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सत्यमेव जयते

NITI Aayog

NAVATRA

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THE SUCCESS OF OUR SCHOOLS

SCHOOL EDUCATION QUALITY INDEX

SEQI



The Travel & Tourism Competitiveness Report 2019

Travel and Tourism at a Tipping Point

Authors: Alessandro Lenzi, Robert Lawson,
Andrea Pini & Ryan Whiting

and editors: Michael, Alessandra & the
Global Benchmarking Group



2019 ANNUAL REPORT

Economic Freedom of the World



UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE ON TRADE AND DEVELOPMENT
UNCTAD

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DIGITAL 2019
ECONOMY REPORT

VALUE CREATION AND CAPTURE
IMPLICATIONS FOR DEVELOPING COUNTRIES



Dear readers, we have started edristi English edition as well since August, 2015. We are hopeful that it will help us to connect to the broader audience and amplify our personal bonding with each other.

While presenting Day-to-day current affairs, we are very cautious on choosing the right topics to make sure only those get the place which are useful for competitive exams perspective, not to increase unnecessary burden on the readers by putting useless materials. Secondly, we have also provided the reference links to ensure its credibility which is our foremost priority. You can always refer the links to validate its authenticity.

We will try to present the current affairs topics as quickly as possible but its authenticity is given higher priority over its turnaround time. Therefore it could happen that we publish the incident one or two days later in the website.

Our plan will be to publish our monthly PDF on very first day of every month with making appropriate modifications of day-to-day events. In general, the events happened till 30th day will be given place in the PDFs. The necessity of this is to ensure the contents factual authenticity.

Reader's satisfaction is our utmost priority so requesting you to provide your valuable feedback to us.

We will warmly welcome your appreciation/criticism given to us. It will surely show us the right direction to improve the content quality. Hopefully the current affairs PDF (from 1st September to 30th September) 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

School Education Quality Index

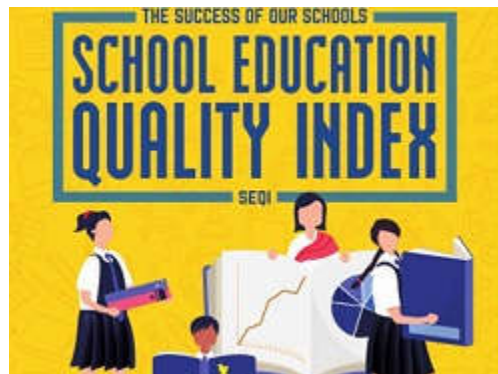
Question: Which of the following states has been ranked last in the recently launched School education quality index?

(a) West Bengal (b) Uttar Pradesh (c) Bihar (d) Rajasthan

Answer: b

Related facts:

- Recently NITI Aayog has released the School Education Quality Index (SEQI) on Monday, 30th September 2019.
- This is the first edition of SEQI formulated by the NITI Aayog to evaluate the country's states and union territories on the basis of their educational parameters and help identify their strengths and weaknesses so that necessary course corrections can be made.
- This survey was done on the basis of 30 different indicators which have been categorized under two groups: outcomes and governance processes aiding outcomes.
- It has been subdivided into four further domains- learning outcomes, access, equity and infrastructure and facilities.
- Keeping in mind the fact that a positive learning outcome should be the result of schooling, NITI Aayog has given almost half its weight to learning outcomes.
- This index is based on the survey data, self-reported data from states and third-party verification.
- Year 2014-15 has been chosen as the base year for the survey, while year 2016-17 was set as reference year.



The rankings:

- Among 20 large states, Kerala has topped the index with 76.6%, while Uttar Pradesh spotted the last with a score of 36.4%.
- Haryana, Assam, And Uttar Pradesh showed the most Improvement in their performance in 2016-17, in comparison to the base year of 2015-16.
- Tamilnadu has topped in access and equity outcomes, while Karnataka led in learning outcomes.
- On the other hand Haryana was the best performer in infrastructure and facilities.
- Among smaller state, Manipur emerged as the best performer; Chandigarh topped the list of union territories.
- West Bengal didn't participate in the survey and has not been in the rankings.

Links:

<https://indianexpress.com/article/education/kerala-on-top-among-overall-performers-in-niti-aayogs-school-education-rankings-6042176/>

Facial biometric data

Question: Recently which country became the first nation to issue biometric sailor identification document?

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

Answer: (a)

Related facts:

- India has become the first country in the world to issue **Biometric Seafarer Identity Document (BSID)**.
- Shri Manshukh Mandaviya, MoS shipping and chemical & Fertilizers launched the project in New Delhi on 28th of August, 2019.
- It will capture the facial bio-metric data which is upgraded version of earlier system based on two finger and two iris data of seafarers.
- The new document will give a foolproof identification to seafarers which will facilitate their movement, provide ease of getting jobs and help in identifying them from any location in the world.
- The new card is in confirmation of the Convention No. 185 of the International Labour Organization on BSID.
- BSID will have a biometric chip embedded in it. The security of the BSID card is ensured at various levels and through different methods.
- The card has two optical security features- Micro prints/micro texts and Unique Guilloche pattern.
- A record of each SID issued will be maintained in a national database and its related information will be internationally accessible.
- The issuance of SID involves the collection of biometric and demographic details of the seafarers, their verification and then issuance of the card to them.
- Nine data collection centers have been setup at Mumbai, Kolkata, Chennai, Noida, Goa, New Mangalore, Kochi, Vizag & Kandla for issue of BSID.
- Every Indian seafarer who possesses a valid Continuous Discharge Certificate issued by the Govt. of India will be eligible for issue of a BSID.
- The total number of existing Indian seafarers who will be required to be issued BSIDs is around 3,50,000 .



Link:

<https://pib.gov.in/PressReleaselframePage.aspx?PRID=1583253>

IIFL Wealth Hurun India Rich List 2019

Question: Who has topped the IIFL Wealth Hurun India Rich List 2019?

(a) Mukesh Ambani (b) SP Hinduja & family (c) Ajim Premji (d) L N Mittal

Answer: (a)

Related facts:

- On 25 September 2019, the eighth IIFL Wealth Hurun India Rich List 2019 was released in order to rank the wealthiest individuals in India.
- Reliance Industries' Chairman Mukesh Ambani has topped the list for the eighth consecutive year, with a net worth of Rs 3,80,700 crore.
- Whereas, London-based SP Hinduja & family retained the second rank, with assets worth Rs. 1,86,500 crore.
- Wipro founder Azim Premji secured the third spot with a wealth of Rs. 1,17,100 crore.



- According to findings of IIFL, the combined wealth of top 25 in the list equates to 10% of India's GDP and that of the reported 953 individuals accounts for 27%.

Links:

<https://www.ndtv.com/business/india-rich-list-2019-mukesh-ambani-at-top-spot-check-full-list-of-richest-indians-in-2019-2107112>

Hyderabad based B-school ranked 7th in Forbes list

Question: Which Indian B-school has secured seventh position globally in the Forbes Best International MBAs: One-Year Programs 2019 rankings?

(a) Indian School of Business (ISB), Hyderabad (b) IIM, Bangalore
(c) IIM, Ahmedabad (d) S.P. Jain Institute of Management and Research, Mumbai

Answer: (a)

Related facts:

- On 18 September 2019, Forbes released 'The Best International MBAs: One-Year Programs' rankings.
- The Indian School of Business (ISB), Hyderabad has secured seventh position globally in the published list.
- The Hyderabad based management institute is also the top-ranked B-school from Asia.
- International Institute for Management Development, Switzerland secured the top position.
- The second and third positions were held by INSEAD, Fontainebleau (France), Singapore and Judge Business School, University of Cambridge, UK respectively.



Links:

<https://www.forbes.com/business-schools/list/international-1-year/#tab:rank>

Postal Stamp of Doordarshan released on 60th anniversary

Question: Union Information and Broadcasting Minister Prakash Javadekar released a postal stamp on the occasion of?

(a) 60th foundation day of Doordarshan (b) 70th foundation day of Doordarshan
(c) 55th foundation day of Doordarshan (d) 50th foundation day of Doordarshan

Answer: (a)

Related facts:

- Union Information and Broadcasting Minister Prakash Javadekar on 16th September, 2019, released a postal stamp to commemorate 60 years of Doordarshan and said its news is accurate, with no sensationalism involved.
- Mr Javadekar highlighted the various achievements of the public broadcaster and also presented DD Annual Awards, 2019 on the occasion.



About Doordarshan:

- Doordarshan is one of India's largest broadcasting organizations in terms of studio and transmitter infrastructure, having been established on 15th September, 1959.

Link:

<https://doordarshan.gov.in/ddnational/honble-minister-information-and-broadcasting-prakash-javdekar-releases-postage-stamp>

Mukhya Mantri Seva Sankalp Helpline

Question: Mukhya Mantri Seva Sankalp Helpline was launched by which State?

(a) Uttarkhand (b) Himachal Pradesh (c) West Bengal (d) Bihar

Answer: (b)

Related facts:

- Himachal Pradesh Chief Minister Jai Ram Thakur launched the Mukhya Mantri Seva Sankalp Helpline 1100 for speedy and time-bound redressal of public grievances.



Focus:

- The main focus of the present State Government is to ensure that the issues, problems and grievances of the general public were redressed at the earliest and in a time-bound manner.
- The helpline will function six days a week (Monday-Saturday) from 7 am to 10 pm. The progress of the helpline will be regularly monitored.
- The handling of the helpline should be very courteous and polite to the complainants so that they could comfortably and easily register their complaints.
- The helpline 1100 should be popularized in a way that it becomes a familiar number with each and every household of the State so that people can get maximum benefit from the redressal system.
- The state has also launched Jan Manch for the redressal of the public grievances. Over 35,000 grievances have been redressed in the Jan Manch.

Links:

<https://zeenews.india.com/himachal-launches-helpline-for-grievance-redressal-2234774.html>

Ban on e-cigarettes

Question: What is the maximum penalty for repeated violations of the ban on e-cigarettes?

- (a) up to three years of imprisonment and Rs. 5 lakhs of fine**
(b) up to one years of imprisonment and Rs. 2 lakhs of fine
(c) up to two years of imprisonment and Rs. 3 lakhs of fine
(d) up to three years of imprisonment and Rs. 4 lakhs of fine

Answer: (a)

Related facts:

- On 18th September, 2019, in a press conference Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman announced complete ban on e-cigarettes. This calls for complete ban on production, sale, manufacturing, and advertising of e-cigarettes.
- She was accompanied by Prakash Javdekar. The ban was also on import/export, transport, distribution, storage on e-cigarettes.
- Citing use of e-cigarettes causing a lot of damage across the world, Finance Minister informed that 300 million US citizens are using e-cigarettes and a 78 per cent increase in the use of e-cigarettes has been found among high school students in the US.
- Finance Minister announced in cabinet briefing that first-time violators will have to face imprisonment of up to one year and Rs. one lakh of fine.
- Also, repeat offenders can get up to three years of imprisonment and Rs. 5 lakhs of fine.



E-cigarette:

- E-cigarettes (Electronic cigarette) are generally known as battery-operated devices that produce vape by heating nicotine mixed solution, which is the addictive substance in combustible cigarettes.

Links:

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

Maritime Communication Services launched in India

Question: Who launched the Maritime Communication Services in India on September 13, 2019?

(a) Ram Nath Kovind (b) Venkaiah Naidu (c) Narendra Modi (d) Ravishankar Prasad

Answer: (d)

Related facts:



- Union Minister for Communications Ravi Shankar Prasad has launched the maritime communication services at Mumbai on September 13, 2019.
- The Maritime Connectivity will enable high-end support to those in sea by providing access to Voice, Data and Video services while traveling on sailing vessels, cruise liners, ships in India, using satellite technology.
- Nelco, India's leading VSAT solutions provider is the first Indian company that will now provide quality broadband services to the maritime sector.
- Nelco through global partnerships, infrastructure including transponder capacity on satellite of ISRO (Indian Space Research Organization) and a comprehensive service portfolio will help Energy, Cargo and Cruise vessels by enhancing operational efficiency, improving crew welfare and enabling customer services.
- In December 2018, the Government of India announced the licenses for In-flight and Maritime Communications (IFMC) that allows voice and internet services while flying over the Indian skies and sailing in Indian waters, both for international and Indian aircrafts and vessels.
- The IFMC license is a key initiative of the Telecom Ministry, a move to liberalise satellite communication services in India.
- Ravishankar Prasad also launched a web portal for reporting of stolen mobiles for tracing purposes. International Mobile Equipment Identity (IMEI) is supposed to be a unique identity of a mobile phone device.
- Accordingly, a project called Central Equipment Identity Register (CEIR) system has been undertaken by the DoT for addressing security, theft and other concerns including reprogramming of mobile handsets.

The major objectives of the project include following:

- Blocking of lost/stolen mobile phones across mobile networks thus discouraging theft of mobile phones.
- Facilitate in tracing of such reported lost/stolen mobile phones
- Prevention of mobile devices with duplicate and fake IMEIs in the network.
- Curtail the use of counterfeit mobile devices
- Reduced health risks to the users with the control of use of counterfeit mobile phones
- Improved QoS and reduced call drops with reduction in use of counterfeit mobile devices

Links:

<https://pib.gov.in/PressReleaseDetail.aspx?PRID=1585036>

Jan Soochna Portal launched

Question: Which of the following State is the first in India to launch a Jan Soochna Portal recently?

(a) New Delhi (b) Karnataka (c) Andhra Pradesh (d) Rajasthan

Answer: (d)

Related facts:

- The first-ever Jan Soochna Portal (public information portal) was launched in Rajasthan on 13th September, 2019.
- This project is launched for providing information about government authorities and departments suo motu to the public with the idea of the Right to Information Act.
- The portal has brought yet another distinction to Rajasthan as RTI movement had started in 1990s.
- It was inaugurated by Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot at B.M. Birla Auditorium.



The portal:

- This portal is developed by the State Government's Information and Technology Department in collaboration with the civil society groups.
- It is first of its kind in the country which will give information pertaining to 13 departments on a single platform.
- With different sections divided into districts, blocks and panchayats, the portal provides access of useful information to the common people.
- The Jan Soochna Portal-2019 would ensure compliance with Section 4(2) of the RTI Act mandating the public authorities to disclose information in the public domain, so that the people need not file applications under the law to obtain information.
- The portal would turn out to be an effective medium for digital dialogue with the people as well as a strong instrument for ensuring transparency in governance.
- The State government will set up information kiosks in village panchayats and self-service e-mitra centres in the towns to enable the people to access the information useful for them.

Links:

<https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/jaipur/rajasthan-to-launch-jan-soochna-portal-on-friday-first-state-to-do-so/articleshow/71096727.cms>

Sixth India-China Strategic Economic Dialogue

Question: Recently, Where did the sixth India China Strategic Economic Dialogue takes place?

(a) Chengdu (b) Shanghai (c) Dehradun (d) New Delhi

Answer: (d)

Related facts:

- The **sixth India-China Strategic Economic Dialogue (SED)** took place in **New Delhi** with both sides agreeing that the SED has emerged as a crucial mechanism to facilitate bilateral trade and investment flows and enhance economic cooperation between the two sides.
- The Dialogue which was held from **7-9 September 2019** comprised of **round table meetings** of **Joint Working Groups** on **infrastructure, energy, high-tech, resource**



conservation and policy coordination followed by technical site visits and closed door G2G meetings.

- The two sides through pragmatic and outcome oriented deliberations **of the six working groups arrived at following mutual agreements:**
- Policy Coordination.
- Working Group on Infrastructure.
- Working Group on High-Tech.
- Working Group on Resource Conservation and Environmental Protection.
- Working Group on Energy Working Group on Pharmaceuticals.

Background:

- Set up between erstwhile **Planning Commission and the National Development and Reform Commission (NDRC), China** during the visit of Chinese Prime Minister Wen Jiabao to India in December 2010, the SED has since then served as an effective mechanism for enhancing bilateral practical cooperation.
- **NITI Aayog** after its formation has taken the Dialogue forward giving it a greater momentum.
- **Six standing Joint Working Groups** with Co-Chairs (above the rank of Joint Secretary) are appointed by both sides to address **pertinent economic and commercial issues** across infrastructure, energy, high-tech, resource conservation, pharmaceuticals and policy coordination in a structured and outcome-oriented manner by ensuring regular interaction and continued exchanges between respective counterparts.

Links:

<https://pib.gov.in/PressReleaseDetail.aspx?PRID=1584574>

Four individuals declared as terrorist under UAPA Act

Question: Which of the following are declared as terrorist under the recently passed UAPA Act?

(1) Masood Azhar (2) Hafeez Saeed (3) Abu Bukhar Al Baghdadi (4) Dawood Ibrahim

Correct option is:

(a) 1, 2 and 4 (b) 1, 2 and 3 (c) 2, 3 and 4 (d) All of the above

Answer: (a)

Related facts:



- The **Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA)** issued a gazette notification declaring the **four individuals as 'terrorists'** under clause (a) of sub-section (1) of section 35 of the **Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act (UAPA), 1967.**
- These are **Jaish-e-Mohammad (JeM) chief Masood Azhar, Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT) Hafiz Saeed, his deputy Zaki-ur-Rehman Lakhvi and underworld don & 1993 Mumbai serial mastermind Dawood Ibrahim.**
- Ministry has mentioned five terror cases, including the February 14 Pulwama attack, where 40 CRPF personnel were killed while charging **Masood Azhar.**
- **Hafiz Saeed** has been charged under this act for his involvement in four cases — Red Fort attack (2000), Rampur attack (2008), 26/11 Mumbai attack (2008) and attack on a BSF convoy at Udhampur in Jammu & Kashmir (2015).
- **Lakhvi** has been declared as a terrorist for his involvement in four cases, including 26/11 Mumbai terror attack.

- The **UAPA act** allows the government to declare **individuals as terrorists**. It was for the first time amended in 2004 and later in 2008 and 2013. The law is in conformity with **United Nations conventions** as well as international standards
- This amended bill has empowered the government to impose a travel ban on individuals who have been designated as “terrorists” as well as the seizure their properties.

Links:

<https://www.ndtv.com/india-news/hafiz-saeed-masood-azhar-declared-terrorists-under-new-anti-terror-law-2095571>

Blanket ban on single use plastic products in the Ministry

Question: Which ministry has recently announced the blanket ban on all kind of single use plastic products on September 4, 2019?

- (a) Ministry of Human Resource (b) Prime Minister Office (c) Ministry of Education
(d) Ministry of Food & Public Distribution

Answer: (d)

Related facts:

- The Union Minister of Consumer Affairs Food and Public Distribution, Ram Vilas Paswan announced a **blanket ban on all types of single use plastic** products in the Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution and all its PSUs including Food Corporation of India (FCI).
- The decision was taken in a high level meeting with Secretaries of both the Departments i.e. Consumer Affairs and Food, CMD FCI, DG Bureau of India Standards, MD of CWC, Director Legal Metrology along with other senior officials of the Ministry.
- It was decided that all single use plastic products will be **completely banned in Ministry and its PSUs from 15th September 2019.**



Links:

<https://pib.gov.in/PressReleaseDetail.aspx?PRID=1584146>

Bank unveils Aadhar linked service

Question: Which of the following bank has unveiled the Aadhar linked service on September 9, 2019?

