

Website- dristi.in

NAVATRA

Monthly Magazine on Current Events

Vol. - 3 >>> Issue - 3 >>> September, 2019

STATUS OF **TIGERS** in INDIA 2018

**ARTICLE 370
SCRAPPED**



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 31st 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 31th 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

Article 370 scrapped

Question: Consider the following statements regarding the abrogation of Article 370 of the Indian Constitution:

- (1) Under Part 21 of the Constitution of India, the State of J&K has been accorded special status
- (2) Except for defence, foreign affairs, communications and matters specified in the instrument of Accession of J&K, Indian parliament needs the concurrence of the J&K government for applying all other laws
- (3) Center cannot declare financial emergency under Article 360

Of the above correct statement/s is/are:

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

Answer: (d)

Related facts:



- President Ram Nath Kovind has signed the bill to declare abrogation of the provisions of Article 370 of the constitution, which gave special status to Jammu and Kashmir.
- Earlier, the government had moved the Jammu and Kashmir Reorganization Bill 2019 for consideration and passage in Lok Sabha on August 6, 2019 .
- The bill , which will split J&k into two Union Territories, was passed by upper House (Rajya Sabha) though a voice vote and 125 were in favour while 61 were against.
- Along with this, the provisions of 10% reservation for Economically Weaker Sections (EWS) among the general category was also passed in the house.
- **Important provision to the bill:**
 - Union Minister for Home affairs, Shri Amit Shah, introduced two bills and two resolutions regarding Jammu & Kashmir (J&K) Order, 2019{Ref. Article 370 (1) of Constitution of India} issued by President of India to supersede the 1954 order related to Article 370.
 - Resolution for Repeal of Article 370 (3) which granted special status to the state of J&K. Under Article 370 (3), there is a provision that President on recommendation of the Parliament, has the power to amend or cease the implementation of Article 370, through a public notification.
 - Jammu & Kashmir (Reorganization) Bill, 2019 {Ref. Article 3 of Constitution of India}. The Jammu and Kashmir (Reorganisation) Bill, 2019 strips Jammu and Kashmir's status of a state and splits it into two Union Territories-Jammu & Kashmir with a legislature and Ladakh without legislature.
 - Jammu & Kashmir Reservation (2nd Amendment) Bill, 2019 having provisions of 10 Percent reservation for economically Weaker Sections of upper caste in the state was also passed by the upper house. It will be applicable in educational institutions and public employment alongside existing reservation structure.

Important changes:

Before Bill	After Bill
Jammu & Kashmir was a State with special status Only citizens of Jammu and Kashmir were allowed to buy land in the state No outsider could settle in the state. RTI could	Now Jammu & Kashmir will be a Union Territory People from anywhere in India will be able to buy a property Now any citizen of the country can settle in J & K. No restriction

not be filed Period of Legislative Assembly was 6years.Jammu & Kashmir had a separate flagJ&K had a separate constitution Ladakh was a part of Jammu & KashmirThe constitutional head was Governor	on filing RTI Now, It will for five years Only the National Flag will be thereNo separate constitution, law & order will be under center governmentLadakh will be a separate Union Territory without a legislatureNow, state head will be Lieutenant Governor
--	---

- **Article 35A scrapped:**
- With the removal of Article 370, Article 35 A will be also scrapped. Now, people from other states may also buy or purchase land and settle there.
- Article 35 A of the Indian Constitution was an article that empowered the Jammu and Kashmir state's legislature to define "Permanent residents" of the state and provide special rights and privileges to those permanent residents.

Links:

<https://pib.gov.in/Pressreleaseshare.aspx?PRID=1581391>

4th cycle of All India Tiger Estimation – 2018

Question: Which of the following state is at top in term of number of tigers in the released fourth cycle of All India Tiger Estimation – 2018 report?

(a) Gujarat(b) Uttarakhand (c) Madhya Pradesh(d) Bengal

Answer: (c)

Related facts:



- On 29 July 2019(Global Tiger Day), Prime Minister Narendra Modi released the fourth cycle of All India Tiger Estimation – 2018, at Lok Kalyan Marg in New Delhi.
- As of the census,the count of tigers in India has risen to 2,967.
- The census figures 33% rise in tiger numbers which is highest ever recorded between cycles which stood at 21% between 2006 to 2010 and 30% between 2010 and 2014.
- Madhya Pradesh saw the highest number of tigers at 526, closely followed by Karnataka (524) and Uttarakhand (442).
- Chhatisgarh and Mizoram saw a decline in their tiger numbers while tiger's numbers in Odisha remained constant.
- On this occasion ,PM also released report of the 4th cycle of the Management Effectiveness Evaluation of Tiger Reserves (MEETR) with Pench Tiger Reserve, Madhya Pradesh scoring the highest and Sathyamangalam Tiger Reserve, Tamil Nadu showing the highest increment in management since the last cycle for which the latter was awarded.
- The evaluation of Tiger Reserves in India was initiated in 2006 and till now four cycles of evaluation have been completed.
- **Project Tiger:**
- To protect the national animal,the tiger,and reserve its landscape, Government of India had launched Project Tiger in 1973 during Prime Minister Indira Gandhi's tenure.

- Project Tiger is an ongoing Centrally Sponsored Scheme of the Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change providing central assistance to the tiger States for tiger conservation in designated tiger reserves.
- From 9 tiger reserves since its formative years, the Project Tiger coverage has increased to 50 at present, spread out in 18 of our tiger range states.
- The National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA) is a statutory body of the Ministry, with an overarching supervisory / coordination role, performing functions as provided in the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972.
- In 2010, during the St. Petersburg declaration, tiger range countries had resolved to double tiger numbers by 2022.
- Due to concerted efforts under Project Tiger, at present India has the distinction of having the maximum number of tigers in the world.
- **International Tiger Day:**
 - Global Tiger Day, often called International Tiger Day, is an annual celebration to raise awareness for tiger conservation, held annually on 29 July.
 - It was created in 2010 at the Saint Petersburg Tiger Summit.
 - The goal of the day is to promote a global system for protecting the natural habitats of tigers and to raise public awareness and support for tiger conservation issues.

