judges. Out of them how many are the Chief Justices of different high courts ?

- a. Four b. Three c. Five d. Six

Ans. a.

Related facts —

- The Supreme Court Collegium, in its meeting held on August 17, has recommended nine names for appointment as Supreme Court judges.
- Out of them four are the Chief Justices of different high courts.
- The four chief justices of different high courts —
- The four chief justices of different high courts whose names have been recommended are — Justices Abhay Shreeniwas Oka (Chief Justice of Karnataka High Court), Vikram



Nath (Chief Justice of Gujarat High Court), Jitendra Kumar Maheshwari (Chief Justice of Sikkim High Court) and Justice Hima Kohli (Chief Justice of Telengana High Court).

- P S Narasimha —
- Senior advocate and former Additional Solicitor General P S Narasimha, whose name if cleared, would become the sixth lawyer to be elevated to the apex court bench directly from the Bar.
- Other names —
- Besides them, names of Justice B V Nagarathna from the Karnataka High Court, Justice C T Ravikumar of Kerala High Court, Justice M M Sundresh of Madras High Court and Justice Bela Trivedi from the Gujarat High Court judge have been recommended by the Collegium.
- The recommendations, if accepted, will fill all current vacancies taking the working strength to 33.

Link:

<https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/india/collegium-recommends-nine-names-for-appointment-as-sc-judges/articleshow/85431974.cms>

Apurva Chandra

Question : According to an order of the Ministry of Personnel issued recently(August 2021), who has been appointed as the Secretary of Information and Broadcasting ?

a. Apurva Chandra b. Durgesh Bansal c. G Ganeshan d. La Ganesan

Ans. a.

Related facts —

- Senior bureaucrat Apurva Chandra has been appointed Information and Broadcasting secretary, a Personnel Ministry order said recently(August 2021).
- He is a 1988 batch IAS officer of Maharashtra cadre and is presently Secretary in the Ministry of Labor and Employment.
- It is notable that Higher Education Secretary Amit Khare was holding the additional charge of the post of Information and Broadcasting secretary for over a year now.



Link:

<https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/india/apurva-chandra-new-ib-secy/articleshow/85467057.cms>

La. Ganesan

Question : Who was appointed as the new Governor of Manipur in August 2021 ?

a. La. Ganesan b. Ganga Prasad c. Najma Heptulla d. P Acharya

Ans. a.

Related facts —

- Senior BJP leader from Tamil Nadu, La. Ganesan, was appointed as the new Governor of Manipur in August 2021.

- It is notable that post of the Governor had fallen vacant after the retirement of Najma Heptulla, earlier in August 2021.

Link:

<https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/other-states/senior-bjp-leader-la-ganesan-appointed-as-new-governor-of-manipur/article36042375.ece>

Maki Kaji, ‘godfather of sudoku’, dies aged 69 in Japan

Question: Maki Kaji is known for which of the following creation?

a) Sudoku b) Zenga c) Skateboards d) None of these

Ans: a

Context

- Maki Kaji, the Japanese man known as the “Godfather of Sudoku”, has died at the age of 69.
- **Related Facts**
 - Sudoku is one of the most famous puzzle game which is being played worldwide.
 - It involves placing the numbers 1 to 9 in each row, column and square of a 9 by 9 grid.
 - Tournaments take place across the world and millions play it in one version or the other.
 - Kaji gave the number puzzle its name after publishing it in his magazine Nikoli in the 1980s.

Reference: <https://www.bbc.com/news/world-asia-58243126>

Actor Saranya Sasi passes away at 35

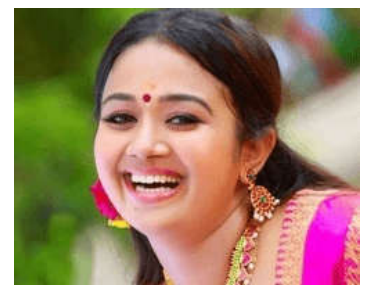
Question : Recently Saranya Sasi passed away at 35. She was associated with which of the following genre?

(a) Acting (b) Dancing (c) Singing (d) Writing

Answer : (a)

Related Facts:

- The 35-year-old actress was diagnosed with brain tumour years ago and underwent surgical procedure several times as part of the treatment.
- While she was undergoing treatment for tumour, she contracted COVID-19 in May this year.
- She recovered from the virus infection but her health condition worsened due to related complications.
- Hailing from Pazhayangadi in Kannur district, she had acted in a few Malayalam movies like ‘Chacko Randaman’ and ‘Chotta Mumbai’ and was a popular TV actress .
- Condoling the death, Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan said the actress fought the disease confidently.



Reference: <https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/magazines/panache/malayalam-actress-saranya-sasi-passes-away-at-35/articleshow/85209761.cms>

Zoological Survey of India gets its first woman director

Question: Who has been appointed as first woman director of Zoological Survey of India?

(a) Dhriti Banerjee (b) Sushmita Banerjee (c) Rekha Sharma (d) Vijayalaxmi

Answer : (a)

Related Facts:

- The Zoological Survey of India, one of the premier organisations involved in taxonomic studies of fauna, got its first woman Director.
- Dhriti Banerjee, entomologist with an expertise in Diptera, has taken over as the 18th director of the 105-year institute on August 6. Headquartered in Kolkata, the ZSI has 16 regional centres and about 300 scientists.
- Dr. Banerjee spearheaded the ZSI faunal information system, multi-dimensional platform housing information, collections, spatial and temporal data as well as genetics and molecular information about the faunal species.
- Note : The Zoological Survey of India (ZSI), founded on 1 July 1916 by Government of India Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, as premier Indian organisation in zoological research and studies to promote the survey, exploration and research of the fauna in the country.



Reference: <https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/zoological-survey-of-india-gets-its-first-woman-director/article35792195.ece>

Padma Sachdev, who was awarded Padma Shri, passed away

Question : Recently Padma Sachdev passed away. She was related to which of the following genre?

(a) Poet (b) Singer (c) Dancer (d) Scientist

Answer : (a)

Related Facts:

- Padma Sachdev, a Dogri writer who was awarded the Padma Shri, passed away.
- The Sahitya Akademi has condoled the death of Padma Sachdev, a Dogri poet, novelist and an important member of the Sahitya Akademi.
- In the memory of Sachdeva, a condolence meeting was organized in the auditorium of the Academy on Wednesday.
- Sahitya Akademi secretary K. Srinivas Rao said that due to her unique creativity, she would remain an unforgettable heritage of Dogri and Hindi literature.
- Sahitya Akademi expresses its deepest condolences to the family of Sachdev and pays their humble tributes. His death has caused a great loss to the literary world.



Reference: <https://www.nayaindia.com/country/padma-shri-awardee-padma-sachdev-passed-away-indian-sahitya-akademi-expressed-grief-170450.html>

Olympian footballer S.S. 'Babu' Nayaran passes away

Question : Recently Olympian S.S. 'Babu' Nayaran passed away. He was related to which sports?

(a) Football (b) Wrestling (c) Badminton (d) Javelin Throw

Answer (a)

Related Facts:

- Two-times Olympian Shankar Subramaniam, alias Babu, Nayaran passed away here on Thursday. Nayaran, who was India's goalkeeper during the 1956 and 1960 Olympics, was 86.
- According to his family members, Narayan suffered a cardiac arrest minutes after being discharged from a hospital having undergone a surgery. He is survived by daughters Lakshmi and Janaki and son Murali.
- Besides representing Maharashtra in football and basketball, Narayan emerged as one of the most reliable goalkeepers in India. His decade-long career for the national team also included the stellar effort of India finishing fourth in the 1956 Olympics and representing India in the 1964 Asian Games.
- Born in Palakkad district in Kerala, Narayan was a star in Mumbai's local circuit during his appearances for Matunga Students, Matunga Gymkhana, Caltex and Tata Sports Club. He was part of Maharashtra's Santosh Trophy-winning campaign in 1964.



Reference: <https://sportstar.thehindu.com/football/olympian-footballer-ss-nayaran-passes-away-indian-football-babu-narayan/article35754410.ece>

Hockey player Vandana Kataria made Uttarakhand's Women & Child Development ambassador

Question : Which of the following person has been made Uttarakhand's Women & Child Development ambassador?

(a) Vandana Kataria (b) Rashi Khan (c) Saikhom Mirabai Chanu (d) Vandana Paliwal

Answer : (a)

Related Facts:

- Uttarakhand Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dhami has appointed Team India's hockey player Vandana Katariya as the brand ambassador of the state's Department of Women Empowerment and Child Development.
- The announcement was made at a programme organized to felicitate the recipients of the Tilu Rauteli Award and the Anganwadi Workers Award on 8, 2021. This programme was held at the IRDT Auditorium at Survey Chowk.
- CM Dhami further stated that the prize money for the aforementioned accolades will be doubled from Rs 31,000 to Rs 51,000 beginning next year.

Reference: <https://www.indiatoday.in/india/story/uttarakhand-appoints-hockey-player-vandana-kataria-women-child-development-ambassador-1838472-2021-08-08>

Noted sculptor, cartoonist P.S. Banarji passes away

Q. Recently the very famous P. S. Banargy passed away. He was related to which of the following art?

a) Acting b) Sculptor c) Cartoonist d) Both (b) & (c)

ANSWER:- d)

RELATED FACTS:-

- Cartoonist, sculptor and folk singer P.S. Banarji passed away at Thiruvananthapuram Medical College Hospital on 6TH August, 2021.
- He was 41.
- A resident of Sasthamcotta in Kollam district, he was undergoing treatment for post-COVID-19 complications.
- A recipient of the Lalithakala Akademi Fellowship, Banarji was noted for his Ayyankali and Buddha sculptures at Venganur and Koduman.
- Known for his rendition of a string of folk songs, including the popular 'Tharaka Pennale', he was working as a graphic designer in an IT firm in the capital.

LINK

<https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/kerala/noted-kerala-sculptor-cartoonist-ps-banarji-passes-away-at-41/article35771434.ece>

Anthony Heredia

Question : Who has been announced as the Chief Executive Officer of BOI AXA Investment Managers Private Limited with effect from August 05, 2021 ?

a. Anthony Heredia b. Pulak Jain c. R S Lodha d. Vinod Sharan

Ans. a.

Related Facts —

- Anthony Heredia has been announced as the Chief Executive Officer of BOI AXA Investment Managers Private Limited with effect from August 05, 2021.
- He has a experience of over 25 years, predominantly in the investment management business within financial services.
- His previous work experiences include tenures with Morgan Stanley Investment Management as Managing Director; HSBC Asset Management India as Senior Vice President and Birla Sun Life Asset Management as Associate Vice President – Business Development.
- He also served as a Director on the Board of the Association of Mutual Funds of India (AMFI).



Link:

<https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/company/corporate-trends/boi-axa-investment-managers-appoints-anthony-heredia-ceo/articleshow/85099257.cms>

Question : Which company on August 02 announced the appointment of Deepak Maheshwari as its new chief executive officer ?

a. Essar Oil UK b. TCS c. Thermax Ltd d. Wipro UK

Ans. a.

Related facts —

- Essar Oil UK on August 02 announced the appointment of Deepak Maheshwari as its new chief executive officer.
- It is notable that Essar Oil UK is a UK-focused downstream energy company whose main asset is the Stanlow Manufacturing Complex.
- Maheshwari will closely oversee along with the company's board a number of energy transition projects aimed at making the Stanlow factory into a green refinery.
- The Stanlow factory is a strategic national facility, annually producing over 16% of the UK's road transport fuels.
- Since acquiring Stanlow in 2011, Essar has invested \$1 billion in margin improvement and other efficiency initiatives to ensure the refinery's competitiveness.
- Essar Group is an Indian multinational conglomerate and construction company, founded by Shashi Ruia and Ravi Ruia, in 1969.



Link:

<https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/industry/energy/oil-gas/deepak-maheshwari-appointed-as-the-ceo-of-essar-oil-uk/articleshow/84977619.cms>

Aditya Puri

Question : Ex-HDFC Bank head Aditya Puri has recently(August 2021) been appointed as chairman of Solara Active Pharma Sciences, an API manufacturer. What is API ?

a. Active Pharmaceutical Ingredient b. Alternate Pharmaceutical Ingredient
c. Active ParaffinIngredient d. None of the above

Ans. a.

Related facts —

- Ex-HDFC Bank head Aditya Puri has recently(August 2021) been appointed as chairman of Solara Active Pharma Sciences, an API manufacturer.
- While Vineeta Rai, former revenue secretary for the Centre has been appointed as an independent director.
- Rajendra Rao, founder, Aurore Life Sciences has been appointed as Executive Chairman and Vice-Chairman Designate, while the founder of the company Arun Kumar has joined as non-executive director.
- API stands for — Active Pharmaceutical Ingredient.



Link:

<https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/markets/stocks/news/ex-hdfc-bank-head-aditya-puri-appointed-chairman-of-solara/articleshow/85038364.cms>

World Masters gold medal winner Man Kaur passes away

Q. Recently the famous Man Kaur passed away. She was related to which of the following field?

a) Acting b) Classical Dancing c) Pianist d) Sports person

ANSWER:- d)

RELATED FACTS:-

- On 31st July, 2021 Multiple World Masters Championship gold medalist and multiple Asian Masters Championship medalist athlete 105-year-old Man Kaur breathed her last at a Dera Bassi Hospital near Mohali.
- A native of Patiala and born on March 1, 1916, a young Kaur was one of the caretakers for the queens and children at the royal Patiala household of the then Maharaja Bhupinder Singh and later for the family of Maharaja Yadavindra Singh, father of Punjab Chief Minister Amarinder Singh.
- While her husband Ranjeet Singh was one of the khansamas of the royal house, Kaur also took care of the children in the royal family.
- She had won her first medal in 2007 at the Chandigarh Masters Athletics meet, in which she ran "for the heck of it" after seeing Gurdev, eldest of her three children, take part in a race in Patiala.
- She shot to fame after winning the 100 metre sprint at the World Masters Games in Auckland in 2017 and held several world records.
- In 2019, She also won gold in track and field events at the World Masters Athletic Championship in Torun, Poland.
- Kaur bagged the gold in 60m dash race, 200m sprint, shot put and javelin throw.



LINK

<https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/chandigarh/centenarian-sprinter-man-kaur-passes-away/articleshow/84940477.cms>

Deepak Das takes charge as Controller General of Accounts (CGA)

Question: Consider the following statements:

i) Deepak Das is the 25th officer to hold the position of CGA.

ii) CGA is the Principal Advisor on Accounting matters to the Union Government of India.

Which of the above statements are correct?

a) I b) ii c) both i and ii d) None

Ans: c

Context

- Union Government has appointed Shri Deepak Das, 1986-batch Indian Civil Accounts Service (ICAS) Officer as the Controller General of Accounts (CGA) with effect from August 1, 2021.

- He will be the 25th officer to hold the coveted position of Controller General of Accounts (CGA).
- **Facts**
About the office of CGA
- CGA is principal advisor on accounting matters to the Union government.
- It works under the Department of Expenditure, Ministry of Finance.
- **Office is responsible for :**
- Establishing and managing a technically sound Management Accounting System,
- Preparation and submission of the accounts of the Union Government,
- Exchequer control and internal audits.



Reference: <https://cga.nic.in/>

Maharashtra Bhushan Award

Question: Who has been conferred with Maharashtra Bhushan Award for year 2020 by government of Maharashtra?

a) Lata Mangeshkar b) Sachin Tendulkar c) Asha Bhosle d) None of the above

Ans: c

Context

- State government of Maharashtra has conferred its highest honour 'Maharashtra Bhushan' to legendary singer Asha Bhosle recently.
- The Award was set up in 1996 by Maharashtra government and P.L. Deshpande was the first recipient of the award.
- **Related Facts**
- Asha ji has been awarded with the Maharashtra Bhushan for the year 2020.
- Ministry of Culture of government of Maharashtra announced the honour.
- Bhosle is the second member of her family to win this honour, after Lata Mangeshkar was awarded the Maharashtra Bhushan in 1997.
- The iconic singer is the recipient of the prestigious Dadasaheb Phalke Award and Padma Vibhushan.
- She made her Hindi film debut with the song "Saawan Aaya" for Hansraj Behl's Chunariya in 1948.
- In 2011 Asha Bhosle was officially acknowledged by the Guinness Book of World Records as being the most recorded artist in music history.

 **ashabhosle** @ashabhosle
My heart felt gratitude to the people of Maharashtra for conferring upon me the highest level of honour the state can award to an individual - the Maharashtra Bhushan Award.
Eternally grateful 🙏
Jai hind, Jai Maharashtra



Reference: <https://www.aninews.in/news/entertainment/music/asha-bhosle-to-be-conferred-with-maharashtra-bhushan-award20210325220640/>

Awards & Honors

Prime Minister's Shram Awards announced

Q. Which central ministry announced the Prime Minister Shram Awards?

- a) Prime minister Office b) Ministry of Labour & Employment c) Finance Ministry
d) None of these

ANSWER:- b)

RELATED FACTS:-

- The Government of India On 12th, August, 2021 announced the Prime Minister's Shram Awards (PMSA) for the year 2018.
- These awards are to be awarded to 69 workers employed in the Departmental Undertakings & Public Sector Undertakings of the Central and State Governments and Private Sector Units employing 500 or more workers in recognition of their distinguished performance, innovative abilities, outstanding contribution in the field of productivity and exhibition of exceptional courage and presence of mind.
- This year the Prime Minister's Shram Awards are given in three categories namely Shram Bhushan Awards which carry a cash prize of Rs.1,00,000/- each, Shram Vir/Shram Veerangana Awards which carry a cash prize of Rs. 60,000/- each and Shram Shree/Shram Devi Awards which carry a cash prize of Rs.40,000/- each.
- For the year 2018, four (4) nominations for the Shram Bhushan Awards, twelve (12) nominations for Shram Vir/Shram Veerangana awards and seventeen (17) nominations for Shram Shree/Shram Devi Awards have been selected.
- While the total number of Shram Awards conferred this year are thirty three (33), the number of workers receiving the Awards is sixty nine (69) as some of the awards have been shared by workers and/or teams of workers consisting of more than one worker.
- Out of the total awardees, forty nine (49) workers are from the public sector while twenty (20) workers are from the private sector. The awardees include eight (8) women workers. Details of the awardees are enclosed.



LINK

<https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1745199>

BCCI Announces Cash Rewards For Olympic Medallists

Question : Recently BCCI announced Cash Rewards For Olympic Medalists. How much money will it give to gold medalist Neeraj Chopra?