- (a) UCO Bank (b) Karnataka Bank (c) India Post Payment Bank (d) Oriental Bank of Commerce

Answer: (c)

Related facts:

- **India Post Payments Bank (IPPB)** has announced the launch of **Aadhaar-enabled payment services (AePS)** for unbanked and under-banked people and it has made **1 crore customers** within one year of operations.
- The bank had been asked to make it to **5 crore customers** in the next one year.
- The **440 central schemes on-boarded** to the direct benefit transfer (DBT) platform, they must also be included to the IPPB platform.
- Around **34 crore bank accounts** have been opened under the **Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana**. Of this, **22 crore belong to the rural people.**



- Suresh Sethi, IPPB Managing Director and CEO, notified that its services were available across the country via over **1,36,000 Post Offices** and were being delivered by **1,95,000 postmen**.

Links:

<http://www.ddinews.gov.in/business/india-post-payments-bank-unveils-aadhaar-linked-service>

First Mega Food Park in Telangana

Question: In which district of Telangana the first Mega Food Park of state has been inaugurated on September 4, 2019?

(a) Vijayawada (b) Hyderabad (c) Nizamabad (d) Shikhoabad

Answer: (c)

Related facts:



- Union Minister of Food Processing Industries Harsimrat Kaur Badal inaugurated the first Mega Food Park in Telangana on September 6, 2019 promoted by M/s Smart Agro Food Park Pvt. Ltd. at Village Lakkampally, Nandipet Mandal of Nizamabad District.
- This Mega Food Park has been set up in 78 acre of land at a cost of Rs. 108.95 crore. The facilities being created by the developer at Central Processing Centre (CPC) of this Mega Food Park include Raw Material Warehouse of 5000 MT, Finished Good Warehouse- 5000 MT, Multi Commodity Cold Storage-5000 MT, Deep Freeze Store-500 MT, Turmeric-Curcumin, Oleoresin Extraction unit-5 MT/Day, QC Laboratory and other related food processing facilities.
- The Mega Food Park will leverage an additional investment of about Rs. 250 crore in 22 food processing units in the park and generate a turnover of about Rs. 14000 crore.
- The Park will also provide direct and indirect employment to 50,000 youth and benefit about 1 lakh farmers.
- Mega Food parks will facilitate doubling of farmer's income by 2022 which is a primary agenda of Govt. in the field of agriculture.

Mega Food Parks:

- The Mega Food Park Scheme is being implemented in order to give a major impetus to the food processing sector by value and reducing food wastage at each stage of the supply chain with particular focus on perishables.
- Mega Food Parks create modern infrastructure facilities for food processing along the value chain from farm to market with strong forward and backward linkages through a cluster based approach.
- Common facilities and enabling infrastructure is created at Central Processing Centre and facilities for primary processing and storage is created near the farm in the form of Primary Processing Centers (PPCs) and Collection Centers (CCs).
- Under the Scheme, Government of India provides financial assistance upto Rs. 50.00 Crore per Mega Food Park project.

Links:

<https://pib.gov.in/PressReleaseDetail.aspx?PRID=1584371>

PM Modi inaugurates first metro coach in Mumbai

Question: In which city PM Modi inaugurated the first metro coach manufactured by Bharat Earth Movers?

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

Answer: (b)

Related facts:

- On 7th September, 2019, Prime Minister inaugurated a slew of new projects in Mumbai.
- Prime Minister laid the foundation stones for three Metro corridors worth over 19,000 crore rupees.
- The three corridors, 9.2-km Gaimukh-Shivaji Chowk (Mira Road) metro-10 corridor; 12.8-km Wadala-CST metro-11 corridor and 20.7-km Kalyan-Taloja metro-12 corridor.
- PM Modi inaugurated the first metro coach manufactured by the state-run Bharat Earth Movers in flat 75 days.
- Over 500 of these coaches will be used for Mumbai Metro's soon to be completed corridors.
- The Prime Minister also inaugurated the Bandongri metro station on the Andheri-Dahisar Metro-7.
- The metro station is equipped with Energy-efficient elevators, escalator and LED fittings with the use of solar energy.
- The Prime Minister also visited the Lokmanya Seva Sangh at Vile Parle and offered his prayers at the on-going Ganpati Pooja at the venue.
- Lok Manya Seva Sangh is a social service and cultural organisation which is 96 years old and based on ideals and inspirations from Lokmanya Tilak.



Links:

<http://www.newsonair.com/News?title=PM-Modi-inaugurates-first-metro-coach-manufactured-by-Bharat-Earth-Movers-in-Mumbai&id=371203>

Global Happiness Survey 2019

Question: What is the rank of India in Happiness Index as per Global Happiness Survey conducted by market research firm Ipsos?

(a) 9 (b) 12 (c) 20 (d) 5

Answer: (a)

Related facts:

- As per the Global Happiness Survey conducted by market research firm Ipsos, India is ranked 9th with 77% on Happiness Index among 28 countries.
- There has been a 6% drop for India from 83% in 2018 to 77 per cent in 2019.
- Australia and Canada got the 1st rank in the index with same marking of 86%.
- The top determinants for Indians to stay happy are Personal safety and security, friends and feeling in control of life, good financial conditions and physical well-being along with hobbies and interests.
- Top 4 Happiest countries in the world are Australia and Canada (both 86%), China (83%) and Great Britain (82%).
- Countries with lowest level of happiness percentage in the Index are Russia (47%), Spain (46%) and Argentina (34%).



- Ipsos, which is headquartered in Paris, France, was founded in 1975. It is a global market research and a consulting firm.

Links:

<https://www.ipsos.com/sites/default/files/ct/news/documents/2019-08/Happiness-Study-report-August-2019.pdf>

Trifurcation of Vellore district

Question: Vellore district which is in news nowadays for its trifurcation into the new districts, is located in:

(a) Kerala (b) Tamil Nadu (c) Karnataka (d) Telangana

Answer: (b)

Related facts:

- On 15th August, 2019; the Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu Edappadi K Palaniswami made an announcement on trifurcation of Vellore District.
- Ranipet and Tirupattur are the new districts carved out of Vellore and after the trifurcation; Tamil Nadu will now have 37 districts.
- Mr. Palaniswami also announced that K V Kuppam of Vellore district would be upgraded to a new taluka.
- Earlier, Mr. Palaniswami had announced to create Chengalpattu district, carved out of Kancheepuram, and Tenkasi district, by bifurcating Tirunelveli.
- In total, the year 2019 saw the creation of 5 additional districts by the Edappadi K Palaniswami's government in Tamil Nadu.



Links:

<https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/tamil-nadu/vellore-district-to-be-trifurcated-says-edappadi-palaniswami/article29099936.ece>

State Rooftop Solar Attractiveness Index (SARAL) Index

Question: Consider the following statement SARAL index:

- (1) SARAL stands for State Rooftop Solar Attractiveness.
- (2) The index aims to incentivize rooftop solar by creating healthy competition among the states
- (3) Karnataka has topped this Index

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

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

Answer: (d)

Related facts:

- On 21st August, 2019, The State Rooftop Solar Attractiveness Index (SARAL) was launched by Union Minister of State for Power and New & Renewable Energy R.K. Singh.
- Karnataka has topped the SARAL index, which evaluates the Indian States on the basis of their attractiveness for rooftop development.
- Telangana, Gujarat and Andhra Pradesh were ranked 2nd, 3rd and 4th respectively.
- The index aims to incentivize rooftop solar by creating healthy competition among the States.
- SARAL is the first of its kind index, which provides a comprehensive overview of state-level measures adopted to facilitate rooftop solar deployment.



- The index was launched during the Review Planning and Monitoring (RPM) meeting with the States and State Power Utilities.
- The SARAL index has been jointly designed by the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE), Shakti Sustainable Energy Foundation (SSEF), ASSOCHAM and Ernst & Young (EY).
- The Union Renewable Energy Ministry has set the target of achieving 175 GW of renewable energy capacity by 2022, of which 100 GW solar power will be operational by March 2022 and 40 GW is expected to come from grid-connected solar rooftops.

Links:

https://www.business-standard.com/article/news-cm/power-minister-launches-saral-state-rooftop-solar-attractiveness-index-119082101160_1.html

Sex Ratio at Birth (SRB): Kerala is at the top

Question: According to the fourth National Family Health Surveys (NFHS) report on Sex Ratio at Birth (SRB), the number of female births per 1000 male births in India in 2015-16 is figured at:

(a) 914 (b) 919 (c) 1047 (d) 925

Answer: (b)

Related facts:

- Report of the fourth National Family Health Surveys (NFHS) has recently been published by the Central Government. The report indicated that sex ratio at birth (SRB) has improved in India from 914 in 2005-06 to 919 in 2015-16.
- It should be known that Sex Ratio at Birth (SRB) is defined as the number of female births per 1,000 male births.
- The improvement in SRB is the result of the successful implementation of Beti Bachao, Beti Padhao campaign through the country.
- Kerala topped among the all other Indian states with highest SRB of 1047 in 2015-16.
- According to NFHS data although Punjab has shown the highest improvement in SRB at 126 points but its SRB remained at 860 which was one of the lowest SRB in the states.
- Notably, the SRB was at its lowest in north-eastern states such as Sikkim, Manipur, Mizoram, Arunachal Pradesh, and Assam.
- Sharpest decline was in Sikkim where the SRB dropped 175 points to reach 809, the lowest among all states in 2015-16.



Links:

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

Schemes launched to promote Sports in India

Question: Which one of the following scheme has been launched on the Sports Day?

(a) Fit India Scheme (b) Healthy India Scheme (c) Khelo aur Jeeto (d) Young India Scheme

Answer: (a)

Related facts:

- On 29 August 2019 (National Sports Day), the scheme Fit India Movement was launched by the Prime Minister Narendra Modi at Indira Gandhi Indoor Stadium, New Delhi.
- The programme aims to inculcate a culture of fitness in Indian citizens.
- National Sports Day marks the birth anniversary of prominent Indian hockey player Major Dhyan Chand.



Links:

<http://jagranjosh.com/current-affairs/national-sports-day-2019-narendra-modi-government-schemes-to-promote-sports-in-india-1566987827-1>

Sarbat Sehat Bima Yojana

Question: Which State Government has launched Sarbat Sehat Bima Yojana?

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

Answer: (a)

Related facts:

- On 20th August, 2019, Punjab Chief Minister Captain Amarinder Singh launched his government's flagship universal health insurance scheme — Sarbat Sehat Bima Yojana — benefiting nearly 46 lakh families, in Mohali.
- E-cards were handed over to the first 11 beneficiaries from Mohali district to kick off the scheme, which would entitle beneficiaries to avail annual cashless treatment up to Rs 5 lakh per family per year, including pre-existing diseases.
- With this scheme, covering 76% of the State's population, Punjab has become the first state in the country to offer medical insurance cover to the maximum number of its people.
- A few months ago, the State Government decided to extend the Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (PMJAY) to provide cashless health insurance cover of Rs 5 lakh per family per year to more 31 lakh families.
- Sarbat Sehat Bima Yojana, will cover 20.43 lakh smart ration card holder families, in addition to 14.86 lakh families enrolled as per Socio Economic Caste Census data, 4.94 lakh farmer families, 2.8 lakh small farmers and more than 2.38 lakh construction workers registered with the state construction welfare board, besides 46,000 small traders.
- The scheme has also been extended to around 4,500 journalists accredited by the State or holding Yellow Cards.
- Of the total premium of Rs 333 crore under the Mahatma Gandhi Sarbat Sehat Bima Yojana, the State's share is 83%, which amounts to Rs 276 crore, while the Union Government will pay the remaining Rs 57 crore.



Links:

<https://www.hindustantimes.com/cities/capt-govt-s-sarbat-sehat-bima-yojna-widens-ambit-of-central-scheme/story-kOssEPzJGsoi02RMkrdnRJ.html>

Minister of State (MoS) status to the mayors

Question: Which State Government's /UT's mayor got status of Minister of State?

(a) Jammu & Kashmir (b) Andhra Pradesh (c) Telangana (d) Tamilnadu

Answer: (a)

- The government has granted Minister of State (MoS) status to the mayors of Srinagar and Jammu civic bodies.
- The hospitality and protocol department shall make necessary insertion in the J&K State Warrant of Precedence with the approval of the competent authority.
- The Order stated, Sanction is hereby accorded to the grant of status equivalent to Minister of State (MoS) to the Mayors of SMC (Srinagar Municipal Corporation) and JMC (Jammu Municipal Corporation) within their territorial jurisdiction.



Background

- On 6th August, 2019, Government of India revoked Article 370 and the special status of Jammu and Kashmir.
- Union Government split the state into two Union Territories – Jammu and Kashmir (with Legislature) and Ladakh (without Legislature).

Links:

<https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/india/jk-administration-grants-mos-status-to-mayors-of-srinagar-and-jammu/articleshow/70779247.cms>

President's visit to three West African nations – Benin, Gambia and Guinea

Question: Consider the following statement regarding President's visit to three West African nations recently:

- (1) President visited three West African nations – Benin, Gambia and Guinea
- (2) This visit is the first-ever visit of Head of State/Head of Government of India to each of the three countries
- (3) MOU was signed between Cultural Exchange Programme with Benin for the years 2019-2023

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

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

Answer: (d)

Related facts:

Context:

- President of India, Shri Ram Nath Kovind, reached Cotonou, Benin on 28th July, 2019, on the first leg of his state visits to three West African nations – Benin, Gambia and Guinea.

President visit to Benin:

- This visit is the first-ever visit of Head of State/Head of Government of India to Benin.

- India has emerged as the largest trading partner of Benin with two-way trade crossing US\$ 800 million.
- Implementation of the US\$ 42.6 million Line of Credit for upgradation of water supply schemes in 103 villages in Benin. Fresh Line of Credit worth US\$ 100 million for developmental projects in Benin was also announced.
- India also offered to extend free tele-education courses to 15,000 Beninese students and tele-medicine courses to 1000 doctors and paramedics in Africa.
- In addition, the two sides discussed defence and security cooperation and India offered further training assistance to Benin to expand its anti-piracy capacity.
- They also agreed to work together to combat climate change through the International Solar Alliance.
- The two Presidents witnessed the signing and exchange of MOUs/agreements on:
 - Cultural Exchange Programme between the two countries for the years 2019-2023.
 - MOU on Cooperation in the field of Export Credit and Investment Insurance.
 - MOU between Benin & Telecommunications Consultants India Limited (TCIL) for participation in the e- VBAB Network Project (Technology upgradation of Pan Africa e-Network Project (PAeNP)- Phase-I) of Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India
 - Agreement on mutual exemption from the visa requirement for holders of Diplomatic, Official/Service Passports



President visit to Gambia:

- On 31st July, 2019, the President of India, Shri Ram Nath Kovind, addressed the National Assembly of The Gambia in Banjul.
- Our bilateral trade stood at over US\$ 62 billion for 2017-18.
- India has become the fifth largest investor in Africa with cumulative investments at over US\$ 54 billion.
- After South Asia, the African continent is the largest recipient of Indian overseas assistance.
- 181 Lines of Credit have been extended to 41 countries for a total amount of US\$ 11 billion.
- India has, in keeping with The Gambian priorities, extended support for its social and economic progress – from capacity building, financial assistance to implementing infrastructure projects.
- India has provided concessional lines of credit worth US\$ 78.5 million to support programs of rural development, agriculture, drinking water, healthcare and setting up physical infrastructure of The Gambia.
- Another line of credit of US\$ 92 million has been extended.
- Each year, we receive young Gambians in India for education, for skilling and for navigating the digital world.

President of India in Guinea

- Top of Form
- India Offers a line of Credit of US\$170 Million for Conakry Water Supply Project
- The President of India, in Conakry, Guinea, on 1st August, 2019 in the final leg of his visit to – Benin, The Gambia and Guinea.
- He became the first Head of State/Head of Government from India to visit Guinea.
- On his arrival at the Conakry Airport, President Kovind was received by the President of Guinea, Prof Alpha Conde.
- The President said that India is committed to strengthen economic ties with Guinea in support of Guinea's National Development Plan.

- India has provided financial assistance for projects identified by Guinea in the energy, health and transportation sectors, including regional hospitals projects. India extended a new Line of Credit of US\$ 170 million for Conakry Water Supply Project.
- President Alpha Conde conveyed support for India's candidacy as non-permanent member of the UN Security Council for the term 2021 – 2022.
- The two Presidents witnessed the signing and exchange of MOUs:
- On Cooperation in the field of traditional system of medicine and homeopathy.
- For Participation in the e-VBAB Network Project
- In the field of renewable energy.

Links:

<http://pib.nic.in/PressReleaseDetailm.aspx?PRID=1581046>

Proposal to declare ocean energy as Renewable Energy

Question: Recently Power Minister has approved which energy as Renewable Energy?

(a) Ocean energy (b) Coal energy (c) Solar energy (d) Thermal energy

Answer: (a)

- On 22nd August, 2019, Union Minister of State for Power and New & Renewable Energy (IC) and Skill Development & Entrepreneurship, RK Singh approved a proposal to declare ocean energy as Renewable Energy.
- Accordingly, the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy has clarified to all the stakeholders that energy produced using various forms of ocean energy such as tidal, wave, ocean thermal energy conversion etc. shall be considered as Renewable Energy and shall be eligible for meeting the non-solar Renewable Purchase Obligations (RPO).



Links:

<https://pib.gov.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=192770>

PM addressed sessions at G-7 Summit

Question: PM Modi held bilateral talks with which one of the following country on sidelines of G7 Summit?

(a) United States (b) Japan (c) France (d) None of the above

Answer: (a)

Related facts:

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi met the President of Senegal Macky Sall and held bilateral talks on the sidelines of the G-7 Summit at Biarritz, France.
- PM Modi participated in the Session on Climate, Bio-diversity and Oceans, and raised India's concerns on the emerging issues.
- The Prime Minister also participated during another Session on Digital Technology.
- Afterwards, the Prime Minister met German Chancellor Angela Merkel and United States President Donald Trump to discuss bilateral and a gamut of issues of mutual interest.
- India is one of the few countries which was extended a special invitation to participate in the summit.



- World leaders in the Summit aim to provide a common platform for various issues including climate change, terrorism, inequalities and trade amidst changing scenario in world trade and blocs.
- The highlight of the summit was that newly invited countries will have a definite determination to work for furthering peace and stability in the region and also in boosting world economy.

Links:

<http://www.newsonair.com/Main-News-Details.aspx?id=370635>

PM Modi returns to India after state visits to France, UAE & Bahrain

Question: PM Modi has launched Rupay Card and the release of the Commemorative Stamp on Mahatma Gandhi in which country?