Links:

<http://www.newsonair.com/News?title=PM-releases-2018-Tiger-census%3b-says-India-one-of-safest-habitats-in-the-world&id=369259>

Ward, Village Volunteer System

Question: The Ward,Village volunteer System was launched by which state government?
(a) Andhra Pradesh (b) Maharashtra (c) Uttar Pradesh (d) West Bengal

Answer:(a)

Related facts:

- The Ward,Village volunteer System was launched in Andhra Pradesh on August 15 ,2019.
- The system is aimed at ensuring an efficient and corruption-free delivery of the government's welfare schemes to households in door to door manner by the selected volunteers.
- The government intends to operationalise its 'Navaratnalu' scheme by deploying ward and village volunteers.
- The volunteers will identify the problems being faced by people in their jurisdiction and take steps towards solving them.



Links:

<https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/andhra-pradesh/ward-village-volunteer-system-launch-today/article29096310.ece>

Palani panchamirtham granted the Geographical Indication (GI) tag

Question: The famous Palani panchamirtham which has been granted the Geographical Indication (GI) tag is given as prasadam at which temple?

- (a) Murugan temple (b) Brihadeeswara Temple (c) Somnath Temple
(d) Siddhivinayak Temple

Answer :(a)

Related facts:

- In a first of its kind, the famous Palani panchamirtham, given as 'prasadam' at Dhandayuthapani Swamy (Palani Murugan) temple in Tamil Nadu, has been granted the Geographical Indication (GI) tag.
- The panchamirtham is a combination of five natural substances — banana, jaggery, cow ghee, honey and cardamom. Dates and diamond sugar candies are added for flavour.



The Panchamirtham:

- It is an 'abhishega prasadam' (food that is a religious offering), which is served in a semi-solid state.
- It is sweet in taste and one of the main offerings for Lord Dhandayuthapani Swamy, the presiding deity of Arulmigu Dhandayuthapani Swamy Temple, situated on Palani Hills.
- Not even a single drop of water is added during the preparation of the panchamirtham. This gives it its classic semi-solid consistency and taste.

Links:

<https://www.thenewsminute.com/article/tamil-nadu-s-palani-panchamirtham-prasadam-given-gi-tag-107226>

Tamil Nadu declare a State Butterfly

Question: Recently which Indian state became the fifth to declare its state butterfly?

- (a) Tamil Nadu (b) Karnataka (c) Uttarakhand (d) Telangana

Answer: (a)



- Tamil Nadu has recently declared Tamil Yeoman (Cirrochroa thais) as its state butterfly to mark its rich natural and cultural heritage.
- This butterfly is locally known as Tamil Maravan meaning 'Tamilian Warrior'.
- It usually sized between 60 and 75mm, belongs to the family of brush-footed butterflies or the Nymphalid.
- Tamil Nadu became the fifth India state to declare its state butterfly after Maharashtra (Blue Mormon), Uttarakhand (Common peacock), Karnataka (Southern bird wings) and Kerala (Malabar banded peacock).

Links:

<https://thewire.in/environment/tamil-nadu-state-butterfly-tamil-yeoman>

16 State Governments Sign MoU with Textiles Ministry to Impart Skill Training to Workers

Question: Recently how many states have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) under the Samarth scheme?

(a) 16 states (b) 18 states (c) 14 states (d) 12 states

Answer : (a)

Related facts:

- On August 14, 2019, **Ministry of Textiles** signed a **Memorandum of Understanding** with **16 State governments**.
- The MoU signed to **offer skill training programmes** under the **Samarth scheme**.
- Also, 18 States agreed to partner with the Ministry under Samarth.
- The Ministry has allocated **Rs.35 lakh** for the implementation of the scheme.
- The States will nominate the agencies to implement the scheme.
- The agencies will train **4 lakh people** who will be placed at the textile units.



Training Programme:

- The training programme will cover the **entire value chain of the textiles sector**.
- The training programme involves advanced technology oriented features like **Aadhaar Based Biometric Attendance System (AEBAS)**, **CCTV recording**, **dedicated Call Centre**, **Mobile App based Management Information System** and **on-line monitoring**.

Samarth scheme:

- The 'Scheme for Capacity Building in Textile Sector (SCBTS)' known as (Samarth), aims to skill the youth for gainful and sustainable employment in the textile sector.
- It aims to promote **self-employment, entrepreneurial development** in traditional handloom, handicraft, jute, wool and silk segments.
- The Samarth scheme was implemented **from 2010 to 2017**. The scheme functions under the Ministry of Textiles.
- The Ministry of Textiles implemented the Integrated Skill Development Scheme with a target to provide **15 lakh additional skilled** workers to the textiles sector by 2017.
- The Ministry has extended the scheme now. By March 18, **11.14 lakh persons** were trained under the schema and **8.41 lakh persons** were provided placement.

Links:

<https://www.thehindubusinessline.com/economy/textiles-ministry-partners-with-16-states-for-skilling-4-lakh-under-samarth-scheme/article29092868.ece>

Mukhya Mantri Krishi Aashirwaad Yojana

Question: Mukhya Mantri Krishi Aashirwaad Yojana, which has recently been inaugurated by the Vice President M Venkaiah Naidu, is related to which of the following state?

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

Answer: (c)

Related facts:

- On 10 August, 2019; Vice President M Venkaiah Naidu launched the Jharkhand Government's Mukhya Mantri



Krishi Aashirwaad Yojana.