- (a) 1 crore (b) 50 lakh (c) 30 lakh (d) 10 lakh

Answer : (a)

Related Facts:

- The Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) announced cash rewards for India's Olympic medallists with javelin thrower Neeraj Chopra set to receive Rs 1 crore after winning India's first gold medal in athletics at the Games.

- The BCCI on Saturday announced cash rewards for India's medal winners at the Tokyo Olympics with Rs 1 crore reserved for Neeraj Chopra, who became country's first track and field athlete to win a gold medal.
- Javelin thrower Chopra secured India's second individual gold in Olympic history with a sensational performance.
- In a tweet, BCCI secretary Jay Shah also announced that Rs 50 lakh each will be given to silver medallists — Mirabai Chanu and Ravi Dahiya. Mirabai Chanu won India's first weightlifting medal at the Games and Ravi Dahiya became only the second wrestler from the country to win a silver after Sushil Kumar (2012).



Reference : <https://sports.ndtv.com/olympics-2020/tokyo-olympics-bcci-announces-cash-rewards-for-olympic-medallists-neeraj-chopra-to-get-rs-1-crore-2505308>

Prime Minister's Shram Awards

Question : Central Governemtn announced the Prime Minister's Shram Awards (PMSA) for the year 2018 on August 12, 2021. Accordingly, which of the following statement is correct ?

- 49 awardees are from the public sector
- 39 awardees are from the public sector
- 29 awardees are from the public sector
- 59 awardees are from the public sector

Ans. a.

Related facts —

- Central Governemtn announced the Prime Minister's Shram Awards (PMSA) for the year 2018 on August 12, 2021.
- **Key points —**
- These awards are to be awarded to 69 workers employed in the Departmental Undertakings & Public Sector Undertakings of the Central and State Governments and Private Sector Units employing 500 or more workers in recognition of their distinguished performance, innovative abilities, outstanding contribution in the field of productivity and exhibition of exceptional courage and presence of mind.
- This year the Prime Minister's Shram Awards are given in three categories namely Shram Bhushan Awards which carry a cash prize of Rs.1,00,000/- each, Shram Vir/Shram Veerangana Awards which carry a cash prize of Rs. 60,000/- each and Shram Shree/Shram Devi Awards which carry a cash prize of Rs.40,000/- each.
- For the year 2018, four (4) nominations for the Shram Bhushan Awards, twelve (12) nominations for Shram Vir/Shram Veerangana awards and seventeen (17) nominations for Shram Shree/Shram Devi Awards have been selected. While the total number of Shram Awards conferred this year are thirty three (33), the number of workers receiving the Awards is sixty nine (69) as some of the awards have been shared by workers and/or teams of workers consisting of more than one worker.
- Out of the total awardees, forty nine (49) workers are from the public sector while twenty (20) workers are from the private sector.



- The awardees include eight (8) women workers.

Link:

<https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1745199>

Planning & Project

India signs pact with Maldives for \$500 million Greater Male Connectivity Project

Question :Which country has signed pact with Maldives for \$500 million Greater Male Connectivity Project?

(a) India (b)Pakistan (c)United States of America (d)China

Answer :(a)

Realted Facts:



- In one of the major connectivity initiatives abroad, India will commence the Greater Male Connectivity Project (GMCP) — the largest-ever infrastructure project — in the Maldives.
- India will grant \$100 million for the project besides a line of credit worth Rs 400 million.
- It will be an enduring symbol of the India-Maldives partnership. It is the largest infrastructure project to be executed in the country.
- This project will connect business, people, industry.
- GMCP will include the construction of a 6.74 km long bridge and causeway link which will connect the capital city Male with adjoining islands of Villingli, Gulhifalhu and Thilafushi.
- The signing ceremony was attended by Ministers of National Planning and Infrastructure Mohamed Aslam, Minister of Economic Development Fayyaz Ismail, Minister of Finance Ibrahim Ameer, Minister of Transport Aishath Nahula, Indian High Commissioner Sunjay Sudhir and senior Management from AFCONS.

Reference: <https://www.indiatoday.in/india/story/greater-male-connectivity-project-india-maldives-1845599-2021-08-26>

India's Largest Floating Solar PV project

In which of the state of India NTPC Limited has commissioned the largest floating solar PV project of 25 MegaWatt?

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

Answer: (a)

Related Facts:-

- On 21 August 2021; operations started by NTPC Limited on the reservoir of its Simhadri thermal station in Visakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh.
- The project declared open after as the NTPC Limited declared open after commissioning a 15 MW floating solar project in Simhadri thermal station.
- This will be now largest floating solar PV project in India with the total capacity of 25 MegaWatt Andhra Pradesh, commissioned by the NTPC Limited.

- This is also the first solar project to be set up under the Flexibilisation Scheme, notified by the Government of India in 2018.
- The Power Ministry said, the floating solar installation has a unique anchoring design which is spread over 75 acres.
- The Ministry said, this will not only help to light around seven thousand households but also ensure at least 46 thousand tons of carbon dioxide is not emitted every year during the lifespan of this project.
- It will produce energy from more than a lakh of photovoltaic PV modules for lighting fixtures in 7,000 households.
- The mission will yearly keep 46,000 tonnes of CO₂ emission and 1,364 million litres of water, which is sufficient to meet the requirement of 6,700 households in a year.

Links:-

<https://newsonair.com/2021/08/21/ntpc-commissions-largest-floating-solar-pv-project-in-andhra-pradesh/>

NTPC commissions largest Floating Solar PV Project in the country

Q. Recently which corporation has commissioned the largest floating solar PV project in the country?

- a) National thermal Power Corporation
b) Adani Power c) Essar Energy d) Fortum India

ANSWER:- a)

RELATED FACTS:-



- The National Thermal Power Corporation (NTPC) Ltd, has commissioned the largest floating solar PV project of 25MW on the reservoir of its Simhadri thermal station in Visakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh.
- This is also the first solar project to be set up under the Flexibilisation Scheme, notified by the Government of India in 2018.
- The floating solar installation which has a unique anchoring design is spread over 75 acres in an RW reservoir.
- This floating solar project has the potential to generate electricity from more than 1 lakh solar PV modules.
- This would not only help to light around 7,000 households but also ensure at least 46,000 tons of CO₂e are kept at arm's length every year during the lifespan of this project.
- The project is also expected to save 1,364 million litres of water per annum.
- This would be adequate to meet the yearly water requirements of 6,700 households.
- The 2000MW coal-based Simhadri Station is the first power project to implement an open sea intake from the Bay of Bengal which has been functional for more than 20 years.
- NTPC is also planning to set up a hydrogen-based micro-grid system on a pilot basis at Simhadri.
- With a total installed capacity of 66900 MW, NTPC Group has 71 Power stations including 29 Renewable projects. NTPC has set a target to install 60 gigawatts (GW) of renewable energy (RE) capacity by 2032.

- NTPC is also India's first energy company to declare its energy compact goals as part of the UN High-level Dialogue on Energy (HLDE).
- The group has over 17 GW of capacity under construction, including 5 GW of renewable energy projects.
- Uninterrupted supply of electricity through environment-friendly energy projects at affordable prices has been the hallmark of NTPC.

LINK

<https://www.pib.gov.in/PressReleaseDetail.aspx?PRID=1747847>

SBI Life launches new age protection plan

Q. Recently which bank has launched the new age protection plan –eShield?

a) PNB b) ICICI c) SBI d) HDFC

ANSWER:- c)

RELATED FACTS:-

- SBI Life Insurance, one of most trusted private life insurers in the country, on 17TH August, 2021 announced the launch of a unique new age protection solution – 'SBI Life eShield.
- Next', that 'Levels Up' the protection coverage as the insured achieves life's prominent milestones.
- An individual, non-linked, non-participating, life insurance pure risk premium product, is designed to let consumers enjoy the finer moments in life, by 'levelling up' the required insurance protection, through an increase in sum assured linked to the significant 'level-up' milestones in one's life, like getting married, becoming a parent or buying a new house.
- The unique selling proposition of the new age protection plan eShield next is its 'level-up' feature.
- It offers three plan options – 'Level cover, Increasing cover and Level Cover with Future Proofing benefit'.
- Each has been thoughtfully crafted to meet the changing needs of consumers.
- Commenting on the launch of SBI Life eShield Next, Ravindra Kumar, President, SBI Life Insurance said, "In the past year, we have witnessed a tectonic shift, not only in our work life, but also the overall lifestyle.
- This sudden change requires all of us to be agile and adapt to the evolving situation created by the pandemic.
- As we continuously adapt to the situation, it is crucial for our life insurance cover to also adapt to our changing needs, especially as we 'Level Up' in life.
- This is precisely what SBI Life eShield Next aims to offer. The pure term protection plan offers a range of customizations ensuring that consumers' remains financially secure, in the present as well as the future."



LINK

<https://www.uniindia.com/sbi-life-launches-eshield-next-a-new-age-protection-solution/business-economy/news/2479796.html>

Implementation of National Mission on Edible Oils – Oil Palm

Question : On which date the Union Cabinet, chaired by the Prime Minister Narendra Modi has given its approval to launch a new Mission on Oil palm to be known as the National Mission on Edible Oils – Oil Palm (NMEO-OP) ?

a. 15 AUG 2021 b. 14 AUG 2021 c. 18 AUG 2021 d. None of the above

Ans. c.

Related facts —

- The Union Cabinet on August 18 took several steps to boost the production of edible oils and reduce the dependence on import.
- It has given its approval to launch a new Mission on Oil palm to be known as the NMEO-OP.
- NMEO-OP stands for — National Mission on Edible Oils – Oil Palm.
- It will be a new Centrally Sponsored Scheme with a special focus on the North east region and the Andaman and Nicobar Islands.
- Significance —
- The decision will boost the production of edible oils.
- Due to the heavy dependence on imports for edible oils, it is important to make efforts for increasing the domestic production of edible oils.
- Centre is working with the States to increase the production of edible oils.
- Financial Outlay & area for oil palm—
- 11,040 crore rupees has been made for the scheme, out of which 8,844 crore rupees is the share of government of India and 2,196 crore rupees is the State share .
- Under this scheme, it is proposed to cover an additional area of 6.5 lakh hectare for oil palm till the year 2025-26 and thereby reaching the target of 10 lakh hectares ultimately.

Link:

<https://newsonair.gov.in/News?title=Cabinet-approves-implementation-of-National-Mission-on-Edible-Oils–Oil-Palm-with-financial-outlay-of-over-Rs-11%2C000-crore&id=424435>

India and the EAC trading bloc have signed a joint action plan to boost bilateral trade

Question: India and the EAC have recently signed a joint action plan to boost bilateral trade. To which region of the world EAC here refers?

a) Africa b) Europe c) America d) Australia

Answer: (a)

Related Facts:

- On 13 August 2021; India and the East African Community (EAC) trading bloc have signed a joint action plan to boost bilateral trade.
- During the virtual signing ceremony on 13- 8- 2021; officials said that the deal would be helpful in ensuring faster clearance of goods.
- Both sides believed that the joint action plan will pave the way for a full mutual recognition agreement between the two sides.



- The EAC is an intergovernmental organization composed of six countries, namely Uganda, Rwanda, Kenya, Tanzania, Burundi and South Sudan.

Links:-

http://www.xinhuanet.com/english/africa/2021-08/14/c_1310126641.htm

Vriksharopan Abhiyan 2021

Q. Recently which ministry has organized the Vriksharopan Abhiyan- 2021?

- Ministry of Forest, Environment and Climate Change
- Ministry of Coal
- Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment
- None of these

ANSWER:- b)

Related Facts:-

- During this year, coal/lignite PSUs of the Ministry of Coal have set an ambitious target under the “Go Greening” drive to cover 2385 hectares of area under bio-reclamation/plantation.
- The “Go Greening” drive is to be provided the right impetus through launch of the “Vriksharopan Abhiyan 2021” on 19th August 2021 by the Union Minister of Coal, Mines and Parliamentary affairs Shri Pralhad Joshi in the presence of Minister of State for Coal, Mines and Railways Shri Raosaheb Patil Danve.
- It is expected that more than 300 plantation sites in and around coalfields across the country will be connected during the Abhiyan on 19th through live Video Conferencing.
- Vriksharopan Abhiyan 2021, which is one of the key events of Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav celebrations in the coal sector, will surely bring environment sustainability in mining operations and help coal sector obtain social and environmental license to operate, which will be very crucial in coming days when more mines will be opened up involving new players.
- Also, the Abhiyan is expected to sensitize and motivate the society and common people to take up more and more afforestation initiatives in their neighboring areas.
- India, as a fast emerging economy, faces the twin challenges of fulfilling its commitments for decarbonizing the energy sector on the one hand and on the other, meeting the country’s rising energy demand, which would primarily be reliant on coal due to its affordability and substantial indigenous availability.
- Thus, our coal sector has to play a very crucial role in the foreseeable future in fulfilling the country’s energy demand for meeting various developmental needs, at the same time, be responsible towards the environment and the society.
- In this backdrop, India’s coal sector has been taking several innovative initiatives to promote sustainable mining.
- One of the key initiatives has been “Go Greening” drive in and around mining areas thereby not only ameliorating the local ecosystem but also creating additional carbon sink to mitigate the causes of climate change.
- Further, our coal companies are also aiming to achieve carbon neutrality through various environment friendly measures such as extensive plantation and adoption of clean coal technologies.



LINK

<https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1746648>

NTPC Invites Global EOI To Establish Pilot Project On Hydrogen Blending In India

Q. Recently which company has floated a global Expression of Interest (Eoi) to set up a Pilot Project on Hydrogen Blending with Natural Gas in City Gas Distribution (CGD) Network in India?

- a) NTPC Ltd
- b) Torrent Power Ltd
- c) Tata Power Company Ltd
- d) Adani Power Limited

ANSWER:- a)

Related Facts:-

- NTPC Limited, India's largest integrated power generating company under Ministry of Power has floated a global Expression of Interest (Eoi) to set up a Pilot Project on Hydrogen Blending with Natural Gas in City Gas Distribution (CGD) Network in India.
- The Eoi follows the recent tenders floated by NTPC REL for green hydrogen fuelling station at Leh and NTPC VidyutVyapar Nigam Limited (NVVN) for procurement of Fuel Cell Buses.
- A dedicated 1.25 MW Solar plant is also being set up at Leh by NTPC REL to power the hydrogen fuelling station.
- This pilot on hydrogen blending with natural gas will be the first of its kind in India and would explore the viability of decarburizing India's natural gas grid.
- NTPC is keen on playing a key role in India's transition to hydrogen economy would later take this up at a commercial scale across India.
- The successful execution of the pilot will also demonstrate the decarburization objective along with import substitution aim under the government's 'AatmaNirbhar Bharat Abhiyaan'.
- NTPC Limited is also keenly exploring production of green ammonia to decarbonizes the fertilizer industry and possibly fulfil government's upcoming mandate of using certain percentage of green hydrogen in fertilizer and refinery sector.



LINK

<https://pib.gov.in/PressReleaselframePage.aspx?PRID=1745705>

J-K LG Manoj Sinha launches 'PROOF' app to monitor timely completion of projects

Question : Recently J-K LG Manoj Sinha launched 'PROOF' app. It will monitor which of the following areas?

- (a) To proof citizenship
- (b) Timely completion of projects
- (c) To show residential proof
- (d) To encourage the transparent media

Answer : (b)

Related Facts:

- In a bid to bring more transparency and accountability in the governance system, Jammu and Kashmir Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on 12th AUGUST 2021 launched PROOF 'Photographic Record of On-site Facility' app.
- The app will help in monitoring and timely completion of projects.
- Details of all projects with complete geo-tagged photographs shall now be available for the public through EMPOWERMENT portal.

Reference: <https://www.aninews.in/news/national/general-news/j-k-lg-manoj-sinha-launches-proof-app-to-monitor-timely-completion-of-projects20210813084613/>

Mangdechhu Hydroelectric Project reduces 2.4 million tons of greenhouse gas emissions each year

Q. Recently which Bhutan's, India assisted, project got the Brunel Medal by the Institution of Civil Engineers, London?

- a) Chukha Hydropower Project
- b) Kurichhu Hydropower Project
- c) Mangdechhu Hydroelectric Project
- d) Dagachhu Hydropower Project

ANSWER:- c)

RELATED FACTS:-



- On 5TH AUGUST, 2021, Bhutan's India assisted Mangdechhu Hydroelectric Project was conferred with the Brunel Medal awarded by the Institution of Civil Engineers (ICE), London.
- The award is given as a mark of excellence in civil engineering within the industry and was handed over by the Indian envoy to Bhutan Ruchira Kamboj to Chairman, Mangdechhu Hydroelectric Project Authority Lyonpo Loknath Sharma.
- One of the reasons the Mangdechhu project was awarded was because of its social and environmental credentials.
- Ruchira Kamboj said, "The project will reduce 2.4 million tonnes of greenhouse gas emissions each year. Bhutan and India in the past have collectively resolved to increase the hydropower energy capacity of Bhutan to 12000 MW".
- The Brunel Medal is historically given to major projects and organizations from across the world.
- 2020 edition of the prize went to the Mangdechhu Hydroelectric Project – collaboration between Indian and Bhutanese governments.
- The 720 MW Mangdechhu Hydroelectric Power Project was inaugurated by PM Modi during his August 2019 visit to the country. The project will produce 720MW of clean electricity for millions and provide an additional 44% of electrical power generation on the hydro generation capacity of Bhutan.

LINK

<https://www.dnaindia.com/india/report-bhutan-india-joint-mangdechhu-hydroelectric-project-reduces-24-million-tons-of-greenhouse-gas-emissions-each-year-2904341>

Krishikarna Project—Kerala

Question : Which country has launched Krishikarna Project recently?

(a) Kerala (b) Uttar Pradesh (c) Karnataka (d) Odisha

Answer : (a)

Related Facts:

- 'Krishikarna' project, the project is the joint initiative of the National Society for Agricultural Horticulture (SAHS), the Sustainability Foundation and Qore3 Innovations.
- SAHS will be promoting agricultural and gardening practices.
- The Sustainability Foundation will work to promote sustainable development.
- The Qore3 Innovations will provide support to the farms to a great extent.
- The polyhouse will be built on 2.5 cent land and the total estimated cost of each plastic house is Rs 2,35,000.
- The project will help to implement and promote high-tech agricultural practices in order to allow farmers to perform farm activities all the year without any negative impact of unprecedented climatic conditions on agriculture.
- The cultivation of long beans, tomato, salad cucumber, capsicum, chillies and leafy vegetables at the mini polyhouses will take place.
- The innovations in the project are made by Aneesh N Raj who is an agronomist of Qore3 and has also won Kerala's Best Hi-Tech Farmer Award.

