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NAVATRA

Monthly Magazine on Current Events

Vol. - 5 >>> Issue - 7 >>> January, 2022



GOOD GOVERNANCE INDEX
ASSESSMENT OF STATE OF GOVERNANCE

GGI 2020-21



Commerce & Industry



Judiciary & Public Safety



Public Infra & Utilities



Citizen Centric Governance



Environment



Agriculture & Allied Sectors



Social Welfare & Development



Human Resource Development



Economic Governance



Public Health

 **THE WORLD BANK**
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 **NITI Aayog**

 **Ministry of Health and Family Welfare**

**HEALTHY STATES,
PROGRESSIVE INDIA**

REPORT ON THE RANKS OF STATES AND UNION TERRITORIES



HEALTH INDEX
ROUND IV 2019-20

मेरठ से प्रयागराज तक 594 कि

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

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

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

Our plan will be to publish our monthly PDF on very first day of every month with making appropriate modifications of day-to-day events. In general, the events happened till 31th day will be given place in the PDFs. The necessity of this is to ensure the contents factual authenticity.

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

Fourth edition of states health Index (2019-20) by NITI Aayog

Question: Which of the following state of India topped in the list of health Index (2019-20) among the large states, recently released by NITI Aayog?

- a) Karnataka
- b) Uttar Pradesh
- c) Himachal Pradesh
- d) Kerala

Answer: (d)

Health scores | The table shows the NITI Aayog's Health Index scores (out of 100) of the three 'large' States at the top and bottom in 2019-20 and 2018-19. The rank for the latter is mentioned in brackets

Rank	State	2019-20	2018-19
1	Kerala	82.2	81.6 (1)
2	Tamil Nadu	72.42	70.79 (2)
3	Telangana	69.96	65.74 (4)
19	U.P.	30.57	25.06 (19)
18	Bihar	31	30.24 (18)
17	M.P.	36.72	33.37 (17)

Related Facts:-

- On December 27, 2021, government think tank NITI Aayog released the fourth edition of its health index for 2019-20.
- **This health index has given the** ranking to the states in the country on the basis of overall health performance.
- The report was divided into three parts –
 1. Large states,
 2. Small States and
 3. Union territories.
- Among the smaller states, Mizoram was the best performing state while Nagaland remained at the bottom
- Among large states Uttar Pradesh ranks last in terms of overall health performance, while Kerala is at the top.
- According to the NITI Aayog report, Chandigarh tops the Union Territories, followed by Dadra and Nagar Haveli at number two and Delhi at number three.
- **Overall Health Performance among Large States:-**
- **Top three states in terms of overall health performance among 19 large states are as follows:-**

State	Score	rank
Kerala	82.20	1 st
Tamil Nadu	72.42	2 nd

- Uttar Pradesh ranks last among 19 states in terms of overall health performance among large states with a score of 30.57
- **Incremental Performance:-**
- In terms of incremental performance by registering the highest incremental change from the base year (2018-19) to the reference year (2019-20) In Uttar Pradesh topped.
- NITI Aayog's Health Index is a weighted composite score consisting of 24 indicators covering key aspects of health performance.

Links:-

<https://pib.gov.in/PressReleaselframePage.aspx?PRID=1785506>

PM laid the foundation stone of Ganga Expressway in Shahjahanpur, Uttar Pradesh

Question: Consider the following statements:

- (1) Prime Minister Narendra Modi has laid the foundation stone of Ganga Expressway in Shahjahanpur, Uttar Pradesh
 - (2) After completion of work, it will become the longest expressway of Uttar Pradesh
 - (3) It will pass through 14 districts of Uttar Pradesh
- Which of the above is/ are correct?**

- (a) Only 1 (b) 1 and 2 (c) 2 and 3 (d) 1,2 and 3

Answer: (b)

Related Facts:

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi laid the foundation stone of the longest expressway of Uttar Pradesh Ganga Expressway in Shahjahanpur district.
- After completion of work, it will become the longest expressway of Uttar Pradesh.
- Ganga Expressway is a 594 Km long Expressway.
- It will be built at a cost of over Rs 36,200 crore.
- It will pass through 12 districts of Uttar Pradesh namely Meerut, Hapur, Bulandshahr, Amroha, Sambhal, Budaun, Shahjahanpur, Hardoi, Unnao, Rae Bareilly, Pratapgarh and Prayagraj.
- A 3.5 Km long air strip for assisting emergency take off and landing of Air Force planes will also be constructed on the Expressway in Shahjahanpur.
- An industrial corridor is also proposed to be built along the Expressway.



Reference: <https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1782978>

Good Governance Index 2021 : Gujarat tops

Question: Which of the following state has topped the composite ranking in the Good Governance Index 2021?

- (a) Uttar Pradesh (b) Gujarat (c) Maharashtra (d) Goa

Answer: (b)
Related Facts:

- Gujarat tops the composite ranking in the 58 indicator index followed by Maharashtra and Goa.
- In the Union Territories category, Delhi has topped the composite rank registering a 14 per cent increase over the GGI 2019 indicators.
- In the North-East and Hill States category, Mizoram and Jammu and Kashmir registered an overall increase of 10.4% and 3.7% respectively over GGI 2019.
- Uttar Pradesh has registered an 8.9 per cent improvement in the GGI indicators in the period 2019 to 2021 which Jammu and Kashmir registered an improvement of 3.7 per cent in the same period.



Reference: <https://m.economictimes.com/news/india/amit-shah-launches-good-governance-index-2021-gujarat-tops-up-shows-incremental-growth/articleshow/88493548.cms>

Tamil Nadu announced 'Tamil Thaaai Vaazhthu' as state song

Question: Which of the following state government has announced 'Tamil Thaaai Vaazhthu' as the state song?

(a) Tamil Nadu (b) Puducherry (c) Kerala (d) Andhra Pradesh

Answer: (a)

Related Facts:

- The Tamil Nadu government has announced 'Tamil Thaaai Vaazhthu' as the state anthem.
- The song was written by Manonmaniam Sundaram Pillai and composed by M. S. Viswanathan.
- Recently, the Madras High Court has ruled that 'Tamil Thai Vaazhthu' is a prayer song and not an anthem hence there is no need for everyone to remain in standing posture when it is rendered.
- Madras High Court said that "There is no statutory or executive order requiring the attendees to stand up when Tamil Thai Vaazhthu is sung."

Reference: https://www.theweek.in/news/india/2021/12/17/tamil-nadu-govt-declares-tamil-thaaai-vazhthu-as-state-song_amp.html

T-Setu Bridge : Odisha

Question: Which of the following state government has inaugurated 'T-Setu' bridge?

(a) Odisha (b) West Bengal (c) Andhra Pradesh (d) Tamil Nadu

Answer: (a)

Related Facts:

- Chief Minister of Odisha, Naveen Patnaik has inaugurated the state's longest bridge, 'T-Setu'.
- It is built over the Mahanadi River in Cuttack District, Odisha.

- The bridge in the shape of the English alphabet 'T' was constructed at a cost of Rs 111 crore.
- The 4-km-long bridge connecting Gopinathpur in Badamba, Baideswar in Banki to Singhanath Pitha in Cuttack, will cut the distance between Badamba and Banki Baideshwar by almost 45 km.
- The 7.5 metre wide bridge will facilitate communication for around five lakh people of the nearby localities besides improving agriculture, business and tourism activities in and around the area.
- It will also benefit devotees visiting Baba Singhanath's Bali Makar Jatra in Badamba block.



Reference: <https://www.google.com/amp/s/www.newindianexpress.com/states/odisha/2021/dec/21/odisha-cm-inaugurates-states-longest-bridge-t-setu-over-mahanadi-2398021.amp>

Seven new internet nodes

Question: “Seven new internet nodes” has been launched in which of the following state?

(a) Madhya Pradesh (b) Himachal Pradesh (c) Uttar Pradesh (d) Rajasthan

Answer: (c)

Related Facts:

- Seven new Internet exchange nodes has been launched in Uttar Pradesh by Minister of State for IT Rajeev Chandrasekhar and Minister of State, Law and Justice SP Singh Baghel.
- These nodes will be located at Meerut, Agra, Kanpur, Lucknow, Prayagraj, Varanasi and Gorakhpur.
- Until now, only one internet exchange node was operating at Gautam Buddha Nagar in Uttar Pradesh.
- Such exchanges improve internet performance and speed for consumers, ensuring better resilience, stability, efficiency and quality of the internet at a lower cost.



Reference: <https://government.economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/digital-india/7-new-internet-exchange-nodes-to-boost-connectivity-digital-economy-in-up/88447266>

Jharkhand passes Bill to prevent mob violence, lynching

Question: Recently, Which state government passed Bill to prevent mob violence, lynching?

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

Answer: (c)

Related Facts:

- The Jharkhand Assembly on Tuesday passed Prevention of Mob Violence and Mob Lynching Bill, 2021, which aims at providing “effective protection” of



constitutional rights and the prevention of mob violence in the state.

- After including one amendment, the Bill was passed and sent to the Governor for his assent.
- Once notified, Jharkhand will become the fourth state to bring in such a law after West Bengal, Rajasthan and Manipur.
- The Bill defines lynching as “any act or series of acts of violence or death or aiding, abetting or attempting an act of violence or death, whether spontaneous or planned, by a mob on the grounds of religion, race, caste, sex, place of birth, language, dietary practices, sexual orientation, political affiliation, ethnicity or any other ground”.
- In case of a lynching incident leading to the victim suffering hurt, the convicts will be punished with imprisonment up to 3 years and a fine between ₹1 lakh to ₹3 lakh.

Reference: <https://www.google.com/amp/s/indianexpress.com/article/india/jharkhand-assembly-anti-lynching-bill-7684237/lite/>

India's biggest drone show being organized in Lucknow as part of Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav

Question: India's biggest drone show has been organized in which of the following city?

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

Answer: (c)

Related Facts:

- India's biggest drone show has been organized in Lucknow as part of the Amrit Mahotsav series of events on 1857.
- India's biggest drone show in Lucknow jointly organised by the Ministry of Culture, Government of India and the Department of Tourism and Culture, Uttar Pradesh.
- The story of India's first freedom struggle from 1857 to 1947 will be presented simultaneously in the sky through music, laser light, acrobatics through 500 drones.
- The drone show will be organized from 5:30 pm on December 20 at the Residency which witnessed the first revolution of 1857 in Lucknow.



Reference: <https://amritmahotsav.nic.in/whats-new-detail.htm?59>

Delhi to get first Teachers' University

Question: Which state is to get its first Teachers University?

(a) Rajasthan (b) Kerala (c) Delhi (d) Maharashtra

Answer: (c)

Related Facts:

- Delhi will get its first-ever Teachers University, as Arvind Kejriwal-led Delhi Cabinet approved a proposal to establish the university.
- This university aims to prepare well-trained and highly qualified teachers.



- It will be a public university dedicated to preparing excellent quality teachers for the city across various school stages.
- In a bid to develop a new generation of teachers, the University will offer a four-year integrated teacher education programme after Class 12.
- Various courses such as BA and BEd, BSc, B.Ed, BCom and BEd will be incorporated into this programme.
- Those enrolled in the University will be attached to Delhi government schools for training purposes so that they can get hands-on experience with a strong emphasis on action research.
- The Delhi CM announced that admission to the new university will start in the academic year 2022-23.
- The university will be set up at Bakkarwala.

Reference: <https://www.google.com/amp/s/www.indiatoday.in/amp/cities/delhi/story/delhi-cabinet-approves-proposal-to-set-up-first-teachers-university-bill-to-be-placed-in-assembly-soon-1890753-2021-12-22>

Atal Innovation Mission, NITI Aayog launches Vernacular Innovation Program

Question: Consider the following statements:

(1) Atal Innovation Mission and Niti Aayog launched the first of its kind Vernacular Innovation Program (VIP)

(2) It will enable innovators and entrepreneurs to have access to the innovative ecosystem in 22 mother tongue languages

Which of the above is/are correct?

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

Answer: (c)

Related Facts:



- Atal Innovation Mission, Niti Aayog on 22 December 2021, launched the first of its kind Vernacular Innovation Program.
- It will enable innovators and entrepreneurs to have access to the innovative ecosystem in 22 mother tongue languages.
- To build the necessary capacity for the VIP, AIM has identified and will be training a Vernacular Task Force (VTF) in each of the 22 scheduled languages.
- Each task force comprises of vernacular language teachers, subject experts, technical writers, and the leadership of regional Atal Incubation Centers (AICs).
- Vernacular Innovation Program strengthens the design and innovation capabilities of our communities, thereby assisting local entrepreneurs, artisans and innovators to seamlessly assimilate the knowledge cum technical materials that AIM will develop.
- This would assist India in building a strong local network of design experts and innovation practitioners.
- This one of its kind initiative by Atal Innovation Mission, will help in overcoming the barriers of language and empower innovators.
- VIP is an initiative to lower the language barrier in the field of innovation and entrepreneurship.

Reference: <https://www.pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1784135>

Chalo mobile app and smart card launched for convenient bus travel in Mumbai

Question: Which of the following state government has launched Chalo mobile app & smart card for bus travel?

(a) Rajasthan (b) Maharashtra (c) Uttar Pradesh (d) Uttarakhand

Answer: (b)

Related Facts:

- Maharashtra Tourism and Environment Minister, Aaditya Thackeray has launched the Chalo mobile application (app) and Chalo smart cards.
- This mobile app and smart card will facilitate digital, and advance purchase of BEST bus tickets.
- Chalo mobile app will allow passengers to buy bus tickets and passes through e-wallet.
- The mobile application will provide live bus tracking, and also information on how crowded the vehicle is, along with the arrival time of the bus.



