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NAVATRA

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GSLV MKIII-M1 **Successfully Launches** **CHANDRAYAAN-2** **SPACECRAFT**

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 28th day will be given place in the PDFs. The necessity of this is to ensure the contents factual authenticity.

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

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

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National

Chandrayaan 2

Question: Consider the following statements regarding Chandrayaan 2 mission:

(1) Chandrayaan 2 is India's second lunar exploration mission after Chandrayaan-1 in 2007.

(2) Chandrayaan-2 will be the first spacecraft to land close to the moon's South Pole after the soft landing.

(3) The mission will perform extensive mapping of the lunar surface in order to trace the origin and evolution of the Moon.

of the above correct statement/s is/are:

(a) Only (1) and (3) (b) Only (2) and (3) (c) Both (1) and (2) (d) Neither (1) nor(2)

Answer: (b)

Related facts:



- On 22nd July, 2019, the powerful booster Geosynchronous Satellite Launch Vehicle (**GSLVMkIII-M1**) carrying Chandrayaan-2 on-board zoomed into space at 14.43 hours from the second launch pad of the Satish Dhawan Space Centre, Sriharikota, Andhra Pradesh.
- Chandrayaan-2 is India's second lunar exploration mission after Chandrayaan-1(in October 2008) to the unexplored moon's South Polar Region.
- Chandrayaan-2 will be the first spacecraft to land close to the moon's South Pole after the soft landing.
- Also, India would become the fourth ever nation to have a soft-landing on the moon expected to be on 7th September, 2019. Originally Chandrayaan-2 was scheduled to be launched on 15th July, 2019.
- The mission objectives of India's second expedition to the moon using Chandrayaan-2 include studying mineralogy and chemical composition of lunar soil, to search for water or ice in the **near-South Pole** of the moon, examining its atmosphere, studying lunar seismic activities and to carry out mapping of the moon using high-resolution cameras.

Why we are going to Moon:

- The Moon is the closest cosmic body at which space discovery can be attempted and documented. It is also a promising test bed to demonstrate technologies required for deep-space missions.
- Chandrayaan 2 attempts to foster a new age of discovery, increase our understanding of space, stimulate the advancement of technology, promote global alliances, and inspire a future generation of explorers and scientists.

Why explore the lunar South Pole:

- The lunar South Pole is especially interesting because a larger section of its surface stays in the shadow than the North Pole.
- There is a possibility of the presence of water in permanently shadowed areas around it. In addition, the South Polar Region has craters that are cold traps, containing a fossilized record of the early Solar System.
- Chandrayaan 2 will use the fully indigenous Vikram lander and Pragyan rover to attempt a soft landing in a high plain between two craters — Manzinus C and Simpelius N — at a latitude of about 70° south.

Launcher

- The GSLV Mk-III will carry Chandrayaan 2 to its designated orbit. This three-stage vehicle is India's most powerful launcher to date, and is capable of launching 4-ton class of satellites to the Geosynchronous Transfer Orbit (GTO).
- Its components are: S200 solid rocket boosters; L110 liquid stage; C25 upper stage

Orbiter

- At the time of launch, the Chandrayaan 2 Orbiter will be capable of communicating with Indian Deep Space Network (IDSN) at Byalalu as well as the Vikram Lander.
- The mission life of the Orbiter is one year and it will be placed in a 100X100 km lunar polar orbit.

Lander — Vikram

- It is designed to function for one lunar day, which is equivalent to about 14 Earth days. Vikram has the capability to communicate with IDSN at Byalalu near Bangalore, as well as with the Orbiter and Rover. The Lander is designed to execute a soft landing on the lunar surface.

Rover — Pragyan

- Chandrayaan 2's Rover is a 6-wheeled robotic vehicle named Pragyan. It can travel up to 500 mts and leverages solar energy for its functioning. It can only communicate with the Lander.

Links:

<http://www.newsonair.com/News?title=Chandrayaan-2-successfully-launched%3b-Prez%2c-VP-and-PM-congratulate-ISRO&id=368866>

Bharatmala Projects along Indo-Nepal Border areas

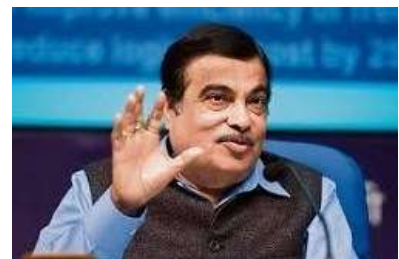
Question: What is the financial outlay for the Bharatmala Project Phase 1 by the Government of India?

(a) Rs. 5,00,000 crore (b) Rs. 5,50,000 crore (c) Rs. 5,35,000 crore (d) Rs. 5,60,000 crore

Answer: (c)

Related facts:

- The Government of India has approved Phase-I of Bharatmala Pariyojana with financial outlay of Rs 5,35,000 crore.
- The project is intended to develop 24,800 km Highways along with 10,000 km residual NHDP stretches over a period of five years.
- In Bharatmala Pariyojana Phase-I, development of Border & International Connectivity roads for a length of 2000 km has also been envisaged with outlay of Rs 25,000 crore.
- Along Indo-Nepal Border, the project i.e. balance work of Piprakothi-Motihari-Raxaul on NH-28A of about 69 km length and civil cost of approximately Rs 334 crore has been awarded in December, 2018 and commenced in February, 2019 with scheduled completion period of 12 months i.e. February 2020.



Links:

<http://www.pib.nic.in/PressReleaseDetail.aspx?PRID=1577792>

UP CM Yogi Adityanath launches 24×7, toll free CM helpline

Question: What is the toll-free helpline number launched by UP CM Yogi Adityanath to address civil complaints?

(a) 1078 (b) 1090 (c) 1076 (d) 1080

Answer: (c)

Related facts:

- On 4th July, 2019 Uttar Pradesh Government launched the Chief Minister's toll-free helpline that will enable people across the state to register their complaints.
- The helpline number **1076** will work 24×7.
- It will establish a direct contact between the people and the Chief Minister's office.
- The **500-seater call centre** for the helpline has the capacity to handle 80,000 inbound and **55,000 outbound calls** on a daily basis.
- Proper follow-up of the complaint will be done to make sure it is redressed and the complainant will be duly informed on his cell phone number about it.
- Yogi Adityanath affirmed that he will review the complaints every month and if a department gets more than 100 complaints in a month, action will be taken against the officials concerned.



Link:

<https://www.ndtv.com/india-news/yogi-adityanath-launches-24-hour-free-helpline-to-address-civic-complaints-2064024>

India-Russia Strategic Economic Dialogue, 2019

Question: Where was the 2nd edition of India-Russia Strategic Economic Dialogue, 2019 held?