(a) UAE (b) Bahrain (c) France (d) England

Answer: (a)

Related facts:

- On 27th August, 2019, Prime Minister Narendra Modi returned to India after completing the scheduled state visits to France, United Arab Emirates and Bahrain.
- His visit projected India's role in the global arena as well as in the Asian Region. India's prominent stand on protecting environment, climate and digital technology was lauded at the G-7 Summit.
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi led the session on digital transformation highlighting India's efforts in putting digital technology to use to fight social inequalities through empowerment and education.
- He met the world leaders on the sidelines of the G-7 Summit and held bilateral talks. The leaders discussed strengthening strategic partnership with a focus on energy and trade.
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi said that the bilateral discussions were useful and looked forward to expand cooperation as large democracies for the benefit of Indian citizens and global peace and prosperity.
- Mr. Modi wrapped up the visit by addressing the Session on Digital Transformative Technology, furthering innovation and promoting digital payments. He also highlighted the efforts of India towards eliminating single use plastic, conserving water, harnessing solar energy and protecting flora and fauna for a sustainable future.
- AIR correspondent reports that Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit gave a thrust to India's closer ties with partner countries and also rejuvenated old ties by signing of memorandum.
- PM Modi's exceptional accomplishment was lauded by conferring of the **Order of Zayed** by the UAE. The launch of the Rupay Card and the release of the commemorative stamp on Mahatma Gandhi symbolized the importance of friendship in the Emirates.
- PM Modi received the **King Hamad Order of the Renaissance** by the King of Bahrain. The first ever visit of an Indian Prime Minister pardoned 250 Indians serving sentences in the country.
- It was a moment of rare honour for the Indians even as Prime Minister inaugurated the renovated temple of **Shrinathji Krishna Temple** built at 45 thousand square feet land by the Thattai Hindu Merchants Community.



Links:

<http://www.newsonair.com/Main-News-Details.aspx?id=370690>

PM Modi visit to Bahrain

Question: The King Hamad Order of the Renaissance has been conferred to which one of the following leader by King of Bahrain?

(a) Narendra Modi (b) Amit Shah (c) Nirmala Sitharaman (d) Rajnath Singh

Answer: (a)

Related facts:



- Prime Minister Narendra Modi has been conferred the King Hamad Order of the Renaissance by Bahrain's King Hamad bin Isa bin Salman Al Khalifa in Manama, capital of Bahrain.
- He was conferred Bahrain's highest honour during his visit to the gulf country on 24-25 August 2019.
- With this honour, the count of international awards to PM Modi rose to seven since his office assumption in 2014.
- PM Modi arrived in Manama on the third leg of his three-nation tour to France, the UAE and Bahrain. He was received at the airport by Prince Khalifa.
- PM Modi visit to Bahrain is significant as it is the first visit of an Indian Prime Minister to the country.
- During visit, the two leaders discussed ways to strengthen the friendship between India and Bahrain, with a focus on business relations and cultural exchange.
- The two countries signed a string of Memoranda of Understanding (MoUs) in the fields culture, space, solar energy and RuPay card.
- PM Modi also addressed an Indian community event at the Bahrain National Stadium. Prime Minister will witness the formal beginning of the re-development of Shreenathji temple, the oldest in the Gulf region.

Links:

<http://newsonair.com/Main-News-Details.aspx?id=370611>

ASEAN-India Ministerial Meeting

Question: Consider the following statements regarding ASEAN-India Ministerial Meeting:

- (1) Thailand and India co-chaired the ASEAN-India Ministerial Meeting
- (2) Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) has total 16 members
- (3) India is member of RCEP

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

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

Answer: (d)

Related facts:



- On 1st August, 2019 Don Pramudwinai, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Thailand, and Dr. Subrahmanyam Jaishankar, Minister of External Affairs of the Republic of India, co-chaired the ASEAN-India Ministerial Meeting in Bangkok, Thailand.
- It is part of the ASEAN Foreign Ministers' Meetings with its Dialogue Partners in the Post Ministerial Conferences (PMC) series of meetings during the 52nd ASEAN Foreign Ministers' Meeting (52nd AMM) and Post Ministerial Conferences (PMCs) in Bangkok.
- The ASEAN-India Ministerial Meeting sought to strengthen the ASEAN-India Strategic Partnership in all dimensions and noted the need to finalize a new Plan of Action for next year, following the implementation of the current ASEAN-India Plan of Action 2016-2020.

- The Meeting noted the convergence between ASEAN and India's view on the Indo-Pacific, and the growing trade and investment between ASEAN and India.
- The Meeting also discussed regional issues, such as humanitarian and developmental assistance to Rakhine State, and the situation in the South China Sea.
- The Meeting supported the expansion of ASEAN-India connectivity via land and air links, especially via the India-Myanmar-Thailand Trilateral Highway, the Kaladan Multi-Modal Transit Transport Project and the aviation sector.
- In terms of economic collaboration, the Meeting discussed the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) and promoted cooperation between the private sector of ASEAN and India, capacity-building for MSMEs, as well as collaboration on science, technology, and innovation.
- Both sides reaffirmed their commitment to drive forward the ASEAN-India strategic partnership and to promote cooperation that would lead to concrete results and sustainable development.
- Thailand is the current country coordinator for ASEAN-India relations.

Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP):

- The Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) is a proposed free trade agreement (FTA) between the ten member states of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) and its six FTA partners (China, Japan, India, South Korea, Australia and New Zealand).
- RCEP negotiations were formally launched in November 2012 at the ASEAN Summit in Cambodia.

ASEAN (Association of Southeast Asian Nations):

- It is a regional intergovernmental organization comprising ten countries in Southeast Asia, which promotes intergovernmental cooperation and facilitates economic, political, security, military, educational, and socio-cultural integration among its members and other countries in Asia.
- It consists of Brunei, Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, Vietnam and other countries in Asia.
- The ASEAN Secretariat is located at Jakarta, Indonesia.

Links:

<http://www.mfa.go.th/main/en/news3/6886/107176-ASEAN-India-Ministerial-Meeting.html>

NITI Aayog releases Report on the Composite Water Management Index 2.0

Question: Consider the following statement related to Composite Water Management Index (CWMI 2.0):

- (1) This index was launched by NITI Aayog
- (2) It is an important tool to assess and improve the performance of States and Union Territories in efficient management of water resources

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:



- On 23rd August, 2019, NITI Aayog released the second Round of Composite Water Management Index (CWMI 2.0) in New Delhi.

- It was launched by Gajendra Singh Shekhawat, Union Minister of Jal Shakti, and Dr. Rajiv Kumar, Vice Chairman, NITI Aayog.
- Gujarat hold on to its rank one in the reference year (2017-18), followed by Andhra Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Goa, Karnataka and Tamil Nadu.
- In North Eastern and Himalayan States, Himachal Pradesh has been adjudged number 1 in 2017-18 followed by Uttarakhand, Tripura and Assam.
- The Union Territories have first time submitted their data and Puducherry has been declared as the top ranker.
- Inspired by the Prime Minister Narendra Modi's impetus on Jal Sanchay, Jal Shakti Ministry on 1st July, 2019 launched the Jal Shakti Abhiyaan, a campaign for water conservation and water security in 1592 water stressed blocks in 256 districts, to ensure important water conservation interventions.
- The CWMI is an important tool to assess and improve the performance of States and Union Territories in efficient management of water resources.
- To supplement the efforts of Jal Shakti Ministry, NITI Aayog has prepared the second Round of Composite Water Management Index (CWMI 2.0).
- CWMI 2.0 ranks various States for the reference year 2017-18 as against the base year 2016-17.
- NITI Aayog first launched and conceptualized the Composite Water Management Index in 2018 as a tool to instill the sense of cooperative and competitive federalism among the States.

Links:

<https://pib.gov.in/PressReleaselframePage.aspx?PRID=1582632>

66th National Film Awards, 2019

Question: Which film was awarded the Best Feature Film at the 66th National Film Awards, 2019?

(a) Hellaro (b) Andhadhun (c) Uri (d) Badhai Ho

Answer: (a)

Related facts:



- The 66th National Film Awards were announced on 9th August, 2019 by Rahul Rawail, after the jury members submitted their report to I&B Minister Prakash Javadekar with their final recommendations in various categories.
- Ayushman Khurana and Vicky Kaushal shared the **Best Actor** award for their performances in **Andhadhun** and **Uri** respectively.
- **Padman** won the **Best Film on Social Issues** award and **Badhaai Ho** won the **Best Popular Film** award.
- The national film awards are announced every year in April and the awards conferral ceremony is generally held in May but it was delayed this year due to the elections.
- In 2018, Bollywood **veterans Sridevi and Vinod Khanna** were conferred the national film award posthumously.
- **Prominent Winners at the 66th National Film Awards, 2019**
- **Best Film:** Hellaro
- **Best Hindi Film:** Andhadhun
- **Best Direction:** Aditya Dhar (Uri)
- **Best Actor:** Ayushman Khurana, Vicky Kaushal
- **Best Actress:** Keerthy Suresh

Links:

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/66th_National_Film_Awards

National Sports Day

Question: National Sports Day was observed on August 29, 2019. It marks the birth anniversary of which one of the following players?

(a) Dhyan Chand (b) Sunil Gavaskar (c) Sachin Tendulkar (d) Dhanraj Pillay

Answer: (a)

Related facts:

- National Sports Day 2019 (Rashtriya Khel Divas) was observed on 29th August across India.
- The Day marks the birth anniversary of Major Dhyan Chand, the legendary hockey player who was born on 29th August, 1905.
- The Day is observed every year to spread awareness about the importance of sports and games in the life of every individual.
- On the occasion of Sports Day, the President of India confers the National Sports Awards, National Adventure Awards and other awards including Arjuna and Khel Ratna to celebrate the exceptional achievements of Indian athletes.

**Links:**

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

Movement of cargo across borders

Question: Consider the following statements regarding India's first National Time Release Study (TRS):

(1) India's first national Time Release Study (TRS) between 1st – 7th August, 2019

(2) It measures the efficiency and effectiveness of international trade flows

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

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

Answer: (c)

Related facts:

- The Department of Revenue, Ministry of Finance, as part of its strategic commitment to improve global trade, conducted India's first national Time Release Study (TRS) between 1st – 7th August.
- The exercise is institutionalized on an annual basis, during the same period every year hereafter.
- The TRS is an internationally recognized tool advocated by World Customs Organization to measure the efficiency and effectiveness of international trade flows.
- This initiative for accountable governance, will measure rule based and procedural bottlenecks (including physical touch points) in the clearance of goods, from the time of arrival until the physical release of cargo.
- The aim is to identify and address bottlenecks in the trade flow process and take the corresponding policy and operational measures required to improve the effectiveness and efficiency of border procedures, without compromising efficient trade control.



- Expected beneficiaries of this initiative will be export oriented industries and MSMEs, who will enjoy greater standardization of Indian processes with comparable international standards.
- This initiative will help India maintain the upward trajectory on Ease of Doing Business, particularly on the Trading Across Borders indicator which measures the efficiency of the cross border trade ecosystem. Last year India's ranking on the indicator improved from 146 to 80.
- Previously individual customs formations had been independently conducting TRS studies at the port level. The national TRS has taken this a step further and evolved a uniform, multi-dimensional methodology which measures the regulatory and logistics aspects of the cargo clearance process and establishes the average release time for goods.
- The exercise will be conducted at the same time across 15 ports including sea, air, land and dry ports which cumulatively account for 81% of total Bills of Entries for import and 67% of Shipping Bills for export filed within India.
- The national TRS will establish baseline performance measurement and have standardized operations and procedures across all ports.
- Based on the results of the TRS, government agencies associated with cross border trade will be able to diagnose existing and potential bottlenecks which act as barriers to the free flow of trade, and take remedial actions for reducing the cargo release time.
- The initiative is on ground lead by the Central Board of Indirect Tax and Customs.

Links:

<http://pib.gov.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=192428>

International Centre for Automotive Technology (ICAT)

Question: Consider the following statement regarding International Centre for Automotive Technology (ICAT):

(1) International Centre for Automotive Technology is located at Manesar in Gurugram district of Haryana

(2) It is a leading world-class automotive testing, certification and R&D service provider of the above, correct statement/s is/are:

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

Answer: (c)

Related facts:



- International Centre for Automotive Technology is located at Manesar in Gurugram district of Haryana.
- It is a leading world-class automotive testing, certification and R&D service provider under the aegis of National Automotive Testing and R&D Infrastructure Project (NATRiP), Government of India.
- ICAT is an important element of the automotive sector with its world-class infrastructure and domain expertise providing services in development, testing, validation and homologation.
- With Centres of Excellence (CoE) in Component, Powertrain, NVH and Tyre, ICAT intends to eventually transform it into an automotive product development centre.
- National Automotive Testing and R&D Infrastructure Project (NATRiP), is the most significant initiatives in the automotive sector of India.
- Under this project, Government of India, a number of State Governments and Indian Automotive Industry have joined hands to create a state of the art Testing, Validation and R&D infrastructure in the Automotive Sector of the country.
- Further, at the end of this year, the ICAT will also be organizing a NuGen Mobility Summit; 2019. The objective of the Summit is to (a) share new ideas (b) learnings (c) global experiences (d) innovations and (e) future technology trends for faster adoption, assimilation and development of advanced automotive technologies for a smarter and greener future.

Links:

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=189887>

e-Rozgar Samachar

Question: e-Rozgar Samachar journal was launched by which ministry?

- (a) Ministry of Information and Broadcasting
(b) Ministry of Human Resource and Development
(c) Ministry of Law (d) Ministry of Labour & Employment

Answer: (a)

Related facts:

- On 8th August, 2019, the e-version of Rozgar Samachar was launched with a view to make aspirants aware of job opportunities in government sector including public sector enterprises. It was launched by Union Minister of Information & Broadcasting Shri Prakash Javadekar.
- It will also provide information and guidance about admission and career opportunities in various streams through career-oriented articles by experts.
- It will also provide information and guidance about admission and career opportunities in various streams through career-oriented articles by experts.
- Rozgar Samachar is the corresponding version of Employment News (English). Employment News is the flagship weekly job journal from Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, Government of India.
- The journal has been priced at 75% of the cost of its print version and is available for an annual subscription fee of Rs. 400. It can be accessed by visiting the website www.employmentnews.gov.in and clicking on the e-version tab.

**Links:**

<https://www.indiatvnews.com/news/india-i-b-ministry-launches-e-version-of-rozgar-samachar-541104>

Central Waqf Council

Question: Central Waqf Council is a?

- (a) statutory body (b) Non statutory body (c) Constitutional body (d) Non Constitutional body

Answer: (a)

Related facts:

- Central Waqf Council is a statutory body under the administrative control of the Ministry of Minority Affairs, was set up in 1964 as per the provision given in the Waqf Act, 1954.
- The Council consists of Chairperson, who is the Union Minister In charge of Waqf and such other members, not exceeding 20 in number, as may be appointed by the Government of India.
- Presently Shri Mukhtar Abbas Naqvi, Union Minister of Minority Affairs is the ex-officio Chairperson of the Central Waqf Council.
- The 12th Council was constituted on 4th February, 2019.



Major Function:

- To advise Central Government, State Governments, State Waqf Boards on matters concerning the working of the Boards and due administration of Auqaf.
- To monitor the implementation of the provisions of Waqf (Amendment) Act, 2013 in States and UTs.
- To render legal advice on protection and retrieval of the Waqf Properties and for removal of encroachment etc.
- To implement the Scheme for Development of Urban Waqf Properties & Identification of potential Waqf land for development by National Waqf Development Corporation Ltd.

Links:

<http://centralwaqfcouncil.gov.in/content/introduction>

Final NRC list of Assam published

Question: How many people were left out in the Assam's final list of NRC published on 31st August, 2019?

(a) 19.07 lakh (b) 21.03 lakh (c) 23.07 lakh (d) 17.01 lakh

Answer: (a)

Related facts:

- In Assam, the Final National Register of Citizens (NRC) list was released on 31st August, 2019.
- Names of 3.11 crore applicants have been included whereas 19.07 lakh have been excluded from the list.
- Excluded individuals can file appeal before the Foreigners Tribunals.
- For so cause, Assam government will establish 400 Foreigners' Tribunals in the state to deal with such appeals.



National Register of Citizens (NRC):

- The NRC has immense significance for the people of Assam as the state witnessed a six-year-long movement between 1979 and 1985 seeking detection and deportation of illegal Bangladeshis.
- The draft NRC, which was published last year, excluded names of over 40 lakh people from the document due to some discrepancies in their documents.
- Over 36 lakh of them applied afresh to get their names included in the final NRC.
- The process of updation of NRC was carried out by the Registrar General of India and was being closely monitored by the Supreme Court. The process started in 2013 as per order of the apex court.

Links:

<http://www.newsonair.com/News?title=Final-NRC-of-Assam-released%3B-Over-19-lakh-people-excluded&id=370761>

Automated Multimodal Biometric Identification System (AMBIS)

Question: The Automated Multimodal Biometric Identification System (AMBIS) is launched by which state government?

(a) Maharashtra (b) West Bengal (c) Uttarakhand (d) Tamil Nadu

Answer: (a)

Related facts:

- On 29th July, 2019, a state-of-the-art tracking system for criminals arrested in Mumbai was launched at the Mumbai Police headquarters.

Automated Multimodal Biometric Identification System (AMBIS):

- The Automated Multimodal Biometric Identification System (AMBIS) is connected to a central server and it stores photographs, fingerprints and retinal scans of all criminals of record.
- AMBIS was designed with the purpose of identifying suspects at the click of a mouse and providing information about criminal elements to other police forces, be it within the country or abroad.
- This system is being implemented in 94 police stations in Mumbai. The availability of new technology platforms has helped maintain law and order in the best possible way.
- AMBIS is being launched in Mumbai on a pilot basis, the State Government plans to make it available at 1,160 police stations in 42 commissionerates in Maharashtra, with 2,600 police personnel being trained in its operation.
- Police personnel will also be provided with portable units that can collect fingerprints from crime scenes, which will be fed into the AMBIS server.
- The system will also be connected to the citywide CCTV camera network in Mumbai, as well as the Central Government's Crime and Criminal Tracking Network System, which aims to connect all police forces in the country.
- AMBIS will operate under the purview of the Maharashtra Cyber Department.



Links:

<https://www.thehindu.com/news/cities/mumbai/mumbai-police-get-first-of-its-kind-biometric-criminal-tracking-system/article28752819.ece>

All CAPF personnel to retire at 60 years

Question: Recently Government issued an Order relating to the age of retirement of CAPF personnel. The age of retirement will be?

(a) 57yrs (b) 58yrs (c) 59yrs (d) 60yrs

Answer: (d)

Related facts:

- Government of India issued an order that all Central Armed Police Forces (CAPFs) personnel will now retire at a uniform age of 60 years.
- As per the Order issued by Union Home Ministry, all personnel of the forces, the Border Security Force, Sashastra Seema Bal, Central Reserve Police Force and Indo-Tibetan Border Police will retire at the age of 60, instead of 57 years for certain rank of officials.