Reference: <https://www.google.com/amp/s/www.financialexpress.com/infrastructure/chalo-mobile-app-and-smart-card-launched-for-convenient-bus-travel-in-mumbai/2386525/lite/>

Punjab government declared Sri Krishan Balram Rath Yatra as state festival

Question: Which state government has declared “Krishna Balram Jagannath Rath Yatra” as state festival?

(a) Punjab (b) Haryana (c) Nagaland (d) Manipur

Answer: (a)

Related Facts:

- Punjab chief minister Charanjit Singh Channi, who flagged off the 25th ‘Shri Krishan Balram Rath Yatra’ in the city, declared the annual procession a state festival.
- He also announced a grant of Rs 2.51 crore for the Iskcon Temple in Ludhiana, Punjab.
- Punjab Government is also developing the Bhagavad Gita and Ramayana Research Centre on a 20-acre land in Patiala.



Reference: <https://www.google.com/amp/s/www.hindustantimes.com/cities/chandigarh-news/channi-declares-sri-krishan-balram-rath-yatra-state-festival-101639955184657-amp.html>

Nagaland gets three new districts

Question: Nagaland government has announced the creation of three new districts, namely Tseminyu, Niuland and Chumoukedima. Now, How many districts are there in Nagaland?

(a) 12 (b) 13 (c) 14 (d) 15

Answer: (d)

Related Facts:

- Nagaland government has announced the creation of three new districts, namely Tseminyu, Niuland and Chumoukedima.
- This comes less than a year after the 12th district of the state—Noklak—was inaugurated.
- With the addition of the three new districts, Nagaland will now have 15 districts.
- Nagaland became the 16th state of India on 1 December 1963.



Reference: <https://www.eastmojo.com/nagaland/2021/12/18/nagaland-gets-three-new-districts-ahead-of-2023-polls/>

Chhattisgarh gets 'Cleanest State' of India

Question: Chhattisgarh gets 'Cleanest State' of India who is Governor of Chhattisgarh?

a) Phagu Chauhan b) Acharya Devvrat c) Ramesh Bais d) Anusuiya Uikey

Ans :d

Related Facts:

- Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel on Saturday (December 18, 2021) received from President Ram Nath Kovind the national award after Chhattisgarh was judged the 'Cleanest State' in the country.
- Under Swachh Bharat Mission (Urban), Chhattisgarh was also presented the best state award in 'Safai Mitra Suraksha Challenge 2021'.
- Chhattisgarh has secured the top rank in cleanliness for a third consecutive year (2019, 2020 and 2021)
- Chhattisgarh is the only state where more than 9,000 cleanliness 'didis' are collecting 1,600 tonnes of wet and dry waste from houses and scientifically disposing them off.
- **History of Chhattisgarh:**
- In August 2000 the Indian legislature passed the Madhya Pradesh Reorganization Bill to create Chhattisgarh.
- The name Chhattisgarh, meaning "thirty-six forts," was formerly applied to the territory of the Haihaya dynasty of Ratanpur, founded about 750.
- Chhattisgarh, state of east-central India. It is bounded by the Indian states of Uttar Pradesh and Jharkhand to the north and northeast, Odisha (Orissa) to the east, Telangana (formerly part of Andhra Pradesh) to the south, and Maharashtra and Madhya Pradesh to the west.

Links :

<https://www.dailypioneer.com/2021/state-editions/chhattisgarh-gets---cleanest-state---of-india-tag.html>

Cabinet approved Programme for Development of Semiconductors and Display Manufacturing Ecosystem in India

Question: Union Cabinet approved a how many crore production linked incentive (PLI) scheme for boosting semiconductors?

(a) ₹ 66,000 crore (b) ₹ 71,000 crore (c) ₹ 76,000 crore (d) ₹ 86,000 crore

Answer: (c)

Related Facts:

- Cabinet approved Rs 76,000-crore policy boost for semiconductor manufacturing.
- The scheme is expected to usher in a new era in electronics manufacturing by providing a globally competitive incentive package to companies in semiconductors and display manufacturing as well as design.
- It will strengthen India's technological prowess in these areas of strategic importance and economic self-reliance.
- The programme will give an impetus to semiconductor and display manufacturing by facilitating capital support and technological collaborations.
- The programme aims to provide attractive incentive support to companies / consortia that are engaged in Silicon Semiconductor Fabs, Display Fabs, Compound Semiconductors / Silicon Photonics / Sensors (including MEMS) Fabs, Semiconductor Packaging (ATMP / OSAT), Semiconductor Design.
- With the launch of this scheme, the government expects investments of about Rs 1.7 lakh crore and 1.35 lakh jobs in the upcoming four years.



Reference: <https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1781723>

UNESCO inscribed 'Durga Puja in Kolkata' on the Representative List of Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity

Question: Which among the following has been inscribed in the UNESCO list of Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity?

(a) Durga Puja in Kolkata (b) Chhath Puja in Bihar (c) Onam in Kerala (d) Baisakhi in Punjab

Answer: (a)

Related Facts:

- UNESCO inscribed 'Durga Puja in Kolkata' on the Representative List of Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity.
- Durga Puja not only is a celebration of the feminine divinity but is a consummate expression of dance, music, crafts, rituals, practices culinary and cultural aspects.
- The festival transcends the boundaries of caste, creed and economic classes and joins the people together in its celebration.
- With the inscription of Durga Puja in Kolkata, India now has 14 intangible cultural heritage elements on the prestigious UNESCO Representative List of ICH of Humanity.
- Intangible cultural heritage means the practices, representations, expressions, knowledge, skills – as well as the instruments, objects, artifacts and cultural spaces

associated with them that communities, groups and, in some cases, individuals recognize as a part of their cultural heritage.

Reference: <https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1781868>

Union Cabinet gives nod to raise women's marriage age to 21

Question: Union Cabinet has approved a proposal to raise the legal marriage age of women from 18 to how many years?

(a) 19 Years (b) 20 Years (c) 21 Years (d) 22 Years

Answer: (c)

Related Facts:

- The Centre has decided to raise the legal age of marriage of women from 18 to 21 years and is likely to move legislative amendments in the ongoing winter session of Parliament.
- The decision is based on the recommendation of a four-member task force led by former Samata Party chief Jaya Jaitly.
- The proposed bill may also seek to make consequential changes to various personal laws relating to marriage of various communities to ensure a uniform marriage age.
- The government will now look to introduce amendments to the Prohibition of Child Marriage Act, Special Marriage Act, and the Hindu Marriage Act to bring the plan into action.
- The panel was constituted in June 2020. Its terms of reference included examining the correlation of age of marriage and motherhood with the health of the mother and infant as well as key health and population indicators like Infant Mortality Rate (IMR), Maternal Mortality Rate (MMR), Total Fertility Rate (TFR), Sex Ratio at Birth (SRB), Child Sex Ratio (CSR) etc.
- It was also tasked to suggest measures for promoting higher education among women.
- According to the National Family Health Survey-5, in 2019-2021 23.3% of women in the age of 20 to 24 were married before the age of 18, which is an improvement from 26.8% in 2015-2016.



Reference: <https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/union-cabinet-gives-nod-to-raise-womens-marriage-age-to-21/article37968276.ece>

Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship has launched Aatmanirbhar Skilled Employees Employer Mapping (ASEEM) portal

Question: Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship has launched ASEEM portal who is minister of Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship ?

a) Shri Dharmendra Pradhan b) Shri Nitin Gadakari c) Shri Raj nath singh
d) None of these

Ans:a

RelatedFacts:

- Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship has launched Aatmanirbhar Skilled Employees Employer Mapping (ASEEM) portal.
- the objective is to provide a platform that matches supply of skilled workforce with the market demand, thereby facilitating better livelihood opportunities for youth and availability of ready skilled manpower to employers.
- ASEEM portal is being managed by National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC) under the aegis of Ministry.
- At present, there is around 10 lakh migrant's data/profile are available on ASEEM.
- ASEEM as such consists of three IT based AI (artificial intelligence) driven interfaces for stakeholder interactions:
 - I. A job application for individuals with access to hyper local jobs using machine learning and automated match based on persona.
 - II. A demand and campaign management system for employers to forecast the current and future demand.
 - III. A management dashboard for analytics and insights. This could also be used for future decision making.
- To maintain data sanity and data security all data is maintained on NSDC owned and managed servers.



Links:

<https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1778500>

PM Modi to inaugurate thought leadership forum on FinTech, InFINITY Forum.

Question: PM Modi to inaugurate thought leadership forum on FinTech, InFINITY Forum. PM Modi is member of parliament IN Lok Sabha from which seat?

a) Varanasi b) Kanpur c) Mathura d) Prayagra

Ans a

Related Facts:

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi will inaugurate InFINITY Forum . thought leadership forum on FinTech, on Friday December 3, 2021 at 10 AM via video conferencing.
- The event is being hosted by International Financial Service Centres Authority (IFSCA) under the aegis of the Government of India in collaboration with GIFT City and Bloomberg on December 3 and 4, 2021.
- Indonesia, South Africa and the UK are partner countries in the first edition of the Forum.



Links:

<https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/india/pm-modi-to-inaugurate-thought-leadership-forum-on-fintech-infinity-forum-today/articleshow/88061975.cms>

Nadi Utsav (नदी उत्सव) 2021

Question: NMCG related to which of the following river?

a) Ganga b) Gomti c) Ghaghra d) None of these

Answer: (a)

Related Facts:-

- On 16 December 2021; The Nadi Utsav 2021, a pan-India event began and will last till December 23, 2021.
- The event is being organized by the Ministry of Jal Shakti in association the Ministry of Tradition and the Ministry of Tourism.
- Nationwide Mission for Clean Ganga is the chief propounder of it, and all are working together to put on the event.
- Nadi Utsav is celebrated by the National Mission for Clean Ganga (NMCG) every year for strengthening Public – River Connection.
- NMCG is the implementing wing of National Ganga Council. It was constituted in 2016 and replaced the National Ganga River Basin Authority (NRGBA).
- NMCG has been registered in the Guinness Book of World Records on first day of Ganga Utsav 2021.
- Cleanliness, Nature & Ecology, Patriotism, and Devotion & Spirituality are the four themes that have been chosen for the ceremonies.
- The Azadi ka Amrut Mahotsav marketing campaign is in charge of this year's celebrations.
- In India, events related to Nadi Utsav 2021 are taking place in 22 states and 170 districts.
- The third day of Nadi Utsav saw celebrations across the country, with over 16 states and 41 districts staging events.
- Ganga aartis, plantation drives, cleanathons, sketching and painting competitions, river marathons etc are being held to celebrate the Utsav.
- It should be noted that Prime Minister Narendra Modi (in his Mann ki Baat program) had invited the people to prepare and have exciting river festivals at least once a year.
- The event also emphasizes emphasizes the importance of Jan Bhagidari in rejuvenating the Ganges.

Links:-

<https://www.aninews.in/news/national/general-news/nadi-utsav-2021-festivities-across-country-on-day-320211219205719/>

NITI Aayog signs a Statement of Intent with WFP

Question : NITI Aayog has recently signed a Statement of Intent with United Nations World Food Program(WFP). Accordingly, which of the following fact/s is/are correct ?

Facts —

1. Partnership focuses on mainstreaming of millets.
2. The Declaration of Intent was signed on December 20, 2021.

3. **2023 has been declared as the International Year of Millets.**

Options —

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

Ans. d.

Related facts —



- NITI Aayog has recently signed a Statement of Intent (Sol) with United Nations World Food Program (WFP).

• **Key points/facts —**

1. The Declaration of Intent was signed on December 20, 2021.
2. Partnership focuses on mainstreaming of millets and supporting India in taking lead globally in knowledge exchange.
3. It is notable that 2023 has been declared as the International Year of Millets.
4. The Sol focuses on strategic and technical collaboration between NITI Aayog and WFP.

Significance —

5. Phase I: Development of a best practice compendium around millet mainstreaming and a scale-up strategy
- Phase II: Support scale-up of millet mainstreaming through knowledge sharing and intense engagement with select states
- Phase III: Leverage India's expertise to support developing countries for millet mainstreaming
- Phase IV: Working on building capacities for climate resilient and adaptive livelihood practices

Link:

<https://pib.gov.in/PressReleaseFramePage.aspx?PRID=1783716>

Lok Sabha passes electoral reforms bill that links Aadhaar to voter ID

Question: Consider the following statements:

- (i) On 20th December 2021 Lok Sabha has passed the Election Laws (Amendment) Bill, 2021.
- (ii) The bill proposes to link Aadhaar to voter ID among other provisions.

Which of the above two are correct?

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

Ans: c

Recent Context

- On 20th December 2021 Lok Sabha has passed the Election Laws (Amendment) Bill, 2021.

• **Related Facts**

- Election Laws (Amendment) Bill 2021 will allow electoral registration officers to ask for Aadhaar number of people who want to register as voters.
- It will also allow for the linking of Aadhaar to already existing Voter Ids.
- This will help in rooting out discrepancies in voter id as well as ghost voters.



- It will also help to identify registration of name of same person in electoral roll of more than one constituency or to identify the registration of name more than once in same constituency.
- Bill also makes it clear that, “no application will be denied for inclusion of name in the electoral roll and no entries will be deleted for inability of individuals in the electoral roll, to intimate Aadhaar number due to such sufficient cause”.
- Such people will be allowed to furnish other alternative documents as may be prescribed.
- The bill will amend several sections of Representation of the People Act, 1950 and 1951.
- Bill has also faced opposition as Aadhar act is for the targeted delivery of financial and other subsidy benefits and services only and cant be used to interfere with a legal right such as voting.