(a) New Delhi (b) Mumbai (c) Moscow (d) Saint Petersburg

Answer: (a)

Related facts:

- The 2nd India-Russia Strategic Economic Dialogue (IRSED) was held in New Delhi, under the chairmanship of Dr. Rajiv Kumar, Vice-Chairman, NITI Aayog and Mr. Timur Maksimov, Deputy Minister of the Economic Development of the Russian Federation.
- Participants included government officials, business leaders and experts. Focus was on the following six core areas of co-operation:
 1. Development of Transport Infrastructure and Technologies
 2. Development of Agriculture and Agro-Processing sector
 3. Small and Medium Business support
 4. Digital Transformation and Frontier Technologies
 5. Cooperation in Trade, Banking, Finance, and Industry
 6. Tourism & Connectivity.
- The Dialogue included parallel roundtables which discussed areas of cooperation and concrete roadmaps for future negotiations across outlined core areas.



About India-Russia Strategic Economic Dialogue:

- It was established after a bilateral MoU (Memorandum of Understanding) was signed between India's NITI Aayog and Russia's Ministry of Economic Development of Russian Federation during 19th edition of Annual India-Russia Bilateral Summit which was held on 5th October 2018, in New Delhi.
- 1st IRSED was held in St. Petersburg in Russia between 25th and 26th November, 2018. It was chaired by Russia's Minister of Economic Development of Russian Federation Mr. Maxim Oreshkin and Dr. Rajiv Kumar, Vice-Chairman of NITI Aayog.

Link:

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=191522>

Centre appoints new Governor in six states

Question: Who is appointed as the governor of West Bengal on 20th July, 2019?

(a) Anandiben Patel (b) Ramesh Bais (c) R. N. Ravi (d) Jagdeep Dhankhar

Answer: (d)

Related facts:

- The President of India appointed new Governors to six states of India namely West Bengal, Madhya Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, Tripura, Bihar and Nagaland on 20th July, 2019.
- The appointments will take effect from the dates they assume charge of their respective offices.
- The appointment details are as follows:
- Anandiben Patel, Governor of Madhya Pradesh is transferred and appointed as Governor of Uttar Pradesh(second female UP Governor).
- It is worth to state that Sarojini Naidu was the first female to become the Governor of Uttar Pradesh as well as an Indian state.
- Jagdeep Dhankhar will be the new Governor of West Bengal.
- Ramesh Bais appointed as new Governor of Tripura.
- Lal Ji Tandon, Governor of Bihar is transferred and appointed as Governor of Madhya Pradesh.
- Phagu Chauhan will replace Lal Ji Tandon as Governor of Bihar.
- R. N. Ravi will be the new Governor of Nagaland.



Links:

<http://newsonair.com/Main-News-Details.aspx?id=368841>

Acharya Devvrat sworn in as Gujarat Governor

Question: Recently, who was sworn in as the Governor of Gujarat?

(a) Kalraj Mishra (b) Ramesh Bais (c) Acharya Devvrat (d)

Fagu Chauhan

Answer: (c)

Related facts:

- Acharya Devvrat was sworn in as the Governor of Gujarat on 22nd July, 2019. He became the 20th Governor of the State of Gujarat.
- He was administered the oath of office by the acting Chief Justice of Gujarat High Court, Justice Anant S. Dave. He replaced Shri O P Kohli.



- Before assuming charge as governor of Gujarat, Devvrat held the gubernatorial post in Himachal Pradesh.
- Shri Devvrat was associated with the Arya Samaj, earlier served as the principal of a gurukul (traditional school) at Kurukshetra in Haryana.
- He is known for his work towards spreading the Indian culture and Vedic values across the world, and promoting education for girls.

Links:

<https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/other-states/acharya-devvrat-sworn-in-as-gujarat-governor/article28656137.ece>

Australia-India finalized a new Veterinary Health Protocol

Question: Recently, a Veterinary Protocol has been finalized by which two countries?

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

Answer: (b)

Related facts:

- Australia and India finalized a new veterinary health protocol on 15th July, 2019 for the export of Australian breeder sheep to India to give a boost to its fine wool sector and textiles industry.
- Australia's High Commissioner to India, Harinder Sidhu, has exchanged the protocol with Secretary, Department of Animal Husbandry and Dairying, Tarun Shridhar.
- Veterinary Health Protocol was agreed between the Indian Department of Animal Husbandry and Dairying and the Australian Department of Agriculture,
- This protocol will support India's efforts to develop its fine wool sector and the textiles industry using Australian production expertise and genetic stock.
- Australia and India have built the foundations of its agriculture relationship over decades, with cooperation on wheat and wool stemming back to the 1960s.
- Australian sheep will be part of a sheep breeding programme for wool development, an initiative under India's National Livestock Mission.
- It is expected that the first sheep will arrive in India in September-October 2019 for settling at the Uttarakhand State Wool Development Board.



Links:

<http://agriculturepost.in/australia-india-finalise-new-veterinary-health-protocol/>

Bengaluru tops Digitized Cities' list

Question: Recently, which city of India has topped the list of 'Most Digitized Cities'?

(a) New Delhi (b) Mumbai (c) Bengaluru (d) Kolkata

Answer: (c)

Related facts:

- Bengaluru has topped the list of Most Digitized Cities accounting for highest card payments as per report by Era of Rising Fintech.
- Bengaluru is followed by Hyderabad, Mumbai, Pune and Delhi.
- The top five Digitized States are Karnataka, Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh and New Delhi.

- In April, May, June usage of credit and debit cards increased by 22% as against January, February and March for the year 2019.
- The top three sectors contributing to the growth were food & beverage 29%, gaming industry 15% and financial services 14%.



Links:

<https://bangaloremirror.indiatimes.com/bangalore/others/bengaluru-tops-digitised-cities-list/articleshow/70283044.cms>

Singapore's GIIS to launch India's first smart school campus

Question: Where will India's first smart school campus be launched by Singapore's GIIS?
(a) Chennai (b) New Delhi (c) Pune (d) Mumbai

Answer: (c)

Related facts:

- The Singapore-headquartered Global Indian International School (GIIS) notified that it will launch India's first SMART campus in Pune as part of its Rs 420 crore investments in education in India over the coming years.
- The concept of an international award-winning SMART Campus, launched in Singapore in 2018, will be implemented at Hadapsar and Balewadi campuses with the aim of providing students with NextGen learning to hone 21st century skills.
- GIIS plans to introduce the same pedagogy and initiatives at all its existing campuses in India and will invest over Rs 420 crore over the coming years towards this.
- The SMART Campus offers Digital and Virtual Classrooms for global student exchange, facial recognition for student attendance and campus security, innovation, artificial intelligence, robotics and entrepreneurship studios.
- First time in India, GIIS will introduce Sports Analytics at the school level, to monitor and improve on-field performances of students through data and statistical information.
- The GIIS has more than 15,000 students across 21 campuses in Singapore, Malaysia, Japan, Thailand, UAE, Vietnam and India.



Links:

<https://www.theweek.in/wire-updates/international/2019/07/17/fes45-singapore-india-giis.html>

International

Baba Guru Nanak International University

Question: Recently at which of the following place foundation stone of Baba Guru Nanak International University (BGNIU) has been laid?

(a) Amritsar (b) Ambala (c) Nankana Sahib (d) Bhatinda

Answer: (c)

Related facts:

- On 12th July, 2019; the foundation stone of Baba Guru Nanak International University (BGNIU) was laid in the Nankana Sahib.
- Nankana Sahib is the birthplace of Baba Guru Nanak Dev, founder of Sikhism, located in the Punjab province of Pakistan.