Reference: <https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/kerala/rice-wheat-allotted-to-state/article32046465.ece>

Dukandar Overdraft Scheme

Q. Recently which Bank launched the 'Dukandar Overdraft Scheme' to help shopkeepers and merchants ease their cash crunch?

a) State Bank of India b) ICICI Bank c) HDFC Bank d) Punjab National Bank

ANSWER:- c)

RELATED FACTS:-

- On 26TH July, 2021 India's largest private lender HDFC Bank launched an overdraft facility for small retailers in partnership with the government's e-governance services delivery arm CSC SPV that enables government schemes and services through common service centers (CSCs).
- The 'Dukandar Overdraft Scheme' by HDFC Bank is aimed at helping shopkeepers and merchants ease their cash crunch.
- According to the bank, retailers operating for a minimum of three years are eligible for the scheme by providing six months bank statement from any bank.
- HDFC Bank will approve an overdraft limit from a minimum of Rs 50,000 to a maximum of Rs 10 lakhs based on the statements.
- Interestingly, HDFC Bank won't seek collateral security, business financials, and income tax returns from retailers who apply for the scheme.



- The scheme offers a commission of 0.40 per cent to 0.80 per cent for loan amounts of Rs 5 Lakhs and above for village level entrepreneurs (VLE) along with over 600 branches and virtual relationship management support.
- HDFC Bank together with CSC has launched this initiative to sustain these small retailers, to help motivate them and create better business opportunities.

LINK

<https://www.financialexpress.com/industry/sme/msme-fin-hdfc-bank-launches-up-to-rs-10-lakh-overdraft-facility-for-shopkeepers-merchants-to-ease-cash-crunch/2298139/>

Rajasthan launches ‘Mission Niriyatak Bano’

Q. In July , 2021 which state launched the ‘Mission Niriyatak Bano’ campaign to help local traders take business abroad?

a) Haryana b) Punjab c) Rajasthan d) Gujrat

ANSWER:- c)

RELATED FACTS:-

- On July 28th , 2021 Rajasthan government’s Industries Department and the apex industrial development body, the Rajasthan Industrial Development and Investment Corporation (RIICO), have launched a campaign to help local traders in expanding their businesses to foreign countries.
- The campaign “Mission Niriyatak Bano” is planned in six steps to register and handhold the local traders willing to expand their business to foreign countries.
- As per a state government’s release, the campaign will cover assistance of local traders from training, securing necessary documentation, registration in Rajasthan Export Promotion Council and even support in exports and trade operations.
- Along with traditional handicrafts and products, many new industries producing quality products are coming up in the state following the supporting policies of the Rajasthan Government.
- Many of these products hold quality and demand in international markets and by handholding the local businessmen the mission shall help increase the total exports from Rajasthan and increase job opportunities in the state.



LINK

<https://www.aninews.in/news/national/general-news/rajasthan-launches-niriyatak-bano-mission-to-help-local-traders-take-businesses-aboard20210728062716/>

MP government made ‘Devaranya’ scheme to promote Ayurveda

Question: Which government has announced ‘Devaranya’ scheme to promote Ayurveda?

(a) Uttar Pradesh (b) Kerala (c) Manipur (d) Madhya Pradesh

Answer: (d)

Related Facts:

- To promote AYUSH in Madhya Pradesh and to link it with employment, the government has made the ‘Devaranya’ scheme.

- The scheme has been made to provide employment to the people living in the tribal areas of the state. A complete value chain for the production of AYUSH medicines will be developed in the state through Devarnya Yojana. Self-help groups will also play an important role in this work.

Reference: https://hindi.webdunia.com/madhya-pradesh/devarnya-yojana-launched-in-madhya-pradesh-121072700073_1.html

Treaty & Agreements

MoU between ICAI and Institute of Professional Accountants of Russia approved

Question : On which date has union cabinet(chaired by Prime Minister) approved the MoU between ICAI and Institute of Professional Accountants of Russia ?

- 20 AUG 2021
- 12 AUG 2021
- 18 AUG 2021
- None of the above

Ans. d.

Related facts —

- The Union Cabinet(Chaired by Prime Minister) has approved the MoU between ICAI and Institute of Professional Accountants of Russia on August 25, 2021.
- **Objective —**
- This agreement would help in establishing mutual cooperation in the areas of Professional Accountancy Training, Professional Ethics, Technical Research, Advancement of Accounting Knowledge, Professional and Intellectual Development.
- It aims to strengthen cooperation in matters of accountancy profession through exchange of views, information in respect of Professional Accountancy Training, Professional Ethics, Technical Research, Professional Development of Accountants.
- Both parties will also create a linkage to each other's websites as a means of information support.
- **ICAI & IPAR —**
- The Institute of Chartered Accountants of India (ICAI) is a statutory body established under the Chartered Accountants Act, 1949 for the regulation of the profession of Chartered Accountants in India.
- The Institute of Professional Accountants of Russia (IPAR) is the largest non-profit association of accountants in Russia.



Link:

<https://pib.gov.in/PressReleaseDetailm.aspx?PRID=1748831>

‘Joint Guidance for the Australia – India Navy to Navy Relationship’ signed between Indian Navy and Australian Navy

Question-Which of the following country has signed joint guidance for Navy to Navy relationship with India?

(a) Australia (b) France (c) Spain (d) Russia

Ans. (a)

Related facts-

- To further bilateral and multilateral cooperation and interoperability in the maritime domain, Indian Navy and Australian Navy on August 18 2021 signed a ‘joint guidance for Navy to Navy relationship’ document.
- The Joint Guidance would serve as a guideline document to showcase the intent of both the Navies to work together bi/multilaterally.
- The broad scope of the guidance is focussed on developing mutual understanding, cooperate for regional security, collaborate in mutually beneficial activities and to develop interoperability.
- The signing ceremony for the ‘Joint Guidance for the Australia – India Navy to Navy Relationship’ document was held virtually between Indian Navy Chief Adm Karambir Singh and Australian Navy Chief Vice Admiral Michael J Noonan.
- The document would be pivotal in consolidating the shared commitment to promote peace, security, stability and prosperity in the Indo – Pacific region.
- The highlights of document include close cooperation in regional and multilateral fora, including Indian Ocean Naval Symposium (IONS), Western Pacific Naval Symposium (WPNS), Indian Ocean Rim Association (IORA) and expert working groups subordinate to the ASEAN Defence Ministers’ Meeting Plus framework.
- The document is aligned to the ‘2020 Comprehensive Strategic Partnership’ agreed by the Prime Ministers and aims to ensure shared approached to regional and global security challenges.

Reference- <https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/india-australia-sign-joint-guidance-for-naval-cooperation/article35989136.ece>.

Tech Mahindra expands collaboration with Microsoft

Question : Tech Mahindra on August 12 said it has expanded its collaboration with Microsoft Corp. to strengthen hybrid cloud capabilities. Accordingly, which of the following statement is correct ?

Statements —

1 The collaboration will leverage Microsoft Azure Stack HCI

2 HCI stands for — hyperconverged infrastructure

Options —

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

Ans. c.

Related facts —

- Tech Mahindra on August 12 said it has expanded its collaboration with Microsoft Corp. to strengthen hybrid cloud capabilities.

- The collaboration will leverage Microsoft Azure Stack HCI.
- It is a new hyperconverged infrastructure(HCI) solution to accelerate hybrid cloud transformation, consolidate virtualised workloads and build enterprise resilience.
- The integration with Azure will allow Tech Mahindra to maximise value from on-premise investments while seamlessly maintaining business continuity, securing resources, and unlocking new business scenarios for enterprises.
- It is notable that Tech Mahindra recently launched a dedicated 'Microsoft Business Unit' focused on developing enterprise cloud solutions, leveraging its digital expertise in alignment with Microsoft's priorities and partner standard expectations.



Link:

<https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/tech/information-tech/tech-mahindra-expands-collaboration-with-microsoft-for-hybrid-cloud/articleshow/85267487.cms>

Tata Motors ties up with Gujarat govt to support setting up of vehicle scrapping centre

Question : At which location has Tata Motors recently(August 2021) tied up with Gujarat govt to support setting up of vehicle scrapping centre ?

- Ahmedabad
- Surat
- Gandhinagar
- Jaamnagar

Ans. a.

Related facts —



- Tata Motors has recently(August 2021) tied up with Gujarat govt to support setting up of vehicle scrapping centre in Ahmedabad.
- The scrappage centre, which will be for both passenger and commercial vehicles, will have a capacity of recycling up to 36,000 vehicles a year.
- Tata Motors will set up the scrapping centre in association with a partner.
- Gujarat's ports and transport department will support in facilitating the necessary approvals as per the rules and regulations of the Gujarat government and the draft vehicle scrappage policy released by the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways (MoRTH) for setting up of the registered vehicle scrapping facility.

Link:

<https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/business/india-business/tata-motors-ties-up-with-gujarat-govt-to-support-setting-up-of-vehicle-scrapping-centre-in-ahmedabad/articleshow/85301732.cms>

USAID, DFC tie-up with Kotak Bank

Question : USAID, DFC tie-up with Kotak Bank for loan guarantee programme for women, small biz in India. Write the loan amount ?

- a. 50 million dollar
- b. 25 million dollar
- c. 15 million dollar
- d. None of the above

Ans. a.

Related facts —

- USAID, DFC has recently(August 2021) tied-up with Kotak Bank for \$50 mn loan guarantee for women, small biz in India.
- **USAID & DFC —**
- **USAID stands for —** United States Agency for International Development. While DFC is an US International Development Finance Corporation.
- It is notable that Kotak Bank will be providing loans for on-lending to non-bank lenders operating in the MSME and microlending space.
- The programme is likely to benefit 30,000 women borrowers and 7,500 MSMEs.
- At least half of the loans are earmarked to be given to women-led or women-managed MSMEs, or MSMEs that employ a certain percentage of women or that produce a good or service that disproportionately benefits women.
- The program will be supported by Chennai-based NBFC Vivriti Capital, which will provide a \$1 million first loss guarantee, and also extensive analytical and sourcing support through debt platform Credavenue.
- DFC will provide KMB with a 'pari passu' guarantee, which is financially sponsored by USAID, of up to 50 per cent of the remaining \$24.5 million loan.



Link:

<https://www.thehindu.com/business/usa-id-dfc-to-give-kotak-bank-50-mn-loan-guarantee-to-boost-lending-to-women-msmes/article36023970.ece>

Talent management agreement with Ishan Kishan

Question : With which firm Indian cricketer Ishan Kishan has signed a global talent representation agreement ?

- a. Reliance Industries-owned sports management company RISE Worldwide
- b. Rihiti Sports
- c. Baseline Ventures
- d. PMG: Professional Management Group

Ans. a.

Related facts —

- Indian cricketer Ishan Kishan has recently(August 2021) signed a global talent representation agreement with Reliance Industries-owned sports management company RISE Worldwide.



- It is notable that Ishan Kishan had led India at the Under 19 World Cup in 2016, finishing runners-up to West Indies.
- After an arduous wait of over four years, Ishan made his India debut in T20 Is against the touring England side in March earlier this year and followed it up with the ODI cap against Sri Lanka recently.

Link:

<https://riseworldwide.in/news/rise-worldwide-signs-ishan-kishan/>

Agreement between USOF & BSNL

Question : USOF(Universal Service Obligation Fund) has recently signed an agreement with BSNL for high speed internet access to North Eastern States. Accordingly, which of the following statement is correct ?

Statements —

1 Agreement has been signed on August 18, 2021.

2 The Indian Telegraph(Amendment) Act, 2003 giving statutory status to the USOF

3 Agreement has been signed forfor hiring of 10 Gbps International Bandwidth for Internet Connectivity to Agartala

a. Only 1. b. Only 2. c. Only 3. d. All of the above

Ans. d.

Related facts —

- USOF(Universal Service Obligation Fund) has recently signed an agreement with BSNL for high speed internet access to North Eastern States.
- **Key points —**

1 Agreement has been signed on August 18, 2021.

2 The Indian Telegraph(Amendment) Act, 2003 giving statutory status to the USOF

3 Agreement has been signed forfor hiring of 10 Gbps International Bandwidth for Internet Connectivity to Agartala from Bangladesh Submarine Cable Company Limited (BSCCL), Bangladesh via Cox Bazar/Kuakata.

4 Under the Agreement,USOF will provide financial support to BSNL for a period of three years for hiring the aforesaid International Bandwidth.

5 The availability of high speed internet access will help the citizens in accessing various e-services such as e-governance, e-education, e-health, e-commerce, e-banking, etc.



Link:

<https://pib.gov.in/PressReleaselframePage.aspx?PRID=1747050>

Cabinet has approved a MoU between the ICMR of India and the FIND

Question: Foundation for Innovative New Diagnostics (FIND) a leading non-for-profit organization is headquartered in which of the following country?

a) USA b) Switzerland c) Russia d) France

Answer: (b)

Related Facts:-

- According to an official statement released on 18 August 2021; the Union Cabinet has approved a MoU between the ICMR of India and the FIND of Switzerland.
- ICMR is Indian Council of Medical Research and FIND is known as Foundation for Innovative New Diagnostics located in Switzerland.
- The MoU was signed between ICMR and FIND in February 2021.
- The Union Cabinet, chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, was apprised of the MoU signed between ICMR and Foundation for Innovative New Diagnostics (FIND).
- This MoU will further strengthen relations between India and Switzerland within the framework of international scientific and technological cooperation in fields of mutual interest.
- The ICMR is committed to make available funding up to USD 100,000 while FIND will make available funds up to USD 400,000 to local partners and researchers identified through a request for proposal (RFP).
- The ICMR promotes biomedical research in the country through intramural and extramural research.
- Foundation for Innovative New Diagnostics (FIND) is a leading non-for-profit organization based in Geneva, Switzerland.
- It is dedicated to developing diagnostics for poverty- related infectious diseases.
- FIND is also recently registered as an independent non-profit organisation created under Section 8 of the (Indian) Companies Act, 2013.



Links:-

<https://www.outlookindia.com/newscroll/cabinet-approves-mou-between-icmr-and-switzerlandbased-research-lab/2143841>

Cabinet Approves MoU between India and Bangladesh on cooperation in the field of Disaster Management

Q. Consider the following statements regarding MoU between India and Bangladesh on cooperation in the field of disaster management, Resilience and Mitigation?

1. It was Signed on March 2021.
2. Extend mutual support on the request of either Parties at the time of large scale disaster.
3. Support training of officials in the field of Disaster management.

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

- a) Only 1 & 3
- b) Only 2 & 3
- c) Only 3
- d) All Statements are correct

ANSWER:- d)

RELATED FACTS:-



- The Union Cabinet, chaired by Prime Minister was apprised of the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) signed on March, 2021 between the National Disaster Management

Authority (NDMA), Ministry of Home Affairs, the Republic of India and the Ministry of Disaster Management and Relief, People's Republic of Bangladesh on Cooperation in the field of Disaster Management, Resilience and Mitigation.

- The MoU seeks to put in place a system, whereby both India and Bangladesh will be benefited from the Disaster Management mechanisms of each other and it will help in strengthening the areas of preparedness, response and capacity building in the field of Disaster Management.

Salient features of the MoU :

- i. Extend mutual support on the request of either Parties at the time of large scale disaster (Natural or human induced) occurring within their respective territories, in the field of relief, response, reconstruction and recovery.
- ii. Exchange relevant information, remote sensing data and other scientific data and share experience/best practices of disaster response, recovery, mitigation, capacity building for ensuring resilience, etc.
- iii. Extend cooperation in the field of advanced information technology, early warning systems, remote sensing & navigation services and expertise for disaster preparedness, response and mitigation and more towards real time data sharing.
- iv. Support training of officials in the field of Disaster management.
- v. Conduct Joint Disaster Management Exercises bilaterally between both the countries.
- vi. Share standards, latest technologies and tools for creating Disaster Resilient Communities.
- vii. Exchange publications and materials as textbooks, guidelines in the field of Disaster Management and may conduct joint research activities in the field of Disaster management, Risk Reduction and Recovery.

LINK

<https://www.pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1746953>

Cabinet approves MoU between ICMR and the Foundation for Innovative New Diagnostics (FIND), Switzerland

Q. Recently cabinet approved the ICMR MoU with which country to strengthen the relation within the framework of the international scientific and technological collaboration and to promote cooperation in fields of mutual interest?

- a) France
- b) Germany
- c) Switzerland
- d) Netherland

ANSWER:- c)

RELATED FACTS:-

- The Union Cabinet, chaired by Prime Minister was apprised of a Memorandum of Understanding signed between the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) and Foundation for Innovative New Diagnostics (FIND), Switzerland to strengthen the relation within the framework of the international scientific and technological collaboration and to promote cooperation in fields of mutual interest.
- The MoU has been signed in February'2021 by India.



- This MoU will further strengthen relations between India and the Switzerland within the framework of inter-national scientific and technological co-operation in fields of mutual-interest.
- CMR is committed to make available funding up to \$100,000 USD while FIND will make available funds up to \$ 400,000 USD to local partners and researchers identified through Request for proposal (RFP).
- ICMR promotes biomedical research in the country through intramural and extramural research. FIND is an independent non-profit organization created under Section 8 of the (Indian) Companies Act, 2013.

LINK – <https://www.pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1746955>

Memorandum of Understanding between India and United States of America on cooperation in the field of Geology

Q. Consider the following statements regarding recently cabinet approved MoU between India and USA on cooperation in the field of Geology-

1. **Exchange of information on technology and geoscientific data.**
2. **Development of the geological knowledge, research regarding geologic and tectonic environment of post collisions magmatic in India-Asia collision margin, geologic history and tectonics of the Eastern Himalayan Syntaxes.**

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 Union Cabinet, chaired by the Prime Minister has given its approval for signing the Memorandum of Understanding between Geological Survey of India (GSI), Ministry of Mines, the Government of the Republic of India, and the Florida International University (FIU) board of trustees on behalf of its Department of Earth and Environment, College of Arts, Sciences and Education, United States of America on cooperation in field of Geology.
- **The identified area of cooperation between the two Participants will be as follows:**
 - Development of the geological knowledge, research regarding geologic and tectonic environment of post collisions magmatism in India-Asia collisional margin, geologic history and tectonics of the Eastern Himalayan Syntaxis.
 - Developing cooperative projects in the fields of regional geological, geochemical, petrological and multi-isotopic studies related to the evolution of post collisional magmatic belts (Ladakh Plutons).
 - Exchange of information on technology and geoscientific data.
 - Other areas of mutual interest to be decided upon by the Parties.
- **Objectives:**
- The objectives of the MoU are to understand the geologic and tectonic environment of the generation and emplacement of post-collision magmatic in India-Asia Collision margin in

particular and to construct a model of post-collision magma genesis in continental collision zones in general and to construct the geologic history and tectonics of the Eastern Himalayan Syntaxes.