Reference:

<https://indianexpress.com/article/india/election-laws-amendment-bill-passed-lok-sabha-7681801/>

Secretaries of the Congress Parliamentary Party

Question : Who has recently(December 2021) been appointed as secretary of the congress parliamentary party ?

- a. Santokh Singh Chaudhary b. M K Raghavan
c. Amee Yajnik d. All of the above

Ans. d.

Related facts —

- Congress president Sonia Gandhi has recently(December 2021) appointed party MPs Santokh Singh Chaudhary, M K Raghavan and Amee Yajnik as secretaries of the Congress Parliamentary Party.
- **Other appointments with in the party —**
- Sonia Gandhi has appointed D K Suresh as the treasurer.
- Besides Deepinder Singh Hooda, the young MPs who have been named in the executive committee of the CPP include, Gurjeet Singh Aujla, Pradyut Bordoloi, Pratibha Singh, Karti Chidambaram, Jasbir Singh Dimpa and Nakul Nath.
- The Congress president has appointed the office bearers of Congress Parliamentary Party with immediate effect.
- Members of the Congress Parliamentary Party executive committee include Su Thirunavakkarasar, Fransisco Sardinha, Komati Reddy Venkat Reddy, Adoor Prakash, Geeta Koda, Benny Behanan, Suresh Dhanorkar, Mohammed Jawed, Rajmohan Unnithan, Phulo Devi Netam, Naranbhai J Rathwa, Shamsheer Singh Dullo, G C Chandrashekhar, Neeraj Dangi and Pradeep Tamta.



Link:

<https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/politics-and-nation/sonia-gandhi-appoints-office-bearers-of-cong-parliamentary-party/articleshow/88394655.cms>

IIT Delhi, Indian Air Force Collaborate To Improve Indigenisation Efforts

Question: Who is Air Chief Marshal Of India ?

- a) Vivek Ram Chaudhari b) Manoj Mukund Naravane c) R. Hari Kumar.
d) Karambir Singh

Ans:a

Related Facts:

- The Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Delhi and Indian Air Force (IAF) have signed an agreement for various developmental projects to support the requirements of the IAF on December 13, 2021
- The joint partnership between the IAF and IIT Delhi seeks to accelerate IAF's indigenisation efforts for achieving self-reliance.
- Under the ambit of the agreement, the statement added, the IAF has identified key focus areas involving technology development and finding indigenous solutions towards sustenance of various weapon systems.
- The partnership between IAF and IIT Delhi will significantly boost the efforts by Base Repair Depots (BRDs) of Maintenance Command IAF, towards enhancing sustenance capability, obsolescence management, indigenisation and achieving self-reliance.



Links:

<https://www.ndtv.com/education/iit-delhi-indian-air-force-collaborates-improve-indigenisation-efforts>

Raksha Mantri Shri Rajnath Singh launches Rashtriya Ekta Geet composed by NCC Cadets in 22 languages

Question: A song 'Rashtriya Ekta Geet' composed by the National Cadet Corps (NCC) cadets in 22 language was launched in December 2021. The song is based on which of the following theme?

- (a) National Security (b) National Integration (c) National Partition
(d) Patriotism

Answer: (b)

Related Facts:

- Raksha Mantri Shri Rajnath Singh launched 'Rashtriya Ekta Geet' composed by the National Cadet Corps (NCC) cadets in 22 languages on the theme of National Integration.
- It was launched during the grand finale of 'Vijay Shrankhla aur Sanskrityon ka Mahasangam' campaign in New Delhi on December 17, 2021.
- The mega event was conducted by NCC as part of 'Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav', which is presently being celebrated to commemorate 75 years of India's Independence.
- It comprised of honouring and felicitating bravehearts of 1971 Indo-Pak War at 75 locations across the country under the NCC Vijay Shrankhla including live streaming on the Gallantry Award Portal.



Electric buses in Uttar Pradesh

Question : Which of the following would finance 350 electric buses in Uttar Pradesh ?

a. PFC b. PTC c. STC d. None of the above

Ans. a.

Related facts —

- State-owned Power Finance Corporation(PFC) on December 15 said it will lend Rs 275 crore for deployment of 350 electric buses across nine cities in Uttar Pradesh.
- **Agreement —**
 - An agreement to this effect was signed between PFC and GreenCell Mobility(an e-mobility platform supported by governments of India and the UK) to boost adoption of electric vehicles in the country.
- **Cities —**
 - The buses will be deployed in key cities of UP including Agra, Meerut, Aligarh, Bareilly, Ghaziabad, Mathura, among others.
- **FAME-II scheme —**
 - It is noteworthy that the Centre has launched FAME-II scheme with an allocation of Rs 3,500 crore for promotion of adoption of electric buses.
- **Significance —**
 - Electric buses offer sustainable mobility solutions by tackling challenges of poor air quality and also reducing carbon footprints of the nation.



Link:

<https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/auto/news/pfc-to-finance-350-electric-buses-in-uttar-pradesh/articleshow/88304477.cms>

Foundational literacy index

Question: Consider the following statements:

- (i) The report on the 'Index on Foundational Literacy and Numeracy' was prepared by 'Institute for Competitiveness' and released by Economic Advisory Council to the Prime Minister (EAC-PM) chairman Bibek Debroy.
- (ii) In the category of 'large states' West Bengal has topped the index.

Which of the above are correct?

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

Ans: c

Recent Context

- The report on the 'Index on Foundational Literacy and Numeracy' was released by Economic Advisory Council to the Prime Minister (EAC-PM) chairman Bibek Debroy on 16th December 2021.
- **Related Facts**
 - Report is an indicator of literacy among children below 10 years.

- Report categorises states into four categories: large states, small states, Union Territories and North East.
- The Index includes five pillars comprising 41 indicators.
- The five pillars are — educational infrastructure, access to education, basic health, learning outcomes and governance.
- West Bengal (58.95) topped the index and Bihar languished at the bottom in the 'large states' category.
- In the 'small states' category, Kerala (67.95) was placed at the top spot and Jharkhand was at the bottom.
- Lakshadweep (52.69) and Mizoram (51.64) are top-scoring regions in the Union Territory and Northeast state category, respectively.
- Ladakh has featured at the bottom in the list of UTs, while Arunachal Pradesh came last in the North East category.
- The Index was prepared by 'Institute for Competitiveness'.

Reference:

https://www.business-standard.com/article/current-affairs/foundational-literacy-index-bengal-tops-bihar-last-among-large-states-121121601089_1.html

Gen Naravane takes charge as Chairman, Chiefs of Staff Committee

Question: Consider the following statements:

- Centre has appointed Indian Army Chief General Manoj Mukund Naravane as Chairman of the Chiefs of Staff Committee.
- Chairman of Chief of Staff Committee was an old system which was functioning before the advent of Chief of Defence Staff system in India.

Which of the above statements are correct?

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

Ans: c

Recent Context

- Centre has appointed Indian Army Chief General Manoj Mukund Naravane as Chairman of the Chiefs of Staff Committee recently after the demise of CDS General Bipin Rawat.

- **Related Facts**

- This is stop-gap arrangement before the appointment of a new Chief of Defence Staff.
- Before the appointment of CDS two years ago Chiefs of Staff Committee was responsible for synergy between the Army, Navy and Air Force.
- The previous practice was to appoint the senior-most Chief of armed forces as chairman of the Chief of Staff Committee.
- Due to sudden demise of country's first CDS centre has made functional the old system till new CDS is chosen.
- The post of CDS was created in 2019 on the recommendations of a committee of defence experts headed by Lt. General D.B. Shekatkar.



Reference:

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

All India Mayors' Conference

Question: In which city All India Mayors' Conference was organized on 17th December 2021 which was inaugurated by PM Modi virtually?

(a) Varanasi (b) Prayagraj (c) Lucknow (d) None of the above

Ans: a

Recent Context

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated and addressed an All-India Mayor's Conference in Varanasi on December 17, 2021 via video conferencing.
- Related Facts
- The All-India Mayor's Conference is organised by the department of Urban Development of Uttar Pradesh.
- Mayors from various states across the country took part in the conference.
- The theme of the Conference is "New Urban India".
- The conference is being organized at Deen Dayal Upadhyay-Business Facilitation Center (DDUTFC) in Bada Lalpur, Varanasi, Uttar Pradesh.
- Conference will be followed by a 3-day exhibition to showcase the key achievements of the Centre and Uttar Pradesh government in the sphere of urban development.
- Exhibition will be organised under the theme "Changing Urban Environment" from December 17 to 19, 2021.
- The Mayors' conference marks the beginning of a month-long celebrations in Varanasi due to inauguration of Kashi Vishwanath Dham PM Modi.



Reference:

<https://newsonair.com/2021/12/17/pm-modi-to-inaugurate-and-address-all-india-mayors-conference-in-varanasi-today/>

Vijay Diwas 2021

Question: Consider the following statements:

(1) Vijay Diwas is celebrated every year on December 16 to commemorate the victory of the Indian armed forces over Pakistan in the 1971 war

(2) Bangladesh celebrates this day as 'Bijoy Dibos' to mark the country's formal independence from Pakistan

Which of the above statements is/are true?

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

Answer: (c)

Related Facts:

- Vijay Diwas is celebrated every year on December 16 to commemorate the victory of the Indian armed forces over Pakistan in the 1971 war.



- Bangladesh celebrates the day as 'Bijoy Dibos' to mark the country's formal independence from Pakistan.
- The 1971 war brought Bangladesh on the world map, which was until then East Pakistan.
- Vijay Diwas 2021 marks the 51th anniversary celebrations of India's victory over Pakistan in 1971.

Reference: <https://www.news18.com/news/lifestyle/vijay-diwas-2021-history-significance-of-the-day-when-india-defeated-pakistan-in-1971-war-4559333.html>

Kazhuveli wetland in Tamil Nadu declared bird sanctuary

Question: Kazhuveli Wetland declared as 16th Bird Sanctuary, In which of the following state of India, Kazhuveli Bird Sanctuary is located?

(a) Uttar Pradesh (b) Gujarat (c) Maharashtra (d) Tamil Nadu

Answer: (d)

Related Facts:

- The Kazhuveli wetland situated in Villupuram district of Tamil Nadu has been declared as the 16th Bird Sanctuary by Surpiya Sahu, Environment and Forest Secretary, at the Minister of Environment Forest and Climate Change.
- It covers 5,151.60 hectares of land in Vanur taluk and 3,027.25 hectares in Marakkanam taluks.
- The declaration was made under subsection (1) of section 18 of the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972.



Reference: <https://indianexpress.com/article/cities/chennai/tamil-nadu-kazhuveli-wetland-bird-sanctuary-7660209/>

Haiderpur wetland in Uttar Pradesh is new Ramsar site

Question: Consider the following statements:

(1) Haiderpur Wetland of Western Uttar Pradesh has been recognized as 47th Ramsar site in the country and 9th in Uttar Pradesh

(2) Haiderpur Wetland is a man-made lake, which was formed in 1984

Which of the above statements is/are true?

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

Answer: (c)

Related Facts:

- Recently Haiderpur Wetland of Western Uttar Pradesh has been recognized as 47th Ramsar site in the country and 9th in Uttar Pradesh.
- Haiderpur Wetland is a man-made lake, which was formed in 1984.
- The Haiderpur Wetland is spread over an area of 6908 hectares on the Muzaffarnagar-Bijnor border between the Ganges and the Solani River. It is a part of Hastinapur Wildlife Sanctuary.



- It provides habitat for numerous animal and plant species, including more than 30 species of plants, over 300 species of birds, including 102 waterbirds, more than 40 fish and more than 10 mammal species.

Reference: <https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/meerut/haiderpur-wetland-in-up-is-new-ramsar-site/articleshow/88193986.cms>

Total Registered EVs in India

Question: Which of the following state topped the Total Registered EVs in India?

a) Maharashtra b) Uttar Pradesh c) Karnataka d) Madhya Pradesh

Answer: (b)

Related Facts:-

- Union Minister of Road Transport & Highways Nitin Gadkari informed that Uttar Pradesh has topped the Total Registered EVs in India.
- Gadkari in Parliament's winter session, told the Rajya Sabha on the state of electrical Vehicles (EV) in India.
- As per the info, India features 870,141 registered EVs, with Uttar Pradesh (UP) holding the highest mark with 255,700 registered EVs.
- UP is followed by Delhi (125,347), Karnataka (72,544), Bihar (58,014) and Maharashtra (52,506) in successive positions.
- Important information: GST & Service Tax
- The Central Government of India has lowered the products & Service Tax (GST) on Electric Vehicles & related products.
- GST on EVs is now 5% and previously 12%)
- GST on EV Chargers & Charging Stations is 5% and previously 18%



Links:-

<https://www.livemint.com/news/india/up-delhi-karnataka-lead-in-ev-sales-8-7-lakh-electric-vehicles-on-indian-roads-11638961393745.html>

Chief Guest for Republic Day celebrations, 2022

Question: Who among of the following will the Chief Guest for Republic Day celebrations, 2022?

a) Joe Biden b) Boris Johnson c) Five central Asian countries d) Emmanuel Macron

Answer: (c)

Related Facts:-

- Five central Asian countries will be the chief guest for Republic Day celebrations, 2022.
- India has invited Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Turkmenistan, Tajikistan, and Uzbekistan for 26 January 2022 celebrations
- This will be the first time that all Central Asian countries will be present as Republic Day guests.