Links:

<https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/all-capf-personnel-to-retire-at-60-years-government-order/article29157500.ece>

Reshuffle: UP Council of Ministers

Question: After the expansion/reshuffle of his Cabinet, Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath, kept how many departments with him?

(a) 34 (b) 35 (c) 36 (d) 37

Answer: (d)

Related facts:



- On 22nd August, 2019, Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath has allocated portfolios to ministers inducted into the Cabinet, keeping 37 departments, including Home and Revenue, with him.
- On 21st August, 2019, Mr. Adityanath inducted 18 new members in his Council of Ministers in the first reshuffle since the BJP government came to power in the State two and a half years ago.
- Twenty-three ministers were sworn in by Governor Anandiben Patel at the Raj Bhavan. Six of the 23 were sworn in as cabinet ministers, six as ministers of State with an independent charge and the remaining 11 got the MoS rank. Five ministers had resigned on 20th August, 2019.
- Deputy Chief Minister Keshav Prasad Maurya was given the charge of PWD, Food Processing, Entertainment Tax and Public Enterprises Departments.
- Deputy Chief Minister Dinesh Sharma was allocated Secondary and Higher Education, Science and Technology, Electronics and Information Technology.
- Besides other departments, Adityanath also kept Housing, Mining, Secretariat Administration, Appointment, Information and Institutional Finance.
- Sidharth Nath Singh, holds the charge of Khadi and Villages Industries, Sericulture Industries, Textiles, MSME, Export Promotion, NRI and Investment Promotion.
- Suresh Kumar Khanna was given the important Finance, Parliamentary Affairs and Medical Education departments.
- Jai Pratap Singh got Medical and Health, Family Welfare Mother and Child Welfare. Ashutosh Tandon got the charge of the Urban Development Ministry.
- Agriculture, Agriculture Education and Agriculture Research departments were given to Surya Pratap Shahi.
- Swami Prasad Maurya has been given Labour, Employment and Coordination departments, while Satish Mahana got Industrial Development department.
- Brijesh Pathak will hold the charge of Legislative, Justice, and Rural Engineering services departments. Mahendra Singh will look after the Jal Shakti department.
- Nand Gopal Gupta got Civil Aviation, Political Pension, Minority Welfare and Muslim Waqf and Haj departments.

- Upendra Tiwari was given the charge of Sports, Youth Welfare and Panchayati Raj departments. Nilkanth Tiwari got Tourism, Culture and Religious Affairs while Kapil Dev Agarwal got Commercial Education.
- Satish Dwivedi was given the Basic Education department and Ashok Katariya the Transport. The Agricultural marketing department was given to Shriram Chauhan.

Links:

http://upcmo.up.nic.in/cabinet_minister.htm

First OEM in India to meet BS-VI emission norms

Question: Which is the the first Indian original equipment manufacturer (OEM), which recently upgraded itself to meet the Bharat Stage (BS) VI emission standard?

- (a) Eicher Ltd (b) Hindustan Motors Ltd (c) Ashok Leyland
(d) Mahindra Trucks & Buses Ltd

Answer: (c)

Related facts:

- On 29 August, 2019; Ashok Leyland, an Indian automobile major became the 1st Indian original equipment manufacturer (OEM) to meet the Bharat Stage (BS) VI emission standards.
- The company based in Chennai, Tamil Nadu, got the Bharat Stage (BS) VI emission standards for all its heavy-duty trucks with a gross vehicle weight of 16.2 tonnes and above.
- N Saravanan, Chief Technology Officer of Ashok Leyland got the certificates for compliance to BS-VI emission standard from the Automotive Research Association of India (ARAI).
- Also, Ashok Leyland was the 1st company to showcase Euro-VI trucks during Auto Expo 2016 held in New Delhi.
- Automotive Research Association of India (ARAI) is an autonomous body affiliated to the Ministry of Heavy Industries and Public Enterprises.



Links:

https://www.business-standard.com/article/companies/ashok-leyland-meets-bs-vi-emission-norms-for-all-its-heavy-duty-vehicles-119090300604_1.html

AC ferry service likely to begin

Question: Between which two cities an AC ferry service is to be started in a bid to enhance tourism?

- (a) Mumbai And Surat (b) Surat and Patna (c) Patna to Varanasi
(d) Mumbai to Ahemdabad

Answer :(a)

Related facts:

- On August 31, 2019, principal approval has been given by Gujarat Government for a ferry service between Mumbai and Surat. Operations are likely to begin in November this year.
- The air-conditioned passenger ferry service, with 20 rooms and with a capacity of 300 passengers, will operate between Hazira port in Surat and Bandra in Mumbai once a week initially, and its frequency will be increased depending on public response.
- The Gujarat government operates a Roll on-Roll off (Ro-Ro) passenger cum cargo ferry service between Dahej in Surat and Ghogha in Bhavnagar district(Gujarat) under a public-private partnership (PPP) mode.



Links:

<https://www.firstpost.com/india/mumbai-surat-ac-ferry-service-likely-to-begin-weekly-operations-from-november-cruise-ship-to-ply-between-hazira-port-and-bandra-7262551.html>

Vice President M. Venkaiah Naidu inaugurated India's longest electrified rail tunnel

Question: Recently, Vice President M. Venkaiah Naidu has inaugurated India's longest electrified rail tunnel in which of the following state?

(a) Andhra Pradesh (b) Tamil Nadu (c) Maharashtra (d) Telangana

Answer : (a)

Related facts:

- On 1 September 2019, Vice President M. Venkaiah Naidu inaugurated India's longest electrified rail tunnel between **Cherlopalli and Rapuru stations of Andhra Pradesh**.
- The **6.6-km long tunnel is a part of the Obulavaripalli-Venkatachalam railway line**.
- The country's first electrified tunnel is built in the shape of a '**horse shoe**' using the **New Austrian Tunneling Method (NATM)**.
- Construction of the tunnel was a major challenge as the tunnel area was full of **quartzite and phyllite rocks**.
- The tunnel construction was completed in a record time of 43 months.
- Built at a cost of ₹437 crore, Vice President M. Venkaiah Naidu termed the tunnel "**an engineering marvel**."
- The height of tunnel (rail level to roof) is **6.5 meters** and the minimum height of contact wire is maintained at **5.2 meters**.



Links:

<https://www.livemint.com/news/india/india-s-longest-electrified-rail-tunnel-inaugurated-in-andhra-pradesh-key-things-to-know-1567421369057.html>

Samudrayaan project

Question: Consider the following statement regarding Samudrayaan project:

- (1) With this project India aims to send men to the deep sea in a submersible vehicle
- (2) Submarine Vehicle is capable of crawling on the sea bed at a depth of six kilometer for 72 hours
- (3) The Samudrayaan is a part of the Ministry of Earth Sciences' pilot project for deep ocean mining for rare minerals

Of the above correct statement/s is/are:

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

Answer : (d)

Related facts:

- India's ambition to send men to the deep sea in a submersible vehicle is likely to be executed in 2021-22 with the 'Samudrayaan' project.
- According to National Institute of Ocean Technology (NIOT), the project proposes to send a submersible vehicle with three persons to a depth of about 6000 metres to carry out deep underwater studies.



- The indigenously developed vehicle is capable of crawling on the sea bed at a depth of six kilometer for 72 hours.
- “Similar to ISRO’s plan to carry persons on a space mission, NIOT has undertaken Samudrayaan.
- The ₹200 crore project proposes to carry three persons in a submersible vehicle to a depth of 6000 metros under sea for various studies.

Features of Samudrayaan Project:

- The success of the ‘Samudrayaan’ will help India to join the league of developed nations in exploration of minerals from oceans,
- Such missions had already been carried by developed countries and India could be the first among the developing nations,
- The ‘Samudrayaan’ is a part of the Ministry of Earth Sciences’ pilot project for deep ocean mining for rare minerals.
- India has been allocated a site of 75,000 sq km in the Central Indian Ocean Basin by the International Sea Bed Authority for exploration of polymetallic nodules from seabed.
- The estimated resource of polymetallic nodules is about 380 million tonnes, containing 4.7 million tonnes of nickel, 4.29 million tonnes of copper and 0.55 million tonnes of cobalt and 92.59 million tonnes of manganese.

Links:

<https://www.livemint.com/news/india/india-to-join-developed-nations-in-ocean-studies-with-samudrayaan-project-1567353695501.html>

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>

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 matter 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 not be filed Period of Legislative Assembly was 6years. Jammu & Kashmir had a separate flag J&K had a separate constitution Ladakh was a part of Jammu & Kashmir The constitutional head was Governor	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 on filing RTI Now, It will be for five years Only the National Flag will be there No separate constitution, law & order will be under center government Ladakh will be a separate Union Territory without a legislature Now, 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>

International

Taiwan cuts ties with Kiribati amid China tension

Question: Kiribati Island is located in which of the following oceans?

(a) Pacific Ocean (b) Atlantic Ocean (c) Indian Ocean (d) Arctic Ocean

Answer: (a)

Related facts:

- On 20th September Taiwan announced that it has cut official ties with the Pacific island nation of Kiribati, losing another ally amid Chinese pressure on the nations that have diplomatic relations with the self-ruled island.
- Kiribati is the seventh country Taiwan will lose diplomatically since President Tsai Ing-wen came to office in 2016, following Burkina Faso, the Dominican Republic, Sao Tome and Principe, Panama, El Salvador and the Solomon Islands.
- China claims Taiwan as its territory, and says the democratic island has no right to formal ties with any country.
- Taiwan Foreign Minister Joseph Wu told reporters that Taipei has terminated diplomatic ties with Kiribati and will immediately close down its embassy there, days after the Solomon Islands cut off ties with Taipei.
- **Republic of Kiribati** is a sovereign state in Micronesia in the central Pacific Ocean.



Links:

<https://www.reuters.com/article/us-taiwan-diplomacy-kiribati/taiwan-cuts-ties-with-kiribati-amid-china-tension-idUSKBN1W50DI>

QS Graduate Employability Rankings 2020

Question: Which Indian Institute has been ranked top amongst the other Indian Institutes in the QS World University ranking?

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

Answer: (c)

Related facts:

- QS Graduate Employability Rankings 2020 lists the top 500 universities according to their ability to provide their students with a successful career.
- Three Indian Institute of Technologies (IITs) and Delhi University have ranked among the top 200 in QS World Graduate Employability Rankings.
- The Indian Institute of Bombay (IIT-B) leads India's representation in the latest QS Graduate Employability Rankings 2020 for second time in a row with a 111-120 band ranking.
- IIT Delhi, IIT Madras and Delhi University are the other best Indian institutes ranked among top 200.
- Apart from this, IIT Kharagpur, BITS Pilani, University of Mumbai, IISc Bangalore, IIT Kanpur and the University of Calcutta have also been ranked among 201-500 range in the 2020 QS World Graduate Employability Rankings.



Methodology:

- The methodology behind this ranking utilizes the following five key indicators:
- Employer Reputation
- Alumni Outcomes
- Partnerships with Employers per Faculty
- Employer-Student Connections
- Graduate Employment Rate

Top 10 institutes on the QS World Graduate Employability Rankings 2020:

- (1) Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT), United States
- (2) Stanford University, United States
- (3) University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA), United States
- (4) The University of Sydney, Australia
- (5) Harvard University, United States
- (6) Tsinghua University, China
- (7) The University of Melbourne, Australia
- (8) University of Cambridge, United Kingdom
- (9) The University of Hong Kong, Hong Kong
- (10) University of Oxford, United Kingdom

Links:

https://www.business-standard.com/article/jobs/iit-bombay-top-indian-institute-in-qg-graduate-employability-rankings-2020-119091901135_1.html

Earthquake in Pakistan occupied Kashmir

Question: What was the magnitude of earthquake that hit the Pakistan-occupied Kashmir on 25 September 2019?

(a) 5.8 (b) 5.2 (c) 6.4 (d) 7.8

Answer: (a)

Related facts:

- On 25 September 2019, a powerful 5.8-magnitude earthquake hit Pakistan-occupied Kashmir and several cities in the north-eastern parts of the country.
- As per US Geological Survey, the epicentre of the powerful 5.8-magnitude earthquake, was near Mirpur city in the Pakistan-occupied Kashmir.
- According to the Home Department, 30 people were killed and over 370 injured in Mirpur and the numbers are likely to be increased.
- Also, tremors were felt across several north Indian States, including Jammu and Kashmir, the Delhi-National Capital Region, Punjab and Himachal Pradesh.
- Prior to this, in October 2015, a 7.5-magnitude quake in Pakistan and Afghanistan killed almost 400 people.
- Pakistan was also hit by a 7.6-magnitude quake on October 8, 2005, that killed nearly 90,000 people in PoK and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.



Links:

<https://www.thehindu.com/news/international/many-killed-in-pok-after-earthquake-jolts-north-pakistan/article29500160.ece>

Saudi Arabia oil factory attacked by drone

Question: Which of the following terrorist organization has attacked the Aramco oil plant in Saudi Arabia recently?

(a) Taliban (b) ISIS (c) Houthi (d) Boko Haram

Answer: (c)

Related facts:

- On 14th September 2019, twin drone attacks to Saudi Arabia's Abqaiq oil refinery and Khurais oil field disrupted the global oil supply.
- Abqaiq is about 60km (37 miles) south-west of Dhahran in Saudi Arabia's Eastern Province, while Khurais, some 200km further south-west, has the country's second largest oilfield.
- Rebel Houthi group of Yemen claimed the responsibility of attacks who have been locked in a war with a Saudi-UAE-led coalition since 2015.
- The attack has impacted around 5 million barrels per day of crude production. This volume is close to half of the kingdom's output or 5% of global daily oil supply.
- The disruptive action by rebel group Houthis is reply to the Saudi Arabia's earlier intervention in Yemen civil war in 2015 against the Houthis.
- A military coalition(coalition of nine countries from the Middle East and Africa) led by Saudi Arabia intervened in Yemen on March 26, 2015, at Hadi's request(Yemen President), for military support after he was ousted by the Houthi movement due to economic and political grievances.
- Riyadh accuses Iran of arming the Houthis which is denied by the group and Tehran.
- The Iran-aligned Houthi rebel movement has been fighting the Yemeni government and a Saudi-led coalition and is regulating its operation from capital Sanaa.
- Fellow Gulf OPEC producers the United Arab Emirates and Kuwait have condemned the attack and held its support to Saudi Arabia.
- Tensions have escalated in the middle-east region since the withdrawal of US from the nuclear deal and extended economic sanctions on Iran.



Links:

<https://www.bbc.com/news/world-middle-east-49699429>

24th World Energy Congress

Question: 24th World Energy Congress was hosted by which of the following country?

(a) UAE (b) Saudi Arab (c) Switzerland (d) Qatar

Answer: (a)

Related facts:

- The 24th World Energy Congress was held in Abu Dhabi, at the Abu Dhabi National Exhibition Centre, United Arab Emirates (UAE) from 9-12 September 2019.
- The triennial Congress was held under the patronage of Sheikh Khalifa bin Zayed Al Nahyan, President of UAE.
- Theme of this year's 4-day World Energy Congress was 'Energy for Prosperity'.
- With over 150 countries represented, it is the world's largest and most influential energy event covering all aspects of the energy agenda.



- Running since 1924, the triennial World Energy Congress enables dialogue amongst Ministers, CEOs, policy-makers and industry practitioners on critical developments in the energy sector.
- The World Energy Council is the principal impartial network of leaders and practitioners promoting an affordable, stable and environmentally sensitive energy system for the greatest benefit of all.

Links:

<https://www.wec24.org/what-is-the-world-energy-congress>

Sri Lanka flags off a Make in India train

Question: What is the name of the first Make in India train flagged off by Sri Lanka recently?

- (a) Deyata Express (b) Udarata Menike Express
(c) Pulathisi Express (d) None of these

Answer: (c)

Related facts:



- India's southern neighbor Sri Lanka received a newly 'Make In India' train named Pulathisi Express rake was flagged off from Colombo Fort Railway station on September 11, 2019.
- This train was manufactured in the Integral Coach Factory (ICF) in Chennai.
- Sri Lankan President Maithripala Sirisena and other dignitaries inaugurated the train and flagged off to Polonnaruwa from Colombo Fort Railway station.
- ICF will manufacture six DEMU train sets with 78 coaches in five variants as per an agreement done earlier.
- The order is being jointly executed by RITES and ICF under the India-Sri Lanka economic cooperation agreement.

Salient features of the train:

- The train is loaded with plush interiors, GPS-based passenger information system in all coaches
- Halogen-free rubber flooring, individually revolving seats and the individual audio controls for AC class passengers are also in the train.
- Each DEMU rake consists of 13 cars, having two driving power cars with economy class seating, two driving trailer cars with economy class seating, two air-conditioned chair cars with rotatable seats, two business class chair cars and five economy class coaches.
- The coach design was finalised as per the customer's choice and ICF geared up to meet the export order in time.
- The car body along with all interior fittings is made up of authentic stainless steel and special paint has been used on the coaches and under-frame to prevent corrosion.

Links:

<https://www.financialexpress.com/infrastructure/railways/sri-lankas-new-swanky-luxury-train-pulathisi-express-is-an-indian-railways-make-in-india-product-details/1703990/>

Peace talk called off between USA and Taliban

Question: Recently, US had declared to call off the peace talk with Taliban in Afghanistan. Which of the following diplomat headed this peace talk from US side?

(a) Jim Mattis (b) Richardson (c) Tulasi Gabbard (d) Zalmay Khalilzad

Answer: (d)

Related facts:

- US long going peace talk with terrorist organization Taliban in Afghanistan to end the war of more than 18 years had been called off abruptly after a recent **terrorist attack in Kabul done by Taliban**.
- U.S. President Donald Trump announced this on September 7, 2019.
- There was a peace talk going on between US and Afghanistan to get the US troop out of Afghanistan after decades of violence.
- **Zalmay Khalilzad had led the peace talk from the side of US with Taliban.**
- Taliban controls now more territory than at any time since 2001.



The Peace deal:

- U.S. and Taliban had struck a draft peace deal which could lead to a drawdown in U.S. troops from America's longest war.
- The draft proposes withdrawal of around 5000 U.S. troops over the coming months in return of the guarantee by the Taliban that Afghanistan would not be used as a base for militant attacks on the United States and its allies.
- It was mentioned that a full peace agreement to end **more than 18 years of war would depend on subsequent "intra Afghan" talks**.
- The Taliban have rejected calls for a ceasefire and instead stepped up operations across the country.

Afghanistan government role:

- The Taliban replied on September 8 that this cancellation would lead to fresh losses to American lives in Afghanistan.
- Afghan President Ashraf Ghani had requested Taliban to end violence and talk directly to his government amid cancellation.
- Taliban have so far refused to talk to the Afghan government claiming it having no popular support.

US troops in Afghanistan:

- The Taliban, radical Islamists who ran Afghanistan and protected Bin Laden, refused to hand him over. So, a month after 9/11, the US launched air strikes against Afghanistan.
- As other countries joined the war, the Taliban were quickly removed from power. But they didn't just disappear – their influence grew back and they dug in.
- Since then, the US and its allies have struggled to stop Afghanistan's government collapsing, and to end deadly attacks by the Taliban.