- Over 10 acres of land has been provided for the University and the foundation stone was laid by Pakistan's Punjab Chief Minister Usman Buzdor.
- Guru Nanak was the founder of Sikhism and the first of the ten Sikh Gurus. Nanak's teachings can be found in the Sikh scripture Guru Granth Sahib, as a collection of verses recorded in Gurmukhi.



Link:

<https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/india/foundation-stone-of-baba-guru-nanak-university-laid-at-nankana-sahib-in-pakistan/articleshow/70195638.cms>

WHO declares Sri Lanka measles free nation

Question: Which country has been recently declared measles-free by WHO?

(a) China (b) South Africa (c) India (d) Sri Lanka

Answer: (d)

Related facts:

- The World Health Organization (WHO) declared that measles disease has been eradicated in the island nation of Sri Lanka.
- Sri Lanka's achievement comes at a time when measles cases are increasing globally.
- The country reported its last case of measles caused by an indigenous virus was in May, 2016.
- Measles is a highly contagious viral disease transmitted via droplets from the nose, mouth or throat of infected persons.



India's Progress:

- India is still far from achieving this milestone. According to latest Global Measles and Rubella Update, India had 56,399 confirmed measles cases and 1,066 confirmed rubella cases in 2018.
- India has resolved to eliminate measles and control rubella/congenital rubella syndrome (CRS) by 2020.
- India has 2.9 million children unvaccinated against measles, the second highest number after Nigeria.

About WHO:

- The World Health Organization (WHO) is a specialized agency of United Nations that is concerned with international public health.
- It was established on 7th April, 1948.
- Headquarter: Geneva, Switzerland
- President: Tendros Adhanom

Links:

<http://www.searo.who.int/mediacentre/releases/2019/1712/en/>

76th Country joined International Solar Alliance

Question: Which country has recently joined the International Solar Alliance (ISA) and became its 76th member?

(a) Mauritius (b) Peru (c) Palau (d) Nicaragua

Answer: (c)

Related facts:

- Palau, an archipelago of over 500 islands in Oceania became the 76th signatory country to join the International Solar Alliance.
- Palau's President Tommy E. Remengesau, Jr. signed the Framework Agreement of the Solar Alliance on 16th July, 2019.
- India, France, Australia, the United Arab Emirates, the United Kingdom, Japan are signatories to the Alliance amongst others.
- The agreement was opened for signature during the COP22 at Marrakech on 15th November, 2016.



International Solar Alliance (ISA):

- The International Solar Alliance is a group of 121 solar resource-rich countries with headquarters in Gurugram, India.
- The organisation aims to deploy over 1,000 GW of solar energy and mobilize more than USD 1,000 billion into solar power by 2030, according to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC).
- In November 2018, the Centre gave ex-post facto approval for moving a resolution in the first assembly of the International Solar Alliance for amending its Framework Agreement to enable membership for all member countries of the UN.
- Inclusion of the UN members to the Alliance will put solar energy in global agenda with the universal appeal for developing and deploying solar energy, as per the government press release.

Links:

<https://www.aninews.in/news/world/us/palau-becomes-76th-country-to-join-international-solar-alliance20190716135815/>

The State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World 2019: UN report

Question: Consider the following statements regarding the UN report 'State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World 2019':

(1) 820 million people across the world did not have enough to eat in 2018.

(2) In India, the number of undernourished people declined from 253.9 million in 2004-06 to 194.4 million in 2016-18.

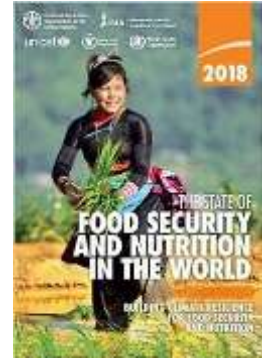
From the above, correct statement/s is/are:

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

Answer: (c)

Related facts:

- On 15 July 2019, The State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World 2019 report was launched by the United Nations' Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), the UN Children's Fund (UNICEF), the World Food Programme (WFP) and the World Health Organization (WHO).
- The report presents the latest estimates for food insecurity, hunger and malnutrition at global and regional levels.
- The report's findings are an important yardstick to measure the world's progress towards achieving Sustainable Development Goal 2 Zero Hungry by 2030.
- As per report, more than 820 million people in the world were still hungry in 2018, underscoring the immense challenge of achieving the Zero Hunger target by 2030.
- Hunger is on the rise in almost all African subregions, making Africa the region with the highest prevalence of undernourishment. Hunger is also slowly rising in Latin America and the Caribbean, while Western Asia shows a continuous increase since 2010, with more than 12 percent of its population undernourished today.



Status of India:

- In India, the number of under nourished people declined from 253.9 million in 2004-06 to 194.4 million in 2016-18.
- The number of adults (18 years and older) who are obese grew from 24.1 million in 2012 to 32.8 million in 2016.
- The number of children (under 5 years of age) who are overweight stood at 2.9 million in 2018.

Hunger Conceptualization:

- Rise in hunger is directly proportional to income inequality.
- **Hunger is increasing in many countries where economic growth is lagging.**
- Income inequality is rising in many of the countries where hunger is on the rise, making it even more difficult for the poor, vulnerable or marginalized to cope with economic slowdowns and downturns.

Directives by UN:

- Encouragement for pro-poor and inclusive structural transformation focusing on people and placing communities at the centre to reduce economic vulnerabilities and enough emphasis on ending hunger, food insecurity and all forms of malnutrition.

Initiatives in India:

- The MGNREGS (Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme) guarantees up to 100 days of unskilled manual work on public projects during the lean seasons, at the statutory minimum wage, to all rural households.
- MGNREGS, introduced by India in 2005, is the largest public works programme in the world.
- The programme helps rural households to stabilize their earnings and to smooth their consumption all along the year.

Links:

<https://www.indiatoday.in/education-today/gk-current-affairs/story/indians-becoming-obese-global-hunger-still-a-concern-un-report-1570376-2019-07-17>

Bangladesh Developed Plastic Alternative from Jute

Question: What is the name of Bio-Degradable cellulose sheets converted from jute fibre developed by Bangladeshi scientists?

(a) Sonali (b) Mudrika (c) Rubi (d) Silk

Answer: (a)

Related facts:

- Scientists in Bangladesh have developed a method to convert Jute fibre into low-cost Bio-Degradable cellulose sheets.
- The name of this cellulose sheet is Sonali.
- It has been developed by the team of scientist working for state-run Bangladesh Jute Mills Corporation (BJMC).
- The commercial production of these bags is likely to start by end of 2019.



About Sonali

- The word Sonali is the Bengali word for golden. As per Mubarak Ahmad Khan, the scientific adviser to the state-run Bangladesh Jute Mills Corporation (BJMC), the physical qualities of invented jute fibre and plastic are quite similar.
- Eco-friendly jute poly bags made up of Sonali can be used in garments and food packaging work and wrapping material and as carrying bag.
- Despite being biodegradable, the polymer is water and air resistant. At the same time, its texture is almost the same as polythene bags.
- The material is durable and can support more weight than the conventionally used polythene bags.