- It should be noted that for the Republic day celebrations-2018, so many countries were invited together for India's Republic Day celebrations as then India invited ASEAN grouping.
- India shares historical, cultural, and civilizational links with these countries.
- Their company at the Republic Day festivities will help in boosting the relationship between both sides.
- India shares cultural, civilization and historic linkages with central Asian countries.
- Most importantly the Prime Minister Narendra Modi had become the first Prime Minister to visit all Central Asian countries in 2015.
- It was the first visit in 2015, when any Indian Prime Minister since the five republics came into being after Soviet Union's breakup.

Links:-

<https://www.timesnownews.com/india/article/republic-day-2022-india-invites-heads-of-state-of-five-central-asian-countries-as-chief-guests/839976>

Foundation Stone for Umiya Mata Temple

Question: In which of the following state Foundation Stone for Umiya Mata Temple laid recently by the Union Home Minister Amit Shah?

a) Maharashtra b) Gujarat c) Himachal Pradesh d) Jammu & Kashmir

Answer: (b)

Related Facts:-

- On 11 December 2021; Union Home Minister Amit Shah laid the Foundation Stone for Umiya Mata Temple and Umiya Campus was by in Ahmedabad.
- The temple, dedicated to Maa Umiya, the reigning deity of the Kadva Patidar sect of Gujarat
- The temple will be constructed as well as other buildings, which will come up at a cost of Rs 1,500 crore on 74,000 square yards of land.
- Mr. Babubhai Patel, BJP MLA, is the chairman of the Umiyadham Shilanyas Mahotsav Samiti.
- During Shah's one-day visit to Ahmedabad, he had further inaugurated various developmental projects including the inaugural of a railway bridge.
- The ceremony was also accompanied by Prime Minister Narendra Modi virtually on December 13.



Links:-

<https://www.republicworld.com/india-news/general-news/amit-shah-lays-foundation-stone-of-rs-1500-crore-umiya-mata-temple-in-ahmedabad.html>

Konyaks Tribe

Question: Konyaks Tribe, they were in the news are the largest tribes of which of the following Indian state?

(a) Mizoram (b) Assam (c) Tripura (d) Nagaland

Answer: (d)

Related Facts:

- Konyaks, the largest tribe in Nagaland, were fired upon when they were returning from coal mines to their home in Oting in Mon district.
- The Indian Armed Force's firing killed 14 civilians in Oting village of Nagaland, which included Konyaks.
- The Konyak is the largest tribe, followed by Ao, Tangkhul, Sema, and Angami in Nagaland. Other Naga tribes include Lotha, Sangtam, Phom, Chang, Khiemnungam, Yimchungre, Zeliang, Chakhesang (Chokri), and Rengma.



Reference: <https://www.news18.com/news/india/tattooed-headhunters-warriors-craftsmen-a-history-of-nagalands-konyak-tribe-4531898.html>

Launch of E-Sawaari India Electric Bus Coalition

Question: Which of the following govt body recently launched the E-Sawaari India Electric Bus Coalition?

a) NITI Aayog b) DRDO c) ECIL d) None of these

Answer: (a)

Related Facts:-

- On 07 December NITI Aayog announced the launch of-Sawaari India Electric Bus Coalition.
- It has been launched in association with the Convergence Energy Service Limited (CESL) & World Resources Institute.
- This coalition is also supported by Transformative Urban Mobility Initiative (TUMI).
- Through the e-Sawaari India Electric Bus Coalition, various stakeholders will be able to share knowledge and their experience on e-bus adoption in India.
- Amitabh Kant, CEO, NITI Aayog, on this occasion said that Electrification of public transport especially in the bus sector is key to India's decarbonization strategy.
- He further told that the e-Sawaari India Electric Bus Coalition is a step toward ensuring steady and paced electrification of the bus transport system in India.
- He said that Identifying innovative means to address the challenges of procurement, operations and financing e-bus deployment at scale is crucial to achieve net zero emissions.



Links:-

<http://www.businessworld.in/article/NITI-Aayog-Launches-e-Sawaari-India-s-First-Electric-Bus-Coalition-/08-12-2021-414094/>

Kashi Vishwanath Dham

Question: Consider the following statements:

- (1) Prime Minister Modi inaugurated Shri Kashi Vishwanath Dham in Varanasi
- (2) The first phase of this project has been constructed at an approximate cost of Rs 339 crore
- (3) A total of 23 buildings will be inaugurated in phase 1 of the project
- (4) The project is now spread over a massive area of about 5 lakh square feet

Which of the above statements are correct?

(a) 1 and 2 only (b) 2 and 3 only (c) 1, 2 and 4 (d) 1, 2, 3 and 4

Answer: (d)

Related Facts:

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated the Kashi Vishwanath Dham.
- This Temple was demolished by the Mughal ruler Aurangzeb.
- PM Modi had laid the foundation stone of this project on March 8, 2019. The first phase of the project has been constructed at an approximate cost of Rs 339 crore.
- A total of 23 buildings will be inaugurated in phase 1 of the project.
- The scale of the project was such that the project is now spread over a massive area of about 5 lakh square feet, whereas earlier premises was limited to just around 3000 square feet.
- This temple is one of the 12 Jyotirlingas of Lord Shiva, hence it is considered one of the biggest centers of faith by the Hindus.
- While inaugurating Kashi Vishwanath Dham, Modi called on Indians to make three resolutions for the sake of the country: Swachhta (cleanliness), Srijan (creation) and continuous efforts for Aatmanirbhar Bharat (self-reliant India).



Reference: <https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1780658>

India Skills Report 2022

Question: Consider the following statements:

- (1) The 9th edition of India Skills Report (ISR) 2022, released by Wheebox
- (2) The theme of ISR 2022 – ‘Rebuilding and Reengineering the Future of Work’
- (3) Uttar Pradesh has top position in the list of states with the highest pool of employable talent

Which of the following is/are correct?

- (a) Both 1 & 2 (b) Both 2 & 3 (c) Both 1 & 3 (d) All of these

Answer: (a)

Related Facts:

- The 9th edition of India Skills Report (ISR) 2022, released by Wheebox.
- The theme of ISR 2022 – ‘Rebuilding and Reengineering the Future of Work’.
- Maharashtra has retained the top position in the list of states with the most employable talent followed by Uttar Pradesh and Kerala.
- West Bengal emerged as the fourth most employable concentration of talent.
- Karnataka, Delhi, Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, Gujarat and Haryana made up the remaining top 10 states for youth employability.
- India Skills Report 2022 is based on the results of the Wheebox National Eligibility Test (WNET) undertaken by 3 lakh candidates all over India and a report from the India Hiring Intent Survey covering 150 corporates spanning over 15 industries and sectors.



Reference: <https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/business/india-business/maharashtra-retains-top-spot-among-states-states-for-most-employable-talent-in-2022-skills-report/articleshow/88170560.cms>

Section 144 CrPC invoked in Lucknow till January 5, 2022

Question: Section 144 has been imposed in which among the following cities till January 5, 2022?

(a) Prayagraj (b) Lucknow (c) Gorkhapur (d) Varanasi

Answer: (b)

Related Facts:

- The Lucknow Police has invoked Section 144 CrPC in Lucknow district from December 7, 2021 to January 5, 2022.
- In view of Christmas and New Year's celebration amid Covid-19 threat and protest declared by various farmers' organisations, Section 144 CrPC has been invoked in Lucknow.
- No one without a proper police permission will either take out a procession of five-person or more than that, nor anyone will become a part of it.



Reference: <https://www.livemint.com/news/india/section-144-crpc-invoked-in-uttar-pradesh-city-till-january-5-11638880566998.html>

The first certified tokenization service for NPCI Tokenization System(NTS)

Question : Tokenization is an alternative arrangement under which the information related to the cards of banks is stored with the merchant. Which of the following has recently(December 2021) launched tokenization service for Indian Businesses on RuPay ?

a. PayPhi b. Google Pay c. JIO Money d. Payzapp

Ans. a.

Related facts —

- PayPhi recently(December 2021) launched tokenization service for Indian Businesses on RuPay.
- PayPhi is Phi Commerce's API-first digital payments platform.
- It has now become the first certified tokenization service for NPCI Tokenization System (NTS) that supports the tokenization of RuPay cards.
- Tokenization is an alternative arrangement under which the information related to the cards of banks is stored with the merchant.
- It is noteworthy that the National Payment Corporation of India had announced the launch of a token system for RuPay cards in October 2021.



Link:

https://www.business-standard.com/content/press-releases-ani/payphi-launches-tokenization-service-for-indian-businesses-on-rupay-121120600962_1.html

Sight of a Royal Bengal Tiger

Question: After the gap of how much time, recently a Royal Bengal tiger has finally been spotted in northern West Bengal?

a) 10 years b) 15 years c) More than 20 years d) None of these

Answer: (c)

Related Facts:-



- On 10 December 2021; after a gap of more than two decades, a Royal Bengal tiger has finally been spotted in northern West Bengal.
- It was seen in the night of 10 December 2021, in a camera trap at Buxa Tiger Reserve (BTR) in Alipurduar district of West Bengal.
- It should be noted that the region has not witnessed Royal Bengal tiger in more than 20 years.
- The sighting of the Bengal tiger is vital because, for 23 years within the Buxa Reserve, no tiger has been photographed.
- The royal tiger was photographed last in 1998.
- **Buxa Tiger Reserve**
- Buxa Tiger Reserve is located in northern West Bengal, which covers an area of 760 sq km.
- The reserve is abode to around 284 bird species. It's also a household to mammals like the Asian elephant, gaur, clouded leopard, Sambar deer, and Indian leopard.
- Buxa Tiger Reserve was founded as the 15th tiger reserve of India in 1983.
- National Highway No.31 C around runs across the reserve's southern boundary.

Links:-

<https://www.indiatoday.in/india/story/tiger-spotted-at-bengal-buxa-reserve-after-two-decades-1886804-2021-12-11>

IIHB Survey

Question: Which of the following couple, topped in the list of power couples of the Annual Power Couples survey, released by the Indian Institute of Human Brands (IIHB)?

a) Mukesh Ambani -Nita Ambani b) Deepika Padukone & Ranveer Singh
c) Virat Kohli and his actress wife Anushka Sharma d) Ranveer -Alia

Answer 😊 a)

Related Facts:-

- On 09 December 2021; Annual Power Couples survey released by the Indian Institute of Human Brands (IIHB) in Mumbai.
- Chairman of Reliance Industries, Mukesh Ambani, and his wife Nita Ambani have topped the list of power couples.
- The Ambanis of Reliance, Mukesh & Nita, topped the rankings with an impressive 94% score.
- They were followed by Deepika Padukone & Ranveer Singh (DeepVeer) who scored 86% taking second place.



- Indian Cricket team captain Virat Kohli and his actress wife Anushka Sharma (popularly together called Virushka) got a 79% score for third place.
- Ambani power-couple conducted the field on dynamic, successful, innovative, unique, prestigious, progressive, and traditional features.
- Ranveer Singh and Deepika Padukone were indexed at Number 2 for best on characteristics like fun, charming, distinctive, different, and made for each other.
- Virat Kohli and Anushka Sharma occupied third place on high quality, outdoorsy, authentic, and best brands.
- This result was drafted after covering a sample size of 1,362 responses aged between 25-40 years.
- IAHB incorporated business couples into the list for the first time this year.
- **Rankings of other couples from the corporate world, in IAHB list of 2021-**
- Infosys founder Narayana Murthy & Sudha Murthy at 10th
- Adar and Natasha Poonawala (Head of Serum Institute) at 11th
- Azim and Yasmeen Premji (Head of Wipro) at 16th
- Anand and Anuradha Mahindra (Head of Mahindra Group) at 19th
- Kumar Mangalam and Neerja Birla (Head of Aditya Birla Group) at 20th

Links:-

<https://www.thehindubusinessline.com/news/mukesh-and-nita-ambani-top-iahbs-power-couples-survey/article37908197.ece>

World's largest national flag in Mumbai

Question : At which city's Naval Dockyard did Indian Navy recently(December 2021) exhibited the world's largest national flag ?

a. Chennai b. Mumbai c. Vishakhapatnam d. Cochin

Ans. b.

Related facts —

- The Western Naval Command of the Indian Navy exhibited the world's largest national flag at Mumbai's Naval Dockyard, overlooking the iconic Gateway of India, on December 4, 2021.
- **Measurement of flag —**
- It measured 225 feet in length and 150 feet in width and weighed about 1400 kgs and is made of khadi and was manufactured in 49 days with 70 Khadi artisans to prepare this flag.
- It has been conceptualized and manufactured by the KVIC as part of the 'Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav.'
- The monumental national flag has been conceptualized and prepared by them to celebrate the 75 years of India's independence.
- Khadi and Village Industries Commission(KVIC) has handed over the flag to the defence forces for displaying the same at prominent places on historic occasions.
- The flag was unveiled on Gandhi Jayanti(October 2) this year at a hilltop in Leh.



Link:

http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/articleshow/88100182.cms?utm_source=contentofinterest&utm_medium=text&utm_campaign=cppst

Tamil Nadu Center of Advance Manufacturing (TANCAM)

Question : Dassault Systèmes has recently(November 2021) signed an MoU with TIDCO to set up 3DEXPERIENCE Innovation Center(Tamil Nadu Center of Advance Manufacturing) at the TIDEL Park in ____.

a. Chennai b. Coimbatore c. Madurai d. Erode

Ans. a.

Related facts —

- Dassault Systèmes has recently(November 2021) signed an MoU with TIDCO to set up 3DEXPERIENCE Innovation Center(Tamil Nadu Center of Advance Manufacturing) at the TIDEL Park in Chennai.
- A first of its kind Center of Excellence in India, TANCAM will provide a dedicated IT engineering ecosystem to support the MSME sector and students across Tamil Nadu, and enable the growth of various industries(aerospace, defense, automotive and electric vehicles etc).
- The collaboration with Dassault Systèmes to set up TANCAM will further equip the state with the latest technologies such as the 3DEXPERIENCE platform to drive state's commitment in upskilling and future-ready innovation through modern design and engineering solutions.