- The activities involved like exchange of information on technology and geo scientific data; development of the geological knowledge, research regarding geologic and tectonic environment of post collision magmatic in India-Asia coalitional margin, geologic history and tectonics of the Eastern Himalayan Syntaxes; and developing cooperative projects in the fields of regional geological, geochemical, petrological and multi-isotopic studies related to the evolution of post collision magmatic belts (Ladakh Plutons).
- **Benefits:**
- The MoU will provide an institutional mechanism between Geological Survey of India (GSI) and the Florida International University (FIU) on cooperation in the field of Geology.

LINK – <https://www.pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1746949>

Indian Bank signs MoU with Paralympics Committee

Q. Recently which bank has signed a memorandum of understanding with Paralympics Committee of India as one of the banking partners of the Paralympics Games?

- a) SBI
- b) PNB
- c) Indian Bank
- d) Axis Bank

ANSWER:- c)

RELATED FACTS:-

- Public sector Indian Bank on 11th August, 2021 said it has signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with Paralympics Committee of India (PCI) as one of the banking partners of the Paralympics Games scheduled to commence from August 24 in Tokyo, Japan.
- The bank, through its year-long association with PCI, will provide financial assistance to support the Paralympics athletes to prepare for the sports events in domestic as well as global platforms for a year.
- The resources from the bank would be used to meet the requirements of the para athletes ranging from their training, nutrition and equipment, among others.
- Timely financial aid for the sportspersons would encourage them to focus on their efforts to win for the country.



Link

<https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/industry/banking/finance/banking/indian-bank-signs-memorandum-of-understanding-with-paralympic-committee/articleshow/85247309.cms?from=mdr>

BRICS Partnership for Strengthening Agro Biodiversity for Food and Nutrition Security

Q. Recently which group has partnership for strengthen agro biodiversity for food and nutrition security?

a) ASEAN b) BRICS C) NATO D) None of these

ANSWER:- b)

RELATED FACTS:-



- The Ministers of Agriculture of the Federative Republic of Brazil, the Russian Federation, the People's Republic of China and the Republic of South Africa deliberated virtually on the theme "BRICS Partnership for Strengthening Agro Biodiversity for Food and Nutrition Security".
- The implementation of the UN 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development noted that BRICS countries are well positioned to take a leading role in helping to achieve the objectives of the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals to eradicate hunger and poverty.
- The strong agricultural research base in BRICS countries and the need to harness and share knowledge, facilitate transfer of technologies from lab to land to provide improved solutions for enhanced productivity, especially in the face of climate change, maintaining agro biodiversity and ensuring sustainable use of natural resources was acknowledged.
- BRICS (Brazil, Russia, India, China, and South Africa) Agriculture Research Platform has been developed by India to promote cooperation in the areas of agricultural research, extension, technology transfer, training and capacity building.
- The intention to make the BRICS Agriculture Research Platform functional and encourage research cooperation to improve the use and application of agricultural technologies for meeting the needs of producers and processors was also expressed.
- The Joint declaration of the eleventh meeting of BRICS and Action Plan for 2021-24 for agricultural cooperation of BRICS countries and BRICS Agriculture Research Platform were discussed in depth. This BRICS Working Group meeting will endorse the Action Plan of 2021-24 for adoption in BRICS meeting.

LINK

<https://pib.gov.in/PressReleaselframePage.aspx?PRID=1745211>

MoU signed between IFFCO and IIT Delhi

Question : Which IIT has signed MoU recently with IFFCO for joint research in agriculture and nanotechnology ?

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

Answer : (a)

Related Facts:

- IFFCO recently announced the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with IIT Delhi for collaborative research in the fields of agriculture and fertilizers, involving nanotechnology.



- According to the statement, the MoU signed between the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Delhi and IFFCO's Nano Biotechnology Research Centre (NBRC) focuses on research consultancy, information transfer, and joint projects.
- This Memorandum of Understanding will widen the scope of agricultural research and technological development in agriculture.
- It will also make advanced nanotechnology research for future applications more accessible.
- IFFCO had previously launched the First Nano Urea Liquid in the world, through a patented technology created at the IFFCO Nano Biotechnology Research Centre in Kalol.
- **AIM:**
- Its aim is to double farmers' income by 2022 by creating highly progressive agricultural technological projects and encouraging precision farming and sustainable development in the country.

Indian Bank & IIMB partnership

Question : Indian Bank has recently(August 2021) signed up with NSRCEL for extending exclusive credit to startups. NSRCEL is the incubation arm of which of the following IIM ?

A IIM Bangalore B IIM Kozhikode C IIM Ahmedabad D IIM Visakhapatnam

Ans. A

Related facts —

- Indian Bank has recently(August 2021) signed up with NSRCEL for extending exclusive credit to startups.
- NSRCEL is the incubation arm of IIM Bangalore.
- Under the MOU, NSRCEL will identify Start-ups and MSMEs based on their credentials and past experience and will refer such members for financial assistance from the Bank.
- The initiative is a part of the Bank's scheme 'Ind Spring Board' which is exclusively tailored to finance startups.
- This arrangement shall empower these units to realise their research efforts, powered by financial support from the Bank and backed by incubation facilities offered by NSRCEL.
- The Bank will extend loans of up to Rs 50 crore to these startups for their working capital requirements or purchase of machinery, equipment etc.
- NSRCEL —
- The 'Nadathur Sarangapani Raghavan Centre for Entrepreneurial Learning', renamed NSRCEL, was set up in 2002 to aid the entrepreneurial activities at IIMB.
- The centre acts as an incubator for new business ideas where anyone can apply for incubation.
- As of April 2020, NSRCEL has incubated more than 240 start-ups with a combined value of \$1.5 billion and created more than 5400 jobs.



Link:

<https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/industry/banking/finance/banking/indian-bank-iimbs-incubation-arm-sign-up-on-exclusive-credit-to-startups/articleshow/85105749.cms>

Agreement between Indian Bank, SINE & IIT Bombay

Question : Indian Bank has recently(August 2021) signed an MoU with SINE & IIT-Bombay. Accordingly, which of the following statement is correct ?

Statements —

1. MoU has been signed to fund MSMEs and start-ups
2. The bank would extend loans of upto Rs 75 crore to the start-ups
3. SINE stands for Society for Innovation and Entrepreneurship

Options —

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

Ans. C

Related facts —

- Indian Bank has recently(August 2021) signed an MoU with SINE & IIT-Bombay.
- **Key points related to the MoU —**
- SINE stands for Society for Innovation and Entrepreneurship.
- MoU has been signed for extending exclusive credit facility to start-ups and Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises.
- The bank would extend loans of upto Rs 50 crore to the start-ups for purchase of machinery, equipment or to meet working capital requirements.



Link:

https://www.business-standard.com/article/finance/indian-bank-signs-mou-with-sine-iit-bombay-to-fund-msmes-start-ups-121080301944_1.html

APEDA inks MoU with University of Agricultural Science, Bangalore for boosting agri-exports

Q. Recently To give boost agricultural and processed food products exports APEDA signed Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with which institution?

- a) IISc Bangluru
- b) University of Agriculture Science Bangalore
- c) IIT Madras
- d) None of these

ANSWER:- b)

RELATED FACTS:-

- On 4th August, 2021 To give boost agricultural and processed food products exports especially from Karnataka, the Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA) signed Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with University of Agricultural Science (UAS) Bangalore.



- According to the MoU, the key areas of cooperation include developing technologies jointly with APEDA for advance alertness, efficient & precision farming for enhancing quality exports; diversifying the export basket, destinations and boost high-value agri exports by establishing Brand India globally by increasing agri-exports from Karnataka under Agri Export Policy (AEP) announced by Government of India in 2018.
- The collaborations between APEDA, which functions under Ministry of Commerce & UAS, will also help in strengthening forward and backward linkages, participations in international exhibitions and fairs, branding and marketing, establishment of market intelligence cell, developing traceability systems.
- The MoU will help in development of agri entrepreneurs, technopreneurs capacity building, robust skill development and focus on building a collaborative approach for promoting export by creation of product specific clusters.
- The MoU will also help in development of an end-to-end sustainable value chain of horticulture/livestock produce with APEDA to promote better consignment commitment to importing countries and developing standard operating procedures of potential products of the state for exports.

LINK

<https://www.pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1742285>

MoU between JSW Foundation and J&K Government

Question : For which purpose has JSW Foundation recently(July 2021) signed MoU with J&K Government ?

- a. To restore & maintain the Mughal Gardens b. For skill development
c. For establishment of solar power plant d. None of the above

Ans. a.

Related facts —

- JSW Foundation has recently(July 2021) signed an agreement(MoU) with J&K Government to restore & maintain the Mughal Gardens.
- JSW Foundation is a social development arm of JSW Group.
- According to the MoU, JSW Foundation shall extend Technical & Financial support towards Conservation, Restoration and Maintenance of the Mughal Gardens of Shalimar Bagh and Nishat Bagh in Kashmir.
- The Government of Jammu & Kashmir will provide assistance and funding for the project through support resources and other infrastructure.
- It is notable that six imperial gardens of Kashmir are proposed to be Nominated to UNESCO as a World Heritage Site.
- Among them, the gardens of Shalimar Bagh and Nishat Bagh, (1619-1635 CE), built during the reigns of Emperor Jahangir and Shahjahan, epitomize the mastery of Mughal gardeners and engineers.



Link:

<https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/industry/indl-goods/svs/construction/jsw-foundation-signs-mou-with-jk-govt-to-restore-maintain-the-mughal-gardens/articleshow/84834622.cms>

Approval of multilateral MoU signed by IFSCA

Question : The Cabinet on July 28 approved a multilateral MoU signed between the IFSCA, IOSCO and IAIS. Accordingly, which of the following statement is correct ?

Statements —

1. It is one of the biggest multilateral forums with several regulators and has 124 signatories
2. IOSCO stands for — International Organization of Securities Commissions
3. IFSCA stands for — International Financial Services Centres Authority

Options —

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

Ans. D

Related facts —

- The Cabinet on July 28 approved a multilateral MoU signed between the IFSCA, IOSCO and IAIS.
- **Key points —**
- It is one of the biggest multilateral forums with several regulators and has 124 signatories.
- **IOSCO stands for** — International Organization of Securities Commissions
- **IFSCA stands for** — International Financial Services Centres Authority. It is a unified regulator to develop and regulate financial products, financial services and financial institutions in the international financial services centres in India.
- India joining this will enable all kinds of exchange of information and ease of doing business for those registering themselves in the GIFT City.
- It is notable that GIFT City at Gandhinagar is India's first operational smart city and International Financial Services Centre (IFSC).
- Proposal to enact a regulatory framework for the intermediaries in the capital markets —
- The finance ministry has recently been said in a statement the IFSCA proposes to enact a regulatory framework for the intermediaries in the capital markets operating in IFSC, focusing on ease of doing business and consistent with the fundamental principles laid down by the International Organization of Securities Commissions.
- The proposed IFSCA (Capital Market Intermediaries) Regulations, 2021 (Intermediaries Regulations) provide for regulatory requirements in respect of registration, obligations and responsibilities, inspection and enforcement of various types of capital market intermediaries such as broker dealers, clearing members and depository participants.



Link:

<https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/economy/policy/cabinet-approves-multilateral-mou-signed-by-ifsc/articleshow/84831317.cms?from=mdr>

Agreement for green data center

Question : For which purpose ReNew Power announced the signing of an agreement with RackBank on August 03, 2021 ?

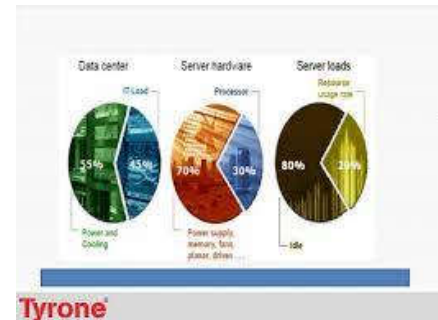
- a. To Power India's Second Hyper-Scale Data Center
- b. To Power India's Third Hyper-Scale Data Center
- c. To Power India's Fourth Hyper-Scale Data Center

d. None of the above

Ans. d.

Related facts —

- ReNew Power announced the signing of an agreement with RackBank on August 03, 2021.
- **Purpose —**
- This agreement has been announced to Power India's First Hyper-Scale Data Center with 100% Renewable Energy.
- **Key points —**
- This agreement is one of India's largest 'Open Access' MoU's.
- MoU allows ReNew to construct, own, and operate up to 500 MW of hybrid capacity to meet RackBank's power requirements.
- **ReNew Power —**
- ReNew is India's leading renewable energy independent power producer (IPP) by capacity and is the 10th largest global renewable IPP by operational capacity.
- ReNew develops, builds, owns and operates utility-scale wind energy projects, utility-scale solar energy projects, utility-scale firm power projects, and distributed solar energy projects.
- **RackBank Datacenters Limited —**
- RackBank is a "Hyperscale" data center platform.
- It provides high performance Dedicated Servers, DRaaS & Colocation services with 24/7 support.



Link:

<https://renewpower.in>

North East : Tri party agreement between Assam, NABARD and Assam Infrastructure Financing Authority

Question : Assam, NABARD and Assam Infrastructure Financing Authority has recently(August 2021) inked a MoU to boost infra projects. Accordingly, which of the following statement is correct ?

Statements —

1. MoU involves Rs.13200 crore will essentially be used for NIDA & RIAS
2. NIDA stands for – NABARD Infrastructure Development Authority
3. RIAS stands for – Rural Incentive Assistance to State Government

Options —

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

Ans. A

Related facts —

- Assam, NABARD and Assam Infrastructure Financing Authority has recently(August 2021) inked a MoU to boost infra projects.

Key points —

1. MoU involves Rs.13200 crore will essentially be used for NIDA & RIAS
2. NIDA stands for – NABARD Infrastructure Development Assistance
3. RIAS stands for – Rural Infrastructure Assistance to State Government
4. MoU would launch a series of capital-intensive projects to bring about paradigm shift in the development narrative of the state

Link:

<https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/india/assam-nabard-and-assam-infrastructure-financing-authority-inks-mou-to-boost-infra-projects/articleshow/85050344.cms>

Cabinet approves MoU between IIST and The Delft University of Technology

Question : The Union Cabinet chaired by the Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi has approved the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between Indian Institute of Space science and Technology (IIST) and The Delft University of Technology (TU Delft) on August 04, 2021. TU Delft situated on which country ?

- a. Netherlands b. France c. Australia d. Canada

Ans. a.

Related facts —

- The Union Cabinet chaired by the Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi has approved the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between Indian Institute of Space science and Technology (IIST) and The Delft University of Technology (TU Delft) on August 04, 2021.
- The Delft University of Technology (TU Delft) is situated in Netherlands.
- **Details of MoU —**



- i. Students exchange programme: The Parties may exchange students at undergraduate, postgraduate and doctoral level. The Parties will mutually discuss and decide the areas of studies and credits to be pursued under the scheme. Both parties agree the Practicum exchange programme for degree training should follow the educational system and regulations of the hosting partner.
- ii. Dual Degree/Double Degree programme: The Parties may develop specialized curriculum to be pursued by students for award of either undergraduate or postgraduate degree, which will be in addition to the initial degree to be awarded by the home Institute.
- iii. Internships and project work: The Parties may design and develop research of engineering project assignments which will be pursued by students during their stay both short term and long term, in the partner institute.
- iv. Faculty exchange: The Parties may consider Faculty exchange programme during which their faculty member will offer courses in the partner institute, for which the course contents will be developed jointly.
- v. Joint Research: The faculty members of both parties may identify the joint research programme in common areas of interest with defined duration.

Benefits:

Signing of this Agreement shall enable pursuing the following potential interest areas of cooperation such as, exchange of faculty members, students and researchers, scientific materials, publications and information. Joint research meeting, PhD program, Dual Degree/Double Degree programme.

Link:

<https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1742286>

India and EU have agreed to resume the negotiations on beneficial trade agreement

Q. Which of the following countries or groups are involved in BTIA?

- a) India- African Union b) India- European Union c) India – North America
d) None of these

ANSWER:- b)

RELATED FACTS:-

- On 4th August, 2021 Ministry of commerce & Industry said in a written reply that India and EU have agreed to resume the negotiations for a balanced, ambitious, comprehensive and mutually beneficial trade agreement.
- Free Trade Agreement (FTA) negotiations, including those on specific issues, are to be held considering the interest of either side.
- The commodities included / excluded in the FTA negotiations are to be finalized based on extensive consultations with the stakeholders, once negotiations resume.
- Review of the existing FTAs is an ongoing process to maximize country's export potential to benefit the domestic industry, and to make the FTAs more user friendly, simple and trade facilitative.
- **About India- EU Free Trade Agreement:-**
 - The BTIA (Broad-based Trade and Investment Agreement) broad trade arrangement covers many factors of trade in goods, services, and investment.
 - India is one of the EU's important, if not the largest, trading partners due to the fact that India accounted for 13.5% of total trade in 2015-2016. Thus the BTIA is important for both the EU and India.
 - Both India and the European Union have been negotiating the Broad-based Trade and Investment Agreement for decades.
 - The negotiations include many factors such as tariff reductions, market access and investments.
 - The last rounds of negotiations happened in November 2013 and ever since then, the negotiations have been stonewalled.
 - Latest events like the Brexit and terminations of other overseas investment treaties might have a direct impact on the BTIA and negotiations are likely to resume in the becoming years.

**LINK**

<https://www.pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1742403>

CESL – HPCL partnership

Question : Convergence Energy Services Ltd(CESL) has recently(July 2021) signed an agreement with Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Ltd for setting up of EV charging points in metro cities across India. Accordingly, which of the following statement is correct ?

Statements —

1. CESL is a wholly owned subsidiary of EESL
2. Charging points will have one or more types of chargers with fast, slow or moderate speed capacity
3. They will be operated through an app of CESL

Options —

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

Ans D

Related facts —

- State-run Convergence Energy Services Ltd has recently(July 2021) signed agreement with Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Ltd for setting up of EV charging points in metro cities across India.
- It is notable that CESL(Convergence Energy Services Ltd) is a wholly owned subsidiary of Energy Efficiency Services Limited (EESL).
- Spanning 10 years, the agreement entails CESL and HPCL to jointly undertake setting up of EV charging points in many cities.
- These cities would be Mumbai, Delhi NCR, Bengaluru, Hyderabad, Chennai, Kolkata and Pune etc.
- CESL and HPCL will identify major highways across India where adequate charging infrastructure can be installed and established.
- The charging points will have one or more types of chargers with fast, slow or moderate speed capacity.
- They will be operated through an app of CESL, which will facilitate better control and monitoring of all charging stations.