- The **MMKAY** scheme aims to ensure welfare and financial support to farmers in **Jharkhand**.
- The scheme has been incorporated in the state budget in financial year 2019-2020.
- This is the first scheme by the state government that provides 100 percent settlement through **Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT) medium**.
- Beneficiary farmers will get a minimum of Rs 5,000 and a maximum of Rs 25,000 per year under this scheme.
- This scheme for the Jharkhand farmers is apart from the Prime Minister's Pradhan Mantri Krishi Yojana.
- Initially under the first phase of the MMKAY scheme, Rs 5000 will be disbursed to 13.60 lakh farmers for each acre of their land with a maximum amount of Rs 25,000.
- The amount will be directly transferred through **Real Time Gross Settlement (RTGS)** to the registered bank accounts on August 10.
- The remaining 22 lakh farmers will also be registered soon and the funds are expected to be transferred by October this year.
- In this way over 35 lakh farmers will be benefited by getting the assistance ever year from the government under this scheme.

Links:

<https://www.amarujala.com/jharkhand/vice-president-venkaiah-naidu-inaugurated-mukhyamantri-krishi-ashirwad-yojana-in-jharkhand>

World's first ultra-fast Hyperloop project granted to Maharashtra

Question: Recently, the World's first ultra-fast Hyperloop project has been granted to which Indian State?

(a) Karnataka (b) Kolkata (c) Maharashtra (d) Andhra Pradesh

Answer: (c)

Related facts:

- Maharashtra has granted infrastructure project status for a \$10-billion plan to build the world's first ultra-fast hyperloop project on 1st August, 2019.
- A hyperloop is an ultra-high-speed ground transportation system akin to bullet trains.
- The American transport tech firm 'Virgin Hyperloop One' will be constructing the route between Mumbai and Pune.
- 'Virgin Hyperloop One' firm is led by Richard Branson.
- This project stretching over 117.5km.
- The Mumbai-Pune hyperloop is expected to slash the 3.5 hour travel time between the two cities to 35 minutes.
- Hyperloops use magnets to levitate pods inside an airless tube, creating conditions in which the pods can shuttle people and freight at speeds of up to 1,200 km per hour.
- The first phase of the plan envisages an 11.8-km (7.33-mile) -long track to be built in up to 2-1/2 years with an investment of 50 billion Indian rupees (\$724 million) in Pune.



Links:

<https://in.reuters.com/article/india-hyperloop/india-grants-infrastructure-project-status-to-10-billion-hyperloop-plan-idINKCN1UR4OQ>

International

Serena Williams

Question: Which of the following tennis player topped the Forbes's list of the highest paid female athletes , published in August, 2019?

(a) Naomi Osaka (b) Angelique Kerber (c) Serena Williams (d) Simona Halep

Answer: (c)

Related facts:

- On 6th August, 2019; popular American business magazine Forbes released its list of The Highest-Paid Female Athletes 2019.
- US tennis player Serena Williams topped the list with total earnings of \$29.2 million.
- Japan's iconic tennis player Naomi Osaka, bagged second spot with the annual earnings of \$24.3 million.
- German professional tennis player Angelique Kerber secured third position in the list with earnings of \$11.8 million.
- The highest paid athlete from a different sport was US footballer Alex Morgan, in at 12th place with earnings of \$5.8 million.
- Indian badminton star PV Sindhu with earnings of \$5.5 is the sole Indian included in the published list at 13th position.



Link:

<https://www.forbes.com/sites/kurtbadenhausen/2019/08/06/the-highest-paid-female-athletes-2019-serena-and-osaka-dominate/#73119d322fcc>

Global Assessment of forest Biodiversity by WWF

Question: Recently, World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF) published its report on Global assessment of forest Biodiversity; According to this report what was the percentage of forest wildlife populations on an average has declined since 1970?

(a) 23% (b) 45% (c) 53% (d) 15%

Answer: (c)

Related facts

- On 13 August, 2019; **World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF) published its report on Global assessment of forest Biodiversity.**
- Zoological Society of London (ZSL) & The UN Environment World Conservation Monitoring Centre (UNEP-WCMC) co-led the analysis and modeling for this report.
- **The report, which has been published under the title Below the Canopy: Plotting Global Trends in Forest Wildlife Populations, is the first ever global assessment of forest diversity.**
- According to this report the number of forest wildlife populations has declined on average by **53% since 1970** due to Habitat loss and degradation, over exploitation and Climate change.
- The report was based on Forest Specialist Index, which was developed based on the method for the **Living Planet Index (LPI)**, an indicator of global biodiversity.
- Different species numbering around of 455 including birds, mammals, reptiles and amphibians were monitored in this report.
- It is stated in the report that during 1970 to 2014 species declined at an annual rate of 1.7 %, on average and this resulted that only 268 species were available.



- In a bid to conserve nature, world leaders have agreed to launch a New Deal for Nature and People in 2020 in China.

Indications from the report:

- 60 % of threats accounted from Habitat loss.
- 40 out of 112 forest-dwelling primate populations threatened due to over exploitation.
- 43% amphibian creatures, 37 % of reptiles and 21 % of birds were threatened due to Climate change.
- It has also been indicated by the report that major decline is among mammals, reptiles, and amphibians (particularly from the tropical forests), it was less among birds, especially from temperate forests.

Links:

<https://www.downtoearth.org.in/news/forests/more-than-half-of-forest-wildlife-declined-since-1970-wwf-66164>

Franky Zapata Crosses English Channel on Hoverboard

Question: Recently, who has crossed the English Channel on Hoverboard?

- (a) James Franklin Hyneman (b) Franky Zapata (c) Jason Alan Bradbury
(d) Greg Henderson

Answer: (b)

Related facts:



- On 4th August, 2019, Franky Zapata, the hoverboarding Frenchman successfully crossed the English Channel on his second attempt on the device he invented.
- A hoverboard (or hover board) is a levitating board used for personal transportation.
- He completed the famed 35-kilometer (22-mile) journey successfully in just 22 minutes.
- He has invented a hoverboard 'Flyboard Air' and crossed the English Channel with the speed of 77 kilometers per hour (110 mph).
- He already holds the Guinness World Record for a 2.2-kilometre trip over the Mediterranean Sea, the farthest hoverboard flight.