Link:

https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/small-biz/sme-sector/dassault-systmes-signs-mou-with-tidco-to-set-up-3dexperience-innovation-center/articleshow/87998645.cms?utm_source=contentofinterest&utm_medium=text&utm_campaign=cppst

Inauguration of InFinity Forum

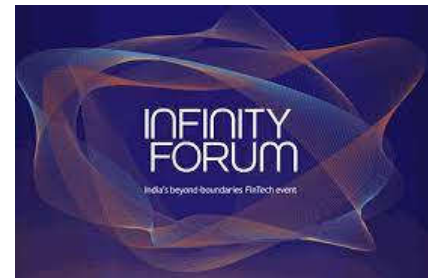
Question : Who Inaugrated the 'InFinity Forum', a thought leadership Forum on FinTech on December 3, 2021 ?

a. Narendra Modi b. Nirmala Sitharaman c. Harsh Vardhan d. Rajiv Kumar

Ans. a.

Related facts —

- On December 3rd Prime Minister Narendra Modi Inaugrated the 'InFinity Forum' through video conference.
- It is a thought leadership Forum on FinTech.
- The agenda of the Forum is focusing on the theme of 'Beyond'; with various sub-themes including FinTech beyond boundaries, with governments and businesses focussing beyond the geographical boundaries in the development of global stack to promote financial inclusiveness; FinTech beyond Finance, by having convergence with emerging areas such as SpaceTech, GreenTech and AgriTech to drive sustainable development; and FinTech Beyond Next, with focus on how Quantum Computing could impact the nature of Fintech industry in the future and promote new opportunities.
- **Key points of PM' speech —**



- It is notable that last year, in India, mobile payments exceeded ATM cash withdrawals for the first time.
- Fully digital banks, without any physical branch offices, are already a reality and may become commonplace in less than a decade.
- He emphasized that now it is time to convert these fintech initiatives into a fintech revolution.
- “A revolution that helps to achieve financial empowerment of every single citizen of the country”, he said.
- PM pointed out that from less than 50% of Indians having bank accounts in 2014, India has almost universalized it with 430 million Jan Dhan accounts in the last 7 years.
- He also listed initiatives like 690 million RuPay cards clocking 1.3 billion transactions last year; UPI processing around 4.2 billion transactions in just last month; almost 300 million invoices are uploaded on the GST portal every month; despite the pandemic, about 1.5 million railway tickets are getting booked online every day; last year, FASTag processed 1.3 billion seamless transactions; PM Svanidhi enabled access to credit for small vendors across the country; e-RUPI enabled targeted delivery of specified services without leakages.

Link:

<https://pib.gov.in/PressReleaselframePage.aspx?PRID=1777520>

Gujarat displaced Maharashtra to become largest manufacturing hub in country

Question: Consider the following statements:

- (1) Gujarat has left behind Maharashtra to become the country's leading manufacturing hub.
 (2) Maharashtra, however, continues to lead as the nation's biggest services hub.
Which of the following is/are correct?

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

Answer: (c)

Related Facts:

- Gujarat displaced Maharashtra to become largest manufacturing hub in country with the former's Gross Value Addition (GVA) in manufacturing growing 15.9 per cent annually on average between FY12 and FY20 to touch Rs 5.11 lakh crore, according to the data released by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI).
- Maharashtra, however, continues to lead as the nation's biggest services hub.
- Maharashtra's annual growth rate during the period was 7.5 per cent per annum, taking the state's total manufacturing GVA to Rs 4.34 lakh crore in FY20.



Reference: <https://indianexpress.com/article/india/gujarat-displaces-maharashtra-to-become-largest-manufacturing-hub-in-country-7650544/>

Question- Where is the 5th World Congress on Disaster Management being organized between November 24-27, 2021?

(a) Mumbai (b) Chennai (c) Ahmedabad (d) New Delhi

Answer—(d)

Related facts



- The 5th World Congress on Disaster Management (5th World Congress on Disaster Management), 2021 is being held at the campus of IIT Delhi, New Delhi from 24-27 November 2021.
- Main theme- 'Technology, Finance and Capacity for Building Resilience to Disasters with special focus on Pandemics in the context of COVID-19'.
- It is an initiative of the Disaster Management Initiatives and Convergence Society.
- Headquartered in Hyderabad, to bring together researchers, policy-makers and practitioners from across the globe to discuss various challenging issues in disaster risk management.
- It aims to promote dialogue on science, policy and practices to increase understanding of risks and advance actions to reduce risks and build disaster resistance.
- It was virtually inaugurated by the Union Defense Minister Rajnath Singh.
- **SAGAR comprises of both distinct and inter-related elements like:**
 1. Deepening economic & security cooperation among littoral states
 2. Enhancing capacities to safeguard land & maritime territories
 3. Working towards sustainable regional development & Blue Economy
 4. Promoting collective action for dealing with non-traditional threats such as piracy, terrorism and natural disasters.
- He also appreciated the Armed Forces for being first responders in region for Humanitarian Aid and Disaster Relief (HADR) operations.
- He highlighted, India's unique position in the IOR along with the capability of Armed forces, enables it to contribute significantly during HADR situations.

Link:

<https://pib.gov.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=226992>

Noida International Airport

Question: On November 25, 2021, Prime Minister Narendra Modi laid the foundation stone of the Noida International Airport. Which of the following in the option regarding this airport is not correct?

- (a) Noida International Airport is being constructed at Jewar, Gautam Budh Nagar.
(b) After the construction of this airport, Uttar Pradesh will be the only state in the country to have six international airports.
(c) This will be the second airport in the National Capital Territory of Delhi.
(d) It will be the first airport in India where emissions will be net zero.

Answer—(b)

Related facts

- On November 25, 2021, the Prime Minister laid the foundation stone of the Noida International Airport.
- This airport is being constructed in Jewar, Gautam Budh Nagar, Uttar Pradesh.
- After the construction of this airport, Uttar Pradesh will be the only state in the country to have five international airports.
- This will be the second airport in the National Capital Territory of Delhi.
- Operation of this airport will reduce the pressure on Indira Gandhi International Airport.
- This strategically located airport will serve the urban population and neighboring areas including Delhi, Noida, Ghaziabad, Aligarh, Agra, Faridabad.
- The total cost of the project is estimated at Rs 29,560 crore
- The construction work is underway and the first phase of the airport is likely to be completed by 2024.
- The airport's construction will be completed in four phases over a period of approximately 30 years. Once it becomes operational, Uttar Pradesh will have a total of 5 airports.



Link:

<https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/defaultinterstitial.cms>

PM Narendra Modi Inaugurates B R Ambedkar International Centre

Question : PM Narendra Modi Inaugurates B R Ambedkar International Centre. which book written by Dr Ambedkar?

- a) Ranade, Gandhi and Jinnah b) Pakistan Or Partition Of India
c) Who were the Shudras d) All of the above

Ans :a

Related Facts :

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi today inaugurated the B R Ambedkar International Centre on Thursday December 2 ,2021.
- The prime minister also unveiled two statues of the Dalit icon at the centre in Janpath.
- Union Minister of Social Justice and Empowerment Thawar Chand Gehlot, Minister of State Ramdas Athawale and Union Sports and Youth Affairs Minister Vijay Goel were also present at the event.
- The centre will prove to be an inspiration for the promotion of the thoughts and teachings of Dr Ambedkar.
- The centre will be an important place for research on social and economic issues
- **High light points:**
- This year Dr. Ambedkar's 65th death anniversary is observed and is also known as Mahaparinirvan Diwas.
- . He had done masters in around 64 subjects and was the first Indian to pursue a doctorate.
- Dr. Bhim Rao Ambedkar, a fighter in the cause of Annihilation of Caste, . Born into a poor Mahar caste in Mhow, Madhya Pradesh,



- Bhirao Ramji Ambedkar, popularly known as Babasaheb, was the chairman of Constitution Drafting Committee and a champion of Dalit and minority rights movement in India.
- Ambedkar, who was an economist and social reformer, also served as the first Law Minister of Independent India.
- After obtaining a degree in economics and political science, Ambedkar moved to United States in 2013 to study at Columbia University in New York City.
- He earned doctorates in economics from Columbia University and London School of Economics.
- He also formed the Independent Labour Party in the same year and contested Bombay election to Central Legislative Assembly in 1937
- He opposed the special status being granted to Jammu and Kashmir under Article 370 and supported Uniform Civil Code.

Links:

<https://www.jagranjosh.com/general-knowledge/list-of-books-written-by-dr-bhimrao-ambedkar-1519194502-1>

Mahaparinirvan Diwas 2021

Question: Mahaparinirvan Diwas is observed on December 6 every year to mark the death anniversary of which of the following famous personality?

- (a) Gautam Buddha (b) Dr. B.R. Ambedkar (c) A.P.J Abdul Kalam
(d) Mahatma Gandhi

Answer: (b)

Related Facts:

- Mahaparinirvan Diwas is observed on December 6 every year to mark the death anniversary of the chief architect of India's Constitution, Dr. B.R. Ambedkar.
- BR Ambedkar was as the Chairman of the Constitution Drafting Committee for the constitution of independent India on August 29, 1947.
- He was also the law minister of India after independence.
- He had also started fortnightly and weekly papers named 'Excluded India', 'Mook Nayak', 'Janta' to raise voice against the atrocities on Dalits.
- He had done his masters in 64 subjects, knew 9 languages and had studied across the world for 21 years.
- He was also the first Indian to pursue a doctorate.



Reference: <https://www.news18.com/news/lifestyle/mahaparinirvan-din-2021-interesting-facts-about-br-ambedkar-on-his-65th-death-anniversary-4523147.html>

Hornbill Festival celebrated in Naga Heritage village Kisama

Question: Which festival in Nagaland is known as the “Festival of Festivals”?

- (a) Sekrenyi Festival (b) Hornbill Festival (c) Tokhu Emong Festival
(d) Moatsü Festival

Answer: (b)

Related Facts:

- Nagaland's iconic Hornbill Festival, widely known as the "festival of festivals".
- Hornbill Festival, the biggest cultural extravaganza of Nagaland, kicked off with colourful renditions of traditional music, dances and contemporary in one roof at Naga Heritage village Kisama this evening.
- It is the 22nd edition of the Hornbill festival and will be celebrated in 6 districts of Nagaland.
- Every year the "Hornbill Festival" is celebrated between December 1 and December 10.



Reference: <https://newsonair.gov.in/News?title=Nagaland-Hornbill-Festival-begins%3B-Governor-urges-people-to-promote-rich-cultural-heritage-of-State&id=430676>

India entered G20 Troika

Question: Consider the following statements:

- (1) India has joined 'G20 Troika' and will work closely with Indonesia and Italy to ensure consistency and continuity of G20's agenda.
- (2) India will assume G20 Presidency in December 2022 from Indonesia and will convene the G20 Leaders' Summit for the first time in 2023.

Which of the following is/are correct?

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

Answer: (c)

Related Facts:

- India has joined the G20 Troika which consists of Indonesia, Italy, and India – the current, previous and incoming G20 Presidencies, respectively.
- India will assume G20 Presidency in December 2022 from Indonesia and will convene the G20 Leaders' Summit for the first time in 2023.
- The G20 is the premier forum for international economic cooperation, which reflects a recognition that global prosperity is interdependent and our economic opportunities and challenges are interlinked.
- India will assume the G20 Presidency on 1 December 2022 from Indonesia, and will convene the G20 Leaders' Summit for the first time in India in 2023.
- As a Troika-member, India will work closely with Indonesia and Italy to ensure consistency and continuity of the G20's agenda.
- G20 Countries: Argentina, Australia, Brazil, Canada, China, France, Germany, India, Indonesia, Italy, Japan, Republic of Korea, Mexico, Russia, Saudi Arabia, South Africa, Turkey, the United Kingdom, the United States and the EU.



Reference: [https://mea.gov.in/press-releases.htm?dtl/34551/India enters G20 Troika](https://mea.gov.in/press-releases.htm?dtl/34551/India+enters+G20+Troika)

Uttarakhand Char Dham Devasthanam Management Act

Question: Which of the following state government withdrew the Char Dham Devasthanam Management Act?

- (a) Uttarakhand (b) Himachal Pradesh (c) Uttar Pradesh (d) Jammu & Kashmir

Answer: (a)

Related Facts:

- The Uttarakhand Government recently withdrew the Char Dham Devasthanam Management Act.
- The act was withdrawn due to the protests from priests and other stakeholders of Vishwa Hindu Parishad and the major shrines.
- The Char Dham Shrine Management Act was legislated by the Uttarakhand State Assembly in 2019.
- The bill brought the Char Dham of Badrinath, Kedarnath, Gangotri and Yamunotri and 49 other temples under the purview of a proposed shrine board.



Reference: <https://indianexpress.com/article/explained/explained-why-uttarakhand-char-dham-devasthanam-board-disbanded-7649216/>

Sixth Edition of Swachh Survekshan 2021

Question: Which of the following city has been adjudged the cleanest city in India under the Swachh Survekshan 2021?