Links:

<http://www.newsonair.com/Main-News-Details.aspx?id=368994>

Scientific

Defense/Science Short Notes

DRDO conducted 3 tests of Nag Missile in a day

Question: Recently which missile underwent three tests in a day by DRDO?

(a) Trishul (b) Agni (c) Nag (d) Prithvi

Answer: (c)

Related facts:

- On 7th July, 2019, in a single day, Defence Research and Development Organization (DRDO) successfully carried out 3 tests of Nag missiles.
- This test has been carried out in Pokhran, Rajasthan. The missile is now in the final stage of



its induction in the Indian Army.

- In 2018, the Defence Acquisition Council had approved the procurement of NAG Missile System (NAMIS).
- Nag Missile is a third generation Anti-Tank Guided Missile and it can effectively engage and destroy all known enemy tanks during day and night.
- Equipped with top attack capabilities it is one of the first 5 strategic missiles which were planned to be developed under the Integrated Guided Missile Development Programme (IGMDP) initiated in the 1980s.
- Other missiles under IGMDP were Agni, Prithvi, Trishul and Akash.

Links:

<https://www.aninews.in/news/national/general-news/drdo-carries-out-three-successful-nag-missile-tests-in-one-day-in-pokhran20190708103916/>

Sports

Tennis

Tennis Hall of Fame-2019 Inductees

Question: Which of the following woman tennis player recently became the first Asian to be inducted into Tennis Hall of Fame?

(a) Sania Mirza (b) Zheng Jie (c) Li Na (d) Peng Shui

Answer: (c)

Related facts:



- On 20th July, 2019; France's Mary Pierce, China's Li Na and Russian Yevgeny Kafelnikov were inducted into Tennis Hall of Fame.
- Li Na of China is the first Asian to be inducted into Tennis Hall of Fame.
- She reached the world No. 2 ranking and was a champion at the French Open and the Australian Open.
- Mary Pierce of France is a former world No. 3 in singles and doubles, and a four-time major champion.
- She has won the singles title at the Australian Open, singles and doubles titles at Roland-Garros, and a mixed doubles title at Wimbledon.
- Kafelnikov of Russia is a former world No. 1, Olympic Gold Medalist, and the winner of four major doubles titles.

Links:

<https://sportstar.thehindu.com/tennis/li-na-international-tennis-hall-of-fame-mary-pierce-yevgeny-kafelnikov/article28627642.ece>

Wimbledon 2019

Question: Who has won the women's singles title at Wimbledon 2019?

(a) Barbora Strycova (b) Naomi Osaka (c) Simon Halep (d) Serena Williams

Answer: (c)

Related facts:

- In Men's Singles, Serbian Novak Djokovic won his fifth Wimbledon title after defeating Swiss tennis ace Roger Federer by 7-6, 1-6, 7-6, 4-6, 13-12.
- This victory marks Djokovic's 16th Grand Slam and 5th Wimbledon title. Achieving this feat, he leveled the Bjorn Borg's record of five-time Wimbledon winner.
- **In Women's Singles, Simona Halep of Romania** beat **Serena Williams of United States** with 6-2, 6-2 in final to win **Women's Singles Wimbledon Title 2019**.
- She dispatched 7-time Wimbledon Champion **Serena Williams** in just 56 minutes to clinch her **1st Wimbledon** and 2nd Major title.
- With this victory, **Simona's Grand Slam titles count rose to two** (French Open in 2018; Wimbledon in 2019).



Doubles Winners:

- Men's Doubles: Juan Sebastián Cabal / Robert Farah (both Colombia)
- Women's Doubles: Hsieh Su-wei (Chinese Taipei)/Barbora Strýcová (Czech Republic)
- Mixed Doubles: Ivan Dodig (Croatia) / Latisha Chan (Chinese Taipei)

Links:

<https://www.indiatoday.in/sports/tennis/story/simona-halep-wimbledon-2019-title-serena-williams-final-one-sided-report-tennis-1568408-2019-07-13>

Cricket

ICC Player Rankings

Question: Which pair of Indian cricket team maintained the top position in the ODI batting and bowling rankings respectively?

- (a) Rohit Sharma & Jasprit Bumrah (b) Virat Kohli & Bhubaneshwar Kumar
(c) Rohit Sharma & Mohammad Shami (d) Virat Kohli & Jasprit Bumrah

Answer: (d)

Related facts:

- In the latest ICC Rankings released, India skipper Virat Kohli and pacer Jasprit Bumrah retained their top spot in the ODI batting and bowling rankings respectively.
- Kohli claimed the top spot with 886 points followed by his opener Rohit Sharma who have 881 points.
- Kohli with 922 points is the top batsman in Test cricket format while Pakistani opener Babar Azam is the best batsman in the T20 format with 896 points.
- Jasprit Bumrah is on the top position with 809 points under his belt and is 69 points ahead of the second-position New Zealand pacer Trent Boult.
- Australian Pat Cummins and Rashid Khan of Afghanistan are the top Test and T20 bowler respectively.
- England, India and Pakistan are the top ODI, Test and T20 teams in the latest Rankings.



Links:

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

Kiran More appointed as USA Cricket Team's Interim Coach

Question: Who has been appointed as USA cricket team's interim coach?

(a) Sanjay Manjrekar (b) Kiran More (c) Tom Moody (d) Madan Lal

Answer: (b)

Related facts:

- Former India wicketkeeper-batsman Kiran More has been appointed the interim coach of the USA cricket team.
- He will replace the head coach Pubudu Dassanayake of Sri Lanka, whose contract was to end by March 2019 but was extended to December 2019, resigned due to differences with the USA Cricket board.
- The USA Cricket has also appointed former India spinner Sunil Joshi as spin bowling advisor, and Pravin Amre and Kieran Powell as advisors for the batting department.
- More who played for India in 49 Tests and 94 ODIs had served as the chairman of the Indian selection committee and the wicket keeping-consultant of Mumbai Indians in the IPL.



Links:

<https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/sports/cricket/news/kiran-more-to-take-charge-as-interim-usa-coach/articleshow/70205663.cms>

Football

Sunil Chhetri named AIFF Player of Year for sixth time

Question: Recently, who has been named the Men's Footballer of the Year by AIFF?

(a) Bhaichung Bhutia (b) I M Vijayan (c) Sunil Chhetri (d) Sandesh Jhingan

Answer: (c)

Related facts:

- Talismanic Indian captain Sunil Chhetri was named as the AIFF Men's Footballer of the Year for a record-extending sixth time on 9th July, 2019.
- The All India Football Federation (AIFF) is the governing body of association football in India.
- The 34-year-old striker, who has been in peak form in the last couple of years, has earlier won the honour in 2007, 2011, 2013, 2014 and 2017.
- He currently plays for Bengaluru FC in the Indian Super League.
- Chhetri is currently the second highest international goal scorers among active players with 70 strikes to his name, behind Cristiano Ronaldo (149). He has gone past Messi (68), who is third in the list, during the 2019 Intercontinental Cup opener against Tajikistan.
- Chhetri is the most capped player of the country with 109 matches, ahead of former captain Bhaichung Bhutia (107).
- India midfielder Abdul Samad was named the AIFF Emerging Men' Player of the Year.