Links:

<https://www.bbc.com/news/world-asia-49624132>

Hong Kong extradition bill issue

Question: Consider the following statements in reference to the recent Hong Kong unrest and choose the correct option:

- (1) There had been a violent protest over the proposed extradition bill by the Chinese government.
- (2) This bill allowed the person in trial to be extradited to mainland China for further proceedings.
- (3) Hong Kong was taken over by China in 1997 after an agreement with Portugal.
- (4) The leader of Hong Kong is Carrie Lam.

Correct Option:

- (a) 1, 2 and 4
- (b) 1, 3 and 4
- (c) 1 and 4 only
- (d) All of the above.

Answer: (a)

Related facts:



- China administered **Hong Kong** had witnessed a mass protest since months. It reached its 13th week recently.
- The protests started in the month of June against an extradition bill proposed by the Hong Kong government.

Point of contention; the Extradition Bill:

- The extradition bill which proposes to allow the city government to extradite any suspect to places with which Hong Kong does not have extradition accords.
- With this, the **suspects can be extradited to mainland China**. It was brought in **April 2019** since when the protest erupted.
- The current extradition agreements had left mainland China and Taiwan as these regions have fundamentally different criminal justice systems.
- As per the government, this rule helped the criminals to avoid trial elsewhere by taking refuge in the city.
- This bill would close the loophole so that suspects wanted elsewhere, including in mainland China, could be extradited.
- The **extradition plan applies to 37 crimes**, including murder, sexual offences, abduction, drug peddling and corruption, with retroactive effect.
- People opposed the bill as it can increase the **cases of unfair trials** and violent treatment.
- People are worried of the growing instances of **Beijing's meddling in Hong Kong's affairs** and rising authoritarian traits of the city's rulers.
- This bill could have allowed China to **target the pro-democracy activists and active critics of Chinese policies**.
- It would have practically broken the existing legal barriers between Hong Kong and mainland China that are guaranteed under the " " model.

One Country Two System Model:

- Hong Kong was a **British colony** for more than 150 years. It was taken over by China in 1997 under this model.

- **Hong Kong and Macau** are the two **Special Administrative Regions** under which they can have different economic and political systems from that of mainland China even being part of the People's Republic of China.
- The **One Country Two Systems** policy was originally proposed by **Deng Xiaoping** shortly after he took the reins of the country in the late 1970s allowing the parts to have a separate system of administration.
- The island has since been run as a **separate entity from the mainland China** with more autonomy than mainland China, except in foreign and defence affairs.
- This autonomy helped in establishing Hong Kong as an **economic hub** with massive flourish of business and trade making it the business centre of Asia.
- Hong Kong's mini-constitution, **the Basic Law**, says it should ultimately both the leader, and the Legislative Council, should be elected in a more democratic way.

Current scenario:

- **Hong Kong leader Carrie Lam** announced on **September 5, 2019** that the government has decided for the **withdrawal of the city's controversial extradition bill**.
- Still a large part of **protest is going on** demanding **full-fledged democracy** in the island with regular elections and representative government.

Links:

<https://www.bbc.com/news/world-asia-china-49589440>

Global Liveable Index 2019

Question: Which of the following city has been recently declared as the most livable city in the world as per EIU?

(a) Paris (b) London (c) Vienna (d) Oslo

Answer: (c)

Related facts:

- The city of **Vienna, Austria** has been ranked the **most liveable city** in the world for the second year in a row as per the latest **Global Livability Index 2019** released by **The Economist Intelligence Unit (EIU)** on **September 4, 2019**.
- The list includes **140 cities** all around the world under several parameters.
- **Vienna** had the highest scores for stability, culture and environment, education and infrastructure and health care.
- **Melbourne, Sydney, Osaka, and Calgary, Canada** is included in the top five cities in the index.
- **Asian cities** have scored slightly below the global average while **three Asian cities — Port Moresby in Papua New Guinea (135th), Pakistan's Karachi (136th) and Bangladesh's Dhaka (138th)** — are among the ten least liveable globally.
- **London and New York** has been ranked 48th and 58th out of the 140 cities in the survey.



BRICS countries:

- **Rio de Janeiro (Brazil)** was positioned at the 89th place, **Moscow (Russia)** at 68th, **St Petersburg (Russia)** 71st.
- The Chinese cities in the list include **Suzhou** at 75th rank, **Beijing** 76th, **Tianjin** 79th, **Shanghai** 80th.
- **Indian cities:**

- **Delhi** has been dropped by six places to rank **118th** in the latest ranking scoring **56.3 point**. It is due to increase in cases of petty crimes and poor air quality.
- **Finance capital Mumbai** also fell two places since last year and ranked **119th** on the list due to a downgrade in its culture scores.
- **The report has mentioned “an escalation in abuses against journalists in recent years” in India.**

Ranking categories:

- The EIU said its ranking of 140 cities is based on their scores in five broad categories — **stability, healthcare, culture and environment, education, and infrastructure.**
- War hit Syrian capital **Damascus** has scored least in the list with 30.7 points.

Links:

<https://www.ndtv.com/world-news/vienna-declared-most-liveable-city-for-second-year-by-global-survey-2095229>

72nd Session of WHO Regional Committee

Question: Which Indian minister presided over the Ministerial Roundtable on “Emergency Preparedness” at 72nd Session of WHO Regional Committee for South-East Asia on September 2, 2019?

(a) Narendra Modi (b) Amit Shah (c) Dr Harsh Vardhan (d) Anurag Thakur

Answer: (c)

Related facts:

- The 72nd Regional Committee Session of the World Health Organization’s (WHO) South-East Asia Region was held in New Delhi.
- Union Health Minister Dr Harsh Vardhan presided the chair in the **Ministerial Roundtable on “Emergency Preparedness”**.
- Eight Ministers of Health from 8 of the 11 countries of the WHO South East Asia Region (SEAR), Dr Poonam Khetrapal Singh, Regional Director, WHO South-East Asia Region and senior officers of the Health Ministry were also present at the Ministerial Roundtable.
- Dr Harsh Vardhan also led the yoga session at the venue and the delegates practiced yoga.
- **The Health Ministers of the South-East Asia Region of WHO also signed the Delhi Declaration on Emergency Preparedness.**
- **India also announced to contribute \$2,00,000 towards implementation of the preparedness stream under the South-East Asia Health Emergency Response Fund (SEARHEF).**
- Health ministers of six countries were felicitated for public health achievements in different sectors.
- Sri Lanka was recognized for eliminating measles while Bangladesh, Bhutan, Nepal and Thailand were felicitated for becoming the first four countries from the region to control Hepatitis B. Maldives was awarded for eliminating mother-to-child transmission of HIV and syphilis.
- **The Health Minister also informed that the government of India has provided timely medical supplies to 13 countries requiring humanitarian assistance spread over South East Asia, Asia Pacific and Africa worth 10 million US dollars.**
- Cyclone Fani was highlighted as a case study in early preparedness and disaster management. Under accurate weather prediction, effective early warnings, sturdy



preparedness for timely evacuation of nearly 1.15 million people to 6575 cyclone shelters, combined with other risk mitigation measures helped to save many human lives.

Links:

<https://pib.gov.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=192977>

22nd Session of UN Committee on CRPD

Question: Where did the 22nd session of the UN Committee on Convention on Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD) take place recently?

(a) New York (b) Geneva (c) Manila (d) Hague

Answer: (b)

Related facts:

- India is a signatory of the **United Nations Convention on Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UNCRPD)**. It ratified this Convention on 01 October 2007 in pursuance of **Article 35** of the Convention.
- India submitted its **First Country Report** on Status of Disability in India in November 2015.
- The UN Committee on CRPD in its **22nd Session** took up India's First Country Report for consideration during **2nd & 3rd September 2019 at UNHRC, Geneva**.
- An Indian delegation headed by **Shakuntala D. Gamlin**, Secretary, DEPwD deposed before the UN Committee during the process of consideration of the report.



Initiatives taken by Government for PwDs:

- The various initiatives taken by the Government in the recent past for **inclusion and empowerment of PwDs** in line with the obligations under UNCRPD like enactment of the **Comprehensive RPwD Act, 2016**, launch of **Accessible India Campaign**, establishment of **National Institute of Mental Health Rehabilitation (NIMHR)** to address issues concerning psycho-social disability, etc.
- The UN Committee while appreciating the provisions of the **RPwD Act, 2016** and various initiatives of the Government of India. It also welcomed the efforts of the Government of India and noted the response of the Indian delegation.

Links:

<https://pib.gov.in/PressReleaseDetail.aspx?PRID=1584572>

North Korea tested super-large multiple rocket launcher

Question: Recently which country has tested a super-large multiple rocket launcher?

(a) North Korea (b) South Korea (c) Japan (d) United states

Answer : (a)

Related Fact:

- On 11 September 2019, North Korea claimed that it has conducted a second test of its new super-large multiple rocket launcher under the guidance of its leader Kim Jong-Un.
- North Korea resumed missile-testing after a 17 month pause that lasted from November 2017 to May 3, 2019 having faced pressures from international community.
- It was the 10th weapon test that North Korea has conducted this year.



- Earlier, North Korea had fired multiple short-range missiles in May this year.
- On the other hand, South Korea military has claimed that North Korea launched two unidentified projectiles from its western region toward the East Sea.

Links:

<https://edition.cnn.com/2019/09/10/asia/north-korea-projectiles-launch/index.html>

Group of Seven (G7) Summit, 2019

Question: Who among the following is not a member of Group of Seven (G7) organization?

(a) India (b) France (c) Canada (d) Japan

Answer: (a)

Related facts:

null



- On 26th August, 2019, Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi attended the G7 summit, despite India not being a member of the grouping.
- India was personally invited to be a part of the summit by French President Emmanuel Macron. This reflected the personal chemistry between the two leaders and also recognition of India as a major economic power.
- PM Modi reached Biarritz, France for the Summit on 25th August.
- He participated in two sessions at the G7 summit on climate, biodiversity, oceans, taxation and on digital transformation. He will hold separate bilateral interactions with the world leaders.

How India in the summit:

- India has been specially invited as a Biarritz partner country for the 45th G7 Summit along with other nations including Australia, Spain, Chile, South Africa, Senegal, Egypt, Iran and Rwanda.
- The main **theme** of the G7 summit this year is “**Combating Inequality**” and its main focus will be on the climate and biodiversity.
- India has been invited to attend the G7 summit after a gap of almost 10 years. The last time India was invited to the summit was in 2005, when the then British Prime Minister Tony Blair had invited the then Indian PM Manmohan Singh to attend the G7 summit in Gleneagles, Scotland.

Group of Seven (G7):

- The Group of Seven (G7) is an international inter-governmental economic organization consisting of the seven largest IMF-described advanced economies in the world.
- This Group consists of Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, the United Kingdom, and the United States.
- Between 1997 and 2014, the group included Russia and was known as the Group of Eight, and had for a year been known as the Group of Six before the 1976 inclusion of Canada.
- The last G7 summit in 2018 was hosted by Canada in La Malbaie, Quebec.

Links:

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

Amazon Rainforest fire

Question: Recently Amazon rainforest which caught fire and is at risk of getting burn out completely is located in which continent?

(a) South America (b) Europe (c) Australia (d) Africa

Answer: (a)

Related facts:

- Amazon rainforest, the world's largest rain forest is at the risk of getting burned out completely in South American Continent.
- The rainforest, which contributes almost 20 percent of the earth's oxygen, has been burning for over 18 days resulting in a major loss of trees and biodiversity.
- Amazon rainforest fire impact can already be seen in different regions in South America including the Atlantic coast and Sao Paulo, Brazil's largest city.



Cause of forest fire:

- Though forest fires are common in the Amazon during this dry season in the southern Amazon.
- The worrisome fact is that the burning has increased at a time when there is a huge decrease in the rates of deforestation in Brazilian Amazon.
- According to environmentalists, 99 percent of the forest fires are a result of human actions, either on purpose or by accident. Farmers and ranchers use fire generally to clear the land for further utilization which also fit perfectly into the established seasonal agricultural pattern.
- Farmers generally wait for the dry season to start burning and clearing areas so that their cattle can graze.

Impact:

- There have been around 72,843 forest fires in Brazil in 2019 itself (which is 80 percent more than the previous year) with more than half in the Amazon rainforest.
- According to scientists, the Amazon rainforest fire could deliver a huge blow to the global fight against climate change. The fire will not only result in a major loss of trees and biodiversity but also release excess CO₂ into the atmosphere.
- The forest fires also release pollutants including particulate matter and toxic gases such as carbon monoxide, nitrogen oxides and non-methane organic compounds into the atmosphere.
- Amazon rainforest, considered to be as the planet's lungs as it is vital to slow down global warming. The rainforest is currently home to uncountable species of fauna and flora.
- While the immediate impact of the fire would be changes in the heating of the regional atmosphere, in the long term it is expected to lead to a potential decline in natural carbon.

About Amazon Rainforest

- The Amazon rainforest is the largest rainforest on Earth.
- The rainforest is home to 40 percent of the world's tropical forest and holds 20 percent of the world's freshwater supply.
- It is also home to 10 percent of the world's species and 40,000 plant species and around 3000 varieties of edible fruits.

- Further, the Amazon rainforest is also the natural habitat of 430 species of mammals and millions of insect species.

Links:

<https://www.jagranjosh.com/current-affairs/amazon-rainforest-fire-cause-and-global-impact-1566462374-1>

Akshay Kumar is World's 4th highest-paid actor

Question: Which only bollywood actor has been ranked in the released Forbes list of Highest-Paid Actors 2019?

(a) Akshay Kumar (b) Shahrukh Khan (c) Salman Khan (d) Amir Khan

Answer:(a)

Related facts:

- In the released Forbes list of the Highest-Paid Actors 2019, Bollywood star Akshay Kumar has secured the fourth spot with annual earnings of USD 65 million (about Rs 450 crore).
- Akshay Kumar is the only Bollywood actor who has been featured in the list.
- Dwayne Johnson of Hollywood (popularly known as The Rock) topped the list of world's highest-paid actors with earnings of USD 89.4 million.



Links:

<https://www.news18.com/news/movies/akshay-kumar-worlds-4th-highest-paid-actor-on-forbes-list-dwayne-johnson-tops-2279713.html>

Water Stress Index-2019

Question: According to World Resources Institute, what is rank of India in the released Water Stress Index?

(a) 11th (b) 12th (c) 13th (d) 14th

Answer :(c)

Related facts:

- In the recently released Water Stress Index by World Resources Institute, India is ranked 13th among the 17 extremely high water stressed countries.
- Twelve out of the 17 most water-stressed countries are in the Middle East and North Africa.
- Report figures that India has more than three times the population of the other 16 extremely highly stressed countries combined.
- One-quarter of the world's population faces "extremely high" levels of baseline water stress, which means that irrigated agriculture, industries, and municipalities withdraw more than 80% of their available supply on average every year.
- Indian city Chennai was recently reported to have "run out of water".
- The WRI noted that in 2018, NITI Aayog declared that the country is "suffering from the worst water crisis in its history, and millions of lives and livelihoods are under threat".
- In addition to rivers, lakes and streams, India's groundwater resources are severely overdrawn, largely to provide water for irrigation.
- Groundwater tables in some northern aquifers declined at a rate of more than 8 cm per year between 1990 and 2014.
- Globally, water withdrawals have more than doubled since the 1960s due to growing demand.



- Apart from the 17 countries facing withdrawals of 80% or more from available supply, 44 countries (home to one-third of the world) face “high” levels of stress, where on average more than 40% of available supply is withdrawn every year.

Links:

<https://indianexpress.com/article/explained/1-4-of-worlds-population-faces-huge-water-stress-bulk-in-india-5884199/>

Economics

Government imposes Minimum Export Price (MEP) for Onions

Question: What is the decided price per metric ton for onion as per the new Minimum Export Price imposed by the government on 13th September 2019?

(a) \$800 (b) \$700 (c) \$850 (d) \$750

Answer: (c)

Related facts:

- **Union Government** has decided that the export of **all varieties of onions** (as described under Chapter 7 of Schedule 2 of ITC (HS)) shall be permitted only on **Letter of Credit (LC)** subject to **minimum export price (MEP) of US \$ 850 F.O.B. per Metric Ton** until further orders.
- This step has been taken to **check exports** and bring down the increasing prices in the local market.
- A notification to this effect has been issued by the **Directorate General of Foreign Trade**, Department of Commerce, Ministry of Commerce & Industries, Government of India dated 13th September, 2019.
- A sharp fall in the supply of onion is one of the reasons for the price rise.



Links:

<https://www.thehindubusinessline.com/economy/agri-business/govt-imposes-850tonne-minimum-export-price-on-onion/article29409559.ece>

Scientific

Project Netra

Question: which of the following agency has initiated project Netra?

(a) ISRO (b) DRDO (c) Indian Air Force (d) Both (a) and (c)

Answer: (a)

Related facts:

- The Indian Space Research Organization initiated ‘Project Netra’ – an early warning system in space to detect debris and other hazards to Indian satellites.
- The project estimated to cost Rs. 400 crore, when in place, will give India its own capability in space situational awareness like the other space powers which is used to predict threats from debris to Indian Satellites.
- It also goes so far as to serve as an unstated warning against missile or space attack for the country, experts say.



- The space agency says our SSA will first be for low earth orbits or LEO which have remote sensing spacecraft.
- Under Netra, or network for space object tracking and analysis, the ISRO plans to put up many observational facilities; connected radars, telescopes; data processing units and a control centre.
- They can, among others, spot, track and catalogue objects as small as a 10 cm, up to range of 3,400 km and equal to a space orbit of around 2,000 km.
- With this the ISRO, which has placed satellites to track the earth from above, will also start training its eyes on space from earth.
- Space debris could be floating particles from dead satellites or rockets parts that stay in orbit for many years.
- NETRA effort would make India a part of international efforts towards tracking, warning about and mitigating space debris.
- Netra eventual goal is to capture the GEO, or geostationary orbit, scene at 36,000 km where communication satellites operate.
- Until now ISRO is depend on the data from NORAD and others available in the public domain but this information is not accurate.
- NORAD, or the North Atlantic American Aerospace Defence Command, is an initiative of the U.S. and Canada that shares selective debris data with many countries.
- The new SSA centre would consolidate debris tracking activities that are now spread across ISRO centers.
- Currently there are 15 functional Indian communication satellites in the geostationary orbit of 36,000 km; 13 remote sensing satellites in LEO of up to 2,000 km; and eight navigation satellites in medium earth orbits.

Link:

<https://www.thehindu.com/sci-tech/science/isro-initiates-project-netra-to-safeguard-indian-space-assets-from-debris-and-other-harm/article29497795.ece>

DRDO successfully test fires indigenously developed Anti-Tank Guided Missile system

Question: Recently, which organization has successfully test fired indigenously developed Anti-Tank Guided Missile System?