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

Answer: (b)

Related Facts:-



- On 21 November 2021; President Ram Nath Kovind honored cities for their performance, in the sixth edition of Swachh Survekshan 2021.
- The cities awarded for their performance in maintaining cleanliness, waste management and overall cleanliness.
- Madhya Pradesh's Indore was adjudged the cleanest city for the fifth consecutive year by Swachh Sarvekshan 2021.
- The event was organized during the 'Swachh Amrit Mahotsav'.
- It was a celebration of the achievements of cities in the last seven years of Swachh Bharat Abhiyan-Urban.
- **Swachh Sarvekshan:**
- It conducts an annual survey of cleanliness, waste management and overall cleanliness in cities and towns of India.
- It was launched as part of the Swachh Bharat Abhiyan, which aimed to make India clean and free from open defecation.
- Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA) is the nodal ministry of this program.
- It should be noted that 4,320 cities participated in the 6th Swachh Survekshan conducted in 2021.
- In This activity more than 5 crore citizens have responded, compared to 1.87 crore in 2020.
- In the year 2016 only 73 cities were included in the first Swachh Survekshan.
- **Categories of Swachh Sarvekshan 2021:**
- **Population less than 1 lakh:**
- The cities of Vita, Lonavala and Saswad in Maharashtra were the first, second and third cleanest cities respectively.
- Population more than 1 lakh:

- Indore (Madhya Pradesh) has been adjudged the cleanest city in India under the Swachh Survekshan for the fifth consecutive year, while Surat and Vijayawada have secured the second and third positions respectively.
- Hoshangabad emerged as the 'Fastest Moving City' in Madhya Pradesh, thus securing the 87th position among the top 100 cities.
- Best Ganga Town: Varanasi.
- Cleanest Cantonment: Ahmedabad Cantonment was declared India's Cleanest Cantonment', followed by Meerut Cantonment and Delhi Cantonment.
- **Cleanest state:**
- **States with more than 100 Urban Local Bodies:**
- Chhattisgarh has been awarded as the 'Cleanest State' of India for the third consecutive year.
- Karnataka has emerged as the Fastest Mover State.
- States with less than 100 Urban Local Bodies (ULBs):
- Jharkhand won the cleanest state award in the Urban Local Bodies Category for the second time.
- Mizoram emerged as the Fast Mover State in the category of small (less than 100 ULB) state.
- **Motivational Round awards:**
- A new performance category was introduced under Swachh Sarvekshan 2021, with five cities- Indore, Surat, Navi Mumbai, New Delhi Municipal Council and Tirupati classified as 'Divya' (Platinum).
- Other Honors:
- **Safai Mitra Safety Challenge(SMSC):**
- The top performing cities are Indore, Navi Mumbai, Nellore and Dewas, out of 246 cities that have participated under the Safai Mitra Suraksha Challenge.
- The top performing states among that participated in SMSC are Chhattisgarh and Chandigarh.
- **5-Star Rating Garbage Free Cities in India:**
- Under the Star Rating Protocol of Garbage Free Cities, 9 cities were certified as 5-Star cities, while 166 cities were certified as 3-Star and 167 as one star out of total 342 cities participated in this rating.
- A total of 9 cities- Indore, Surat, New Delhi Municipal Council, Navi Mumbai, Ambikapur, Mysore, Noida, Vijayawada and Patan have been certified as 5-star cities.

Links:-

<https://pib.gov.in/PressReleaseDetailm.aspx?PRID=1772872>

Water Supply and Sanitation in Uttarakhand

Question : How much amount has ADB recently(November 2021) Approved for Water Supply and Sanitation in Uttarakhand ?

a. 125 million dollar b. 75 million dollar c. 50 million dollar d. 25 million dollar

Ans. a.

Related facts —

- ADB has recently(November 2021) approved a 125 million dollar loan to improve access to quality water supply and sanitation services in Uttarakhand.

- The project will construct 136 kilometers (km) of water pipe system to replace defective water networks in South Dehradun.
- It will ensure reliable and continuous water supply, benefitting an estimated 40,000 people, including 4,000 urban poor and vulnerable groups.
- Water meters will also be installed in about 5,400 households to support efficient water use and consumption billing.
- Additional works under project —
- Establishment of sewage treatment plants in Dehradun, supported by 256 km of enclosed underground sewer networks and 117 km of stormwater drainage networks.
- A total of 17,410 households in Dehradun will be connected to this sewerage system.
- The project will introduce a supervisory control and data acquisition (SCADA) and geographic information system (GIS) to provide real-time data and information for monitoring.
- \$250,000 technical assistance (TA) grant —
- ADB will provide a \$250,000 technical assistance (TA) grant from its Technical Assistance Special Fund and another \$750,000 grant from its Climate Change Fund to further strengthen climate-resilient urban planning and development of the state by carrying out thorough assessment, supporting science-based decision making, developing smart integrated and resilient urban planning tools, and capacity-building activities.



Link:

<https://www.adb.org/news/adb-approves-125-million-water-supply-and-sanitation-uttarakhand-india?cfchl captcha tk=isBMQU8H8 SdOBvnUePG2.4esc0EWY3 3WD2WDgJydU-1638539332-0-gaNycGzNCz0>

Data protection bill

Question : Joint committee on data protection bill recently got _ extension.

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

Ans. a.

Related facts —

- Joint committee on data protection bill recently got sixth extension.
- The Joint Committee of Parliament examining the Personal Data Protection Bill was on on Wednesday(1 December 2021) given an extension till the last week of the ongoing Winter session to submit its report.
- The Bill, seeking to provide for the protection of personal data of individuals and establish a Data Protection Authority for the same.
- It was brought in Parliament in 2019 and was referred to the Joint Committee for further scrutiny on the demand of opposition members.
- It is notable that P P Chaudhary moved a motion seeking extension up to the last week of Winter session of Parliament for the 30-member panel to submit its report.



- The ongoing session ends on December 23.

Link:

<https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/india/joint-committee-on-data-protection-bill-gets-sixth-extension/articleshow/88025546.cms>

Buxar Thermal Power Plant

Question – On 23 November 2021, the works of the second unit of Buxar Thermal Power Plant were virtually inaugurated. What will be the total power generation from the two units being set up in this power plant?

(a) 800 MW (b) 1200 MW (c) 1320 MW (d) 1450 MW

Answer—(c)

Related facts—

- On 23 November 2021, the works of the second unit of Buxar Thermal Power Plant were virtually inaugurated.
- It is notable that Foundation Stone of 1320 MW Buxar Thermal Power Plant was laid by Hon'ble Prime Minister of India on 9th March 2019.
- The project consists of two units and that more than 50 % works related to First unit have already been completed.
- The 1320 MW Buxar Thermal Power Plant with Ultra Super Critical Technology is being developed by SJVN Thermal Pvt. Ltd (a fully owned subsidiary of SJVN Limited).
- The Plant involves investment of around Rupees 11,000 Crore. On commissioning, the plant will generate 9828 Million Units of electricity.



Link:

<https://pib.gov.in/PressReleaselframePage.aspx?PRID=1774317>

Dam Safety Bill

Question: Consider the following statements:

(A) The Dam Safety Bill provides for the surveillance, inspection, operation and maintenance of specified dams in India.

(R) Large number of dams in India are over 100 years old.

Which of the following are correct?

- (a) A and R are both correct and R is correct explanation of A
 (b) A and R are both correct and R is not the correct explanation of A
 (c) A is true but R is false (d) None of the above

Ans: a

Recent Context

- On 2nd December 2021, Rajya Sabha is scheduled to discuss the Dam Safety Bill, 2019 for consideration and passing.
- **Related Facts**



- Dam Safety Bill, 2019 was passed by Lok Shabha in August 2019.

- The objective of the bill is to “help develop uniform, countrywide procedures for ensuring the safety of dams”.
- The Bill provides for the surveillance, inspection, operation, and maintenance of all specified dams across the country.
- The dams that come under the scope of the Bill have to be more than 15 metres in height with specified design considerations.
- **Proposals under the bill**
- The bill constitutes two national bodies. They are National Committee on Dam Safety and National Dam Safety Authority.
- The National Committee on Dam Safety, will perform the functions of evolving policies and recommending regulations regarding dam safety standards.
- The National Dam Safety Authority, primary functions include implementing policies of the National Committee, providing technical assistance to State Dam Safety Organisations (SDSOs), and resolving matters between SDSOs of states or between a SDSO and any dam owner in that state.
- The bill will also constitute two state bodies. They are State Committee on Dam Safety and State Dam Safety Authority. Their functions are restricted at state level and are similar to that of the national committees and authorities.
- The Bill applies to all specified dams in the country. This includes dams built on both inter and intra state rivers. This raises a question that whether Parliament has the jurisdiction to regulate dams on rivers flowing entirely within a state or not.
- **Need of the bill**
- Over 5,000 dams across the country, many of which are currently in poor conditions.
- These dams need constant repair and checkups to avoid any future catastrophe.
- Due to this a uniform law is required to maintain the dam operations effectively.

Reference:

<https://www.firstpost.com/politics/centre-to-lay-the-dam-safety-bill-2019-in-rajya-sabha-key-features-of-proposed-legislation-10179651.html>

Government appoints three-member panel to review EWS quota

Question: Who will lead the panel formed by the government to revisit criteria for determining economically weaker sections (EWS)?

(a) Ajay Bhushan Pandey (b) V.K. Malhotra (c) Sanjeev Sanyal (d) All of these

Answer: (a)

Related Facts:

- Former Finance Secretary Ajay Bhushan Pandey will lead the committee.
- The Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment appointed a three-member committee to revisit the criteria for 10% reservation for economically weaker sections (EWS) in educational institutions and government jobs, after a rap from the Supreme Court.



- The panel comprises former Finance Secretary Ajay Bhushan Pandey (Chairman); Member Secretary, Indian Council of Social Science Research, V.K. Malhotra; and Principal Economic Advisor to Government of India, Sanjeev Sanyal.

Reference: <https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/government-appoints-three-member-panel-to-review-ews-quota/article37777317.ece>

Nagaland Police launched ‘Call your cop’ mobile app

Question: Which of the following state Police has launched a mobile app ‘Call Your Cop’?

(a) Meghalaya (b) Assam (c) Sikkim (d) Nagaland

Answer: (d)

Related Facts:

- Nagaland Police on Monday launched a mobile application named “Call Your Cop” for facilitating the users to get in touch with the law enforcers anywhere in the state.
- It will enable citizens, especially those in distress, to give a call to the force that will now be just a call away.
- The App has contact numbers of Nagaland Police officers, along with other features like alerts, emergency numbers, and police station details.
- The App was developed by Excellogics Tech Solutions Pvt Ltd.

Reference: <https://m.republicworld.com/india-news/general-news/nagaland-police-launches-call-your-cop-mobile-app.html>

First-ever Aharbal festival held in J-K’s Kulgam to promote tourism

Question : First-ever Aharbal festival held in J-K’s Kulgam to promote tourism. Under Which amendment did Jammu and Kashmir become union territory?

- The Jammu and Kashmir Reorganisation Act, 2019
- Banning of Unregulated Deposit Schemes Act, 2019
- National Capital Territory of Delhi (Recognition of Property Rights of Residents in Unauthorised Colonies) Act, 2019
- Residents in Unauthorised Colonies) Act, 2019

Ans: a

Related Facts:

- The first-ever Aharbal festival was held in the Kulgam district of Jammu and Kashmir on Thursday 25 November, 2021 with an aim to promote tourism in Kashmir, especially at Aharbal waterfall as a tourist destination.
- The festival was a collaborative effort of the Kulgam district administration and the Department of Tourism, Jammu and Kashmir.
- The waterfall is a popular tourist site in South Kashmir that attracts locals and people outside the union territory alike.
- During the festival, a colourful cultural programme was held which featured beautiful musical performances which were immensely enjoyed by the audience. Events of trekking and cycling were flagged-off by the Director, Tourism Dr G.N.



Links:

<https://www.aninews.in/news/national/general-news/first-ever-aharbal-festival-held-in-jks-kulgam-to-promote-tourism20211126065435/>

Suspension of MPs

Question: Consider the following statements:

- (i) It is the role and duty of the Presiding Officer — Speaker of Lok Sabha and Chairman of Rajya Sabha — to maintain order so that the House can function smoothly.
- (ii) Speaker of the legislative assembly shall vacate his/her office if he/she ceases to be a member of the assembly.

Which of the above are correct?

- (a) Only I (b) Only ii (c) i and ii (d) Neither i nor ii

Ans: a

Recent Context

- Recently 12 Rajya Sabha MPs from opposition parties have been suspended by the presiding officer.
- Related Facts
- Minister for Parliamentary Affairs Prahlad Joshi sought the approval of the House for suspending 12 Rajya Sabha MPs for the remainder of the session.
- The reason for their suspension was “their unprecedented acts of misconduct, contemptuous, unruly and violent behaviour and intentional attacks on security personnel” on the last day of the Monsoon Session.
- WITHDRAWAL AND SUSPENSION OF MEMBERS
- Under Rule 255 (‘Withdrawal of member’) of the General Rules of Procedure of the Rajya Sabha, The Chairman may direct any member whose conduct is in his opinion grossly disorderly to withdraw immediately from the Council and any member so ordered to withdraw shall do so forthwith and shall absent himself during the remainder of the day’s meeting.
- Under Rule 256, Suspension of member



(1) The Chairman may, if he deems it necessary, name a member who disregards the authority of the Chair or abuses the rules of the Council by persistently and willfully obstructing the business thereof.

(2) If a member is so named by the Chairman he shall forthwith put the question on a motion being made, no amendment, adjournment or debate being allowed, that the member (naming him) be suspended from the service of the Council for a period not exceeding the remainder of the Session:

Provided that the Council may, at any time, on a motion being made, resolve that such suspension be terminated.

(3) A member suspended under this rule shall forthwith quit the precincts of the Council.

Reference:

<https://indianexpress.com/article/india/parliament-winter-session-2021-live-updates-lok-sabha-raiya-sabha-december-1-2021-7650024/>

India Young Water Professional Programme

Question: Which country is collaborating with India in the first edition of India Young Water Professional Programme which was launched on 29th November 2021?