Links:

<https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/sports/football/top-stories/sunil-chhetri-named-aiff-player-of-year-for-sixth-time/articleshow/70147982.cms>

Copa America Cup 2019

Question: Which of the following team won the Copa America 2019 Cup after a gap of 12 years by beating Peru in the final?

(a) Argentina (b) Uruguay (c) Brazil (d) Mexico

Answer: (c)

Related facts:

- Brazil won the final of the Copa America Cup 2019 on July 7, 2019 by beating archrival Peru in the finals by 3-1.
- Brazil, with this win, held their first Copa America title since 2007.
- It is the ninth time Brazil have won the Copa America.
- Souse Soures, Gabriel Jesus and Richarlison secured one goal each for Brazil while Guerrero scored the lone goal for Peru.



Links:

<https://www.bbc.com/sport/football/48897389>

Chess

Prithu Gupta

Question: Recently which of the following chess player became the 64th Grand Master of India?

(a) Nihal Sarin (b) P Iniyan (c) Prithu Gupta (d) Arjun Kalyan

Answer: (c)

Related facts:

- Delhi's Prithu Gupta became India's 64th Grandmaster at Portuguese League chess tournament held during 15th and 22nd July, 2019.
- He achieved this feat by crossing the Elo threshold of 2500 points after beating IM Lev Yankelevich in the fifth round of the Portuguese League 2019.
- In January, 2019 D. Gukesh has become India's youngest GM at 12 years, 7 months and 17 days.
- Viswanathan Anand holds the achievement of India's first Grandmaster carried 31 years before.



Link:

<https://sportstar.thehindu.com/chess/prithu-gupta-becomes-indias-64th-grandmaster-15-years-2500-points/article28569844.ece>

Boxing

Mary Kom wins gold at President's Cup in Indonesia

Question: Consider the following statements in related to 23rd President Cup, Indonesia:

1) MC Mary Kom defeated Australia's April Franks 5-0 in the 23rd President's Cup to clinch the gold medal in a one-sided 51kg category

2) The Indian boxers finished their campaign with nine medals, including seven gold and

two silver

Choose the correct statement/s:

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

Answer: (c)

Related Facts:

- MC Mary Kom, the six-time world champion, defeated Australia's April Franks 5-0 in the 23rd President's Cup to clinch the gold medal in a one-sided 51kg category final in Labuan Bajo, Indonesia.
- The Indian boxers finished their campaign with nine medals, including seven gold and two silver, helping the contingent win the 'Best Team' award.
- The women boxers won four gold medals and the men won two silver along with three gold.
- India's gold rush continued with Simranjit Kaur being equally impressive in her final against Indonesia's Asian Games bronze medallist Hasanah Huswatun.
- In 54kg, Assam's young and bright talent Jamuna Boro did not put a foot wrong in a 5-0 demolition of Italy's veteran boxer Giulia Lamagna to add to the gold she won at the India Open in May.
- In 48kg, youngster Monika ended the challenge of Endang of Indonesia by a similar scoreline to round off what was a memorable campaign for Indian women pugilists.
- In the men's event, Neeraj Swami registered a 4-1 win over Macado Jr. Ramel of Phillipines to clinch the gold medal in the men's 49kg category.
- Ananta Prahlad Chopade also put up a strong performance and defeated Afghanistan's Rahmani Ramish 5-0 in the final of men's 52kg category to finish on the top of podium.
- Ankush Dahiya too absolutely outpunched his opponent, Macau's Leung Kin Fong 5-0 to lay his hands on the glittering gold in 64kg category.



Links:

<https://sports.ndtv.com/boxing/mary-kom-clinches-gold-medal-in-23rd-presidents-cup-2076590>

Table Tennis

Ceat Ultimate Table Tennis, 2018

Question: Which of the following team won the title of the Ceat Ultimate Table Tennis Championship, 2018, held on July 1st, 2018?

(a) Warriors TTC (b) Maharashtra United (c) Dabang Smashers TTC (d) Empowerji Challengers

Answer: (c)

Related Facts:

- Final round of Ultimate Table Tennis, 2018 Sponsored by CEAT concluded in Kolkata. (July 1, 2018)
- Six teams participated in competition namely- Dabang Smashers TTC, Empowerji Challengers, Falcons TTC, Maharashtra United, RP-SG Mavericks and Warriors TTC.
- **Competition Results:**
- Winner – Dabang Smashers TTC (by 11-7), prize money – Rs. 1 crore
- Runner Up – Falcons TTC, prize money – Rs. 75 lakhs
- **Competition award:**
- Standout Indian player – Manika Batra (Dabang Smashar)



- Most Valuable Players (MVP), Women – Elizabeta Samara (Maharashtra United)
- CEAT Most Valuable Player (Male) – Liam Pitchford (Falcons)
- Super Saver – Matilda Ekholm (Falcons)
- Ultimate 1 – Yoshida Masaki (Dabang Smashers)

See also the links below:

<https://www.ultimatetabletennis.in/news/sathiymanika-power-smashers-to-ceat-utt-finale-triumph>

Athletics

India to host ISSF World Cup 2020

Question: The International Shooting Sport Federation (ISSF) World Cup 2020 will be hosted by which country?

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

Answer: (a)

Related facts:

- India will be hosting next year's International Shooting Sport Federation (ISSF) Combined World Cup from 15th to 26th March.
- The Combined World Cup involves events in rifle, pistol and shotgun.
- The World Cup in rifle, pistol and shotgun, a test event for the Olympics, will be staged in Tokyo from 15th to 27th April.
- This will be preceded by the Shotgun World Cup in Nicosia, Cyprus, from 4th to 13th March.



About ISSF:

- The International Shooting Sport Federation (ISSF) was founded in 1907.
- It is headquartered at Munich, Germany.
- It governs the Olympic Shooting events in rifle, pistol and shotgun disciplines, and of several non-Olympic Shooting sport events.

Links:

<https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/sports/more-sports/shooting/new-delhi-to-host-issf-world-cup-from-march-15-26-next-year/articleshow/70233391.cms>

Dutee Chand won 100m gold at the 30th Summer Universiade

Question: Recently, who bagged Gold in the 100-metre dash event at 30th Summer Universiade in Napoli, Italy?

(a) P Saritaben (b) Hima das (c) Sonia Baishya (d) Dutee Chand

Answer: (d)

Related facts:

- On 9th July, 2019 ace Indian sprinter Dutee Chand won the gold medal in women's 100-metre sprint at the 30th Summer Universiade in Napoli, Italy.
- Del Ponte of Switzerland won the Silver, while German Lisa Kwayie secured the Bronze medal.