(a)DRDO (b) ISRO (c) BARC (d)None of the above

Answer: (a)

Related facts:

- Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) successfully test-fired an indigenously-developed Man-Portable Anti-Tank Guided Missile (MPATGM) system on 11th September, 2019.
- This test was conducted from a firing range at Kurnool in Andhra Pradesh.
- The Man-Portable Anti-Tank Guided Missile (MPATGM) is an indigenous missile, it carries low weight. This missile will be used in the 3rd generation ATGMs.



Links:

<https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/defence/watch-drdo-successfully-test-fires-man-portable-anti-tank-guided-missile-system/videoshow/71086037.cms>

Fossils of world's largest parrot discovered

Question: Recently in which country, remains of the world's largest parrot, *Heracles inexpectatus*, has been found?

(a) Australia (b) New Zealand (c) Myanmar (d) China

Answer: (b)

Related facts:

- Scientists in **New Zealand** have discovered Remains of the World's largest parrot, scientifically known by the name ***Heracles inexpectatus***.
- It lived 19 million years ago in New Zealand and nicknamed as **Squawkzilla**.
- The report on this bird has been published during August 2019 in the journal **Biology Letters**.
- The bird is estimated to have weighed about 7kg.
- This bird was actually a type of big parrot which through could crack even a thick piece of wood through its massive hook like beak.
- The height of the bird is estimated to be about 3 feet (1 meter) or more **Facts about discovery**
- The bones of this parrot were already found in 2008 but due to some unspecified reason further study couldn't be done since last 11 years.
- Earlier, a critically endangered flightless bird of New Zealand '**Kakapo**' has been **considered as largest parrot found on earth**.
- This *Heracles* is twice the size of Kakapo and approximately the size of giant bird **dodo pigeon** from the Mascarenes Islands.



Links:

<https://www.thehindu.com/sci-tech/science/meet-the-giant-parrots-that-lived-19-million-years-ago/article28871880.ece>

New technique for cancer treatment by light sensitive drugs

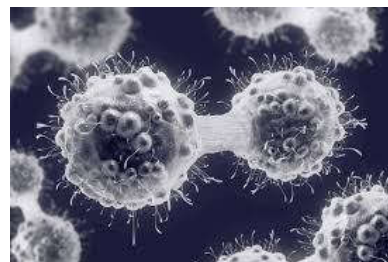
Question: Researches of which of the following country recently came out with new technique of effective and less expensive treatment of cancer?

(a) USA (b) France (c) UK (d) China

Answer: (c)

Related facts:

- UK based researchers developed a path breaking light-based cancer treatment, which is effective, less expensive and safer for patients.
- The study was carried out at the University of Sheffield of UK by an interdisciplinary team of researchers.
- The team used tiny carbon nanoparticles that can deliver cancer drugs to tumor. This kind of treatment is based upon light sensitive drugs, which become active and destroy the cancer cells only when exposed to light.
- Light-based or photodynamic therapy is already a clinically-approved treatment. Many of these drugs are frequently toxic even without light and may cause side effect in patients and leading to treatment failure.



Links:

<https://www.thehindubusinessline.com/news/science/researchers-in-uk-develop-new-technique-to-make-cancer-treatment-more-effective-affordable/article29121009.ece>

Yudh Abhyas-2019

Question: Yudh Abhyas exercise held between which of the following country?

(a) India & USA (b) India & France (c) India& Japan (d) India & Australia

Answer:(a)

Related facts:

- On 6 September 2019, Exercise Yudh Abhyas – 2019, a joint military exercise between Indian and US armies, commenced at Joint Base Lewis MC Chord, Washington, USA.
- The exercise will last until 18 September.
- It is one of the biggest joint military exercise and defence corporation endeavours between India and the USA.
- The US contingent was represented by a company of 5-20 Infantry Battalion of the US Army while the Indian side was represented by the Assam Regiment.
- Yudh Abhyas 2019 is the 15th edition of the joint military exercise hosted alternately between the two countries.
- The armies of India and USA will jointly plan, train and execute a series of well developed operations for neutralization of threats of varied nature



Links:

<https://www.ndtv.com/india-news/yuddh-abhyas-in-washington-exclusive-video-of-india-us-war-games-1755441>

IAF inducts 8 US-made Apache AH-64E helicopters

Question: Recently IAF has inducted AH-64E helicopters procured from which of the following country?

(a) United states (b) Israel (c) Portugal (d) North Korea

Answer :(a)

Related facts:

- In its move to boost its combat capabilities, the Indian Air Force has inducted eight US-made Apache AH-64E attack helicopters on September 03, 2019.
- The AH-64E Apache is one of the world's most advanced multi-role combat helicopters, and is flown by the US Army.
- The Apache helicopters are armed with air- to-surface Hellfire missiles, 70 mm rockets and automatic cannon.
- The IAF had signed a multi-billion dollar contract with the US government and Boeing Ltd in September 2015 for 22 Apache helicopters.



Links:

<https://www.livemint.com/news/india/watch-iaf-s-new-apache-helicopter-s-maiden-flight-1567487925093.html>

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

Tennis

US Open 2019

Question: Who has won the 2019 US Open Women's Singles?

(a) Bianca Andreescu (b) Maria Sharapova (c) Serena Williams (d) Naomi Osaka

Answer :(a)

Related facts:

- Rafael Nadal clinched 2019 US Open title by defeating Daniil Medvedev 7-5, 6-3, 5-7, 4-6, 6-4. This was his careers 19th Gram Slam title.
- Now, Rafael Nadal closes the gap to just one on Roger Federer's 20 Grand Slam triumphs.
- In Women's Singles, Bianca Andreescu (19) captured the title, defeating 23-time major champion Serena Williams.
- Achieving this feat, Bianca became the youngest Grand Slam winner since Maria Sharapova at the 2006 US Open.



Other winners:

- Men's doubles: Juan Sebastián Cabal & Robert Farah(both Colombian)
- Women's doubles: Elise Mertens (Belgium) & Aryna Sabalenka(Belarus)
- Mixed doubles: Bethanie Mattek-Sands(American) & Jamie Murray(British)

About US Open:

- It is a hard court tennis tournament. It is the fourth and the final tennis major event of Grand Slam.

Links:

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/2019_US_Open_\(tennis\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/2019_US_Open_(tennis))

<https://www.atptour.com/en/news/roig-moya-on-nadal-medvedev-us-open-2019-final>

Cricket

Virat Kohli becomes most successful Indian test captain

Question: Which of the following is most successful test captain of India?

(a) Virat Kohli (b) M S Dhoni (c) Saurav Ganguly (d) Rahul Dravid

Answer :(a)

Related facts:

- Virat Kohli became the India's most successful Test captain, surpassing former captain Mahendra Singh Dhoni.
- He achieved the feat after the team thrashed West Indies by 257 runs in the second test match against West Indies held at Sabina Park, Kingston, Jamaica.
- Virat Kohli has won 28 matches out of 48 Test matches as the captain of the Indian cricket team while Dhoni had won 27 of 60 Test matches.
- Overall, former South Africa skipper Graeme Smith remains the most successful skipper in the world with 53 Test wins, followed by ex-Australia captain Ricky Ponting, who recorded 48 Test wins in his captaincy tenure.



Links:

<http://www.newsonair.com/News?title=Virat-Kohli-surpassed-M-S-Dhoni-to-become-India%26%2339%3Bs-most-successful-Test-skipper&id=371042>

Mithali Raj retires from T20Is

Question: Which of the following women cricketer has announced his retirement from T20 Internationals recently?

(a) Mithali Raj (b) Smriti Mandhana (c)

Harmanpreet Kaur (d) Sarah Taylor

Answer :(a)

Related facts:

- On 3 September 2019, Indian women's cricket great and ODI captain Mithali Raj announced her retirement from T20 Internationals.
- She scored 2,364 runs from 89 matches at an average of 37.5 and holds the highest score of 97 not out.
- Mithali Raj captained the Indian women's cricket team in 32 T20 Internationals, including the three World Cups in 2012 (Sri Lanka), 2014 (Bangladesh) and 2016 (India).
- She is also the first Indian woman to reach the landmark of 2000 T20 runs.



Links:

<http://www.newsonair.com/News?title=Mithali-Raj-announces-retirement-from-T20Is&id=371055>

Jasprit Bumrah becomes 3rd Indian to take hat-trick

Question: Recently which Indian cricketer became the third only to take hat-trick in test cricket?

(a) Jasprit Bumrah (b) Ben Stokes (c) Dale Steyn (d) Shane Bond

Answer : (a)

Related facts:

- On September 1, 2019, Jasprit Bumrah has created history by becoming the third Indian cricketer to take a hat-trick in Test cricket during India's second Test against West Indies at Sabina Park.
- Bumrah made the record by taking the wickets of **Darren Bravo, Shamarh Brooks and Roston Chase in three successive deliveries.**
- Harbhajan Singh was the first Indian to pick up a hat-trick in Test, against Australia in Kolkata in 2001 and pacer Irfan Pathan was the second Indian to achieve the **feat against Pakistan in Karachi in 2006.**



Links:

<https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/sports/cricket/india-in-west-indies/i-owe-my-hat-trick-to-you-jasprit-bumrah-tells-captain-virat-kohli/articleshow/70933310.cms>

Football

25th Senior Women's National Football Championship

Question: Who won the 25th Senior Women's National Football Championship held in Arunachal Pradesh?

(a) Manipur (b) Railways (c) Tamil Nadu (d) Jharkhand

Answer: (a)

Related facts:

- On 24 September 2019, defending champion Manipur pipped 1-0 Railways to triumph in the final of the 25th Hero Senior Women's NFC 2019-20 at the CHF Ground in Pasighat, Arunachal Pradesh.
- With this victory, Manipur's held the title for record 20th time.
- Bala Devi is the highest scorer in the tournament with 20 goals. Whereas, Railways' Sanju was declared the Player of the tournament.
- Arunachal Pradesh had hosted the tournament for the first time.



Links:

<https://www.the-aiff.com/news-center-details.htm?id=9942>

Athletics

Durand Cup, 2019

Question: Durand Cup is related to which game?

(a) Football (b) Cricket (c) Badminton (d) Tennis

Answer: (a)

Related facts:



- Gokulam Kerala FC won the Durand Cup, 2019 beating Mohun Bagan. The final score was 2-1. The final match was played at Salt Lake Stadium, Kolkata.
- The 2019 Durand Cup was the 129th edition of the Durand Cup, oldest football tournament in Asia, since the tournament's founding in 1888.
- 16 teams competed in the tournament. The matches were played across three locations in West Bengal, namely Kolkata, Howrah and Kalyani from 2nd to 24th August, 2019.
- This was for the first time that the tournament played outside Delhi, its traditional venue.

Links:

<https://www.telegraphindia.com/sport/im-vijayan-pat-for-marcus/cid/1700259>

World Police and Fire Games- 2019

Question: How many medals CISF sports personnel won at

World Police and Fire Games- 2019?

(a) 10 (b) 11 (c) 12 (d) 13

Answer: (a)

Related facts:



- CISF sports personnel won 10 medals at the World Police and Fire Games held at Chengdu, China's southwestern Sichuan province from 8th to 18th August, 2019.
- The CISF sports personnel which represented India in different sporting events and won five gold, three silver and two bronze medals.
- CISF DG Rajesh Ranjan felicitated the sports personnel for their performance.
- The World Police and Fire Games- 2019 is an Olympic-style competition with 10,000 athletes representing law enforcement, fire-fighters and officers from corrections, probation, border protection, immigration and customs from over 70 countries competing in more than 60 sports.

Links:

https://www.business-standard.com/article/pti-stories/cisf-wins-10-medals-at-world-police-and-fire-games-in-china-119082101336_1.html

Short Notes

Personalities

Robert O'Brien is new US National Security Adviser

Question: Who has been named as the new National Security Adviser (NSA) of the United States?

(a) Robert O'Brien (b) Herbert Raymond McMaster (c) John Bolton (d) Michael Flynn

Answer: (a)

Related facts:

- US President Donald Trump has named Robert O'Brien as the new National Security Adviser (NSA) of the United States. He will be replacing John Bolton.
- He will be the fourth national security adviser under Donald Trump's administration and 28th NSA overall. The position does not need confirmation from the Congress.
- Robert O'Brien has had a long career in law and foreign policy and has worked for both the main US parties, the Democrats as well as the Republicans.



Links:

<https://www.bbc.com/news/world-us-canada-49744497>

Appointment of Principal Secretary to Prime Minister

Question: Who has been recently appointed as the Principal Secretary to the Prime Minister of India?

(a) PK Sinha (b) PK Mishra (c) Nripendra Mishra (d) Amitabh Kant

Answer: (b)

Related facts:

- **Pramod Kumar Mishra** has been appointed as **Principal Secretary** to the Prime Minister of India. He has taken over charge on **September 11, 2019**.
- Dr Mishra has varied work experience in the management of programmes relating to **agriculture, disaster management, power sector, infrastructure financing, and regulatory issues** and has an outstanding career profile comprising research, publications, policy formulation and programme/project management.
- He has vast experience in **policy making and administration** and has handled major assignments such as Additional Pr. Secretary to the Prime Minister; Secretary, Agriculture and Cooperation etc.
- As Additional Principal Secretary to the Prime Minister during 2014-19 Dr Mishra is credited with introducing **innovation and transformative changes** in human resource management, particularly appointments to senior positions.



- Recently, he was conferred with the United Nations SASAKAWA Award 2019, the most prestigious international award in disaster management.

Links:

<https://pib.gov.in/PressReleaseDetail.aspx?PRID=1584692>

Robert Mugabe passed away

Question: Robert Mugabe served as the President of which nation for almost four decades?

(a) Ghana (b) Libya (c) Zimbabwe (d) South Africa

Answer: (c)

Related facts:

- Robert Mugabe, former Zimbabwe President passed away at the age of 95 on 6th September, 2019.
- He served as prime minister of Zimbabwe from 1980 to 1987 and then as president from 1987 to 2017.
- Robert Mugabe had ruled Zimbabwe for almost four decades before he was ousted from power in a military coup two years ago.
- He chaired the Zimbabwe African National Union (ZANU) group from 1975 to 1980 and led its successor political party, the ZANU – Patriotic Front (ZANU–PF), from 1980 to 2017.



Links:

<https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2019/09/zimbabwe-president-robert-mugabe-dies-aged-95-190906050943163.html>

Veteran music director-composer Khayyam passed away

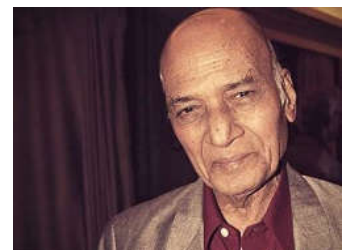
Question: On 19th August, 2019 which music director passed away in Mumbai?

(a) Khayyam (b) Javed Akhtar (c) O.P Nayyar (d) Naushad

Answer: (a)

Related facts:

- On 19th August, 2019, veteran music director-composer **Khayyam**, best known for his music in classic films such as **Umrao Jaan** and **Kabhi Kabhi**, passed away after a prolonged illness at a hospital in Mumbai. He was 92.
- Veteran music-director composer Mohammed Zahur Khayyam Hashmi, popularly known as Khayyam began his career in music from the city of Ludhiana at the tender age of 17.
- Besides Kabhi Kabhi and Umrao Jaan, the musician's other notable works include films such as Trishul, Noorie and Shola Aur Shabnam.
- In 2007, Khayyam was honoured with Sangeet Natak Akademi Award in Creative Music by the Sangeet Natak Akademi. Four years later, he was conferred with Padma Bhushan, the country's third highest civilian award.
- He **won three Filmfare Awards for Best Music and a Lifetime Achievement Award in 2010.**
- In 2016, the veteran composer established **Khayyam Jagjeet Kaur KPG Charitable Trust** and pledged to donate his entire wealth to the trust to support budding artists and technicians in India.



Links:

<http://www.newsonair.com/News?title=Veteran-music-director-composer-Khayyam-passes-away&id=370364>

Joshua Wong

Question: Recently Joshua Wong's name came into limelight, who is he?

- (a) Chinese biologist (b) South Korean badminton player
(c) Leading Hong Kong democracy activist (d) North Korean missile expert

Answer: (c)

Related facts:

- On 30th August, 2019 leading Hong Kong pro-democracy activist Joshua Wong was arrested by the Hong Kong police on charges of organizing illegal protest. His pro-democracy group is Demosisto.
- Mr. Wong is the most prominent activist to be arrested since protests escalated in mid-June over fears China is exerting greater control over the city.
- China termed the pro-democracy protest illegal and they tighten a clampdown on unrest in the city.
- It should be known that the Hong Kong, an Asian financial hub has plunged into its biggest political crisis in more than two decades.
- Apart from Joshua Wong about 900 people have been arrested since the demonstrations began in June, 2019.



Root cause of unrest in Hong Kong:

- Hong Kong's identity crisis and resistance to China's interference are at the heart of the civil unrest.
- It should be known that Hong Kong was a British colony since 1841 and at midnight on June 30/July 1, 1997, the crown colony of Hong Kong officially reverted to Chinese sovereignty.
- With this handover, 156 years of British rule finally ended in Hong Kong but even today Pro-democracy activists in Hong Kong would like the region to remain different from other Chinese cities.

Links:

<https://www.bbc.com/news/world-asia-china-49520025>

P Chidambaram arrested by the CBI and ED officials

Question: Which one of the following politician has been arrested by CBI in INX media case?

- (a) P Chidambaram (b) Manmohan Singh (c) Kapil Sibbal (d) Keshav Prasad Maurya

Answer: (a)

Related facts:

- On 21st August, 2019, former Finance Minister P Chidambaram was arrested by the CBI and ED officials at his Jor Bagh residence in New Delhi after the Delhi High Court rejected Chidambaram's bail plea in the **INX Media case**.
- Before his arrest, Chidambaram, who had been untraceable for almost 27 hours since 19th August, 2019, appeared briefly at the AICC Headquarters to address the media on the charges leveled against him.



What is the Case?

- The INX Media corruption case relates to the irregularities in the **FIPB (Foreign Investment Promotion Board)** to the **INX Media group** for getting overseas funds worth around Rs 305 crore in 2007.
- At that time when P Chidambaram was **the Finance Minister under the UPA-I Government**.

Links:

<https://www.news18.com/news/india/live-updates-chidambaram-central-bureau-of-investigation-inx-media-case-enforcement-directorate-sc-2277827.html>

First Female Flight Commander

Question: Who became India's First Female Flight Commander?

(a) Vartika Joshi (b) Shalija Dhami (c) Aparna Kumari (d) Avani Chaturvedi

Answer: (b)

Related facts:

- Indian Air Force's Wing Commander Shalija Dhami has scripted history by becoming the first female officer to be appointed as flight commander of a flying unit.
- She took over as flight commander of a Chetak helicopter unit at Hindon airbase.
- Flight Commander is the second in command of the unit. She is a permanent commission officer of the flying branch in the Air Force and has been flying choppers.