Links:

<https://time.com/5643411/franky-zapata-hoverboard-flight-english-channel/>

Scientific

Ghaznavi missile test fired

Question: Ghaznavi missile has been launched by which of the following country recently?

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

Answer : (b)

Related facts:

- On 29 August 2019, Pakistan has successfully test-fired nuclear-capable missile Ghaznavi from Sonmiani test range near Karachi.
- It is a hypersonic surface to surface short range ballistic missile.
- The Ghaznavi missile is capable of delivering nuclear and conventional warheads to a range of 290 km.



Links:

<https://scroll.in/latest/935540/pakistan-claims-to-have-test-fired-nuclear-capable-ballistic-missile-ghaznavi>

Sports

Football

UEFA Super Cup 2019

Question: Which of the following football club won the UEFA Super Cup 2019?

(a) Barcelona (b) Chelsea (c) Arsenal (d) Liverpool

Answer: (d)

Related facts:

- On 15th August, 2019, Liverpool won the 44th UEFA Super Cup, 2019 by beating Chelsea at the Vodafone Park, Istanbul, Turkey.
- It was Liverpool's 4th Super Cup victory following earlier victories in the year 2005, 2001 & 1977.
- The match was the first all-English rivals UEFA Super Cup.



UEFA Super Cup:

- It is an annual super cup football match organized by UEFA.
- The match is played between champions of the two main European club competitions, the UEFA Champions League and the UEFA Europa League.

Links:

<https://sportstar.thehindu.com/football/liverpool-vs-chelsea-uefa-super-cup-2019-live-streaming-score-updates-salah-mane-firmino-van-dijk-pedro-willian-giroud-football/article29095273.ece>

Badminton

The first Indian to win a Badminton World Championships gold

Question: Who has become the first Indian to win a Badminton World Championships gold?

(a) P.V. Sindhu (b) Saina Nehwal (c) B. S. Pranay (d) None of the above

Answer : (a)

Related facts:

- P.V. Sindhu on August 25, 2019 became the first Indian to win a Badminton World Championships gold by beating familiar rival Nozomi Okuhara of Japan in a lop-sided final here.
- The Indian won 21-7 21-7 in the summit clash that lasted just 38 minutes.
- Two years after being robbed off the gold by Okuhara in an epic 110-minute final at Glasgow that went down as one of the greatest battles in badminton history, Sindhu finally exorcised the ghost of that heart-wrenching loss with a completely dominating win over the same opponent.
- It was Sindhu's fifth World Championships medal — joint most for a woman singles player with former Olympics and world champion Zhang Ning of China — to go with the two successive silvers and a couple of bronze medals.
- Sindhu has also won an Olympic silver in 2016 Rio Games, silver at Gold Coast Commonwealth Games, an Asian Games silver at Jakarta and the BWF World Tour Finals in 2018.
- Badminton Association of India announced a cash reward of Rs 20 lakh and Rs 5 lakh for PV Sindhu and Sai Praneeth for their historic feats in the World Championships in Basel, Switzerland.
- "BAI President @himantabiswa announces cash award of ₹20 lakh for World Champion @Pvsindhu1 and ₹5 lakh for @saipraneeth92 for their historic performance at the #bwfworldchampionship2019," tweeted BAI.
- While Sindhu became the first Indian to win a World Championships gold, Praneeth ended a 36-year wait after Prakash Padukone's feat to secure a bronze for the country in men's singles.



BWF championship:

- The BWF World Championships (formerly known as IBF World Championships, also known as the World Badminton Championships) is a badminton tournament sanctioned by Badminton World Federation (BWF).
- The tournament offers the most ranking points, together with Summer Olympic Games. The winners will be crowned as the "World Champions" and awarded gold medals. However, it does not offer any prize money.

Links:

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/BWF_World_Championships

Athletics

Vinesh Phogat wins third successive gold in 53kg

Question: Which women Indian player got 3rd consecutive gold in 53 kg in wrestling?

(a) Vinesh Phogat (b) Babita phogat (c) Roksana (d) None of the above



Answer :(a)

Related facts:

- Star India grappler Vinesh Phogat has bagged gold in women's 53kg category of the Poland Open wrestling tournament in Warsaw.
- The 24-year-old prevailed 3-2 over local wrestler Roksana in the final of the competition.
- This was her third consecutive gold in the 53 kg category after winning Gold at Grand Prix of Spain and at the Yasar Dogu International at Istanbul, Turkey.

Links:

<https://www.indiatoday.in/sports/other-sports/story/vinesh-phogat-wins-3rd-successive-gold-in-53kg-in-poland-open-1577170-2019-08-04>

Sports Miscellaneous

ISSF World Cup: Abhishek wins Gold, Saurabh bags Bronze

Question: Who won the gold medal in Men's 10-metre Air Pistol event at the ongoing ISSF World Cup in Rio de Janeiro?

(a) Abhishek Verma (b) Saurabh Chaudhary (c) Aman Verma (d) Bajrang Punia

Answer:(a)

Related facts:

- On August 30, 2019, Asian Games medallist **Abhishek Verma** won the **gold** while teen sensation **Saurabh Chaudhary** claimed the **bronze** in the **Men's 10-metre Air Pistol** event at the ongoing ISSF World Cup in Rio de Janeiro.
- As of now, India is placed at the top of the medals tally with three gold, one silver and a bronze.
- Sanjeev Rajput claimed silver in the men's 50-metre rifle 3 positions final to secure an Olympic quota for India.



Links:

<https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/sports/more-sports/shooting/issf-world-cup-abhishek-verma-wins-gold-bronze-for-saurabh-chaudhary-in-10m-air-pistol-in-rio/articleshow/70902554.cms>

Short Notes

Personalities

Pradeep Kumar Sinha appointed as OSD in PMO

Question: Recently who has been appointed as Officer on Special Duty (OSD) in the Prime Minister's Office?