- The 23-year-old Dutee clocked 11.32 seconds to win the gold.
- She became the first Indian to clinch this medal.
- She is also now only the second Indian sprinter to win Gold in a global event after 19-year old Hima Das.
- This is the first gold medal for India at this edition of the games.
- Dutee Chand is a 100m record holder and winner of two Asian Games silver medals.
- She was born in Chaka Gopalpur in Odisha to cotton weavers.

Links:

<https://www.indiatoday.in/sports/other-sports/story/dutee-chand-100m-gold-world-summer-universiade-napoli-2019-1565750-2019-07-10>

Short Notes

Personalities

India's Legend PT Usha nominated for IAAF Veteran Pin

Question: Which Indian athlete is nominated for the IAAF Veteran Pin?

(a) PT Usha (b) Hima Das (c) Mary Com (d) Duti Chand

Answer: (a)

Related facts:

- India's track and field legend PT Usha has been nominated for the International Association of Athletics Federation's Veteran Pin for her outstanding service to the sport.
- Usha is one of the greatest sprinters of India and is often called the "queen of track and field."
- She won five gold medals — 100m, 200m, 400m, 400m hurdles and the 4x400m relay, besides a bronze in the 1985 Jakarta Asian Games.
- The IAAF CEO Jon Ridgeon extended an invitation to the 55-year-old Usha to attend the award ceremony during the opening of the 52nd IAAF Congress in Qatar in September 2019.
- Usha's most memorable performance came in the 1984 Los Angeles Olympics where she became the first Indian to reach the finals of the 400m hurdles, but lost the bronze by one-hundredth of a second.
- She was conferred with Padma Shri in 1985 and Arjuna Award in 1983.



Links:

<https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/sports/more-sports/athletics/p-t-usha-nominated-for-iaaf-veteran-pin/articleshow/70273504.cms>

12th South Asian Bodybuilding and Physique Sports Championship

Question: Who won Mr. South Asia in the recently held 12th South Asian Bodybuilding and Physique Sports Championship?

(a) Nepal (b) India (c) Pakistan (d) Afghanistan

Answer: (b)

Related facts:

- On 20th July, 2019; Indian bodybuilder Ravinder Kumar Malik



won Mr. South Asia title at 12th South Asian Bodybuilding and Physique Sports Championship.

- The competition held during 18th to 21st July, 2019 in Kathmandu, Nepal.
- Malik was also been crowned as the overall champion in this competition. He won the 80 kg category and was adjudged best bodybuilder among the winners of nine senior men's weight categories.
- Afghanistan, won the team championship by securing a top position with 535 points. Host Nepal finished second with 445 points, while India remained third with 380 points.
- The event was organised by South Asian Bodybuilding and Physique Sports Federation under the auspices of Nepal Bodybuilding and Fitness Association.

Link:

<http://www.newsonair.com/News?title=Indian-bodybuilder-Ravinder-Malik-clinches-Mr-South-Asia-title&id=368888>

Priti Patel appointed Britain's first Indian-origin Home Secretary

Question: Recently, who has been appointed as Britain's first Indian-origin Home Secretary?

(a) Sajid Javid (b) Jeremy Hunt (c) Philip Hammond (d) Priti Patel

Answer: (d)

Related facts:

- British Prime Minister Boris Johnson has appointed Indian origin Priti Patel as the country Home Secretary on 25th July, 2019.
- She replaces Pakistani-origin Sajid Javid.
- Ms Patel, was among the most vocal critics of Theresa May's Brexit strategy.
- The 47-year-old leader was first elected as a Conservative MP in 2010 and gained prominence in the then David Cameron led Tory government as his Indian Diaspora Champion.
- She has her roots in Gujarat, India.



Links:

<https://www.thehindu.com/news/international/priti-patel-appointed-britains-first-indian-origin-home-secretary/article28703129.ece>

Yukiya Amano

Question: Yukiya Amano, who passed away, recently, was Head of which organization?

**(a) International Monetary Fund (b) World Health Organisation
(c) International Atomic Energy Agency (d) United Nations Environment Programme**

Answer: (c)

Related facts:

- On 22nd July, 2019, head of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), Yukiya Amano passed away. He was 72.
- Amano, born in Yugawara, Japan was the 5th Director-General of



IAEA.

- He was serving as the head of International Atomic Energy Agency from 2009.
- Amano was deeply involved in the years-long negotiations that led to the landmark Iran nuclear deal during Barrack Obama's tenure as US President.
- As head of the IAEA, Amano also dealt with the aftermath of the devastating 2011 Fukushima nuclear accident in Japan.
- In this nuclear accident three reactors sank into meltdowns after a devastating tsunami in 2011.

Link:

<https://www.thehindu.com/news/international/iaea-chief-yukiya-amano-who-oversaw-iran-deal-dies-at-72/article28649051.ece>

New face on UK's 50 Pound Note

Question: Who will appear on UK's new 50 pound note?

(a) Stephen Hawkins (b) Winston Churchill (c) Charles Darwin (d) Alan Turning

Answer: (d)

Related facts:

- British mathematician and World War II codebreaker, Alan Turing will feature on UK's new PS50 note. The mathematician will appear on the note by the end of 2021.
- The note's design will reflect Turing's work and feature a ticker tape of binary numbers which translates to his birthday, i.e. 23rd June, 1912. It will also depict the 'British Bombe' machine which helped crack the Enigma code.
- Turing killed himself on 7th June, 1954, about two years after being subjected to chemical castration, by consuming cyanide.



Alan Turning's contribution:

- Alan Turing is touted to be the father of theoretical computer science and artificial intelligence.
- He worked towards cracking Germany's Enigma code at Bletchley Park, saving thousands of lives during World War II.
- In July 1942, Turing developed a complex code-breaking technique Turingery for use against the Lorenz cipher messages produced by the Germans' new Geheimschreiber (secret writer) machine.
- A paper published by the mathematician in 1937 introduced the Turing machine, which forms the basis of modern computing. He also studied cryptology, the study of codes and cyphers which can be used to send secret messages, and built three out of four stages of an electro-mechanical binary multiplier.

Links:

<https://www.indiatoday.in/education-today/gk-current-affairs/story/alan-turing-uk-50-pound-note-father-of-modern-computing-1569994-2019-07-16>

SBI's Anshula Kant appointed as World Bank MD and CFO

Question: Recently, who has been appointed as MD and Chief Financial Officer of the World Bank?

(a) Anshula Kant (b) David Malpass (c) Kristalina Georgieva (d) Sandie Okoro

Answer : (a)

- Anshula Kant, Managing Director of State Bank of India, has been appointed as MD and Chief Financial Officer of the World Bank.
- Ms. Kant will be the first woman CFO of the Bank.
- Ms Kant will be responsible for financial and risk management of the organisation.
- Her work will include oversight of financial reporting, risk management, and working closely with the World Bank CEO on the mobilization of the International Development Association (IDA) and other financial resources.
- IDA (International Development Association) is the part of the World Bank that helps the world's poorest countries.