Links:

<https://indianexpress.com/article/india/iafs-shalija-dhami-scripts-history-becomes-first-female-flight-commander-5942509/>

India's Coffee King found dead amid Financial Troubles

Question: On 31st July, 2019, V. G. Siddhartha was found dead in coastal city in Mangaluru is related to which one of the following?

(a) Leather business (b) Burger king (c) Cafe Coffee Day (d) None of the above

Answer: (c)

Related facts:

- On 31st July V. G. Siddhartha, a tycoon who beat Starbucks to dominate India's retail coffee industry but faced personal financial troubles was found dead.
- The police had carried out an exhaustive search for Mr. Siddhartha, founder of the popular chain Cafe Coffee Day, who was last seen on a waterfront bridge outside the coastal city of Mangaluru, in southern India.
- Fishermen spotted his body floating near the shoreline.
- Mr. Siddhartha, whose family has been in the coffee business for 130 years, became one of the world's biggest traders after opening Cafe Coffee Day in 1996, earning him the nickname the Coffee King of India.
- The company and its subsidiaries, which recently expanded to other countries in Asia and Europe, employ more than 30,000 people.



Link:

<https://www.nytimes.com/2019/07/31/business/india-vq-siddhartha-dead-cafe-coffee-day.html>

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 Mishra (d) T. K. A. Nair

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-misra-to-step-down-former-cabinet-secretary-pk-sinha-appointed-osd-in-pmo/story-26NC0YQ8X6CBQDPB8rkxIN.html>

Places

Official Visit of External Affairs Minister to Finland

Question: Recently, External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar was on state visit to which European Union country?

(a) Finland (b) France (c) Sweden (d) Germany

Answer:(a)

Related facts:

- Dr. S. Jaishankar, External Affairs Minister (EAM) was on an official visit to Finland from 19-21 September, 2019.
- He was received by Finnish President Sauli Niinistö.
- S Jaishankar held talks with Prime Minister Antti Rinne and his Finnish counterpart Pekka Haavisto on a broad spectrum of bilateral relations.
- During his state visit, Minister Jaishankar and his Finnish counterpart Pekka Haavisto unveiled the statue of Mahatma Gandhi in Helsinki as a part of commemoration of 150th birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi.
- He also met the Indian Community there and underlined the Mahatma's message of truth, courage and hope.
- External Affairs Minister held the long discussions on cross-border terrorism emphasizing Pakistan as the "epicentre of global terrorism" amidst Pakistan's bid to internationalise the Kashmir issue after India revoked Jammu and Kashmir's special status. Finland has supported India on the Kashmir issue.



- The three-day visit discussed countries' bilateral relations with special focus on green technologies.
- Jaishankar also visited the Parliament of Finland and held talks with first deputy speaker Tuula Haatainen.
- Finland, new President of European Union Council, is a Northern European nation bordering Norway, Russia and Sweden by land and Estonia by sea.
- India's trade in goods with Finland crossed \$ One billion and is in Finland's favour. Finland is India's 60th largest trade partner globally, and the 10th largest within the EU.

Links:

<https://www.thehindu.com/news/international/jaishankar-holds-talks-on-terrorism-regional-issues-with-top-finnish-leadership/article29475681.ece>

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>

Treaty & Agreements

MoU signed by Indian Railways for green initiatives

Question: Indian Railways has recently signed MoU with which organization for the facilitation of the green initiatives to combat global warming?

(a) FICCI (b) CII (c) ICICI Bank (d) IDBI Bank

Answer: (b)

Related facts:

- Indian Railways have undertaken some major Green initiatives as part of India's contribution towards mitigation of global warming and combating climate change.
- To carry forward this green initiative, a MoU was signed between Ministry of Railways and Confederation of Indian Industries (CII) for facilitation of green initiatives in Indian Railways at New Delhi on 13th September, 2019.
- Cleanliness (Swachhta) has become a movement taking inspiration from the Prime Minister. Mass participation is now being witnessed across the country on this front.
- In Railways also, concerted efforts are being made to ensure cleanliness and hygiene in trains and on station premises. He appreciated Railway officials and staff for their effort in



this direction. He expressed his happiness that 50 Railway units including workshops and production units, 12 Railway stations and 16 more buildings and other facilities have achieved Green Certification.

Objectives of the MoU:

- Energy efficiency in manufacturing facilities and railway workshops.
- Greening of Railway properties.
- Demonstrative pilots of 'net-zero energy buildings/ railway stations'.
- Capacity and skill development by continuous sharing of best practices on energy and environment through training programmes.
- Development of Green procurement policy, waste management policy, solid waste disposal, carbon neutrality, phytoremediation.
- Three Coffee Table Publications –one each on Energy Efficiency, GreenCo Rating and Green Buildings(including railway stations) were also released for wide circulation as part of efforts taken by the Indian Railways team as envisaged in MoU.
- GreenCo rating system developed by CII evaluates the green initiative and the rate of performance of industrial units who are pursuing environmentally sustainable practice and also certifies green building, green campus and green schools etc.

Links:

<https://pib.gov.in/PressReleaselframePage.aspx?PRID=1584974>

MoU Signed between Department of Social Justice& Empowerment and National AIDS Control Organization

Question: Recently a MoU was signed between Department of Social Justice & Empowerment and National AIDS Control Organization for which of the following sector:

- (a) Inclusion of target groups of NACO and National Action Plan for Drug Demand Reduction (NAPDDR) in the programmes of NAPDDR & NACO for awareness generation
- (b) Enhanced linkages and effective co-ordination between Injecting Drug Users Targeted Intervention (IDUs-TI) supported by NACO and Integrated rehabilitation center for Addicts (IRCAs) supported by DSJE
- (c) Develop human resources and build capacity in order to strengthen the service delivery mechanisms for drug addiction treatment
- (d) All of the above

Answer: (d)

Related facts:

- A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed on 26th August, 2019 between the Department of Social Justice, Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment and National AIDS Control Organization (NACO), Ministry of Health and Family Welfare.
- The MoU was signed by Additional Secretary Upma Srivastava and Special Secretary & Director General NACO Sanjeev Kumar in the presence of Union Minister for Health and Family Welfare Dr Harsh Vardhan.



Salient points of MoU are as follows:

- Inclusion of target groups of NACO and National Action Plan for Drug Demand Reduction (NAPDDR) in the programmes of NAPDDR & NACO for awareness generation.

- Enhanced linkages and effective co-ordination between Injecting Drug Users Targeted Intervention (IDUs-TI) supported by NACO and Integrated rehabilitation center for Addicts (IRCAs) supported by DSJE.
- Create awareness and educate people about the ill-effects of drugs abuse on the individual, family, workplace and the society at large and reduce stigmatization of and discrimination against, groups and individuals dependent on drugs in order to integrate them back into the society.
- Develop human resources and build capacity in order to strengthen the service delivery mechanisms for drug addiction treatment.
- Developing welfare scheme aiming at social inclusion and empowerment of Transgender which face extreme social alienation enhancing their vulnerability to HIV and drug abuse.
- Address risk of HIV transmission among all substance users through preventive risk reduction messaging on HIV/STI and linkages with Integrated Testing and Counseling Centre (ICTC) and other services.
- Working towards empowerment of discriminated and vulnerable groups like victims of HIV/AIDS, victims of drug abuse, female sex workers, Persons engaged in Begging and transgender by nurturing a supportive and congenial environment which promotes human development by safeguarding human rights of all, providing social protection and rendering psycho-social care.
- Include female sex workers and transgender as target group for social defence and drug addicts as a target group for NACO.
- Reduced incidence of social stigma and discrimination against victims of drug abuse and Children and People Living with HIV/AIDS through programme education setting.

Links:

<http://naco.gov.in/mou-signed-naco-ministriesdepartments>

BCCI agreed to come under NADA ambit

Question: Consider the following statements:

- (1) The National Anti-Doping Agency (NADA) is the international organization responsible for promoting, coordinating, and monitoring the doping control program in sports
 (2) Recently, BCCI agreed to come under NADA ambit

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

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

Answer: (b)

Related facts:

- On 9th August, 2019, BCCI, the governing body for cricket in India agreed to come under the ambit NADA.

National Anti-Doping Agency (NADA):

- The **National Anti-Doping Agency (NADA)** is the national organization responsible for promoting, coordinating, and monitoring the doping control program in sports in all its forms in India.
- NADA is formed by the Union Government under the Societies Registration Act. NADA includes scientists and representatives from the Indian Olympic Association (IOA)



Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI):

- The **Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI)** is the national governing body for cricket in India.

- The board was formed in December 1928 as a society, registered under the Tamil Nadu Societies Registration Act.
- Its headquarter is in Wankhede Stadium, Mumbai
- Vinod Rai is the president of BCCI.

Links:

<https://sportstar.thehindu.com/cricket/bcci-under-nada-ambit-rahul-johri-anti-doping-cricket-radheshyam-jhulaniya-ceo-rahul-johri-prithvi-shaw/article28933253.ece>

Conference

Fourth South Asian Speakers' Summit

Question: Recently, where did the fourth South Asian Speakers' Summit take place?

(a) Dhaka (b) Colombo (c) Male (d) Rangoon

Answer: (c)

Related facts:

- The 4th South Asian Speakers' Summit on Achieving Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) took place on 1-2 September 2019.
- It was jointly organized by the Inter-Parliamentary Union and the People's Majlis in Male (Maldives).
- This is the fourth event in a series of Speakers' Summits for the region on SDGs, the previous three having been hosted by the Jatiya Sangsad of Bangladesh (in 2016), the Sansad of India (in 2017) and the Parliament of Sri Lanka (2018).
- Indian delegation was headed by Speaker Lok Sabha Om Birla who also held bilateral talks with his Bhutanese counterpart Wangchuk Namgyel.
- Male Declaration was adopted at the end of summit which accepted that Kashmir situation is an internal matter of India after Pakistan raised the issue of the recent abrogation of Article 370 granting special status to the state of Jammu & Kashmir.
- The Summit is intended for Speakers of the Parliaments of Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Myanmar, Nepal, Pakistan, Sri Lanka and Maldives.



Links:

<https://www.businesstoday.in/current/economy-politics/south-asian-speakers-summit-ignores-pakistan-assertions-on-kashmir-calls-it-india-internal-matter/story/376937.html>

22nd National Conference on e-Governance

Question: 22nd National Conference on e-Governance 2019 was hosted by which city?

(a) Shillong (b) Bangalore (c) Hyderabad (d) New Delhi

Answer : (a)

Related facts:

- The two-day-long 22nd National Conference on E-Governance was inaugurated by Meghalaya Chief Minister Conrad K Sangma in the presence of Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) for the Ministry of Development of North Eastern Region Dr Jitendra Singh on August 08, 2019 at State Convention Centre, Shillong.



- The two-day-long Conference was jointly organized by the Department of Administrative Reforms and Public Grievances, Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions, Government of India; Government of Meghalaya; NASSCOM and Ministry of Electronic and Information Technology, Government of India.
- All the 28 states and all Union Territories participated in the conference.
- The conclave elaborated on how application of technology can be used to achieve effective citizen-centric governance.

Links:

<http://pib.gov.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=192562>

Law & Justice

The Public Premises (Eviction of Unauthorized Occupants) Amendment Bill, 2019

Question: Consider the following statement The Public Premises (Eviction of Unauthorized Occupants) Amendment Bill, 2019:

(1) The Public Premises (Eviction of Unauthorized Occupants) Amendment Bill, 2019 amends the Public Premises (Eviction of Unauthorized Occupants) Act, 1971.

(2) It was introduced by the Minister of Housing and Urban Affairs

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

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

Answer: (c)

Related facts:

- The Public Premises (Eviction of The Public Premises (Eviction of Unauthorized Occupants) Amendment Bill, 2019 was introduced by the Minister of Housing and Urban Affairs, Mr. Hardeep Singh Puri, in Lok Sabha on 8th July, 2019.
- The bill amends the Public Premises (Eviction of The Public Premises (Eviction of Unauthorized Occupants) Act, 1971.
- The Act provides for the eviction of unauthorized occupants from public premises in certain cases.



Residential accommodation:

- The Bill defines **residential accommodation occupation** as the occupation of public premises by a person on the grant of a license for such occupation.
- The license must be given for a fixed tenure, or for the period the person holds office.
- Further, the occupation must be allowed under the rules made by the Center, State or Union Territory government, or a statutory authority (such as Parliament Secretariat, or a Central Government company, or premises belonging to a State Government).

Notice for eviction:

- The Bill adds a provision laying down the procedure for eviction from residential accommodation.
- It requires an estate officer (an officer of the Central Government) to issue a written notice to a person if he is in unauthorised occupation of a residential accommodation.

- The notice will require the person to show cause of why an eviction order should not be made against him, within three working days.
- The written notice must be fixed to a conspicuous part of the accommodation, in a prescribed manner.

Order of eviction:

- After considering the cause shown, and making any other inquiries, the estate officer will make an order for eviction.
- If the person fails to comply with the order, the estate officer may evict such person from the residential accommodation, and take possession of it.
- For this purpose, the estate officer may also use such force as necessary.

Payment of damages:

If the person in unauthorized occupation of the residential accommodation challenges the eviction order passed by the estate officer in court, he will be required to pay damages for every month of such occupation.

Links:

<http://www.prsindia.org/billtrack/public-premises-eviction-unauthorised-occupants-amendment-bill-2019>

Muslim Women (Protection of Rights on Marriage) Bill, 2019 (Triple Talaq Bill)

Question: Consider the following statement regarding Muslim Women (Protection of Rights on Marriage) Bill, 2019:

- (1) This bill makes instant Triple Talaq or Talaq-e-biddat illegal and void
- (2) It makes the practice of instant triple Talaq punishable by a jail term of 3 years
- (3) The triple Talaq bill gives power to the magistrate to decide whether to release the husband on bail or not after listening to the woman against whom Talaq has been pronounced

of the above correct statement/s is/are:

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

Answer: (d)

Related facts:

- The Triple Talaq Bill or the Muslim Women (Protection of Rights on Marriage) Bill, 2019 received President Ram Nath Kovind's assent on 31st July, 2019.
- The Triple Talaq Bill was passed by the Rajya Sabha on 30th July, 2019, through ballot voting with 99 votes in favor and 84 against.
- The Lok Sabha had passed the triple Talaq Bill earlier through a voice vote, amidst opposition walkout.
- The crucial Bill had lapsed previously after the dissolution of the 16th Lok Sabha. Though the bill had been passed by the Lok Sabha then, it could not move through the Rajya Sabha, where the opposition was in majority.



Triple Talaq Bill provisions:

- The Muslim Women (Protection of Rights on Marriage) Bill, 2019 makes instant triple Talaq or Talaq-e-biddat illegal and void.
- It makes the practice of instant triple Talaq punishable by a jail term of 3 years.

- The law will come into force from 19th September, 2019.
- The Triple Talaq Bill states that any pronouncement of Talaq by a Muslim man upon his wife, by words, either spoken or written or in electronic form or in any other manner whatsoever, shall be void and illegal.
- Under the Bill's provisions, the offence of Triple Talaq will be cognizable if information relating to it is given either by the woman against whom Talaq was pronounced or by any of her blood relatives.
- The offence committed under the Code of Criminal Procedure, 1973 will be treated as cognizable and non-bailable.
- The Triple Talaq Bill gives power to the magistrate to decide whether to release the husband on bail or not after listening to the woman against whom Talaq has been pronounced.
- Only if the Magistrate is satisfied with the reasons provided for the bail, will the bail be granted.
- The magistrate can also use his powers to settle the dispute between a husband and his wife.
- The wife can drop the case against her husband if he returns to her later and they arrive at a compromise.

Links:

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

Landmark Consumer Protection Bill, 2019

Question: Consider the following statement regarding Consumer Protection Bill, 2019:

- (1) The main objective of the Consumer Protection Bill is to ease the process of addressing the grievances of consumers
- (2) The CCPA would make interventions to prevent consumer detriment arising from unfair trade practices

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

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

Answer: (c)

Related facts:

- The Consumer Protection Bill, 2019 which seeks to protect and enforce consumer rights was passed through a voice vote by the Lok Sabha on Tuesday, 30th July, 2019.
- The Consumer Protection Bill 2019 seeks to replace the Consumer Protection Act, 1986.
- The main objective of the Consumer Protection Bill is to ease the process of addressing the grievances of consumers.
- The Consumer Protection Bill seeks to establish the Central Consumer Protection Authority (CCPA).
- The CCPA would make interventions to prevent consumer detriment arising from unfair trade practices
- The Bill also aims to simplify dispute resolution process.
- It has provision for Mediation and e-filing of cases. Consumers will be able to file cases in the nearest commission under the jurisdiction of which they reside
- There will also be an exclusive law dealing with Product Liability.
- A manufacturer or product service provider or product seller will now be responsible to compensate for injury or damage caused by defective product or deficiency in services.



Key Points:

- Consumer rights have been defined in the Bill, including the right to:

- be protected against marketing of goods and services which are hazardous to life and property;
- be informed of the quality, quantity, potency, purity, standard and price of goods or services;
- be assured of access to a variety of goods or services at competitive prices; and
- seek redressal against unfair or restrictive trade practices
- Bill indirectly allows appointment of non-judicial members to the district/state and national commissions.
- Conflict of interest could arise when government nominees hear cases involving a government entity.

Links:

<https://pib.gov.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=192499>

Frame policy on Compulsory Rural Service for doctors: SC

Question: Which among the following States have imposed compulsory rural service for doctors?

- (a) Maharashtra, Odisha and Rajasthan (b) Goa, Karnataka and Madhya Pradesh
(c) Gujarat, Himachal Pradesh and Uttar Pradesh (d) None of these

Answer: (a)

Related facts:

- On 21st August, 2019, The Supreme Court has recently suggested the Government to frame a uniform policy for compulsory rural service for doctors for a certain period after passing out.
- The court asked that suitable steps should be taken by Centre and MCI to have a uniform policy on compulsory rural service by doctors applicable across the country.



Compulsory Rural Healthcare Service in India:

- At present, some states like Maharashtra, Odisha, Rajasthan, Andhra Pradesh, Goa, Karnataka, Kerala, Gujarat, Himachal Pradesh, West Bengal, Tamil Nadu and Telangana have imposed the provision of compulsory service.
- The Supreme Court ruled in favor of the policy so that deprived sections of the society can avail the benefit of it.
- The SC ruled that compulsory bonds condition imposed by respective States for the students taking admissions in postgraduate and super specialty courses in government medical colleges.
- Various states, however, have different clauses and bond period/ amount that extend to about Rs. 50 lakh as well. The court has fixed the service period for such candidates at two years and also the penalty has been set at Rs. 20 lakh.

Links:

<https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/india/frame-policy-on-compulsory-rural-service-for-doctors-sc/articleshow/70762413.cms>

Allahabad High Court bans DJs in Uttar Pradesh

Question: Recently which High Court has banned the DJs in a bid to regulate noise pollution?