Link: <https://www.businesstoday.in/markets/stocks/story/hpcl-ties-up-with-cesl-to-set-up-ev-charging-points-in-metro-cities-across-india-stock-up-4-303050-2021-08-02>

JSW Energy partnership with Australian firm for Green Hydrogen

Question : JSW Energy has recently(July 2021) entered into an agreement with Fortescue Future Industries for the production of Green Hydrogen. Fortescue Future Industries belongs to which country ?

a. China b. France c. UK d. None of the above

Ans. d.

Related facts —

- JSW Energy has recently(July 2021) entered into a framework agreement with Fortescue Future Industries for the production of Green Hydrogen.



- It is notable that Australian Fortescue Future Industries Pty Ltd is a 100% subsidiary of Fortescue Future Industries Pty Ltd.
- Objective of the agreement is to jointly conduct scoping work for green hydrogen production-related projects for use in green steel-making, hydrogen mobility, green ammonia and other mutually agreed industrial applications in India.
- The collaboration will enable both parties to tap opportunities in India's clean energy market and become front-runners in a future hydrogen economy.
- JSW Energy has readied a blueprint to become a 20-GW power generating company by 2030, with about 85 per cent of the portfolio comprising green and renewable energy sources.
- Green hydrogen will be a disruptor in the clean energy space and would, in the near future, replace fossil fuels in various industrial applications, besides the transportation and mobility sector.

Link:

<https://www.thehindubusinessline.com/companies/jsw-energy-in-tie-up-with-australias-fortescue-for-green-hydrogen-projects/article35602671.ece>

<https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/industry/renewables/jsw-energy-in-agreement-with-australian-firm-for-green-hydrogen/articleshow/84852129.cms>

Conference

Be a Friend of TRIBES INDIA Contest

Question: Consider the following statements-

- i) Tribal Cooperative Marketing Development Federation Ltd (TRIFED), has launched, Be a friend of TRIBES INDIA Contest in association with MyGov.in.
- ii) This competition has been launched with the sole objective of promoting tribal craft, culture and lifestyle.
- iii) Tribes constitute 6% of Indian population.

Which of the above are correct?

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

Ans: a

Context



- Tribal Cooperative Marketing Development Federation Ltd (TRIFED), has launched two interesting competitions, Be the Brand Ambassador of Tribes India and Be a friend of TRIBES INDIA Contest in association with MyGov.in.

Facts

- The contests were launched mainly to promote tribal crafts, lifestyle and culture.
- These contests will help in increasing the awareness about tribal heritage, crafts and art among the general public.

Be the Brand Ambassador of Tribes India

- This contest invites stories featuring a tribal product across the country. The story should highlight the experience of the customer in using the tribal product. The contest will be on till 14th May.

Be a “Friend” of TRIBES INDIA

- It is a quiz contest on Indian culture. It went live on MyGov on April 2nd and will be on till May 14th this year .
- It is second edition of the quiz.

Tribes constitutes 8.61% of India’s population.

Reference: <http://www.newsonair.com/News?title=Be-the-Brand-Ambassador-of-Tribes-India-and-Be-a-Friend-of-TRIBES-INDIA-Contest-launched-by-Trifed-in-association-with-MyGov.in&id=413442>

Associations & Organizations

Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) Culture Ministers’ meeting

Question: On which date Minister of State for Culture, Arjun Ram Meghwal participated in the SCO Culture Ministers Meeting ?

a. 18 August 2021 b. 16 August 2021 c. 14 August 2021 d. 12 August 2021

Ans. a.

Related facts —

- Minister of State for Culture, Arjun Ram Meghwal participated in the SCO Culture Ministers Meeting on 18 August, 2021 hosted by Tajikistan during their ongoing Chairship of SCO in 2021.
- **Key points —**
- MoS, Culture cited India’s initiatives of online exhibition on ‘Shared Buddhist Heritage’ and translation of Indian Classics in official languages of SCO (Russian and Chinese) .
- He appreciated the efforts of Tajikistan for their proposals for Agreements on cooperation in the field of Protection of Cultural Heritage.
- The Regulations on Gala Concert of the Arts Festival of SCO Member States agreed upon at the meeting
- He also shared the celebrations of 75 years of India’s Independence as ‘Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav’ with his counterparts and envisioned India’s journey ahead to completing Centenary of Independence in 2047.
- He appreciated the efforts of Tajikistan for their proposals for Agreements on cultural cooperation in the field of Protection of Cultural Heritage and the Vocational Education in Culture and Arts.



Link:

<https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1747057>

WHO forms Advisory Group named “SAGO”

Q. Recently which organization has formed the International Scientific Advisory group for Origins of Novel Pathogens or SAGO?

- a) United nations Children’s Fund b) World Bank c) World Health Organization
d) CARE International

ANSWER:- c)

RELATED FACTS:-



- The World Health Organization (WHO) has said that the next step in the search of the origins of COVID-19 will be the creation of a new advisory group that will develop a global framework to study pathogens with pandemic potential.
- The International Scientific Advisory Group for Origins of Novel Pathogens, or SAGO, is a new advisory group for WHO, which will be responsible for advising WHO on the development of a global framework to systematically study the emergence of future emerging pathogens with pandemic potential.
- For SARS-CoV-2, it will support the rapid undertaking of recommended studies outlined in the March 2021 report,” the WHO said in a statement on 12TH August, 2021.
- WHO last month proposed a second phase of studies into the origins of the corona virus in China, including audits of laboratories and markets in the city of Wuhan. Beijing, meanwhile, had rejected WHO’s proposal.
- The WHO declared the COVID-19 outbreak a pandemic on March 11, 2020.
- To date, more than 205 million people have been infected with the corona virus worldwide, and more than 4.3 million died, according to the US-based Johns Hopkins University.

Link

<https://theprint.in/world/who-forms-new-expert-group-to-continue-research-into-origins-of-covid-in-wuhan/714314/>

Sixth Meeting of the Agriculture Ministers of Shanghai Cooperation Organization’s (SCO)

Q. Sixth Meeting of the Agriculture Ministers of Shanghai Cooperation Organization’s (SCO) was held at-

- a) Dushanbe b) Doha c) Kabul d) Muscat

ANSWER- a)

RELATED FACTS-

- The Government of India has been taking several steps to develop innovative technologies and their dissemination from Lab to Land to empower rural youth, farmers and farm women.
- The Minister in the meeting organized virtually in Dushanbe, Tajikistan stated that the agriculture sector in India performed well even during the severe Covid-19 pandemic. Along with food production, exports have also registered significant growth, contributing to global food security.



- This was stated by the Union Minister of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare, Shri Narendra Singh Tomar in the 6th meeting of Agriculture Ministers of the member countries of Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO).
- Speaking on the occasion, Shri Tomar mentioned that the Government is determined to attain sustainable development goal to end hunger, achieve food security and nutrition.
- He further emphasized that the bio-fortified varieties are a source of staple diets, rich in micro nutrients and are being promoted to address the aspects of malnutrition in the country.
- Further, he expressed that the Government with the goal to double farmer's income by 2022 has launched several programs to enhance optimal utilization of water resources, create new infrastructure for irrigation, conserve soil fertility with balanced use of fertilizers, provide connectivity from farm to market, Information and Communication Technology (ICT) linkage besides building infrastructure, organic farming etc.
- Agriculture has always been a high priority for India, as is for the world. The COVID 19 pandemic has further put the spotlight on the sector given its implications on food security and supply chains.
- There is a necessity for a closer interaction and sharing of knowledge among countries to keep the food supply chains functional and protect the livelihoods of the farmer producers.
- India is a full member of the SCO and has played significant role since being a member of SCO. India values and honors its relationship with SCO in promoting multilateral, political, security, economic and people-to-people interaction in the region.
- It is important to organize the SCO Agriculture Ministers' meeting on strengthening cooperation in food security and nutrition especially in this challenging time of COVID-19 pandemic.
- Considering that COVID 19 pandemic may have long term implications on food security and supply chain, there is need for close interaction and cooperation among countries to keep the normal functioning of the food supply chain to safeguard food and nutritional security.
- The Minister of Agriculture of Tajikistan, Mr. Ziyozoda Sulaymon Rizoi, Minister of Agriculture and Rural Affairs of the People's Republic of China Mr. Tang Renjian, SCO Secretary General Norov Vladimir Imamovich, FAO Director General Mr. Qu Dongyu and Chairman of the Food Security Committee under the Government of the Republic of Tajikistan Mr. Fayzullozoda Muhammadsaid Ubaydullo and others respective members attended the meeting.

LINIK

<https://pib.gov.in/PressReleaselframePage.aspx?PRID=1745211>

Year, Day & Week

World Sanskrit Day

Question: On which day "world Sanskrit Day" celebrated ?

- A. Every year on Sawan Poornima
- B. 21 August
- C. 20 August
- D. 19 August

Answer- A

Related facts —

- World Sanskrit Day or Sanskrit Diwas, also known as Vishvasamskritadinam, is celebrated every year on Sawan Poornima.
- It is notable that Sanskrit day was first celebrated in 1969.
- Objective —
- This day is celebrated to to spread awareness, promote and revive the ancient India Language(Sanskrit).
- Meaning & Significance —
- The term Sanskrit is derived from the conjoining of the prefix ‘Sam’ meaning ‘Samyak’ which indicates ‘entirely’ and ‘krit’ indicates ‘done’.
- It has the largest vocabulary of about 102 arab 78 crores 50 lakh words and was declared Sanskrit as the second official language of Uttarakhand.
- This language is also termed as Dev Vani means God’s language.
- The language is traced back to the 2nd millennium BCE when the Rig Veda a collection of hymns is assumed to have been written.
- Some South Indian languages have evolved from Sanskrit such as Kannada, Malayalam, Tamil and Telugu.



Link:

<https://www.news18.com/amp/news/india/on-world-sanskrit-day-2021-pm-modi-greets-nation-with-a-special-message-in-sanskrit-read-4113236.html>

Aug 14 now Partition Horrors Remembrance Day

Question-The Partition Horrors Remembrance Day is observed on-

- (a) 14th August
- (b) 15th August
- (c) 16th August
- (d) 18th August

Ans. (a)

Related facts-

- India will observe August 14 as “Partition Horrors Remembrance Day” to acknowledge the suffering of citizens during a traumatic period in history, Prime Minister Narendra Modi announced on August 14, 2021.
- “Partition Horrors Remembrance Day” is observed to commemorate the “struggles and sacrifices” of millions who were displaced and who lost their lives during partition.



Reference- <https://indianexpress.com/article/india/i-day-75-august-14-will-be-observed-as-partition-horrors-remembrance-day-pm-modi-7453278/>.

World Elephant Day

Question:When is the World Elephant Day observed?

- (a) August 7
- (b) August 4
- (c) August 12

(d) August 5

Answer: (c)

Related facts:

- The World Elephant Day is observed every year on 12th August to spread awareness about the animal.
- It was launched in 2012 to bring attention to the urgent plight of Asian and African elephants.
- Poaching, habitat loss, human-elephant conflict and mistreatment in captivity are some of the threats to both African and Asian elephants.
- On the occasion of World Elephant Day, Union Environment Minister, Bhupender Yadav, released the All India synchronized methodology for Elephant and Tiger population estimation and delivered a Keynote address on the occasion.



Link:

<https://pib.gov.in/MediaInvitationDetail.aspx?InvitationID=155678>

World Lion Day

Question : On which date is World Lion Day celebrated every year ?

- a. August 10
- b. August 09
- c. August 08
- d. None of the above

Ans. a.

Related facts —

- World Lion Day is celebrated on August 10 of every year.
- This day is celebrated to raise awareness about lions and to mobilise support for their protection and conservation.
- It is notable that lion's population in India has witnessed a steady increase in the last few years.
- The lion is majestic and courageous. India is proud to be home to the Asiatic Lion.
- The 14th Asiatic Lion Census —
- The 14th Asiatic Lion Census 2015 was conducted in May 2015. In 2015, the population was 523 (27% up compared to previous census in 2010).
- The population was 411 in 2010 and 359 in 2005.
- The lion population in Junagadh District was 268 individuals, 44 in Gir Somnath District, 174 in Amreli District, and 37 in Bhavangar District.
- There are 109 males, 201 females and 213 cubs.



Link:

<https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1744311>

7th National Handloom Day

Question: On which day National Handloom Day is celebrated in India?

- a) 1 August
- b) 7 August
- c) 15 August
- d) 14 August

Ans: b

Related Facts



- Ministry of Textile is celebrating National Handloom Day on 7th August 2021.
- First National Handloom Day was inaugurated by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on August 7, 2015 in Chennai.
- On this day ministry honors the handloom-weaving community and highlights the contribution of this sector in the socio-economic development of our country.
- It is celebrated on 7th August only because on this day The Swadeshi Movement was launched on 7th August, 1905 which had encouraged indigenous industries and in particular handloom weavers.

Reference: <https://www.mygov.in/campaigns/national-handloom-day/>

Miscellaneous

Insolvency Board proposes amends in liquidation process

Q. Consider the following statements regarding proposed amendments in liquidation process-

1. It was proposed by the insolvency and Bankruptcy board of India.
2. The proposal includes capping revisions on bids to two times, banning unsolicited bids etc.

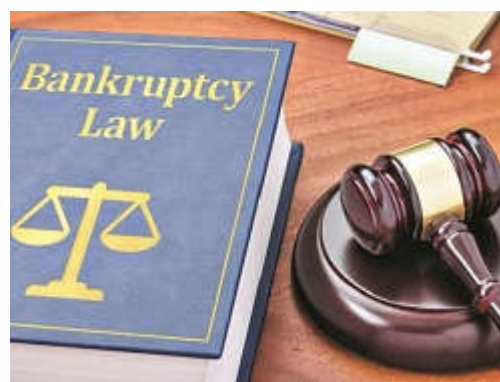
Which of the above statement/ s is /are true?

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

ANSWER:- c)

RELATED FACTS:-

- The Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board of India has proposed major changes in the insolvency process.
- These changes are being brought about to increase transparency and address issues that have come up recently.
- **Code of Conduct:-**
- Among other things, a code of conduct has been introduced for the Committee of Creditors (CoC).
- The 31-point code of conduct requires creditors to disclose any conflict of interest, maintain full confidentiality and not try to adjust funds of the corporate debtor against their dues during the resolution process.
- However, it does not mention how violations in the code will be addressed.
- **Amendments:-**



- The proposed amendments include capping revisions on bids to two times, banning unsolicited bids and empowering the CoC to decide on the timeframe and thresholds for improvement on the resolution plan in advance.
- A separate paper on the liquidation process, the board has proposed that more powers should be given to the stakeholder's consultative committee.
- Besides, the board plans to ban liquidators from appointing commission agents in the sale of assets.
- The changes come even as the government is proposing to amend the Act by introducing a pre-packaged insolvency resolution (PIRP) for small businesses.

LINK

<https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/economy/policy/insolvency-board-amends-liquidation-process-increases-transparency/articleshow/85758858.cms?from=mdr>

Key Indicators for Asia and the Pacific 2021

Question : ADB has recently(August 2021) released the 52nd edition of “Key Indicators for Asia and the Pacific 2021”. Accordingly, which of the following statement is correct ?

Statements —

1 Number of people living in extreme poverty fell to 203 million in 2017

2 Prevalence of undernourishment decreased to 316 million in 2019

3 In 2019, Asia and the Pacific accounted for 35% of global GDP

Options —

a. Only 1. b. Only 2. c. Only 3. d. All of the above

Ans. d.

Related facts —

- ADB has recently(August 2021) released the 52nd edition of “Key Indicators for Asia and the Pacific 2021”.
- Key Indicators for Asia and the Pacific 2021 presents a practical framework to measure the digital economy, rooted in input-output analysis and using readily available national accounts data.
- **Key points —**
 - Across developing Asia, the number of people living in extreme poverty fell from 1.2 billion in 1999 to 203 million in 2017.
 - The prevalence of undernourishment decreased from more than 521 million people in 2001 to 316 million in 2019.
 - Among reporting economies, completion rates for primary education have increased by 8 to 11 percentage points, on average, since 2000.
 - The region's impressive economic growth has contributed to these gains.
 - In 2019, Asia and the Pacific accounted for 35% of global gross domestic product (in current U.S. dollars)—exceeding the share of Europe and North America.
 - While progress before the pandemic varied across developing member economies, the pandemic has further widened these differences.
 - In more than one-third of reporting economies, unemployment rates increased by at least 20% in 2020, relative to estimates recorded a year earlier, and this contributed to Asia and the Pacific losing about 8% of working hours.



- By the end of the year, three in every four reporting economies posted declines in GDP.
- The pandemic has pushed about 75 million to 80 million people into extreme poverty, compared with a scenario without COVID-19.

Link:

<https://www.adb.org>

Change in Olympic motto

Question – In July 2021, the motto of the Olympics has been changed. What is the new motto?

- (a) Citius, Altius, Fortius, Altinator
- (b) Citius, Altius, Fortius, Communiter
- (c) Citius, Altius, Fortius, Together
- (d) Citius, Altius, Fortius, Forter

Answer—(b)

related facts —

- In July 2021, the motto of the Olympics has been changed.
- This decision has been taken to show solidarity across the world in view of the Covid-19 pandemic.
- The new motto is — Citius, Altius, Fortius, Communiter.

Link:

<https://olympics.com/ioc/138th-ioc-session>

Safe City Index 2021

Question: Which of the following European city has been named the world's safest city as per the Economist Intelligence Unit (EIU)'s Safe Cities Index 2021?

- a) London b) Paris c) Copenhagen d) Rome

Answer: (c)

Related Facts:-

- On 25 August 2021; the Economist Intelligence Unit (EIU) produced its Safe Cities Index 2021.
- Copenhagen secured the first position with a score of 82.4. The second position was scored by Toronto with a score of 82.2.
- The list also included names of two Indian cities that secured their place among the top 50.
- These two Indian cities are Delhi and Mumbai which have made it to the EIU safest city 2021 list. While Indian national Delhi made it to the 48th rank, Mumbai secured the 50th position in the list.
- Singapore and Sydney got the third and fourth position with a score of 80.7 and 80.1 respectively.
- The top scorer for the year 2019, Tokyo skidded to the 5th place with 80.0 marks.
- The Economist Intelligence Unit is the research and analysis division of Economist Group a corporation headquartered at London, UK.