(a) Pradeep Kumar Sinha (b) Nripendra Mishra (c) Brajesh



Answer :(a)

Related facts:

- On August 30, 2019, former Cabinet Secretary Pradeep Kumar Sinha, a 1977 batch Uttar Pradesh-cadre IAS officer, has been appointed the Officer on Special Duty (OSD) in the Prime Minister's Office.
- His appointment was confirmed after the resignation of Nripendra Mishra, Principal Secretary to Prime Minister.
- The resignation of Nripendra Mishra came at a time when India's GDP growth slowed down to more than a five-year low of 5% in the June quarter of 2019-20 against 5.8% in the March quarter.

Links:

<https://www.hindustantimes.com/india-news/pm-modi-s-top-aide-nripendra-mishra-to-step-down-former-cabinet-secretary-pk-sinha-appointed-osd-in-pmo/story-26NC0YQ8X6CBQDPB8rkxIN.html>

Justice Madan B Lokur Sworn In As Judge of Supreme Court of Fiji

Question: Who has been appointed as the judge of the non-resident panel of the Supreme Court of Fiji?

(a) Justice Madan B Lokur (b) Justice Deepak Mishra (c) Justice R M Lodha (d) Justice Chandrachud

Answer :(a)

Related facts:

- On August 12, 2019, former Supreme Court judge Justice Madan B Lokur was sworn in as the judge of the non-resident panel of the Supreme Court of Fiji.
- This is the first time an Indian judge is getting appointed as the judge of the apex court of another country.
- The oath was administered by the Fiji President Jioji Konrote in the presence of Chief Justice and others.
- Justice Lokur, who demitted office as a Supreme Court justice on December 31, 2018, has been appointed in the new role for a period of three years.



Links:

<https://www.livelaw.in/top-stories/justice-madan-b-lokur-sworn-in-as-judge-of-supreme-court-of-fiji-147126>

Former Finance and Defence Minister Arun Jaitley passed away

Question: Name the India's former Finance Minister who passed away on the 24th of August, 2019?

(a) Nirmala Sitharaman (b) Sushma Swaraj (c) Arun Jaitley (d) P Chidambaram

Answer: (c)

Related facts:



- On 24th August, 2019, India's former Finance and Defence Minister Arun Jaitley passed away.
- He died at the 66 due to prolonged illness. The Minister had triple heart-bypass surgery when he was 52.
- He was a diabetic and had bariatric weight-loss surgery in 2014.
- He underwent a kidney transplant in 2018 and travelled to the United States in 2018 for unspecified medical care.

Political Life:

- Arun Jaitley graduated from Shri Ram College of Commerce; he passed his LLB Degree from Faculty of Law, University of Delhi.
- In 1974, he became the President of the University Students' Union.
- The lawyer-turned-politician was a member of the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP).
- He first entered the Parliament as a Member of Rajya Sabha from Gujarat in the year 2000 (April) and continued till April, 2018.
- He was the Leader of House (Rajya Sabha) from May 2014 to June 2019.
- In 2003, he served as the law minister during former Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee's tenure.
- He headed various ministries such as Finance, Corporate Affairs, Defence, Information & Broadcasting and Law & Justice.
- Jaitley led the enactment of bankruptcy code and a national goods-and-services tax (GST) law during his tenure as Finance Minister.

Links:

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Arun_Jaitley

Ajay Kumar appointed as Defence Secretary

Question: Recently who has been appointed as Defence Secretary of India?

(a) Ajay Kumar (b) Sanjay Mitra (c) Ajit Dhoval (d) Nripendra Mishra

Answer: (a)

Related facts:

- On 21st August, 2019, Government has appointed Ajay Kumar as Defence Secretary of India.
- Ajay Kumar is a 1985 batch IAS officer of Kerala cadre and is currently serving as Secretary, Department of Defence Production.
- He will succeed Sanjay Mitra, upon completion of his term.
- The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet, headed by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, approved the appointments.
- Brij Kumar Agarwal has been appointed as Secretary to the Lokpal and Subash Chandra as Secretary of Department of Defence Production.



Links:

<http://newsonair.com/Main-News-Details.aspx?id=370474>

Director of National Institute of Health and Family Welfare (NIHFW)

Question: Who has been recently appointed as the Director of National Institute of Health and Family Welfare(NIHFW)?

(a) Harshad Pandurang Thakur (b) Harshvardhan (c) Vijay Gokhale (d) None of the above



Answer: (a)
Related Fact:

- On August 14, 2019, Harshad Pandurang Thakur has been appointed as the Director of National Institute of Health and Family Welfare for a period of five years.

National Institute of Health and Family Welfare (NIHFW):

- It was established on 9th March, 1977 by the merger of two national level institutions, viz. the National Institute of Health Administration and Education (NIHAE) and the National Institute of Family Planning (NIFP).
- The NIHFW, an autonomous organization, under the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Government of India, acts as an 'apex technical institute' as well as a 'think tank' for the promotion of health and family welfare programmes in the country.

Links:

<https://tiss.edu/view/9/employee/harshad-thakur/>

Sushma Swaraj passed away

Question: Recently Sushma Swaraj passed away; she represented which Ministry in her last tenure?

- (a) Ministry of Finance (b) Ministry of Defence (c) Ministry of Civil Aviation
(d) Ministry of External Affairs

Answer: (d)

Related facts:



- Former External Affairs Minister Sushma Swaraj passed away on August 6, 2019 following a cardiac arrest at AIIMS in Delhi. She was 67.
- Born on 14th February, 1952 in Ambala Cantt, Haryana, she was an Indian politician and a Supreme Court lawyer.