Role as CFO:

- The Chief Financial Officer (CFO) is responsible for providing leadership for the following Bank functions: **institutional planning and budgeting; financial planning and policy; risk assessment and management; market fund-raising, investment, cash management, and liability management; resource mobilization; financial controls and reporting; and pension fund management.**

Links:

<http://www.newsonair.com/Main-News-Details.aspx?id=368430>

President of European Union (EU) Commission

Question: Who has been appointed as the new Chief of European Commission?

(a) Jean-Claude Juncker (b) Ursula Von der Leyen (c) Donald Tusk (d) Charles Michel

Answer: (b)

Related facts:

- On 16 July 2019, German Defence Minister Ursula von der Leyen has been elected as the European Commission's first female president. She replaced Jean-Claude Juncker.
- Leyen's nomination was approved by 383 votes, a narrow margin of just nine votes over the required 374, at the European Parliament in Strasbourg, France. There were 327 votes against her and 22 abstentions.
- European Union (EU) was founded on 1st January 1958. It is headquartered at Brussels in Belgium.
- It is responsible for implementing decisions, proposing legislation, upholding EU treaties and managing day-to-day business of European Union.



Links:

<http://www.newsonair.com/News?title=European-Commission-elects-first-female-president&id=368619>

Zaheen Tahira

Question: Zaheen Tahira, who passed away recently was?

(a) Pakistani Actress (b) Pakistani federal minister (c) Pakistani human rights activist (d) Veteran Indian Singer

Answer: (a)

Related facts:

- On 9th July, 2019; Legendary Pakistani actor Zaheen Tahira passed away. She was 79.
- She was the most senior actors in the history of Pakistan's television. Tahira starred in over 700 drama serials in lead and supporting roles.
- She was known for playing strong characters mainly on Pakistan Television Corporation (PTV) Karachi centre from the late 1960s to 1980s. Tahira acted in Pakistan's record-breaking serial Khuda Ki Basti in 1969.
- She received the Tamgha-e-Imtiaz in 2013 in recognition of her work in the Pakistani entertainment industry.



Link:

<https://www.tribuneindia.com/news/world/pakistani-veteran-actor-zaheen-tahira-passes-away-in-karachi-at-79/799521.html>

Rohit Sharma

Question: Whose record has been broken by Rohit Sharma by scoring 5 centuries in a single cricket World Cup edition?

(a) Ricky Ponting (b) Kumar Sangakara (c) Sachin Tendulkar (d) Yuvraj Singh

Answer: (b)

Related facts:

- On 6th July 2019, Rohit Sharma became the first and only batsman in the world to score 5 centuries in a single Cricket World Cup edition.
- He achieved this feat during the 9th match of India in Headingley, UK against Sri Lanka in the Cricket World Cup, 2019.
- After scoring fifth century (103 runs in 94 balls), Rohit Sharma outnumbered record of four centuries by Sri Lanka's Kumar Sangakara in a single World Cup (in 2015).
- With this century, Rohit Sharma also equaled Sachin Tendulkar's record of scoring six centuries across Cricket World Cup tournaments.



Links:

<https://www.thehindu.com/sport/cricket/rohit-sharma-sets-world-record-of-maximum-hundreds-in-single-world-cup/article28306991.ece>

David Lipton

Question: Recently economist David Lipton has been appointed Acting Managing Director of which organisation?

(a) ILO (b) FAO (c) IMF (d) FATF

Answer: (c)

Related facts:

- On 2nd July, 2019; International Monetary Fund (IMF) appointed American economist David Lipton as its Acting Managing Director.
- Mr. Lipton replaced Christine Lagarde as she temporarily relinquished her duties as Managing Director.
- David Lipton assumed the position of First Deputy Managing Director of the International Monetary Fund on 1st September, 2011. On 28th March, 2016, Lipton was reappointed for a second five-year term beginning 1st September, 2016.
- Prior to this, Lipton was Special Assistant to the President and served as Senior Director for International Economic Affairs at the National Economic Council and National Security Council at the White House.



Links:

<https://www.imf.org/en/About/senior-officials/Bios/david-lipton>

B.K Birla

Question: Recently which eminent Indian industrialist passed away?

(a) G.D Birla (b) B.K Birla (c) K.K Birla (d) M.P Birla

Answer: (b)

Related facts:



- On 03rd July, 2019, veteran Indian industrialist Basant Kumar Birla passed away in Mumbai. He was 98.
- He was the youngest son of legendary Ghanshyam Das Birla.
- He was non-executive chairman of the group's flagship company, Kesoram Industries Ltd. which turned 100 this year.
- GD's industrial empire comprised jute mills, cotton textile units, sugar companies and trading ventures.
- Mr. B.K. Birla expanded the businesses to include tea, fertilizers, cement and tyres, among others, during the time of the licence system.
- He remained the chairman of most of the companies. The companies included Kesoram Industries, Century Textiles, Jayshree Tea and Century Enka.
- He was also the chairman of the Krishnarpan Charity Trust.

Link:

<https://www.thehindu.com/business/industry-doyen-bk-birla-passes-away-at-98/article28275982.ece>

Awards & Honors

The Music Academy announces Sangita Kalanidhi and other awards

Question: Who has been announced to be conferred with the Sangita Kalanidhi, 2019?

(a) S. Sowmya (b) Aruna Sairam (c) M.S. Sheela (d) Anjum bhattacharya

Answer: (a)

Related facts:

- On 21st July 2019, the Executive Committee of the Music Academy announced Sangita Kalanidhi and other awards.
- Dr. S. Sowmya, an outstanding Carnatic vocalist has been chosen for the coveted Sangita Kalanidhi award.
- **Other Awards and Recipients:**



Sangita Kala Acharya

- It is to be given to two persons Smt. Seetha Narayanan and Smt. M.S. Sheela.

T.T.K. Awards

- It is to be conferred to Shri. Vyasarpadi Kothandaraman (popular Nagaswaram artistes) and Shri Rajkumar Bharathi (renowned performer).

Musicologist Award

- Dr. Arati N. Rao was announced to be honoured with the award. She is Assistant Professor, Jain University, Bengaluru where she researches and teaches in the area of musicology.

Nritya Kalanidhi

- The Nritya Kalanidhi Award for Dance, will be conferred on Smt. Priyadarsini Govind, one of the foremost Bharatanatyam dancers among the current generation.

About Sangita Kalanidhi Award

- This is a prestigious award bestowed to the jewels and experts of Carnatic music who have contributed distinguishably for the development and dignity of it.
- Sangita Kalanidhi and other music awards will be conferred at the Sadas of the Music festival on 1st January 2020.

Link:

<https://musicacademymadras.in/wp-content/uploads/2019/07/The-Music-Academy-announces-Sangita-Kalanidhi-and-other-awards-July-21-2019.pdf>

Indian entries bag six awards at SAARC Film Festival

Question: In which of the following city the 9th SAARC Film Festival held from 2nd to 7th July, 2019?

(a) Mumbai (b) Kolkata (c) Chennai (d) Colombo

Answer: (d)

Related facts:

- Indian entries bagged six awards at the 9th SAARC Film Festival held in Colombo during 2nd – 7th July, 2019.
- Bengali film Nagarkirtan won the Best Feature Film award. The film is written and directed by Kaushik Ganguly.