- (EIU) this year enlisted names of 60 safe cities based on 76 indicators including first time introduced indicator for environmental security metrics.
- The cities were judged based on vital indicators like- Health, Infrastructure, Personal, and Environmental security.
- This year, EIU also considered the impact of COVID-19 while ranking the cities. The cities were scored on five parameters and finally graded out of 100.
- It was followed by respectively. As per an EIU statement, the pandemic has changed the whole concept of urban safety. It has shifted considerable focus towards digital security

Links:-

<https://safecities.economist.com/>

Cybersecurity Multi-Donor Trust Fund

Question: which of the following world agency has recently created a new Cybersecurity Multi-Donor Trust Fund?

- a) IMF
- b) World Bank
- c) UNDP
- d) None of these—

Answer: (b)

Related Facts:-

- Recently a new Cyber security Multi-Donor Trust Fund has been launched by the World Bank,
- It will be used to better roll out a Cybersecurity improvement agenda in a systematic manner.
- This new fund has been developed as an associated confidence fund below the broader Digital Development Partnership (DDP) umbrella program.
- This fund has been launched by the World Bank associating with 4 countries, particularly Estonia, Japan, Germany, and the Netherlands.
- The main intention of this new fund is to beautify cyber and digital protection functionality and potential in World Bank member countries.
- It will be utilized for the development of international knowledge, country assessments, technical assistance, ability building and training, alongside indispensable investments in infrastructure and technology.



Links:-

<https://www.worldbank.org/en/programs/cybersecurity-trust-fund>

Pakistan successfully tests multi-launch rocket system Fatah-1

Q. Recently which country has done the successful test flight of the Fatah-1- guided multi-launch rocket system?

- a) Israel
- b) Iran
- c) Pakistan
- d) Saudi Arabia

ANSWER:- c)

RELATED FACTS:-

- The Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR) on 24th August, 2021 announced Pakistan's successful test flight of the 'indigenously' developed Fatah-1 —guided multi-launch rocket system.
- Fatah-1 guided multi-launch rocket system is capable of delivering a conventional warhead for the country.
- The Weapon System will give Pakistan Army capability of precision target engagement deep in enemy territory.
- The test flight of the Shaheen-1A ballistic missile on March 26, 2021, was the last successful test conducted by Pakistan.
- According to the ISPR, the missile, having a range of 900 kilometres, was tested to revalidate various design and technical parameters of the weapon system, including an advanced navigation system, the military's media wing said.



LINK

<https://www.thenews.com.pk/latest/882577-pakistan-successfully-tests-multi-launch-rocket-system-fatah-1>

Starting of geo-tagging land parcels

Question : Which planning agency has recently(August 2021) started geo-tagging land parcels ?

- a. Mumbai Metropolitan Region Development Authority
- b. City and Industrial Development Corporation
- c. Nagpur Metropolitan Region Development Authority
- d. Pune Metropolitan Region Development Authority

Ans. b.

Related facts —

- CIDCO has recently(August 2021) started geo-tagging land parcels in Navi Mumbai under its various plot sale schemes.
- It is notable that CIDCO has been regularly selling residential and missed-use plots under its various schemes.
- These plots will be demarcated and fenced.
- The move, apart from helping applicants, will also be an additional step toward efficient digitisation of land records at the sprawling southeastern suburb of India's commercial capital.
- **CIDCO —**
- **CIDCO stands for —** City and Industrial Development Corporation.
- It is a city planning agency and richest government authority in India which is formed and controlled by the Government of Maharashtra.



Link:

<https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/industry/services/property/-construction/cidco-starts-geo-tagging-land-parcels-in-navi-mumbai/articleshow/85540973.cms>

India decides to ratify Kigali Amendment to Montreal Protocol

Q. Consider the following statements regarding Kigali Amendment-

1. It is an amendment in Montreal protocol 1989.
2. Recently United States, China and India has ratified the amendment.
3. Montreal protocol is related to maintaining the temperature of the earth.

Which of the above statement / s is / are not true?

- a) Only 1
- b) Only 1 & 2
- c) Only 3
- d) All statements are correct.

ANSWER:- c)

RELATED FACTS:-



- Following similar decisions by the United States and China in the past few months, India on 18TH August, 2021 decided to ratify a key amendment to the 1989 ozone-saving Montreal Protocol negotiated five years ago.
- The Kigali Amendment, named after the Rwandan capital where it was negotiated, enables the phase-out of hydrofluorocarbons, a set of chemicals notorious for their capacity to warm the planet.
- The 2016 amendment was seen as one of the most important breakthroughs in the global efforts to fight climate change, because the HFCs, a set of 19 gases used extensively in the air-conditioning and refrigerant industry, are known to be hundreds, even thousands, of times more potent than carbon dioxide in their ability to cause global warming.
- It is estimated that a complete phase-out of HFCs by 2050 would prevent about 0.5 degree Celsius rise in global temperatures by the end of this century.
- This important instrument, therefore, is crucial to achieving the target of restraining the increase in global temperatures to 2 degree Celsius from pre-industrial times.
- As pointed out by a recent report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), the average temperatures of the planet has already risen by about 1.1 degree Celsius.
- The decision to ratify the amendment was taken at a meeting of the Union Cabinet on Wednesday.
- It comes close on the heels of similar decisions by the United States and China, the world's largest producers and consumers of HFCs.
- According to a recent factsheet issued by Natural Resources Defense Council (NRDC), a US-based environmental organisation, and The Energy and Resources Institute (TERI), 122 countries had ratified the Kigali Amendment by the end of July.

LINK

<https://indianexpress.com/article/india/india-decides-to-ratify-kigali-amendment-to-montreal-protocol-7460521/>

Sailing Championship at Hussain Sagar Lake, Hyderabad

Question: Which of the following is the event date of 35th edition of Hyderabad Sailing Week ?

- (a) 13 Aug to 19 Aug 21
- (b) 11 Aug to 17 Aug 21
- (c) 10 Aug to 14 Aug 21
- (d) None of the above

Answer – (a)

Related facts —

- 35th edition of Hyderabad Sailing Week Yachting Association of India(YAI) Sailing Championship organised at Hussain Sagar Lake, Hyderabad from 13 Aug to 19 Aug 21.
- **Highlights of the event —**
- This is a national ranking event.
- It witnessed 120 sailors from all over India participating in Laser Standard, 4.7 and Radial class of boats.



1. Participants —

Nine members from Navy Sailing Team based at INWTC Mumbai, five members from INWTC Visakhapatnam and six boys of Navy Boys Sports Company from INS Mandovi participated in Laser 4.7 class of boat and gave tough competition.

2. Background —

This National event in the Laser Class of boats – which is an Olympic class, for both men and women, is being conducted regularly since 1986.

3. YAI President —

The president of the YAI is the Chief of Naval Staff Admiral Karambir Singh.
The closing ceremony of the event held in his presence.

Link: <http://www.uniindia.com/hyderabad-sailing-week-natl-laser-sailing-championship-from-aug-13-to-19/south/news/2475195.html>

Safe Deposit Locker/Safe Custody Article Facility provided by the banks – Revised Instructions

Question : RBI has Recently(August 2021) revised the rules for Safe Deposit Locker/Safe Custody Article Facility provided by the banks. Accordingly which of the following statement is correct ?

- a. The revised instructions shall come into force with effect from September 1, 2021
- b. The revised instructions shall come into force with effect from March 1, 2022
- c. The revised instructions shall come into force with effect from January 1, 2022
- d. None of the above

Ans. c.

Related facts —

- RBI has Recently(August 2021) revised the rules for Safe Deposit Locker/Safe Custody Article Facility provided by the banks.
- The revised instructions shall come into force with effect from January 1, 2022.
- **Key points of revised instructions —**
- According to the new guidelines of RBI, banks will have to implement such a policy approved by their board, in which their responsibility can be fixed for the goods kept in the locker due to negligence.
- According to the rules, the bank will not be responsible for any loss in case of natural calamity or 'Act of God' i.e. earthquake, flood, lightning, and storm.
- But this does not mean that the bank is free from its responsibilities.
- Banks will have to ensure proper arrangements to protect their premises from such calamities.
- Apart from this, the entire responsibility of the security of the premises where there are safe deposit lockers will be with the bank itself.
- According to the new rules of the Reserve Bank, in case of fire, theft, building collapse or fraud on the part of bank employees, the liability of banks will be limited to 100 times their annual rent.
- If the rent for the locker has not been paid by the customer for three consecutive years, then the bank can take action on it and can open any locker following the due process.



Link:

<https://www.rbi.org.in/Scripts/NotificationUser.aspx?Id=12146&Mode=0>

Approval of the ratification of the Kigali Amendment to the Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer

Question : Union cabinet has recently(August 2021) approved the ratification of Kigali Amendment to the Montreal Protocol. Accordingly, which of the following statement is correct ?

Statements —

- 1 The Kigali Amendment deals with substances that destroy the ozone layer.
- 2 This amendment was adopted during the 28th meeting of the Parties to the Montreal Protocol held in Kigali, Rwanda.
- 3 India's strategy is to phase down of Hydrofluorocarbons by 2023

Options —

- a. Only 1 b. Only 2 c. Only 3 d. All of the above

Ans. d.

Related facts —

- Union cabinet has recently(August 2021) approved the ratification of Kigali Amendment to the Montreal Protocol.
- It is notable that Kigali Amendment deals with substances that destroy the ozone layer.



- This amendment was adopted during the 28th meeting of the Parties to the Montreal Protocol held in Kigali, Rwanda.
- Key points of the decision taken by Union cabinet chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi —

(i) National strategy for phase down of Hydrofluorocarbons as per the applicable phase down schedule for India will be developed after required consultation with all the industry stakeholders by 2023.

(ii) Amendments to the existing legislation framework, the Ozone Depleting Substances (Regulation and Control) Rules to allow appropriate control of the production and consumption of Hydrofluorocarbons to ensure compliance with the Kigali Amendment will be done by mid-2024

Benefits —

(i) HFC phasedown is expected to prevent the greenhouse gas emissions, helping prevent climate change and would benefit the people.

(ii) The industry producing and consuming Hydrofluorocarbons will be phasing out Hydrofluorocarbons as per the agreed schedule under and transition to non-HFC and low global warming potential technologies.

Major Impact, including employment generation potential:

(i) Hydrofluorocarbons. phasedown is expected to prevent the emission of up to 105 million tonne of carbondioxide equivalent of greenhouse gases, helping to avoid up to 0.5 degree Celsius of global temperature rise by 2100, while continuing to protect the ozone layer.

(ii) Implementation of HFC phase down under the Kigali Amendment through the adoption of low-global warming potential and energy-efficient technologies will achieve energy efficiency gains^ and carbon dioxide emissions reduction – a “climate co-benefit,”

(iii) HFCs phrase down implementation will involve synergies with on-going government programmes and schemes of the Government of India with the objective to maximize the economic arid social co-benefits, besides environmental gains.

(iv) There would be scope for domestic manufacturing of equipment as well as alternative non-HFC and low-global warming potential chemicals to enable the industry to transition to the low global warming potential alternatives as per the agreed HFC phase down schedule. In addition, there would be opportunities to promote domestic innovation for new generation alternative refrigerants and related technologies.

Link:

<https://www.pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1746946>

Revival of North Eastern Regional Agricultural Marketing Corporation Limited

Question : Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs has approved revival of North Eastern Regional Agricultural Marketing Corporation Limited(NERAMAC) on August 18, 2021.

Accordingly, which of the following statement is correct ?

Statements —

1 Revival package is about 77.45 crore

2 Move will provide direct or indirect employment for about 33,000 persons

3 NERAMAC comes under the administrative control of Ministry of Commerce

Options —

a. Only 1 & 2 b. Only 2 & 3

c. Only 1 & 3 d. All of the above

Ans. a.

Related facts —



- Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs, chaired by the Prime Minister has approved revival of North Eastern Regional Agricultural Marketing Corporation Limited (NERAMAC) on August 18, 2021.
- Revival package —
- Revival package of Rs.77.45 crore has been approved of which consist Rs 17 crore towards fund based support and Rs 60.45 crore towards non-fund based support.
- Move will help ensuring remunerative price to the farmers of North Eastern Region for their products.
- It will provide direct or indirect employment for about 33,000 persons.
- NERAMAC —
- NERAMAC was set up to support farmers/producers of North East getting remunerative prices for their produce and thereby bridge the gap between the farmers and the market and also to enhance the agricultural, procurement, processing and marketing infrastructure of the Northeastern Region of India.
- The authorised capital of the Corporation is Rupees 1000 Lakh and the paid-up Capital is Rupees 762 Lakh.
- Presently it is under the administrative control of the Ministry of Development of North Eastern Region (DoNER), Government of India, New Delhi, with its registered office at Guwahati.

Link:

<https://www.pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1746944>

Electronic Monitoring and Enforcement of Road Safety

Question : Ministry of Road transport and Highways has recently(August 2021) issued notification for Electronic Monitoring and Enforcement of Road Safety. Details of how many cities are included in this ?

a. 123 cities b. 132 cities c. 103 cities d. 90 cities

Ans. b

Related facts —

- Ministry of Road transport and Highways has recently(August 2021) issued notification for Electronic Monitoring and Enforcement of Road Safety.
- The rules specify the detailed provisions for placement of electronic enforcement devices (speed camera, closed-circuit television camera, speed gun, body wearable camera,



dashboard camera, Automatic Number Plate Recognition (ANPR), weigh in machine (WIM) and any such technology).

- State Governments shall ensure that electronic enforcement devices are placed at high-risk and high-density corridors on National Highways and State Highways, and at critical junctions at least in major cities with more than one million population and also including the 132 cities.
- List of some of the major cities out of 132 cities with population above one lakh in India under National Clean Air Program (NCAP) —

Maharashtra	Total 19 cities	Mumbai Kolhapur Jalgaon Pune & Thane etc.
Uttar Pradesh	Total 17 cities	Lucknow Kanpur Ghaziabad & Noida etc.
Andhra Pradesh	Total 13 cities	Vijayanagram Guntoor Vijaywada & Chittor etc.
Punjab	Total 9 cities	Jalandhar Lundhiana Patiala & Amritsar etc.

Link:

<https://pib.gov.in/PressReleaselframePage.aspx?PRID=1747285>

On-line portal My e-Haat

Question: Which of the following company in India recently launched an On line Portal My e-Haat?

- a) TATA
- b) HCL
- c) Reliance
- d) Wipro

Answer: (b)

Related Facts:-



- On 15 August 2021; HCL Foundation, the corporate social responsibility arm of HCL Technologies, launched an online portal, My e-Haat.
- My e-Haat portal by HCL will used to empower artisans and strengthen the value chain of the handicraft sector in the country.
- Currently, more than 30 partners from eight states with over 600 products are listed on the portal.
- It has been speculated that more will be joining from across the country by the end of the year.
- Nidhi Pundhir, director HCL Foundation said in a statement that My E-Haat initiative would be a unique model (A2C) where artisans would connect with the customer directly in the following years.
- She said, the portal will assist in showcasing the ingenuity of skilled artisans from all over the country in front of the globe.
- This effort will result in increased recognition, appreciation and remuneration.

- HCL Foundation hopes to connect with a larger number of artisans and primary producers across the country in the coming years.
- The platform will allow artisans and main producers to conduct their business, by listing and showcasing their merchandise directly to customers.
- It will then minimize the casual intermediaries and the long furnish chains.
- It has been speculated that My e- Haat would assist in bringing the intelligence of knowledgeable craftsmen from across the country to the world.

Links:-

<https://www.businesstoday.in/latest/corporate/story/hcl-foundation-rolls-out-my-e-haat-portal-to-bolster-handicraft-sector-304256-2021-08-16>

Draft Electricity (promoting renewable energy through Green Energy Open Access) Rules, 2021

Q. Consider the following statements regarding Draft Electricity (promoting renewable energy through Green Energy Open Access) Rules, 2021-

1. These draft rules with regard to tariff propose that “The Tariff for the Green Energy shall be determined by the Appropriate Commission.
2. These draft rules also propose guidelines for green energy open access.

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 16th August, 2021 The Ministry of Power has circulated the “Draft Electricity (promoting renewable energy through Green Energy Open Access) Rules, 2021”.
- They have placed them on the Ministry of Power website – <https://powermin.gov.in/> and sought comments within 30 days.
- These rules are proposed for purchase and consumption of green energy including the energy from Waste-to-Energy plants.
- The draft rules have the following subheads within which details are provided: Renewable Purchase Obligation (RPO); Green energy open access; Nodal Agencies; Procedure for grant of green energy open access; banking; and cross subsidy surcharge.
- These draft rules with regard to tariff propose that “The Tariff for the Green Energy shall be determined by the Appropriate Commission, which may comprise of the average pooled power purchase cost of the renewable energy, cross-subsidy charges (if any) and service charges covering all prudent cost of the distribution licensee for providing the green energy.”
- The draft rules regarding green hydrogen state “Green hydrogen” is the hydrogen produced using electricity from the renewable sources.
- The obligated entity including the Industries can also meet their Renewable Purchase Obligation by purchasing green hydrogen.

- The quantum of green hydrogen would be computed by considering the equivalence to the Green hydrogen produced from one MWh of electricity from the renewable sources or it's multiple. The norms shall be notified by the Central Commission.
- These draft rules also propose guidelines for green energy open access and state that "The Appropriate Commission shall put in place regulations in accordance with this Rule to provide Green Energy Open Access to consumers who are willing to consume the Green energy. All applications for open access of Green Energy shall be granted within a maximum of 15 days.
- Provided that only Consumers who have contracted demand/sanctioned load of hundred kW and above shall be eligible to take power through green energy open access. There shall be no limit of supply of power for the captive consumers taking power under green energy open access.
- Provided further that reasonable conditions such as the minimum number of time blocks for which the consumer shall not change the quantum of power consumed through open access may be imposed so as to avoid high variation in demand to be met by the distribution licensee."

Link

<https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1746339>

Centre to set up 10 more Handloom Design Resource Centre

Q. Recently central ministry has decided to set up 10 more handloom Design Resources Centre. It will be set up by which institution?