(a) Australia (b) Bangladesh (c) Germany (d) Denmark

Ans: a

Recent Context

- First edition of the Indian Young Water Professionals Programme was launched on November 29, 2021 virtually.
- Related Facts
- The launch of the India Young Water Professional Program marks a significant milestone in Australia-India Water relationship.
- Programme was launched in the presence of Indian High Commissioner to Australia, Manpreet Vohra; Australian High Commissioner to India, Barry O' Farrell and Additional Secretary of Ministry of Jal Shakti, Debashree Mukherjee.
- This Program will be implemented by Australia India Water Centre (a consortium of Australian and Indian universities).
- This initiative aims to provide a structured platform for capacity building with strategic and long-term investment to support the water management reforms in India.



Reference:

<https://pib.gov.in/PressReleaseDetailm.aspx?PRID=1776188>

International

International Arbitration and Mediation Centre inaugurated in Telangana

Question: International Arbitration and Mediation Centre inaugurated in which of the following state?

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

Answer: (d)

Related Facts:

- Chief Justice of India (CJI) Justice NV Ramana, and Chief Minister of Telangana K Chandrasekhar Rao has inaugurated India's First International Arbitration and Mediation Centre (IAMC) at Phoenix VK Tower at Nanakramguda, Hyderabad, Telangana.
- The IAMC has come up with 25,000 sq ft temporary accommodation at VK Towers in Gachibowli, an information technology hub.
- IAMC has been established to quickly resolve the issues that arise due to the Lack of sufficient judges. IAMC will settle commercial disputes and it will also look into the disputes of ordinary people.



Reference: https://wap.business-standard.com/article-amp/current-affairs/india-s-first-international-arbitration-and-mediation-centre-opens-in-hyd-121121800768_1.html

Malta became first European nation to approve cannabis for personal use

Question: Which of the following country has become the first European nation to approve cannabis for personal use?

(a) Andorra (b) Belgium (c) Croatia (d) Malta

Answer: (d)

Related Facts:

- Malta became the first European country to allow limited cultivation and possession of cannabis for personal use.
- The law, which was approved by 36 votes to 27, allows adults in Malta to possess up to seven grams (0.25 oz) of cannabis and grow up to four plants.
- The bill was promoted by Equality Minister Owen Bonnici, who says Malta has adopted a “harm-reduction approach” with the establishment of an authority to regulate the sale of cannabis for personal use by adults from non-profit associations.
- Adults will be allowed to grow four plants at home and carry seven grams of cannabis, with smoking in public or in front of children remaining illegal.
- Luxembourg announced similar plans in October but its parliament has yet to give its green light to the measure.



Reference: <https://www.reuters.com/markets/commodities/malta-parliament-set-approve-cannabis-personal-use-2021-12-14/>

UAE announced 4.5-day workweek, Saturday-Sunday weekend

Question: Which of the following nation has announced a 4.5-day work week?

(a) Saudi Arabia (b) UAE (c) India (d) Pakistan

Answer: (b)

Related Facts:

- The United Arab Emirates announced all government entities will adopt a new work-week schedule consisting of four-and-a-half days with Friday afternoon, Saturday and Sunday forming the new weekend.
- The UAE is the first nation in the world to introduce a national working week shorter than the global five-day week.
- Under the new model, employees will have to complete an eight-hour workday from Monday to Thursday but are only expected to work only for 4.5 hours on Friday.



Reference: <https://www.aljazeera.com/economy/2021/12/7/uae-announces-changes-to-workweek-for-employees-of-govt-sector>

Global Unicorn Index

Question: What is India's rank in the “Global Unicorn Index 2021”?

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

Answer: (c)

Related Facts:

- India has replaced the UK at the 3rd spot thus by adding 33 unicorns in 2020.
- The Hurun Research Institute has released Global Unicorn Index 2021.
- In total, India has 54 Unicorns.
- The 1st position is marked by the USA having 487 number of unicorns.
- The USA has added 254 unicorns newly.
- China is placed at 2nd position with 301 unicorns.
- China has added 74 unicorns newly.
- The report said there are 122 unicorns in e-commerce globally, of which 15 are in India.
- With a valuation of \$21 billion, India's most successful unicorn is edtech behemoth Byju's.
- In business, a unicorn is a privately held startup company valued at over \$1 billion.
- The term was first popularised in 2013 by venture capitalist Aileen Lee, choosing the mythical animal to represent the statistical rarity of such successful ventures.



Reference: <https://www.google.com/amp/s/www.thehindubusinessline.com/news/with-54-unicorns-india-overtakes-uk-to-third-spot-hurun-index/article38013197.ece/amp/>

Covovax Gets Emergency Use Approval From WHO

Question: Recently which of the following Indian Covid 19 Vaccine gets approved by WHO for emergency use?

(a) Covovax (b) Covavacc (c) Covaxin (d) Covishield

Answer: (a)

Related Facts:

- The World Health Organization (WHO) granted emergency use approval to Serum Institute's Covovax vaccine, making it the 9th COVID-19 vaccine to get WHO's approval.
- The vaccine, named Covovax, is produced by the Serum Institute of India under license from Novavax.
- It is part of the COVAX facility portfolio, giving a much-needed boost to ongoing efforts to vaccinate more people in lower-income countries.
- Serum Institute of India's Covovax is a protein subunit of the vaccine developed under licence from American biotechnology company Novavax, and the Coalition for Epidemic Preparedness Innovations (CEPI).



Reference: <https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/life-style/health-fitness/health-news/siis-covovax-gets-emergency-use-approval-from-who-why-its-being-hailed-as-a-milestone/photostory/88357441.cms>

Saudi Arabia-led campaign puts Arabic calligraphy on Unesco heritage list

Question: Which language's calligraphy has been added to UNESCO heritage list?

(a) Hindi (b) Japanese (c) Arabic (d) Urdu

Answer: (c)

Related Facts:

- Arabic Calligraphy: Knowledge, Skills and Practices' has been officially added to UNESCO's Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity.
- This was done after collaboration between 15 Arab countries, led by Saudi Arabia and under the supervision of the Arab League Educational, Cultural and Scientific Organization.
- The Saudi government declared the years of 2020 and 2021 the "Year of Arabic Calligraphy".



Reference: <https://www.theartnewspaper.com/2021/12/17/saudi-arabia-led-campaign-puts-arabic-calligraphy-on-unesco-heritage-list>

Global debt in December 2021

Question : Current increase in global debt is the largest one-year debt surge since World War II. It rose by _ points to 256 percent of GDP in 2020.

a. 28 percentage b. 25 percentage c. 22 percentage d. 18 percentage

Ans. a.

Related facts —

- Global debt rose to a record \$226 trillion in 2020 as the world was hit by the raging Covid-19 pandemic and a deep recession, the International Monetary Fund (IMF) announced recently(December 2021).
- Current increase in global debt is the largest one-year debt surge since World War II.
- It rose by 28 percentage points to 256 percent of GDP in 2020.
- Debt increases are particularly striking in advanced economies, where public debt rose from around 70 per cent of GDP in 2007 to 124 per cent of GDP in 2020.
- Meanwhile, private debt rose at a more moderate pace from 164 to 178 per cent of GDP in the same period.
- Some countries, especially those with high gross financing needs or exposure to exchange rate volatility, may need to adjust faster to preserve market confidence and prevent more disruptive fiscal distress.



Link:

https://www.business-standard.com/article/international/global-debt-reaches-record-226-trn-in-2020-amid-covid-pandemic-imf-121121600297_1.html

Seventh Edition of the India International Science Festival

Question: In which of the following city the Seventh Edition of the India International Science Festival held recently?

a) New Delhi b) Bhopal c) Panaji d) Lucknow

Ans: (c)

Related Facts:

- On 11 December 2021, The seventh edition of the India International Science Festival began in Panaji.
- It was inaugurated by Dr. Jitendra Singh, Minister of State (Independent Charge) Science & Technology.
- The theme of the 4-day science festival is 'Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav' – "Celebrating Creativity, Science, Technology, and Innovation for a prosperous India."
- The Minister encouraged the youth to join the Vigyan Utsav and take the lead through Innovative Start-ups.
- He said that these youth with their innovations can also help to make India a 5 Trillion Dollar Economy by 2024-25.
- He further added that there is a need for celebrating Science Festival in every city and village of India to inspire the youth in critical thinking.
- First India International Science Festival happened in 2015 at IIT Delhi.
- The most aim of the Science Festival is to use the people's innovations and develop affordable technology for the masses.



Links:-

<https://newsonair.gov.in/News?title=7th-edition-of-India-International-Science-festival-begins-in-Panaji&id=431320>

UAE : First country to transition to 4-and-half day work week

Question : Which of the following country has recently(December 2021) become first country to transition to 4-and-half day work week ?

a. UAE b. Kuwait c. Qatar d. Bahrain

Ans. a.

Related facts —

- The United Arab Emirates on December 7 announced to change its existing five-day workweek to a four-and-a-half day starting January 1, becoming the world's first country to make the employee-friendly transition as part of its efforts to improve productivity and work-life balance.
- 4-and-half day work week culture will first be implemented in all federal government entities; schools, colleges and private institutions are expected to follow suit.
- The new system will ensure smooth financial, trade and economic transactions with countries that follow a Saturday/Sunday weekend, facilitating stronger international business links and opportunities for thousands of UAE-based and multinational companies.



- The move will also bring the UAE's financial sector into closer alignment with global real-time trading and communications-based transactions such as those driving global stock markets, banks and financial institutions.

Link:

https://www.business-standard.com/article/international/uae-becomes-first-country-to-transition-to-4-and-half-day-work-week-121120700986_1.html

Dubai world's first govt to go 100% paperless

Question: Which of the following country has become the world's first government to turn 100% paperless?

(a) UAE (b) Singapore (c) USA (d) India

Answer: (a)

Related Facts:

- Dubai has become the world's first government to turn 100 per cent paperless.
- It will save around 3 billion Dirham (USD 350 million) and 14-million-man hours.
- The USA, UK, Europe and Canada have expressed plans to digitise government operation on a larger scale, which encompass government procedures and citizen identifications.



Reference: <https://www.hindustantimes.com/world-news/dubai-world-s-first-govt-to-go-100-paperless-crown-prince-101639339711428.html>

HAECCHI-II : INTERPOL

Question: HAECCHI-II', which was seen in the news recently, is an operation undertaken by which of the following institution?

(a) International Criminal Police Organization (INTERPOL)
(b) Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) (c) Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI)
(d) Federal Criminal Police Office

Answer: (a)

Related Facts:

- Under a recent operation undertaken by the INTERPOL codenamed 'HAECCHI-II', enforcement agencies in more than 20 countries have arrested over 1,000 individuals and seized about \$27 million of illicit funds.
- The operation codenamed 'HAECCHI-II' was conducted over four months from June to September.
- India was one of the participants.
- The programme is a part of a crackdown on cyber-enabled financial crime.
- The exercise targeted specific types of online fraud, such as romance scams, investment fraud and money laundering linked to illegal online gambling.



First official visit by an Israeli leader to the United Arab Emirates (UAE)

Question: Which of the following person from Israel started for first official visit to UAE on 12 December 2021?

a) Prime Minister b) Defence minister c) Finance Minister d) None of these

Answer: (a)

Related Facts:-

- On 12 December 2021; began the first official visit by an Israeli leader to the United Arab Emirates (UAE).
- The Prime Minister of Israel Mr. Naftali Bennett started his journey to UAE on 12 December 2021.
- The journey came at a time when there is already increased tension in the gulf as global powers tried to revive the nuclear deal with Iran.
- So the purpose of Bennett's journey to this opponent of Iran is to support Gulf ties.
- Naftali Bennett took office as the head of the Israeli coalition government in June 2021.
- He has scheduled to hold talks with the UAE's de facto leader, Crown Prince Sheikh Mohammed bin Zayed al-Nahyan.



Links:-

<https://abcnews.go.com/International/wireStory/israeli-pm-make-official-visit-uae-sunday-81704251>

UNGA has granted Observer Status to International Solar Alliance (ISA)

Question: International Solar Alliance (ISA) was announced by which of the following world leader in 2015 at UN Climate Change Conference of the Parties in Paris, France?

a) PM Narendra Modi b) Donald Trump c) Francois Hollande d) Both (a) and (c)

Answer: (d)

Related Facts:-

- On 9 December 2021, the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) granted observer status to the International Solar Alliance (ISA).
- Information regarding this, UNGA's decision has been given by India's Permanent Ambassador to United Nations, T S Tirumurti.
- India has described the decision as historic, saying it will help provide a well-defined cooperation between the alliance and the United Nations.
- Tirumurti expressed the hope; ISA will now drive global energy growth and development.
- According to the ISA website, a total of 80 countries have signed and ratified the ISA draft agreement and 101 countries have signed the agreement only.



- Tirumurti said that ISA has become an example of positive global climate action through partnerships to benefit global energy production.
- He said that in 6 years, International Solar Alliance has become an example of positive global climate action through partnerships at various levels.
- The fourth general assembly of the International Solar Alliance (ISA), was held earlier in October 2021.
- A total of 108 countries participated in the Assembly, including 74 Member Countries and 34 Observer and Prospective Countries, 23 Partner Organizations and 33 Special Invitee Organisations.
- It should be noted that the launch of the ISA was announced by Prime Minister Narendra Modi and former French President Francois Hollande in 2015.
- It was the occasion of 21st session of the UN Climate Change Conference of the Parties in Paris, France when these two leaders came forward to launch ISA.