- Kaushik Ganguly got Best Director award and Riddhi Sen won the best actor award for the movie.
- Prabuddha Banerjee bagged Best Original Score for the film Nagarkirtan.
- Best short film was given to Indian film Na Bole Wo Haram.
- Special Jury (Direction and Story) was given to Praveen Morchhale for the film Walking With The Wind.
- The SAARC Film Festival is a very important platform and focal point for the promotion, celebration and enjoyment of some of the best films from the SAARC Region.

Links:

<http://www.newsonair.nic.in/Main-News-Details.aspx?id=368623>

Planning & Project

Union Cabinet approves extension of the term of the 15th Finance Commission

Question: The Union Cabinet has approved the extension of the term of 15th Finance Commission up to which period?

(a) 30th November, 2019 (b) 30th December, 2019 (c) 30th April, 2020 (d) 30th October, 2019

Answer: (a)

Related facts:

null

- The Union Cabinet chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi has approved the extension of the term of 15th Finance Commission up to 30th November, 2019.
- It will enable the Commission to examine various comparable estimates for financial projections in view of reforms and the new realities to finalize its recommendations for the period 2020-2025.



Background:

- The 15th Finance Commission has been constituted by the President on 27th November, 2017 in pursuance of Clause (1) of Article 280 of the Constitution and Finance Commission (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act, 1951.
- The Commission was to submit its Report on the basis of its Terms of Reference (ToR) by 30th October, 2019 covering a period of five years commencing from 1st April, 2020.
- The constitution of the Commission has been in the backdrop of various major fiscal/budgetary reforms introduced by the Union Government in the past four years like closure of the Planning Commission and its replacement by NITI Aayog, , introduction of Goods and Services Tax (GST) from July 2017 and New FRBM architecture with debt and fiscal deficit path.
- The ToR of the Commission takes into account the above fiscal/budgetary reforms.
- The task of determining the expenditure and receipts of the Union and State Governments based on which the Commission shall make its recommendations is time consuming, as checks for data consistency across time and data sets become challenging.

Link:

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=191850>

Treaty & Agreements

Israel Aerospace signs \$50 Million Follow-Up Deal with Indian Navy

Question: Israel Aerospace had recently signed a deal with Indian Navy and MLD Shipyard to supply which of the following weapon?

(a) Radar (b) Missile system (c) Spice Bombs (d) Bullet proof jackets

Answer: (b)

Related facts:

- Israel Aerospace Industries, a state-owned defense contractor on 17th July, 2019 signed a \$50 million follow-up contract with Indian Navy and India's MDL Shipyard.
- As per the contract Israel Aerospace Industries will supply complementary Naval MRSAM (medium range surface-to-air missile) systems to the Indian Navy and the Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders for its air defence system (ADS).
- The agreement also involves a range of maintenance and other services for sub-systems of Israel Aerospace's naval medium range surface-to-air missile.



Links:

<https://www.businesstoday.in/current/economy-politics/israel-inks-usd-50-mn-deal-with-india-to-supply-complementary-naval-mrsam-systems/story/365138.html>

BCC signed MoU with BRICS chamber to promote trade

Question: With whom the Bharat Chamber of Commerce signed a MoU to promote trade and investments?

(a) SAARC (b) BRICS (c) BISMTEC (d) IBSA

Answer: (b)

Related Facts:

- The **Bharat Chamber of Commerce (BCC)** signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with **BRICS** Chamber of Commerce and Industry for promoting trade and investments between BRICS countries and eastern part of India.
- It was signed by **Sitaram Sharma**, BCC president and **B B L Madhukar**, BRICS Chamber of Commerce and Industry Director General.
- The MoU will enable both the BCC and the BRICS chamber to share trade related information and exchange trade delegations among the five countries of the group.
- BCC is looking forward to work closely with BRICS Chamber of Commerce to foster trade, industrial and technological cooperation between West Bengal and BRICS countries.



About BRICS:

- BRICS is an association of five countries viz. **Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa.**
- BRICS chamber of commerce and industry (CCI) is a parent organization which promotes commerce and industry in BRICS nations.

About BCC:

- BCC was initially established in **1900** as the **Marwari Chamber of Commerce** in Calcutta.

- After independence, in 1949 Chamber re-christened itself as **Bharat Chamber Commerce**.
- It works to expand economic and commercial activity via enhancement of efficiency and competition at all levels.

Links:

https://www.business-standard.com/article/pti-stories/bcc-signs-mou-with-brics-chamber-to-promote-trade-119070901240_1.html

Law & Justice

Airports Economic Regulatory Authority Bill, 2019

Question: Consider the following statements regarding the introduction of the Airports Economic Regulatory Authority of India (Amendment) Bill, 2019

- (1) AERA is a regulator that has the powers to set the tariffs charged at airports.
- (2) The bill seeks to increase the threshold of annual passenger traffic for major airports to over 35 lakh from above 15 lakh.

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

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

Answer: (c)

Related facts:

- The Airports Economic Regulatory Authority of India (Amendment) Bill, 2019 was passed in Rajya Sabha on 16th July, 2019.
- It was introduced in Rajya Sabha on 12th July, 2019 by the Minister of State for Civil Aviation, Mr. Hardeep Singh Puri.
- The Bill is yet to be passed by the Lok Sabha.
- The bill seeks to amend the Airports Economic Regulatory Authority of India Act, 2008 which provisions the establishment of **Airports Economic Regulatory Authority (AERA)**.



Airports Economic Regulatory Authority (AERA):

- **The Airports Economic Regulatory Authority (AERA)** is a statutory body constituted under the Airports Economic Regulatory Authority of India Act, 2008.
- **AERA determines the tariff for the aeronautical services, determine development fees, Passengers Service Fee as well as monitors the set Performance Standards.**
- Originally, all major airports with an annual capacity of handling over 1.5 million passengers come under the purview of AERA. The Bill seeks to increase the threshold of annual passenger traffic for major airports to over 3.5 million.
- If the amendment is passed by Parliament, the definition of major airports will change to any aerodrome which has or is designated to have an annual passenger capacity of 3.5 million.
- Civil Aviation Minister Hardeep Singh Puri notified that as many as 16 airports will be in the purview of AERA.

Links:

<https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/rajya-sabha-passes-aera-amendment-bill/article28486541.ece>

Books

Book: Vivekadeepini

Question: Who is the author of book Vivekadeepini?

(a) Swami Vikanand (b) Adi Shankaracharya (c) Sri Aurobindo (d) Ramanuja

Answer: (b)

Related facts:

- On 7th July, 2019, the Vice President of India, Shri M. Venkaiah Naidu released a book Vivekadeepini.
- Drawn from the 67 verses of Prashnottara Ratnamalika written by Indian philosopher and theologian, Adi Shankaracharya, the Vivekadeepini is a compilation of select 36 verses which are in the question-answer format.
- It is a concise book of aphorisms that contains glimpses of India's wisdom in English and nine Indian languages.
- This book has universal relevance irrespective of religion or community and they represent the ethical and moral perspectives underpinning the Indian world view.



Link:

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=191322>