- National Institute of Fashion Technology, Delhi
- Vogue Institute of Art and Design, Bangalore
- Army Institute of Fashion and Design, Bangalore
- Symbiosis Institute of Design, Pune

ANSWER:- a)

RELATED FACTS:-



- In order to promote Handlooms in a big way, Ministry of Textiles has undertaken many new initiatives.
- 10 more Design Resource Centres (DRCs) are in the process of being set up by National Institute of Fashion Technology (NIFT) at Weavers' Service Centres (WSCs) of Kolkata, Chennai, Bengaluru, Hyderabad, Kannur, Indore, Nagpur, Meerut, Bhagalpur and Panipat with the objective to build and create design-oriented excellence in the Handloom Sector and to facilitate weavers, exporters, manufacturers and designers access design repositories for sample/product improvisation and development.
- Ministry has roped in NIFT keeping in view the fact that it is an in house organization of MoT, of which Handloom also is a part, and also the expertise of NIFT in fashion and design trends which can be utilized by Handloom Sector for greater market linkage.
- DRCs are being established by NIFT in all WSCs in a phased manner, wherein vast inventory of designs and resources will be available for use by exporters, Manufacturers, Designers, Weavers and other stake holders.
- DRCs have been set up and inaugurated in WSCs of Delhi, Mumbai, Ahmedabad, Bhubaneswar, Guwahati, Jaipur and Varanasi. The eighth DRC at Kancheepuram was inaugurated by the Hon'ble Minister of Textiles on National Handloom Day, August 07 2021.

- Set up in 1986, NIFT is the pioneering institute of fashion education in the country and has been in the frontline of providing professional human resource to the textile and apparel industry.
- Over the years NIFT, with its 17 campuses in different parts of the country has been working as a knowledge service provider in the area of design development and positioning of handlooms and handicrafts.

LINK

<https://pib.gov.in/PressReleaseDetail.aspx?PRID=1746357>

Acquisition by Zomato of 9.3% (approx.) stake in each of Grofers India and Hands on Trades Private Limited

Q. Recently which food delivery company has acquired 9.3% stake in each of Grofers india and Hands on Traders private Limited along with certain rights in each of the targets?

- Zomato Limited
- Food Panda
- SWIGGY
- None of these

ANSWER:- a)

RELATED FACTS:-



- On 13TH August, 2021 The Competition Commission of India (CCI) approves proposed combination involving acquisition by Zomato Limited (Zomato) of approximately 9.3% stake in each of Grofers India Private Limited (Grofers India) and Hands on Trades Private Limited (HoT) along with certain rights in each of the Targets.
- Zomato: Zomato is a public limited company. It primarily operates in the food services market and provides a platform that connects customers, restaurant partners and delivery partners, serving their multiple needs. Zomato's subsidiary, Zomato Internet Private Limited, also operates Hyperpure, wherein it largely supplies fresh, high quality ingredients (such as vegetables, fruits, meats etc.) primarily to Zomato's restaurant partners.
- Grofers India – Grofers India is a private limited company that operates an e-commerce marketplace in India, providing an information technology platform on a digital and electronic network to act as a facilitator between third-party sellers of various products (such as grocery, fruits and vegetables, bakery items, personal care, health and hygiene, pet care, and baby care etc.) and potential buyers of goods.
- HoT – HoT is a private limited company that is engaged in the business of B2B wholesale trading with third party merchants, contract manufacturing of food products, grocery and other goods for the purpose of onward sale on a wholesale basis, and providing warehousing services including storage of food products and grocery goods to third party merchants.
- Grofers International Pte. Limited (Grofers International) – Grofers International is an investment holding company and is the holding company of Grofers India and HoT.

LINK

<https://www.pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1745506>

Anti-dumping duty on viscose staple fibre revoked by the Government

Question: On 12 August 2021, the Union government revoked the anti-dumping duty on viscose staple fibre originating from which of the following countries?

- I. China
- II. Bangladesh
- III. Indonesia
- IV. Myanmar

Select the correct answer from following code-

- a) i & ii
- b) i only
- c) iii only
- d) i & iii

Answer: (d)

Related Facts:



- On 12 August 2021, the Union government revoked the anti-dumping duty on viscose staple fibre originating in or exported from China and Indonesia.
- Ministry of Finance through a notification issued, cleared that the government revokes anti-dumping duty on viscose staple fibre, excluding bamboo fibre, exported from China or Indonesia.
- The Directorate General of Trade Remedies (DGTR) recently recommended the withdrawal of anti-dumping duty on viscose staple fibre originating in or exported from Indonesia or China and imported by India.
- The DGTR had studied the imports from October 1, 2019 to September 30, 2020. The injury analysis period covered 2017-2018, 2018-2019, and 2019-2020.
- **Decision Welcomed by the Industry:-**
- Indian textile industry on 13 August 2021 welcomed the Government's decision saying it would have an impact on prices of both, viscose fibre and yarn.
- While viscose fibre attracts 5% import duty besides anti-dumping duty, viscose yarn attracts only import duty.
- Import of viscose staple fibre attracted \$0.103 to \$0.512 of anti-dumping duty per kg for imports from countries such as Indonesia.
- According to Ashwin Chandran, chairman of Southern India Mills' Association, the viscose staple fibre produced by a single indigenous manufacturer was very expensive.
- The deemed export price concept extended by the indigenous manufacturer greatly affected the powerloom and downstream sectors, as the industry is predominantly MSME and fragmented.
- **MSME segments**
- The anti-dumping duty on viscose fibre ranged between \$ 0.103 per kg and \$ 0.512 per kg.
- The removal of anti-dumping duty on VSF would greatly benefit the MSME segments.
- **Fibre consumption**
- According to T. Raj kumar, chairman of Confederation of Indian Textile Industry, said global consumption of man-made fibres was increasing rapidly.
- He said that India's domestic fibre consumption ratio at present was 65:35 between natural fibres and man-made fibres.
- However, it was the opposite with the rest of the world.
- The Government's decision will align domestic VSF prices with global prices.

- The decision will also make the entire Indian VSF textile value chain globally competitive and help boost production and exports.

Links:-

<https://www.thehindu.com/business/centre-revokes-anti-dumping-duty-on-viscose-fibre/article35890724.ece>

UN Climate Change Welcomes IPCC's Summary for Policy Makers

Question : Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) sixth assessment report, entitled **Climate Change 2021: the Physical Science Basis** came into public domain.

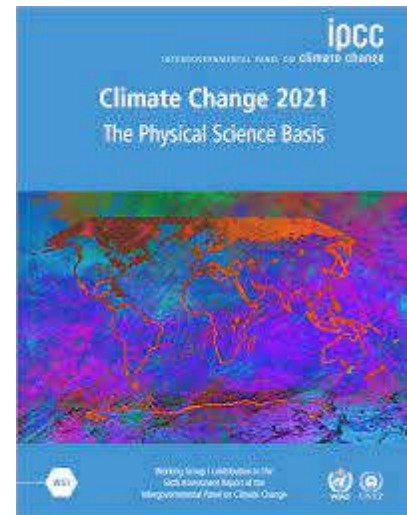
Statements viz 1,2,3 are given below. Analyse and answer. Which of the following statement is/are correct?

1. The report shows that greenhouse gas emissions from human activities are responsible for approximately 1.1°C of warming since 1850-1900.
 2. It finds that averaged over the next 20 years, global temperature is expected to reach or exceed 1.5°C of warming.
 3. Pursuing efforts towards 1.6°C through the implementation of ambitious NDCs is essential for our future and for future generations' well-being.
- (a) 1 and 2
(b) 1,2 and 3
(c) 2 and 3
(d) 1 and 3

Answer : (a)

Related Facts:

- The report identifies that the level of future emissions will determine the level of future temperature rise and the severity of future climate change and the associated impacts and risks. Not only have CO₂ concentrations increased in the Earth's atmosphere, but the rate of the increase has also sped up.
- The report shows that greenhouse gas emissions from human activities are responsible for approximately 1.1°C of warming since 1850-1900, and finds that averaged over the next 20 years, global temperature is expected to reach or exceed 1.5°C of warming.
- Unless there are rapid, sustained and large-scale reductions of climate change-causing greenhouse gas emissions, including CO₂, methane and others, the goal of limiting global warming to 1.5C compared to pre-industrial levels, as enshrined in the Paris Agreement, will be beyond reach
- With respect to the intergovernmental negotiations on climate change, 2021 marks a crucial year as nations submit their new or updated Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs), embodying the efforts and actions of each country to respond to climate change and reduce emissions.
- An initial synthesis of submitted new or updated NDCs early in 2021 showed that collective efforts fall far short of what is required by science to limit global temperature increases by the end of the century to 2C, let alone the desired objective of less than 1.5C.



- Sound policy and action are based on sound science. As the IPCC's Summary for Policy Makers underscores, limiting warming to 1.5°C can only be achieved through immediate and significantly scaled-up reductions. The only way to reach this goal is through the rapid implementation of more ambitious NDCs.
- Given the latest assessment of the physical science basis of climate change, accepting and rising to the challenge of increasing ambition needs to be the way forward. Pursuing efforts towards 1.5°C through the implementation of ambitious NDCs is essential for our future and for future generations' well-being.

REFERENCE: <https://unfccc.int/news/un-climate-change-welcomes-ipcc-s-summary-for-policy-makers-on-the-physical-science-basis-of-climate>

Sunscreens damage corals

Question : Which country has recently banned sunscreens?

- (a) Thailand
- (b) Bhutan
- (c) India
- (d) Pakistan

Answer : (a)

Related Facts:

- Thailand recently banned sunscreen from its marine national parks.
- According to Thailand's Department of Conservation, four ingredients (Oxybenzone, Octinoxate, 4-methyl benzylidene camphor, or Butylparaben) commonly found in sun creams have been shown to kill coral larvae, impede coral reproduction and cause reef bleaching.



PAY HEED TO:

Sunscreens contain hazardous chemicals like Oxybenzone, Benzophenone-1, Benzophenone-8, OD-PABA, 4-Methyl benzylidene camphor, 3-Benzylidene camphor, nano-Titanium dioxide, nano-Zinc oxide, Octinoxate, Octocrylene, that negatively affect marine life.

Reference: <https://www.downtoearth.org.in/news/environment/sunscreens-damage-corals-and-this-should-bother-india-too-78328>

Amazon expands presence in Telangana with 5th fulfilment center

Question : Recently Amazon has expanded his presence with 5th fulfilment center in which state?

- (a) Telangana
- (b) Bihar
- (c) Uttar Pradesh
- (d) Odisha

Answer : (a)

Related Facts:

- In a bid to gear up for the upcoming festive season, Amazon India said it has expanded its fulfilment network in Telangana with the setting up of its fifth fulfilment centre (FC) in the state.



- The move takes up the e-commerce giant's total footprint in the state to over 1 million sq ft with a total storage capacity of over 5 million cubic feet.
- The new FC, which is a specialised one catering to large appliances and furniture, is spread over 2 lakh sq ft with a storage capacity of over 6 lakh cubic feet at Mulugu mandal in Siddipet district on Hyderabad's outskirts.
- Apart from this, the company has also expanded its existing specialised FC (large appliances and furniture) at Medchal by another 1 lakh sq feet with an additional 4 lakh sq ft storage space.

Reference : <https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/business/india-business/amazon-expands-presence-in-telangana-with-5th-fulfilment-centre/articleshow/85065371.cms>

The study on Pensilungpa Glacier

Question: Where the Pensilungpa Glacier, which is under the study of Wadia Institute of Himalayan Geology (WIHG), Dehradun, located?

- a) Uttarakhand
- b) Sikkim
- c) Ladakh
- d) Himachal Pradesh

Answer: (c)

Related Facts:-

- Scientists from the Wadia Institute of Himalayan Geology (WIHG), Dehradun conducted a recent study on Pensilungpa Glacier.
- This glacier is located in the Zaskar Valley in Ladakh.
- Scientist in their study has found that the glacier is retreating due to increase in temperature and decrease in precipitation during winters.
- Since 2015, the Wadia Institute of Himalayan Geology (WIHG) has been working on various aspects on glaciology – glacier health (mass balance).
- WIHG is an autonomous body under the Department of Science and Technology.
- This institute is monitoring, dynamics, discharge, past climatic conditions, speculation for future climate change and its impact on glaciers in this region.
- A team of scientists from the institute ventured to study the less explored region of the Himalayas at Zaskar in Ladakh.



Links:-

<https://www.thehindu.com/sci-tech/science/ladakh-glacier-retreat-due-to-warming-low-winter-precipitation-finds-study/article35788810.ece>

First case of Marburg virus West Africa

Question: Which of the following country of West Africa recently confirmed the first case of the extremely contagious and deadly Marburg virus?

- a) Niger
- b) Mali
- c) Guinea
- d) Ghana



Answer: (c)

Related Facts:-

- West Africa on August 9, 2021, confirmed the first case of the extremely contagious and deadly hemorrhagic Marburg virus.
- In Guinea, West Africa a patient with the rare, but highly infectious Marburg virus disease was died,
- According to a World Health Organization (WHO) statement it's the first case of the Ebola-like virus in West Africa.
- Important point to note that the detection comes less than two months after Guinea declared an end to its most recent Ebola outbreak.
- Samples of the virus, which causes hemorrhagic fever, were taken from the patient in Gueckedou.
- Gueckedou, where Marburg has been confirmed, is also the same region where cases of the 2021 Ebola outbreak in Guinea as well as the 2014–2016 West Africa outbreak were initially detected.
- It should be known that Gueckedou is a town in southern Guinea near the Sierra Leone and Liberian borders.
- According to the WHO, samples taken from a now-deceased patient and tested by a field laboratory in Gueckedou as well as Guinea's national hemorrhagic fever laboratory.
- Dr Matshidiso Moeti, WHO's Regional Director for Africa said that they were working with the health authorities to implement a swift response.
- Guinea has experience and expertise in handling the Ebola virus, which is also transmitted in the same way as the Marburg virus does.
- The Marburg virus belongs to the family of the Ebola virus and it was detected in a male patient in Guinea.
- The patient was getting treatment in the Gueckedou province in southeast Guinea. Later, he died.
- As per WHO, the patient exhibited symptoms on July 25. On August 1, he went for treatment at a small health clinic near his village. The next day, he succumbed to the infection.
- **Marburg virus:**
- Marburg is transmitted to people from fruit bats and spreads among humans through direct contact with the bodily fluids of infected people, surfaces and materials.
- As per WHO, hemorrhagic fever emerges due to the Marburg virus in the patients.
- It is a highly virulent disease that causes, with a fatality rate above 80 per cent.
- Marburg virus listed as a top 10 priority disease by the WHO along with Ebola, Zika Lassa fever which has the potential to cause a pandemic.
- Marburg belongs to the same family as the Ebola virus.
- In 1967, two epidemics outbreaks occurred in Marburg and Frankfurt in Germany, and in Belgrade in Serbia.
- The outbreak was caused during laboratory work being done on African green monkeys that were imported from Uganda.
- The outbreaks led to the identification of the Marburg virus.
- Later, sporadic outbreaks were reported in Angola, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Kenya, South Africa.
- **Symptoms:-**

- As per the WHO, following are the symptoms are exhibited by the person infected with the virus:-
- The person infected with the Marburg virus will experience high fever, severe headache and severe malaise accompanied by Muscle aches and pains.
- On third day severe watery diarrhoea, abdominal pain and cramping, nausea and vomiting will begin which can persist for a week.
- The patients at this phase show symptoms like deep-set eyes, expressionless faces and extreme lethargy.
- Fatal cases usually have bleeding, often from multiple areas including vomits and feces often accompanied by bleeding from the nose, gums and vagina.
- Involvement of the central nervous system can result in confusion, irritability and aggression.

Links:-

<https://edition.cnn.com/2021/08/10/africa/guinea-confirms-marburg-disease-intl/index.html>

Model Tenancy Act aims to promote rental housing

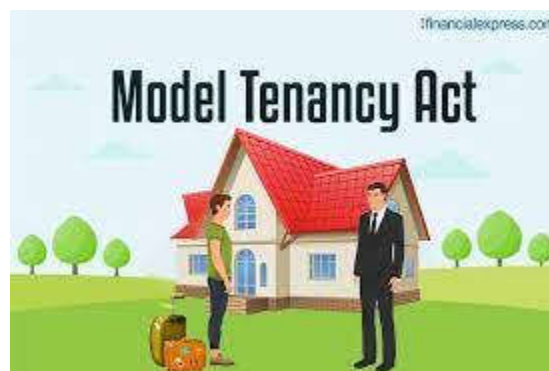
Question : With the approval of Union Cabinet, Model Tenancy Act (MTA) has been circulated to all States / Union Territories (UTs) and are recently in news . When was it circulated on?

- (a) 7th June, 2021
- (b) 8th June, 2021
- (c) 9th June, 2021
- (d) 19th June, 2021

Answer : (a)

Related Facts:

- With the approval of Union Cabinet, Model Tenancy Act (MTA) has been circulated to all States / Union Territories (UTs) on 7th June, 2021 for adoption by way of enacting fresh legislation or amending existing rental laws suitably for future tenancies.
- Model Tenancy Act aims to promote rental housing by balancing and protecting the interests of both the tenants and landlords by regulating renting of premises in an efficient and transparent manner through an adjudicating mechanism for speedy dispute resolution.
- To ensure speedy dispute resolution it is provisioned that Rent Court and Rent Tribunal both shall endeavour to dispose the cases within sixty days and in case of delay in disposal, reasons for delay are mandated to be recorded in writing.
- For disputes related to essential services, it is provided that the Rent Authority, after examining the matter, may pass an interim order directing restoration of supply of essential services immediately. Further, Rent Authority shall conduct an enquiry within one month of filing of application by the tenant in this regard.
- Under the provisions of MTA, the information and documents submitted by landlord and tenant for intimation of tenancy will be in sole custody of Rent Authority.
- Unless otherwise agreed between landlord and tenant in the tenancy agreement, roles and responsibilities on both parties have been clearly delineated in the schedule-II of the Act. This will help in avoiding disputes between landlord and tenant and will not hinder flexibility in framing tenancy agreement.



- This information was given by the Minister of State in the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs, Shri Kaushal Kishore, in a written reply in the Rajya Sabha on 11th AUGUST 21021.

Reference: <https://www.pib.gov.in/PressReleaseDetail.aspx?PRID=1744760>

Indian Ocean warming rapidly, expect more extreme weather

Q. Consider the following statements regarding on IPCC's sixth assessment report-

1. Indian Ocean was warming at a rate higher than other oceans.
2. South Asia will face intense and severe and frequent Heat waves.