Political Life of Sushma Swaraj:

- She was senior leader of Bhartiya Janata Party. She was elected seven times as a Member of Parliament and three times as a Member of the Legislative Assembly.
- Swaraj served as the Minister of External Affairs of India in the first Narendra Modi government (2014 – 2019).
- Also, she was the second woman to hold the portfolio of External Affairs Minister, after Indira Gandhi.
- She served as Member of Parliament from Vidisha constituency (2009-2019) in the Indian state of Madhya Pradesh.

- At the age of 25 in 1977, she became the youngest cabinet minister in the Janata Party Government headed by then Chief Minister Devi Lal in the Indian State of Haryana. She won the Legislative Assembly election from Ambala Cantonment constituency.
- She was Education Minister of Haryana state in the Bharatiya Janata Party-Lok Dal coalition government during the period of 1987 to 1990.
- In October 1998 she resigned from the Union Cabinet to take over as the first female Chief Minister of Delhi (5th CM of Delhi) for a short duration.
- She was Minister of Health, Family Welfare and Parliamentary Affairs from January 2003 until May 2004 in Atal Bihari Vajpayee government.
- As Union Health Minister, she set up six All India Institute of Medical Sciences at Bhopal (MP), Bhubaneswar (Odisha), Jodhpur (Rajasthan), Patna (Bihar), Raipur (Chhattisgarh) and Rishikesh (Uttarakhand).
- Sushma Swaraj became Leader of Opposition in the 15th Lok Sabha.
- She is the Indian Parliament's first and the only female MP honored with the Outstanding Parliamentarian Award.
- She decided not to contest the 2019 General Elections due to health reasons.

Links:

<https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/sushma-swaraj-death-political-leaders-pay-tribute/article28839552.ece>

Places

Feroz Shah Kotla Stadium to be renamed as Arun Jaitley Stadium

Question: Feroz Shah Kotla Stadium is to be renamed on which political personality?

(a) Arun Jaitley (b) Rajiv Gandhi (c) Venkaiah Naidu (d) Atal Bihari Vajpayee

Answer :(a)

Related facts:

- Feroz Shah Kotla Stadium in Delhi will be renamed as Arun Jaitley Stadium in honour of former DDCA President.
- The stadium will be renamed on September 12 at a ceremony.
- The DDCA decided to rename the stadium after the former DDCA president, Arun Jaitley, who breathed his last on August 24, 2019.



Links:

<https://www.news18.com/cricketnext/news/feroz-shah-kotla-to-be-renamed-arun-jaitley-stadium-2286121.html>

Awards & Honors

ISRO Chairman K Sivan awarded the Dr APJ Abdul Kalam Award

Question: Recently Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) Chairman K Sivan was conferred Dr APJ Abdul Kalam Award by which state government?

(a) Tamil Nadu (b) Andhra Pradesh (c) Uttar Pradesh (d) Odisha

Answer : (a)

Related facts:

- **Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO)** Chairman K Sivan has been conferred Dr APJ Abdul Kalam Award by the Tamil Nadu government.
- Mr Sivan received the award at the Independence Day celebrations at Fort St George in Chennai.
- The award is given in recognition of his stellar work in promotion of science and technology.
- Mr Sivan's leadership led to the historical achievement of most successful GSLV flight with indigenous cryogenic stage.
- ISRO successfully launched Chandrayaan 2, the second mission to the moon on July 22 and he was the chief architect of SITARA, a 6D trajectory simulation software.



The award:

- The Kalam award is to honour those who work for promoting scientific growth, humanities and students' welfare.
- The award carries **8 gm gold medal, Rs. five lakh** in cash and a citation.
- The first Kalam award was presented by Jayalalithaa in 2015 to ISRO scientist N Valarmathi and it is given on Independence Day every year.

Links:

<https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/science/tamil-nadu-honours-rocket-man-k-sivan-with-kalam-award-for-stellar-scientific-work/articleshow/70690878.cms?from=mdr>

President Kovind honoured with National order of Merit

Question: Recently, Indian President Ram Nath Kovind has been conferred with the National Order of Merit by which country?

(a) Ivory Coast (b) Ghana (c) Cape Verde (d) Guinea

Answer: (d)

Related facts:

- Indian President Ram Nath Kovind has been conferred with the National Order of Merit, the highest award of Guinea (West Africa).
- This award has been given by the President of Guinea (Alpha Conde) on 3rd August, 2019.
- Indian President has been awarded for his exceptional contribution to the advancement of overall relations and development of mutual cooperation between India and Guinea and for promoting friendship and partnership between the people of both the countries.
- Three MoUs were signed between the two countries, Cooperation in the Field of Traditional System of Medicine, e- Vidhyabharati – e-Aarogya Bharati Network Project and Renewal Energy.



- Indian President had also announced a new Line of Credit of US\$ 170 million for Water Supply Project of Conakry city (Guinea).

Links:

<http://www.newsonair.com/Main-News-Details.aspx?id=369564>

Ramon Magsaysay Award 2019

Question: Who among the following has been named for Ramon Magsaysay Award 2019?

(a) Ravish Kumar (b) Arvind kejriwal (c) Sushma Swaraj (d) Arvind subramanian

Answer:(a)

Related facts:

- On 2nd August 2019, Journalist Ravish Kumar has been named for Ramon Magsaysay Award 2019.
- Ravish Kumar has been awarded for “harnessing journalism to give voice to the voiceless”.
- Magsaysay Award is known as the Asian equivalent of the Nobel Prize.
- Ravish Kumar is among the five recipients of Ramon Magsaysay Award.
- The award citation says that Ravish Kumar’s ‘Prime Time’ programme deals with real-life, under-reported problems of ordinary people.
- The award citation describes Ravish Kumar as a sober, well-informed and incisive anchor who has been highly vocal on insisting that the professional values of balanced, fact-based reporting be upheld in practice.