(a) Allahabad High Court (b) Delhi High Court (c) Madras High Court
(d) Madras High Court

Answer: (a)

Related facts:

- On 21st August 2019, in a bid to regulate noise pollution, Allahabad High Court has banned DJs all across the state.
- If someone violates the order, he or she can be sentenced up to five years and may have to pay a hefty fine of Rs 1 lakh.
- The decision was given by a bench of Justice P K S Baghel and justice Pankaj Bhatia on a public interest litigation filed by advocate Sushil Chandra Srivastava.
- Announcing its verdict, the court said that violation of noise pollution laws were a violation of the fundamental rights of citizens and has asked the state government to ensure that no noise pollution rules are violated in the state.
- The order is significant in view of the upcoming festive season that includes Ganesh Chaturthi and Navratri.



Links:

<http://www.newindianexpress.com/nation/2019/aug/21/allahabad-high-court-bans-djs-in-uttar-pradesh-for-flouting-noise-rules-2022273.html>

Year, Day & Week

World Ozone Day

Question: When is the World Ozone Day celebrated every year?

(a) 14 September (b) 16 September (c) 20 September (d) 18 September

Answer: (b)

Related facts:

- World Ozone Day is celebrated every year on 16 September.
- The theme of this year was '32 years and healing'.
- The theme for this year celebrates over three decades of remarkable international cooperation to protect the ozone layer and the climate under the Montreal Protocol.
- The Montreal Protocol has led to the phase-out of 99 per cent of ozone-depleting chemicals in refrigerators, air-conditioners and many other products.



Scientific Assessment of Ozone Depletion :

- The latest Scientific Assessment of Ozone Depletion completed in 2018, shows that, as a result, parts of the ozone layer have recovered at a rate of 1-3% per decade since 2000.
- At projected rates, Northern Hemisphere and mid-latitude ozone will heal completely by the 2030s. The Southern Hemisphere will follow in the 2050s and Polar Regions by 2060.
- Ozone layer protection efforts have also contributed to the fight against climate change by averting an estimated 135 billion tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent emissions, from 1990 to 2010.
- There is a need to support the Kigali Amendment to the Montreal Protocol, which entered into force on 1 January 2019. By phasing down hydrofluorocarbons (HFCs), which are potent climate-warming gases, this amendment can avoid up to 0.4°C of global temperature rise by the end of the century, while continuing to protect the ozone layer.

Case of India:

- Recent findings of a study mentions that unclean air from the Indo-Gangetic plain and central India is messing with ozone levels in the Indian subcontinent.
- There is a need for pan-India co-ordination to control the lung-damaging greenhouse gas, the chief ingredient of smog. There is an emergence of central India as a significant source of dirty air.
- Breathing air thick with ozone can have adverse impacts on human health, animals and vegetation. It also mentions that “more than a million Indians will die prematurely” each year from long-term ozone exposure by 2050.

Links:

<https://ozone.unep.org/ozone-day/32-years-and-healing>

Hindi Diwas 2019

Question: Consider the following statement regarding Hindi Diwas:

- (1) It is observed on September 14
 (2) Hindi was adopted as the official language of the country on September 14, 1949

Of the above correct statement/s is/are:

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

Answer :(c)

Related facts:

- Every year, September 14 is celebrated as Hindi Diwas.
- On this day in 1949, Hindi written in Devanagari script was adopted as the official language of India by the Constituent Assembly of India.
- Part XVII of the Constitution of India designates Hindi as the official language of the Union. The article 343, point 1, specifically mentions that, “The official language of the Union shall be Hindi in Devnagari script. The form of numerals to be used for the official purposes of the Union shall be the international form of Indian numerals.”
- Spoken by around 40% of the Indian population, Hindi is one of the 22 scheduled languages.
- Stalwarts like Beohar Rajendra Simha, Hazari Prasad Dwivedi, Kaka Kalelkar, Maithili Sharan Gupt and Seth Govind Das lobbied hard in favour of Hindi to be made the official language of India.
- On September 14, 1949, which marked the 50th birthday of Hindi scholar and stalwart Beohar Rajendra Simha, Hindi was adopted as the official language of the country.



Links:

<https://www.news18.com/news/india/hindi-diwas-2019-date-history-significance-of-this-day-in-india-2308083.html>

International Literacy Day

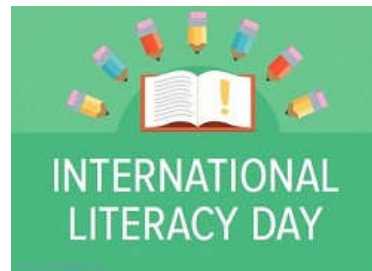
Question: When is the International Literacy Day observed every year?

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

Answer: (c)

Related facts:

- International Literacy Day, celebrated annually on 8th September, is an opportunity for Governments, civil society and stakeholders to highlight improvements in world literacy rates, and reflect on the world's remaining literacy challenges.
- 2019 Theme for the day is "Literacy and Multilingualism".
- The issue of literacy is a key component of the UN's Sustainable Development Goals and the UN's 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.
- The UN's Sustainable Development Goals, adopted by world leaders in September 2015, promotes, as part of its agenda, universal access to quality education and learning opportunities throughout people's lives.
- Sustainable Development Goal 4 has as one of its targets ensuring all young people achieve literacy and numeracy. Adults who lack these skills are given the opportunity to acquire them.



Links:

<https://www.un.org/en/events/literacyday/>

World Biofuel Day

Question: Consider the following statement World Biofuel Day:

(1) World Biofuel Day is observed every year on 10th of August.

(2) The theme of the World Biofuel Day is Production of Biodiesel from Used Cooking Oil (UCO).

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

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

Answer: (c)

Related facts:

- World Biofuel Day is observed every year on 10th of August to create awareness about the importance of non-fossil fuels as an alternative to conventional fossil fuels and highlight the various efforts made by Government in the biofuel sector.
- Ministry of Petroleum & Natural Gas will organize World Biofuel Day on 10th August, 2019 at Vigyan Bhavan, New Delhi.
- This year the theme of the World Biofuel Day is **Production of Biodiesel from Used Cooking Oil (UCO)**.
- Biofuels have the benefits of reduction of import dependence, cleaner environment, additional income to farmers and employment generation.
- A number of initiatives have been undertaken to increase production and blending of biofuels since 2014.



Links:

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

Mother Teresa 109th Birth Anniversary

Question: In which year did Mother Teresa came to India?

(a) 1927 (b) 1928 (c) 1929 (d) 1930

Answer: (c)

Related facts:

- On 26th August, 2019, s Missionaries of Charity in Kolkata paid tribute to its founder Mother Teresa on her 109th birth anniversary.
- She left her home in 1928 when she was mere 18 and devoted most part of life working for poor and downtrodden. She arrived India in 1929.
- In 1950, Mother Teresa founded the Missionaries of Charity, a religious congregation.
- Mother Teresa rescued 37 children trapped in a front line hospital by brokering a temporary cease-fire between Israel and Palestine.
- Accompanied by Red Cross workers, she traveled through the war zone to the destroyed hospital to evacuate the young patients.
- Mother Teresa received more than 120 honours and awards during her lifetime including the Ramon Magsaysay Peace Prize in 1962 and Nobel Peace Prize in 1979.
- She worked for orphans, AIDS patients, refugees, blind, disabled, alcoholics, poor, homeless, victims of floods and epidemics and famine.
- Mother Teresa was canonized at a ceremony on 4th September, 2016 in St. Peter's Square in the Vatican City.



Links:

<https://www.news18.com/news/india/mother-teresa-109th-birth-anniversary-facts-about-the-founder-of-missionaries-of-charity-2284043.html>

International Youth Day (IYD)

Question: Consider the following statement:

(1) International Youth Day (IYD) is observed on 12th August.

(2) The Theme of this year is Transforming Education.

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

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

Answer: (c)

Related facts:

- International Youth Day (IYD), observed on 12th August every year, is an awareness day designated by the United Nations to draw attention to a given set of cultural and legal issues surrounding youngsters.
- Theme for the year 2019 is Transforming Education. It highlights efforts to make education more relevant, equitable and inclusive for all youth, including efforts by youth themselves.
- Rooted in Goal 4 of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development – to ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all, IYD-2019 will examine how Governments, young people and youth-led and youth-focused organizations, as well as other stakeholders, are transforming education and how these efforts are contributing to the achievement the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.



Background:

- IYD was first celebrated on 12th August, 2000, after the UN General Assembly passed a resolution accepting the recommendation made by the World Conference of Ministers Responsible for Youth in Lisbon in 1998.

Links:

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

Books

Prahlad Patel launches book titled- The Diary of Manu Gandhi

Question: Book titled The Diary of Manu Gandhi was launched by?

(a) Prahlad Singh Patel (b) Narendra Modi (c) Arvind Subramaniam (d) Arvind Kejriwal

Answer: (a)

Related facts:

- Culture and Tourism Minister Prahlad Singh Patel launched a book titled- The Diary of Manu Gandhi at a function in New Delhi on 22nd August, 2019.
- The book has been brought out by National Archives of India, on the occasion of 150th anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi in collaboration with Oxford University Press.
- Mr Patel lauded this effort of National Archives of India (NAI) and Oxford University Press for translating the book The Diary of Manu Gandhi in English.
- He said this translation will help entire world to understand the life of Mahatma Gandhi. He also urged NAI to translate the Diary into other Indian languages.
- The Diary of Manu Gandhi originally written in Gujarati language has been edited and translated by a well known scholar Dr. Tridip Suhrud.
- The first volume of the book covers the period of 1943-1944. Manu Gandhi was a grand niece of Mahatma Gandhi.



Links:

<http://www.newsonair.com/News?title=Culture-Minister-Prahlad-Patel-launches-book-titled-the-Diary-of-Manu-Gandhi%E2%80%99&id=370472>

Miscellaneous

Tatpar App launched by Delhi Police

Question: Which of the following App is launched by Delhi police to provide safety?

(a) Tatpar (b) Turant (c) Tatkai (d) Help

Answer: (a)

Related facts:

- On 19th September, 2019, Delhi Lieutenant Governor Anil Baijal has launched Tatpar App to provide safety and a convenient 24×7 online mode to its citizens.
- The Tatpar App has an SOS button, which is provided on the home screen, for urgent assistance.
- The SOS button will enable the user to call an emergency contact number of their choice or reach out to their nearest Police Control Room (PCR) at 100 with a single touch.



- The app has included all the important websites, mobile applications and helpline numbers of Delhi Police besides, 50 others services. People can also share information to police about a suspicious vehicle or person or of a crime

Links:

<https://www.livemint.com/news/india/delhi-police-launches-new-app-where-you-can-file-online-fir-pay-traffic-challan-1568862343601.html>

AFRO Completes 80 Years

Question: The Air Force Record Office (AFRO) has completed its 80 years of formation on 14 September 2019. Where was it established firstly in 1939?

(a) New Delhi (b) Hyderabad (c) Ambala (d) Jaipur

Answer: (c)

Related facts:



- **Air Force Record Office (AFRO)** celebrated its **80th anniversary** of its formation on **13 September 2019** with ceremonial fervour at Subroto Park, **New Delhi**. It was founded in Ambala.
- The Air Officer Commanding AFRO, Air Commodore AR Shendye VM delivered a performance status report as a prelude to the ceremony. He also gave a gist of the events being undertaken to commemorate the event.
- The highlight of the evening was the release of a Coffee Table Book titled '**AFRO Through the Ages**' by Air Marshal Raghunath Nambiar Air Officer Commanding-in-Chief, and Western Air Command.

History of AFRO:

- The AFRO can justifiably take pride in being one of the **oldest IAF formations**.
- After its formation as **IAF Record Office at Ambala in 1939**, it changed several locations such as **Lahore** in 1941, **Bombay** in 1942, **Madras** in 1946 and **New Delhi** in 1947 before finding its permanent location at Subroto Park in 1966.
- During its eight decades of existence, its growth has been closely interlinked with that of the IAF. Initially handling the **end to end HR management** of only 14100 Hawai Sepoys in 1947, today it has grown into a mammoth institution looking after nearly 1,43,000 Air Warriors.
- Its aim now is to **automate all manual processes** and reduce paper movement between outlying field units and AFRO, thereby enhancing transparency and accountability.

Links:

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

Chintan Shivir

Question: Which of the following ministry is going to organize Chintan Shivir on 23rd September, 2019?

(a) Ministry of Food (b) Ministry of Home (c) Ministry of Steel (d) Ministry of Environment

Answer: (c)

Related facts:



- The Ministry of Steel partnering with Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce & Industry (FICCI) and Joint Plant Committee is organizing a day long Chintan Shivir on 23rd September, 2019 at Manekshaw Centre, New Delhi. It is organized by Ministry of Steel
- The Chintan Shivir aims to hold deliberations among key stakeholders to further the growth of Indian Steel industry by arriving at a strategy to make the Indian Steel sector vibrant, efficient, environment friendly and globally competitive.
- The key objective of the day long Chintan Shivir is to discuss opportunities of enhancing competitiveness of Indian Steel sector, facilitate capacity expansion & technology adoption, and augment demand for Indian Steel, both for domestic consumption as well as for exports.
- Dharmendra Pradhan, Minister for Steel and Petroleum & Natural Gas, Nitin Gadkari, Minister of Road Transport & Highways and Micro, Small & Medium Enterprises, and other ministers will be addressing the gathering in the Valedictory Session.
- Keeping in mind the key focus areas for the sector, various technical sessions have been crafted accordingly for the day.
- The first technical session on facilitating domestic capacity expansion with special reference to Secondary Steel Sector will comprise of key stakeholders of the Secondary Steel Sector. This session will capture the opportunities & challenges in the sector and discuss upon how it can support the capacity expansion aligned to the targets of National Steel Policy 2017.
- The second session on the theme demand generation, enhancing usage in various sectors would focus on the demand drivers, defining the growth dynamics of Indian Steel Industry. The session will witness participation of stakeholders both from users as well as the steel producers.
- The third session on making India a hub for High Grade Steel would deal with the challenges and opportunities pertaining to indigenous development of high-grade steel.
- The conference will witness participation from policy makers, bureaucrats, steel PSUs, integrated steel producers, secondary steel producers & others.

Link:

<https://pib.gov.in/PressReleaseDetail.aspx?PRID=1585310>

Multi-Product Road Show organized by APEDA

Question: Where did the Multi product road show take place on 16 September 2019 organized by the Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA)?

(a) Mumbai (b) New Delhi (c) Jakarta (d) Colombo

Answer: (c)

Related facts:

- The Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA) organized a multi-product road show in association with the Embassy of India in Jakarta on 16th September, 2019.

- A 40-member delegation of exporters of rice and sugar visited Jakarta and held a meeting with Minister of Trade, Republic of Indonesia.
- B2B meeting of Indian exporters was organized in Jakarta by APEDA with Indonesian importers for these products.
- The Indian delegation also met Bulog Indonesia, Indonesia Logistics Bureau, a government owned company in Indonesia which deals with food distribution and price control.
- APEDA also organized a road show in Medan, Indonesia on 18th September, 2019.
- Earlier this month APEDA also participated in the 84th Thessaloniki International Fair (TIF) in Thessaloniki, Greece held from 7th to 15th September 2019.
- Agriculture and processed food products like ready to eat vegetables, curries and rice, mango pulp, organic products, herbs etc. were displayed and promoted through sampling and tasting at the TIF.
- APEDA is also promoting export of basmati rice through sampling and tasting campaign of basmati rice biryani in vegetarian and non-vegetarian versions.



Link:

<https://pib.gov.in/PressReleaseDetail.aspx?PRID=1585304>

CAS Flags off Kargil to Kohima Ultra-Marathon

Question: What is the name of the marathon flagged off from Kargil to Kohima on September 6, 2019?

(a) History Run (b) Veer Marathon (c) Glory Run (d) None of the above

Answer: (c)

Related facts:



- Kargil to Kohima (K2K) marathon named Glory Run was flagged-off at Air HQ , (Vayu Bhavan) on September 6, 2019.
- To commemorate **20th year of Kargil Victory** and to live up to the true tradition and motto of Indian Air Force – **“Touch the Sky with Glory”**, a unique expedition **Kargil to Kohima, Ultra-Marathon- “Glory Run”** is undertaken by IAF.
- The marathon will take place from **Kargil War Memorial, Drass (J&K) to Kohima War Cemetery, Kohima (Nagaland)**.
- Kohima and Kargil are the **two forward most outposts of India** in the East and in the North where two most fierce battle of modern India were fought in **1944 and 1999 respectively**.
- K2K – Glory Run will **commence on 21 September 2019** and culminate on 06 Nov 19. A team of 25 Air Warriors will cover the distance of more than **4500 Km in 45 days** by running an average of 100 Km per day.
- The aim of the expedition is to promote awareness for **‘Pedestrian Safety’** and recently launched **‘Fit India Movement’** by **Prime Minister Narendra Modi** along with paying tribute to brave hearts who made the supreme sacrifice.

Links:

<https://pib.gov.in/PressReleaseDetail.aspx?PRID=1584381>

Walmart ranked as India's top retailer

Question: Which company is the top retailer in India?

(a) Walmart (b) Kishore Biyani's Future Group (c) Amazon (d) Tata Group

Answer: (a)

Related facts:

- On 3rd August, 2019, US retail giant Walmart has been figured India's top retailer, according to a study by Euromonitor International tracking Asia's largest retailers.
- Walmart topped the rankings in India for 2018, after it acquired internet retailer Flipkart last year in a \$16 billion deal.
- Walmart is followed by another US giant—online retailer Amazon—that according to the report titled Top 100 Retailers in Asia 2019 is India's second-largest retailer.
- Kishore Biyani's Future Group ranked third, followed by Reliance Group that has formats across electronics, apparel, and grocery retail, among others.
- Tata Group that runs formats such as Westside, and Croma, among others, ranked fifth. These retailers saw no change in their rankings in 2018.
- Across Asia, China's Alibaba Group Holding Ltd, owned by Chinese billionaire Jack Ma topped the rankings, followed by JD.com Inc, and Japan's Seven and Seven & I Holdings Co Ltd that owns the popular 7-Eleven convenience stores.



Links:

<https://www.livemint.com/companies/news/walmart-ranked-as-india-s-top-retailer-report-1564834958351.html>

Maitri App

Question: Which among the following App has been developed which connects children at orphanages with senior citizens in old-age homes?

(a) Maitri App (b) Mitra App (c) Friendship App (d) Connecting App

Answer: (a)

Related facts:

- In a unique of its kind, five girls have developed a mobile App "Maitri" that connects children at orphanages with senior citizens in old-age homes.
- The innovative attempt fetched them a bronze medal at global tech competition in the US.
- The developers of the mobile App Maitri are Ananya Grover, Vanshika Yadav, Vasudha Sudhinder, Anushka Sharma and Arefa. They are all 12th Class students of Amity International College in Noida.



Maitri:

- This Maitri App has seen over 1000 downloads and has thirteen old-age homes and seven orphanages are connected through it.

- Maitri permits facilities to register and provides contact details and map locations for assistance.

Links:

<https://www.businesstoday.in/top-story/indian-girls-create-an-app-to-connect-old-age-homes-and-orphanages-win-tech-prize-in-us/story/375730.html>