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

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

ANSWER:- c)

Related Facts:-

- On 9th august, 2021 The latest report by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change confirmed fears that the Indian Ocean was warming at a rate higher than other oceans.
- According to the authors of the IPCC's Sixth Assessment Report (AR6), "Climate Change 2021: The Physical Science Basis", the warming of the ocean will lead to a rise in sea levels, resulting in more frequent and severe coastal flooding in low-level areas.
- Heat waves and humid heat stress will also be more intense and frequent in the 21st century over South Asia, states the report, sounding a dire warning for the entire world.
- "For a country like India, some of the increase in heat waves is masked by aerosol emissions and reducing that is important for air quality. We will also see an increase in the heat waves, heavy rainfall events and the further melting of glaciers, which will impact a country like India, more compound events from sea-level rise, which could mean flooding when tropical cyclones hit. These are some of the impacts which will not go away," Friederike Otto, one of the authors of the report, said.



LINK

<https://www.thenewsminute.com/article/indian-ocean-warming-faster-india-see-increased-heat-waves-flooding-ipcc-report-153704>

China opens new expanded terminal at Lhasa airport in Tibet

Q. Recently china has opened its new terminal at which region?

- a) Hong Kong
- b) Taiwan
- c) Tibet
- d) None of these

ANSWER:- C)

RELATED FACTS:-



- China has opened a newly constructed terminal – stated to be the biggest in Tibet – at the provincial capital Lhasa, further expanding the transport infrastructure in the strategic Himalayan region and helping it emerge as a global logistics hub for South Asia, the official media here reported on 9th, August, 2021.
- Lhasa Gonggar Airport opened its newly constructed Terminal 3 for operations, marking a significant milestone in the remote region's rapid infrastructure development that could significantly boost passenger and cargo transport, state-run Global Times reported.
- The airport expansion project was carried out at a cost of USD 603 million, it said, adding that the move would help the region become a global logistics hub for South Asia.
- With the new terminal, the airport is expected to meet an annual handling capacity of nine million passengers and 80,000 metric tonnes of cargo, handling more than 75 per cent of the passenger flow of all airports in Tibet, the report said.
- Tibet has five airports including at Nyingchi, Shigatse and Ngari located close to the Indian and Nepal borders.
- The massive expansion of air, road and rail infrastructure is aimed at boosting civilian and military transportation considering Tibet is located close to Arunachal Pradesh in India, Nepal and Bhutan.
- China claims Arunachal Pradesh as part of South Tibet, which is firmly rejected by India. The India-China border dispute covers the 3,488-km-long Line of Actual Control (LAC).

By – ABHISHEK KUMAR

LINK

<https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/international/world-news/china-opens-new-expanded-terminal-at-lhasa-airport-in-tibet/articleshow/85178423.cms>

Swavalamban Challenge Fund

Question : Which bank has recently(August 2021) launched Swavalamban Challenge Fund to promote entrepreneurship ?

- SIDBI
- IDBI
- NHB
- EXIM Bank

Ans. a.

Related facts —

- SIDBI has recently(August 2021) launched Swavalamban Challenge Fund(SCF) to promote entrepreneurship.
- For this purpose it has partnered with Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office(FCDO), UK.
- A challenge fund is a fund support mechanism to allocate funds for specific purposes using competition among organisations. Suppose there is an idea which needs to be piloted or scaled up, but funds are an issue, challenge fund provides solution platform to present the idea in prescribed theme, implement and validate it.
- Later the same can be scaled up by leveraging other donor / financial support.
- SCF shall provide financial support to non-profit organisations/educational institutions/social startups which have focus on sustainable livelihood, financial inclusion,

and access to financial services besides promoting the culture of entrepreneurship in the country.

- On select six themes of livelihood, women empowerment, financial literacy, responsible business etc. eligible entities can submit their proposal for award.
- Under this fund, applications are invited in two categories namely, 'Pilot Category' and 'Scale-up Category'.
- The total outlay of fund will depend on number of proposals selected in various themes and categorywise amount allocated is up to Rs. 20 lakh for the 'Pilot Category' and up to Rs. 35 lakh for the 'Scaleup Category'.
- To operationalize the fund, the project period shall be more than 6 months and up to 2 years.

Link:

<https://sidbi.in/files/pressrelease/Press-Release-SIDBI-launches-Swavalamban-Challenge-Fund.pdf>

BPCL launches 'Safar20' service with Humsafar

Question: Which company has launched 'Safar20' service with Humsafar?

- (a) BPCL
- (b) HPCL
- (c) GAIL
- (d) BHEL

Answer : (a)

Related Facts:



- Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited (BPCL) will do Doorstep Delivery of Diesel in association with Humsafar India
- Doorstep Diesel Delivery (Doorstep Diesel Delivery Benefits) facility is being provided in Jerrycan, which is titled Safar20.
- The facility of doorstep delivery is for customers demanding less than 20 liters of diesel.
- This will benefit small industries, malls, hospitals, banks, construction sites, farmers, mobile towers, educational institutions as well as small industries.
- Recently Indian Oil launches app-based door step diesel service in Mumbai in league with Okara Fuelogics and Humsafar India.

Reference : <https://www.aninews.in/topic/doorstep-diesel-delivery-service/>

Wang Haijiang

Question : For which troubled autonomous region has China's military named Wang Haijiang as new commander ?

- a. Xinjiang b. Ningxia c. Guangxi d. None of the above

Ans. a.

Related facts —

- China's military has named Wang Haijiang as new commander for troubled autonomous region of Xinjiang.



- Fifty Seven years old Lieutenant General Wang Haijiang was previously in charge of Tibet and has headed an elite PLA unit.
- He will be responsible for border areas where China is concerned about terror threat, as well as the disputed frontier with neighbour country.
- **Autonomous regions of China —**
- Like Chinese provinces, an autonomous region has its own local government.
- Under Chinese law an autonomous region has more legislative rights, such as the right to “formulate self-government regulations and other separate regulations.
- An autonomous region is the highest level of minority autonomous entity in the country, which has a comparably higher population of a particular minority ethnic group.
- Chronology of establishment — The Inner Mongolia Autonomous Region was established in 1947, Xinjiang was made autonomous in 1955, and Guangxi and Ningxia were made autonomous in 1958. Tibet was placed under PRC control in 1951, with some Western observers calling this an annexation, and was named a Chinese Autonomous Zone in 1965.

Link:

<https://www.scmp.com/news/china/military/article/3143984/chinas-military-names-new-commander-troubled-xinjiang-region>

Community of Portuguese Language Countries

Question: In July 2021; which of the following country has joined the Community of Portuguese Language Countries, CPLP as Associate Observer?

- a) France
- b) Iran
- c) Iraq
- d) India

Answer: (d)

Related Facts:



- In July 2021; India has joined the Community of Portuguese Language Countries, CPLP as Associate Observer.
- Minister of State for External Affairs Meenakshi Lekhi has given this information through a tweet.
- In a tweet, the Minister said that this sets a new platform for strengthening India’s historic bonds of friendship with Lusophone countries.
- She said that it will help in pursuing cooperation in areas of mutual interest.
- The move will further enrich and strengthen India’s ties with the Portuguese speaking world.
- The Community of Portuguese Language Countries, also known as the Lusophone Commonwealth.
- It Is an international organization and political association of Lusophone nations across four continents, where Portuguese is an official language.

Links:-

<https://newsonair.com/2021/08/04/india-joined-community-of-portuguese-language-countries-as-associate-observer-in-july-this-year-meenakshi-lekhi/>

Extended Troika Talks

Question: Upon the matter of which of the following country on August 11 2021 in Doha, the extended troika talks will be convened by the Russia?

- a) Pakistan
- b) Turkey
- c) India
- d) Afghanistan

Answer: (d)

Related Facts:-



- On August 11 2021; the extended troika talks on Afghanistan will be convened by Russia in Doha.
- It should be noted that India has not been invited to this kind of meeting in which US, China and Pakistan would be the three parties along with Russia.
- Russia's Special Presidential Envoy for Afghanistan, Zamir Kabulov, had made it clear on July 20, 2021 in Moscow.
- He said that India cannot participate in the format of the expanded group of three because it did not have any influence on the Taliban.
- The extended troika meeting was called by Russia to push intra-Afghan talks to find a political settlement in Afghanistan.
- The meeting is being called at a time when the Taliban have launched a massive offensive that has recently been expanded to cities such as Kandahar, Herat and Lashkargah.
- The extended troika held its last two meetings in Moscow on March 18 and in Doha on April 30.
- The Indian side has opposed the inclusion of Pakistan, which New Delhi contends is backing the Taliban.
- The format of the Extended Troika with is convened exclusively to facilitate the launch of the intra-Afghan talks leading to national accord.
- The envoy explained, only countries that have an unequivocal influence on both sides of the conflict participate.
- The reason behind not inviting India is that of contradictions of India and Pakistan are being projected on the situation in Afghanistan. “
- The Russian envoy said, the Indians suspect the Pakistanis of striving to use Afghanistan as a strategic rear and the Pakistanis suspect India of wanting to use Afghan territories to harm Pakistan's interests.
- Russia is of the view that India's future efforts, in a more expanded format, will only be welcomed.
- This expanded format will involve Afghanistan's post-conflict development.
- Russian envoy specified India's clout and its role are rather significant in the Afghanistan's post-conflict development. at an online discussion of the international Valdai discussion club.

Links:-

<https://www.hindustantimes.com/india-news/india-again-kept-out-of-extended-troika-meeting-on-afghanistan-convened-by-russia-101628105269003.html>

Animal Birth Control (ABC) Centre at Konakkarai Reactivated

Question: Which of the following animal has to be targeted for birth control under the recently reactivated Animal Birth Control (ABC) Centre at Konakkarai, Tamil Nadu?

- a) Cat
- b) Dog
- c) Monkey
- d) Pig

Answer: (b)

Related Facts:-



- At Konakkarai in Tamil Nadu, Animal Birth Control (ABC) Centre again has become operational.
- The unit, which was opened in 2018, could not come into operations due to some lackings.
- Now the Animal Birth Control (ABC) Centre at Konakkarai in the city has become operational with some changes in modes of operation.
- People of this region for the long time were affected by stray dog menace.
- The ABC centre has five pre-operative and five post-operative wards and it can sterilise about 30 dogs a day.
- In the beginning due to lack of manpower, particularly veterinarians, is said to be the main reason behind the inaction.
- The civic body at Konakkarai initially engaged veterinarians of Animal Husbandry Department for carrying out sterilisation.
- The doctors during that period could not fully concentrate as they were primarily attached with the Department.
- To make the facility operational, the Corporation has now engaged a private veterinarian for the sterilisation drive.
- Instructions have been given to health officials to take steps to capture stray dogs in Tiruverumbur in the first phase.

Links:-

<https://www.thehindu.com/news/cities/Tiruchirapalli/animal-birth-control-unit-reactivated/article35709976.ece>

Maldives-style Water Villas

Question: At which of the following place Indian government has planned to establish Maldives-style Water Villas?

- a) Lakshadweep
- b) Mumbai
- c) Andaman-Nicobar Islands
- d) None of these

Answer: (a)

Related Facts:



- On 31 July 2021; the administration floated global tenders for the Maldives-style water villas in Lakshadweep.

- In a first of its kind initiative in the country, India's popular island destination Lakshadweep will soon have three premium Maldives-style water villas.
- The three premium projects will come up in Minicoy, Kadmat and Suheli islands at a cost of Rs 800 crore.
- The administration informed that it is making efforts to engage in developing eco- tourism projects at these islands as anchor projects under the aegis of NITI Aayog.
- According to the administration this a move to create a robust base for maritime economic growth with tourism development at its core.
- The authorities further claimed that the scientific approach will be adopted during each stage of the project.
- It will be ensured that it strikes a balance between the need to enhance livelihood opportunities of the locals and protection of the fragile corals' ecosystem.
- The National Centre for Sustainable Coastal Management (NCSCM) assesses the total number of keys for water villas to be developed.

Links:-

<https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/travel/travel-news/in-a-first-lakshadweep-to-get-maldives-style-water-villas/as84968279.cms>

World Breastfeeding Week (WBW)

Question : World Breastfeeding Week is observed in which of the following month?

- (a) 1 to 7 August
- (b) 2 to 8 August
- (c) 7 to 14 August
- (d) 1 to 7 September

Answer : (a)

Related Facts:

- World Breastfeeding Week (WBW) is an annual celebration which is held every year from 1 to 7 August in more than 120 countries.
- According to the 26 August data of WBW website, 540 events have been held worldwide by more than 79 countries with 488 organizations and 406,620 participants for the World Breastfeeding Week 2010.
- This year's World Breastfeeding Week, under its theme 'Protect Breastfeeding: A Shared Responsibility' is a time to revisit the commitments made at the start of this year by prioritizing breastfeeding-friendly environments for mothers and babies.



Reference: <https://www.who.int/news/item/31-07-2021-joint-statement-by-unicef-executive-director-henrietta-for-and-who-director-general-dr.-tedros-adhanom-ghebreyesus-on-the-occasion-of-wor>

Strengthening Aerial Connectivity with North East India under the RCS-UDAN

Question: On 03 august 2021; the first direct flight operations between Imphal (Manipur) & which of the following state capital was flagged off?

- a) Lucknow

- b) Patna
- c) Shillong
- d) Bengaluru

Answer: (c)

Related Facts:-

- On 03 august 2021; the first direct flight operations between Imphal (Manipur) & Shillong (Meghalaya) was flagged off.
- These flight operations have been initiated Under the RCS-UDAN (Regional Connectivity Scheme — Ude Desh Ka Aam Nagrik of the Government of India.
- The operationalization of this route fulfills the objectives of the Government of India to establish strong aerial connectivity in priority areas of NorthEast India.
- The officials of the Ministry of Civil Aviation (MoCA) and Airport Authority of India (AAI) were present during the launch of the flight operations.
- The aerial connectivity between the capital cities of Manipur & Meghalaya has been a long-awaited demand of the people of the region.
- Due to the non-availability of any direct mode of transportation, people were compelled to cover a long 12-hour journey by road to reach Shillong from Imphal.
- They otherwise had to take a flight to Lokpriya Gopinath Bordoloi International Airport, Guwahati, then bus service to reach Shillong.
- The completion of the entire journey took more than 1 day to reach Shillong from Imphal or vice-versa.
- Now, natives can easily fly between the two cities by opting for a flight of just 60 minutes from Imphal to Shillong and 75 mins from Shillong to Imphal.
- Shillong is the second city to be connected with Imphal under the UDAN scheme.
- The airline M/s Indigo was awarded the Imphal-Shillong route during the UDAN 4 bidding process.
- The airlines are being provided Viability Gap Funding (VGF) under the UDAN scheme to keep the fares affordable & accessible for the common people.
- The airline will be operating four flights in a week and will deploy its 78-seater ATR 72 aircraft.
- Currently, 66 UDAN routes are operational by M/S Indigo airlines.
- The beautiful city of Shillong is surrounded by hills from all sides and famous for the presence of many well-reputed educational institutions.
- Shillong is actually the hub of education for the entire North-East India.
- Apart from being the beauty & education centre, Shillong also acts as the gateway to Meghalaya.
- The state of Meghalaya is famous for heavy rainfall, caves, tallest waterfalls, beautiful landscapes, and its rich heritage & culture.
- Shillong is famous for Elephant falls, Shillong Peak, Umiam lake, Sohpetbneng Peak, Don Bosco Museum, Laitlum Canyons.
- Shillong, also is the only capital city in NorthEast India to produce two football clubs that participate in the I-League, namely, Royal Wahingdoh FC and Shillong Lajong FC.
- In addition to these, Shillong Golf Course is one of the oldest golf courses in the country.



Links:-

<https://pib.gov.in/PressReleaseDetail.aspx?PRID=1741812>

Dragon fruit exported for the first time to London

Question: Recently dragon fruit, sourced from the farmers of which of the following state have been exported first time to London?

- a) Maharashtra
- b) Gujarat
- c) Kerala
- d) West Bengal

Answer: (b)

Related Facts:-



- On 03 July 2021; the Union Commerce Ministry announced that the first time dragon fruit or Kamalam grown in the country have been exported to London.
- Dragon fruit is a fiber and mineral-rich fruit, which is also known as Kamalam in India for export, it was sourced from farmers of Gujarat and West Bengal.
- Scientifically the dragon fruit is referred to as *Hylocereus undatus*.
- According to the Ministry of commerce, the consignments have been exported for the first time to London and Bahrain.
- It said that the consignment exported from APEDA registered packhouse in Bharuch, Gujarat.
- On the other hand the consignment to Bahrain was sourced from the farmers of West Midnapore (West Bengal) and exported by APEDA registered enterprises, Kolkata.
- It should be known that APEDA in full is known as the Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority.
- APEDA was established by the Government of India by an act of parliament in 1985.
- The consignment of 'dragon fruit' exported to Kingdom of Bahrain was sourced from the farmers of West Midnapore (West Bengal).
- There are three main varieties of dragon fruit – white flesh with pink skin, red flesh with pink skin, and white flesh with yellow skin.
- The fruit is grown mostly in Karnataka, Kerala, Tamil Nadu, Maharashtra, Gujarat, Odisha, Andhra Pradesh, and Andaman and Nicobar Islands.
- West Bengal is new to taking up cultivation of this exotic fruit.
- The main countries which produce the fruit include Malaysia, Thailand, the Philippines, the USA, and Vietnam and these nations are the major competitors for India.
- The consignment of exotic fruit exported to London, while Earlier in June 2021, a consignment of 'dragon fruit' that was sourced from the farmers of Tadasar village, Sangli district, Maharashtra was exported to Dubai by APEDA recognized exporter.
- Production of 'dragon fruit' commenced in India in early 1990s and it was grown as home gardens.
- Due to high export value, the exotic 'dragon fruit' has become increasingly popular in recent years in the country.
- Cultivation of Dragon fruit has now been taken up by farmers in different states. Countries as Malaysia, Thailand, the Philippines, the USA and Vietnam are the major competitors for Indian Dragon Fruit.
- The cultivation of dragon fruit requires less water and can be grown in various kinds of soils.

- The fruit contains fiber, vitamins, minerals, and antioxidants. It can help in repairing the cell damage caused by oxidative stress and reduce inflammation.
- The fruit is also useful in improving the digestive system.
- Since the fruit has spikes and petals resembling lotus, it is referred to as 'Kamalam'.
- Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi in 'Mann Ki Baat' programme in July, 2020 on All India Radio had mentioned about the dragon fruit farming in the arid Kutch region of Gujarat.
- He had congratulated the farmers of Kutch for the cultivation of fruit for ensuring India's self-sufficiency in the production.
- His dream has come true when the fruit is being exported to the UK and Kingdom of Bahrain.
- APEDA is making efforts to export it to other European countries to get better price realisation to the farmers of their produce.

Links:-

<https://pib.gov.in/PressReleseDetail.aspx?PRID=1741812>