Winners of Magsaysay Award 2019

- Apart from Ravish Kumar, the other winners of the Magsaysay Award 2019 are –
- Myanmar’s Ko Swe Win (Journalist)
- Thailand’s Angkhana Neelapajit (Human Rights Activist)
- Philippines’ Raymundo Pujante Cayabyab (Musician)
- South Korea’s Kim Jong-Ki (Activist working with violence and mental health issues in youth)

Ramon Magsaysay Award

- Ramon Magsaysay Award was established in 1957 by trustees of the Rockefeller Brothers Fund.
- The award is also known as the Asian equivalent of the Nobel Prize.
- The award is named after the 3rd president of Republic of Philippines Ramon Magsaysay.
- Awardees are presented with a certificate and a medallion with an embossed image of Ramon Magsaysay facing right in profile

Links:

<https://www.ndtv.com/india-news/ndtvs-ravish-kumar-wins-2019-ramon-magsaysay-award-2079102>

Planning & Project

NISHTHA

Question: Consider the following statements regarding the NISHTHA programme:

- (1) This programme was launched by Ministry of Human Resources and Development
- (2) Through this programme 42 lakhs government teachers will be trained
- (3) Under this programme NISHTHA website, training modules and mobile app also will be launched

Of the above which is/are correct?

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

Answer: (d)

Related facts:

- To improve the learning outcomes at the elementary level; Human Resources and Development Ministry has launched the NISHTHA (National Initiative for School Heads and Teachers Holistic Advancement) programme on 21st August, 2019.
- Through this programme 42 lakh government teachers will be trained.
- Under this programme teachers and heads at primary level, will undergo five-day training in every state and UTs.
- To make this programme more effective, NISHTHA website, training modules and mobile app will be also launched.



Links:

<https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/government-launches-programme-to-train-teachers/article29214009.ece>

India, UK launch clean air initiative in Bengaluru

Question: Recently, a two-year UK-India joint initiative- Innovating for Clean Air (IfCA) was launched in which city of India?

- (a) Delhi (b) Bengaluru (c) Mumbai (d) Chennai

Answer: (b)

Related facts:

- A two-year UK-India joint initiative- Innovating for Clean Air (IfCA) was launched in Bengaluru (Karnataka) on 31 July, 2019.
- It was launched by British Deputy High Commissioner Dominic McAllister.
- It would provide a unique air quality measurement system by integrating satellite and sensor data and support India's transition to Electric Vehicles (EVs).

The initiative – Innovating for Clean Air (IfCA)
Features

- It will identify innovations having potential to improve air quality and contribute to a more detailed localised map of the air quality of Bengaluru through the unique combination of satellite and sensor data, including both on-the-ground and mobile data.



- It will identify relevant challenges around EV-charging infrastructure, grid management and integrating renewable energy to ensure a sufficient, reliable and clean source of power.
- It will also facilitate opportunities for Indian and UK innovators to collaborate in developing long-lasting relationships to address these challenges.

Co-operative Bodies in Programme

- The programme is led by Innovate UK — part of UK Research and Innovation (UKRI) — and is funded by the Newton Fund with matched resources from various key partners in Karnataka and India, like Indian Institute of Science, Enzen, Project Lithium, Confederation of Indian Industries, C40 Cities and Clean Air Platform.
- Other partners include Citizens for Sustainability, World Resources Institute, Indian Institute for Information Technology Bangalore (IIIT-B), Shakti Foundation, Shell Technology Centre, Global Business Inroads and India Smart Grid Forum.
- A current UK partner, Earthsense is working in collaboration with the UK Catapults.

Links:

<http://www.newindianexpress.com/cities/bengaluru/2019/aug/01/india-uk-initiative-to-launch-unique-air-quality-measurement-system-2012486.html>

Installation of Rooftop Solar projects (RTS) In India

Question: As per July, 2019; which of the following Indian state stood first in the country with total 261.97 megawatts (MW) of installed rooftop solar capacity?

(a) Uttarakhand (b) Gujarat (c) Maharashtra (d) Himachal Pradesh

Answer: (b)

Related facts:

- Government of India has set a target for installation of Rooftop Solar projects (RTS) of 40,000 Mega Watt (MW) by 2022 in the country, as per information disclosed by New and Renewable Energy Minister RK Singh, in Rajya Sabha on July 23, 2019.
- It also includes installation of Rooftop Solar (RTS) panels on rooftop of houses.
- It is noticeable that State of Gujarat is ahead of all other Indian states in the country with total 261.97 megawatts (MW) of installed rooftop solar capacity as on 23rd July, 2019.
- As of 18th July, 2019 over 1700 Mega Watt of grid-connected rooftop systems has been installed in India.
- As per estimations an average of 1.5 million units per Mega Watt/year are generated from solar rooftop plants.



Link:

<https://www.thehindubusinessline.com/news/national/gujarat-tops-in-solar-rooftop-installations/article28698344.ece>

Conference

NAM Ministerial Meeting held in Caracas, Venezuela

Question: Which city hosted the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) Ministerial Meeting held

20

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



recently?

(a) Jakarta (b) Caracas (c) Bali (d) Havana

Answer: (b)

Related facts:

- Ministerial meeting of Coordinating Bureau of Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) was held on 21st July, 2019 in Caracas, capital of Venezuela.
- The theme of the meet was Promotion and Consolidation of Peace through Respect for International Law.
- India's Permanent Representative to the United Nation, Syed Akbaruddin represented India.

Issues Raised by India

- The defining challenges of current times – climate change, digital technologies and terrorism.

Suggestion Given by India

- Re-examining the methodology of discussion and decision-making by NAM.

Background:

- The Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) had its origins in the Bandung Conference of April 1945 In Indonesia, inspired by three world leaders: Nehru of India, Tito of Yugoslavia and Nasser of Egypt.
- Bandung formulated the concept of non-alignment based on the Third World desire not to become involved in the East-West ideological confrontation of the Cold War, and to focus instead on national independence struggles, the alleviation of poverty, and economic development. These principles were adopted at the founding non-aligned summit in Belgrade in 1961.
- Whereas NAM started with 25 members in 1961, it has now expanded to 115 developing member countries which constitute nearly two-thirds of the United Nations.
- The First NAM Summit Conference took place in Belgrade, Yugoslavia, in September 1961.
- In 2018 the Non-Aligned Movement Summit was held in Baku city of Azerbaijan.

Links:

<https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/india-strongly-rejects-pakistans-references-to-kashmir-at-nam-ministerial/article28634568.ece>

Law & Justice

Parliament passes POCSO Bill, 2019

Question: Consider the following statements regarding The Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (Amendment) Bill, 2019:

(1) The Bill defines child pornography so that sexual predators indulging in such heinous crimes could be punished.

(2) Life imprisonment will be given to the person who uses child for pornographic purposes resulting in aggravated penetrative sexual assault.

From the above correct statement/s is/are:

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

21

<http://www.edrستي.in/>



of the above

Answer: (a)

Related facts:

- Lok Sabha passed The Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (Amendment) Bill, 2019 on 1st of August, 2019.
- The bill seeks to enhance punishment, including a provision for death penalty, for committing sexual crimes against children.
- This bill was introduced by the Women and Child Development Minister Smriti Irani.
- Earlier The Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (Amendment) Bill, 2019 was introduced in Lok Sabha by the Minister of State for Women and Child Development, Mr. Virendra Kumar on January 8, 2019.

Salient Features of Amendment Bill

- The Bill defines child pornography so that sexual predators indulging in such heinous crimes could be punished.
- The Bill would provide legal protection to 39 per cent of population or 43 crore children, irrespective of whether they are a girl or boy.
- Under witness protection scheme, all measures such as doing threat assessment of the victim and witness and if required even changing their identity and others, were taken to ensure their safety.
- If juvenile is involved in the sexual offence against the children, the cases come under juvenile justice act and the death penalty could be given only if he is above 16 years of age and juvenile justice board finds that he has an adult mind.
- The government has sanctioned 1023 fast track courts, which would specially deal with POCSO related cases.
- The Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (Amendment) Bill, 2019 was introduced in Lok Sabha by the Minister of State for Women and Child Development, Mr. Virendra Kumar on January 8, 2019.

Difference of Amendment bill, 2019 to the POSCO act, 2012

Offences	POSCO bill, 2019	POSCO act 2012
Usage of child for pornographic Purpose	Minimum: 5 years	Maximum: 5 years
Usage of child for pornographic purposes resulting in penetrative sexual assault	Minimum: 10 years (in case of child below 16 years: 20 years) Maximum: life imprisonment	Minimum: 10 years Maximum: life imprisonment
Usage of child for pornographic purposes resulting in aggravated penetrative sexual assault	Minimum: 20 years Maximum: life imprisonment, or death	Life imprisonment

Usage of child for pornographic purposes resulting in sexual assault	Minimum: Three years Maximum: Five years	Minimum: Six years Maximum: Eight years
Usage of child for pornographic purposes resulting in aggravated sexual assault	Minimum: Five years Maximum: Seven years	Minimum: Eight years Maximum: 10 years

Links:

<https://www.indiatoday.in/india/story/parliament-approves-bill-providing-death-penalty-for-sexual-assault-against-children-1576220-2019-08-01>

Parliament passed Unlawful Activities (Prevention) amendment Act, 2019

Question: Consider the following statements regarding Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Amendment Bill, 2019:

- (1) Only individuals will now be tagged as terrorist
- (2) NIA can seize the property of the said person without any prior approval
- (3) The International Convention for Suppression of Acts of Nuclear Terrorism (2005) has been added to the schedule of the act

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

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

Answer: (d)

Related facts:

- Parliament passed Unlawful Activities (Prevention) amendment Act, 2019 on August 2, 2019 after the passage of the UAPA amendment bill, 2019 from the Rajya Sabha with a 147-42 majority.
- The Unlawful Activities (prevention) amendment bill 2019 was introduced in Lok Sabha by the Minister of home Affairs, Mr. Amit Shah, on July 8, 2019.
- Lok Sabha passed this bill which will amend the Unlawful Activities (prevention) Act 1967.



Provisions added in the proposed amendment:

- Who may Commits, participate, promotes, prepares or is otherwise involved in the Terrorism will now be tagged as terrorist without FIR, chargesheet or trial.
- Officer of NIA has to take prior approval from DGP for investigation or to seize the property
- Now an officer above the rank of inspector can investigate the matter.
- Act defines terrorist to include acts committed within the scope of any of the nine treaties listed in a schedule of the act.
- These nine treaties also include the convention for suppression of terrorist bombings (1997), and convention against Taking of hostages (1979).

- This act adds another treaty, the International Convention for Suppression of Acts of Nuclear Terrorism (2005).

Links:

<http://pib.nic.in/PressReleaseDetail.aspx?PRID=1581130>

Year, Day & Week

Organ donation day

Question: Organ donation day is observed on which date?

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

Answer : (a)

Related Fact :

- Organ donation day is observed on 13 August every year.
- This day strives to motivate people to donate their healthy and precious organs after death to save lives.
- As per the National Health Portal, 500,000 people die due to non-availability of organs.

**ORGAN
DONATION DAY**



Important facts:

- There is no defined age for organ donation but it is based on a strict medical criteria.
- If someone younger than the age of 18 wants to donate organ then he or she must have an agreement of parents or guardian.
- In the case of natural death tissues of cornea, heart valves, bone and skin can be donated whereas other vital organs like heart, liver, intestines, kidneys, lungs, and pancreas can only be donated in the case of brain death.
- Anyone can be an organ donor irrespective of age, caste, religion, community etc.

Links:

<https://www.ndtv.com/health/organ-donation-day-2019-date-importance-and-some-facts-about-organ-donation-2084339>