Links:-

https://www.business-standard.com/article/international/un-general-assembly-grants-observer-status-to-international-solar-alliance-121121000106_1.html

International Civil Aviation Day

Question: International Civil Aviation Day is observed on ?

(a) 7th December (b) 4th December (c) 1st December (d) 3rd December

Answer: (a)

Related facts:

- International Civil Aviation Day is observed globally on 7th December every year.
- This day is celebrated to recognize the importance of aviation, especially international air travel, to the social and economic development of the world.
- International Civil Aviation Day is marked every five years by the ICAO (International Civil Aviation Organization) with a special anniversary theme.
- Each of these anniversary years is marked by a single theme that runs for the full four-year interval between them.
- From now until 2023, the council has decided upon the theme: "Advancing Innovation for Global Aviation Development."



Link:

<https://www.un.org/en/observances/civil-aviation-day>

India Russia Summit 2021

Question: 21st India-Russia Annual Summit was held at which place on 6th December 2021?

(a) Moscow (b) New Delhi (c) New York (d) None of the above

Ans: b

Recent Context

- On December 6, 2021, Russia President Vladimir Putin visited India to attend the 21st India – Russia Annual summit.

- **Related Facts**

- Russia President attended the summit with his counter part PM Narendra Modi.
- 28 agreements were signed between India and Russia during the summit.
- The summit talks took place hours after the foreign and defence ministers of the two countries held their inaugural '2+2' dialogue.
- The aim of 2+2 dialogue was to widen the ambit of discussions on strategically important issues.
- During the summit Reserve Bank of India and Bank of Russia signed pact to respond to cyberattacks.
- Extension of the military technical cooperation by another ten years among two countries was also agreed upon.
- The leaders discussed on International North – South Transport Corridor and also about the Chennai – Vladivostok Eastern Maritime Corridor (which is under proposal).
- Russia welcomed the “Delhi Declaration on Afghanistan”.
- India congratulated Russia on joining as an observer in NAM. And Russia congratulated India for its membership at the United Nations Security Council.



Reference:

<https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/pm-modi-holds-summit-talks-with-russian-president-putin/article37869734.ece>

US boycott Olympics

Question: Consider the following statements:

- (i) USA athletes will not take part in the 2022 Winter Olympics in Beijing, China.
- (ii) USA is next due to host an Olympics in 2028 in Los Angeles.

Which of the above are correct?

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

Ans: b

Recent Context

- On 6th December 2021 USA has announced the diplomatic boycott of Beijing Winter Olympics 2022.

- **Related Facts**

- China will be hosting winter Olympics 2022 in the city of Beijing.
- USA will be boycotting the event diplomatically as no US officials and diplomat will visit Beijing during the Olympics.
- The US cited that “China’s human rights atrocities” is the main reason for its boycott.
- The US boycott would not prevent its athletes from competing in the games.
- USA will host the 2028 Olympics in LA.



Reference:

International Cheetah Day

Question : When is International Cheetah Day celebrated ?

a. 4 December b. 6 December c. 7 December d. None of the above

Ans. a.

Related facts —

- Every year 4th December is marked as International Cheetah Day as an opportunity to promote the importance of cheetahs and their conservation.
- **Dr Laurie Marker —**
- Laurie Marker is an American zoologist.
- She founded the Cheetah Conservation Fund in 1991.
- She founded this day to honour Khayam, a Cheetah she raised at the wildlife safari in Oregon.
- The Day encourages citizens on a global basis to assist the fastest animal to get away from the line of extinction.
- On this day, several fund-raising activities take place to promote this significant cause.



Link:

<https://www.karnatakaturism.org/international-cheetah-day-2021/>

B.1.1.529 declared COVID-19 ‘variant of concern’, renamed Omicron

Question: B.1.1.529 declared COVID-19 ‘variant of concern’, renamed Omicron . first detected in Which country?

a) South Africa b) England c) Australia d) China

Ans a

Related Facts :

- The World Health Organization on November 26 2021 declared the recently-discovered B.1.1.529 strain of COVID-19, first detected in southern Africa.
- The classification puts Omicron into the most-troubling category of COVID-19 variants, along with the globally-dominant Delta, plus its weaker rivals Alpha, Beta and Gamma.
- The first known confirmed Omicron infection was from a specimen collected on November 9, 2021.
- In recent weeks, infections in South Africa have increased steeply, coinciding with the detection.
- High Light Points of covid19:
- COVID-19 is the disease caused by a new coronavirus called SARS-CoV-2.
- WHO first learned of this new virus on 31 December 2019.
- Following a report of a cluster of cases of ‘viral pneumonia’ in Wuhan, People’s Republic of China.

Links:

<https://www.thehindu.com/sci-tech/health/who-declares-b11529-covid-19-variant-of-concern-renamed-omicron/article37710387.ece>

Ninth Meeting of the BIMSTEC Joint Working Group

Question – On 28 November 2021, which country hosted the 9th meeting of the BIMSTEC Joint Working Group on the topic ‘Counter Terrorism and Transnational Crime’ was held virtually?

(a) Bhutan (b) Bangladesh (c) Sri Lanka (d) India

Answer—(a)

Related facts—

- On 28 November 2021, Bhutan hosted the 9th meeting of the BIMSTEC Joint Working Group on the topic ‘Counter Terrorism and Transnational Crime’ was held virtually.
- It was attended by all the BIMSTEC Members States i.e. Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Myanmar, Nepal, Sri Lanka and Thailand.
- It is noteworthy that India is the Lead Country for BIMSTEC Joint Working Group on Counter Terrorism and Transnational Crime (JWG-CTTC), which also oversees six Sub-Groups on (a) Intelligence Sharing (b) Legal and Law Enforcement (c) Countering Radicalization and Terrorism (d) Anti- Money Laundering and Combating the Financing of Terrorism (e) Human Trafficking and (f) Narcotic Drugs, Psychotropic Substances and Precursor Chemicals.
- The ninth meeting discussed emerging traditional and non-traditional security threats in the BIMSTEC region.
- India highlighted threats emanating from cross-border terrorism from terrorist groups such as LeT, JeM, HM etc. and transnational organized crime such as drug trafficking, illegal weapons smuggling etc.
- Other issues —
- The other issues in the meeting discussed are implementation of the BIMSTEC Convention on Cooperation in Combating International Terrorism, Transnational Organized Crime and Illicit Drug Trafficking, which entered into force on 16 March 2021 upon ratification by all Member States.
- India would be hosting the tenth Meeting of the BIMSTEC Joint Working Group on Counter Terrorism and Transnational Crimes (JWG-CTTC) in 2022.

**Link:**

<http://www.mea.gov.in/press-releases.htm?dtl/34544/9th+Meeting+of+the+BIMSTEC+Joint+Working+Group+on+Counter+Terrorism+and+Transnational+Cr>

Noida International Airport

Question – On November 25, 2021, Prime Minister Narendra Modi laid the foundation stone of Noida International Airport. Which of the following is not true about this airport?

- (a) Noida International Airport is being constructed at Jewar, Gautam Budh Nagar.
(b) After the construction of this airport, Uttar Pradesh will be the only state in the country to have six international airports.

(c) This will be the second airport in the National Capital Territory of Delhi.

(d) It will be the first airport in India where emissions will be net zero.

Answer—(b)

Related facts—

- On November 25, 2021, Prime Minister Narendra Modi laid the foundation stone of Noida International Airport.
- Noida International Airport is being constructed at Jewar, Gautam Budh Nagar.
- After the construction of this airport, Uttar Pradesh will be the only state in the country to have five international airports.
- This will be the second airport in the National Capital Territory of Delhi.
- It will be the first airport in India where emissions will be net zero.
- A key feature of the airport is the provision of multi-modal seamless connectivity.
- For the first time in India, an airport has been conceptualised with an integrated multi-modal cargo hub.
- Airport set to be the logistics gateway of northern India and help establish UP on the global logistics map.
- Through facilitating seamless movement of industrial products, airport will play a crucial role in boosting rapid industrial growth of the region.



Link:

<https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1774121>

Share this:

First International Conference on Hydrogen Energy-Policies, Infrastructure Development and Challenges 2021

Question – Where was the first international conference on hydrogen energy-policies, infrastructure development and challenges held from November 24 to 25, 2021?

(a) Pune (b) New Delhi (c) Kolkata (d) Kochi

Answer—(b)

Related facts—

- The first international conference on hydrogen energy-policies, infrastructure development and challenges held from November 24 to 25, 2021.
- The venue of the conference was SCOPE convention centre(New Delhi).
- The two-day conference was organized by the Central Board of Irrigation and Electricity in association with the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy, Central Electricity Authority and NTPC Limited.
- Bhagwant Khuba, Minister of State for New and Renewable Energy, Chemicals and Fertilizers inaugurated the conference.
- Significantly, India has set a target of generating 500 GW of energy through renewable energy by the year 2030.
- Also, India has set a target of zero emissions by the year 2070.



- About 200 participants from 60 organizations from India and three international experts from Germany, Japan and Sweden participated in this conference.
- The conference concluded with recommendations to give additional impetus to the development of hydrogen energy in the country.

Link:

<https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1774508>

India joins G20 Troika

Question: Which among the following countries are part of G20 Troika along with India?

(a) Indonesia (b) Italy (c) USA (d) Germany

Ans: a and b

Recent Context

- India recently joined the G20 Troika.
- **Related Facts**
- Troika refers to the top grouping within the G20 that consists of the current, previous and the incoming presidencies — Indonesia, Italy and India.
- With this India is starting the process of taking over the G20 presidency next year.
- India will assume the G20 presidency on December 1, 2022 from Indonesia, and will convene the G20 Leaders' Summit for the first time in India in 2023.
- The current presidency of G20 was assumed by Indonesia recently. It is to hold the chair till October 2022 under the theme "Recover Together Recover Stronger".



Reference:

<https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/india-joins-g20s-troika-with-indonesia-and-italy/article37798794.ece>

5th World Congress on Disaster Management

Question – Where was the 5th World Congress on Disaster Management held from 24 to 27 November 2021?

(a) Mumbai (b) Chennai (c) Ahmedabad (d) New Delhi

Answer—(d)

Related facts—

- The '5th World Congress' on Disaster Management was held on the campus of IIT Delhi from 24 to 27 November 2021.
- It was virtually inaugurated by the Union Defense Minister Rajnath Singh.
- Main Subject – Technology, Finance and Capacity for Building Resilience to Disasters with special Focus on Pandemics



- It is an initiative of 'Disaster Management Initiatives and Convergence Society' (DMICS).
- DMICS, headquartered in Hyderabad, brings together researchers, policy-makers and practitioners from across the globe to discuss various challenging issues in disaster risk management.

Link:

<https://www.wcdm.co.in/>

6th BRICS Film Festival

Question: Which of the following films have jointly won the Best Film Award at the 6th BRICS Film Festival?

(a) Barakat (b) The Sun above Me Never Sets (c) Asuran (d) Both a & b (e) Both b & c

Answer: (d)

Related Facts:

- South African Film 'Barakat' by Director Amy Jephta and Russian Film 'The Sun above Me Never Sets' by Director Lyubov Borisova shared the Best Film Award in the Sixth edition BRICS Film Festival.
- Indian actor Dhanush won Best Actor (Male) for his role in 'Asuran'.
- The 6th edition of the BRICS Film Festival awards was announced at the 52nd International Film Festival of India in Goa.



Reference: <http://www.uniindia.com/6-brics-film-festival-awards-announced-at-closing-ceremony-of-iffi-52/business-economy/news/2577118.html>

Barbados becomes the World's newest republic

Question: Which of the following British Colony became the newest republic of the World?

(a) Barbados (b) Eire (c) Bahamas (d) Saint Lucia

Answer: (a)

Related Facts:

- Barbados has become the World's newest republic, around 400 years after it became a British colony.
- Barbados, the Caribbean Island nation, removed Queen Elizabeth II as the head of the state.
- Barbados is said to have been made a 'slave society' by the British.
- It first became an English colony in 1625.
- In gained Barbados independence in 1966.



Reference: <https://www.thequint.com/news/world/barbados-world-newest-republic-rihanna-national-hero>

Economics

RBL Bank MD and CEO Vishwavir Ahuja steps down, Rajeev Ahuja takes over.

Question: RBL Bank founded in which year?

a) 1943 b) 1939 c) 1956 d) None of these

Ans : a

Related Facts :

- RBL Bank informed exchanges that the Reserve Bank of India has approved the appointment of Rajeev Ahuja as the interim Managing Director and CEO on Thursday(December 23 ,2021)
- The tenure for such appointment is for a period of three months with effect from December 25, 2021 or till the appointment of a regular MD & CEO,
- RBL Bank, which had seen a pressure on deposits after the RBI action on Yes Bank in 2020, has excess liquidity of over ₹ 15,000 crore and also many lines of liquidity, Mr Rajeev Ahuja said.
- Hight light points:
- RBL Bank, formerly known as Ratnakar Bank, is an Indian private sector bank headquartered in Mumbai and founded in 1943.
- In August 6, 1943, Ratnakar Bank was founded as a regional bank in Maharashtra with two branches in Kolhapur and Sangli founded by Babgonda Bhujgonda Patil from Sangli & Gangappa Siddappa Chougule from Kolhapur.
- It mainly served small and medium enterprises (SMEs) and business merchants in the Kolhapur-Sangli belt.
- It offers services across six verticals: corporate and institutional banking, commercial banking, branch and business banking, retail assets, development banking and financial inclusion, treasury and financial market operations.



Links:

<https://www.ndtv.com/business/rbl-bank-interim-chief-says-fundamentals-are-intact-2672577>

Jan Dhan accounts surpass the 44 crore mark

Question: Which of the following state has topped the list with the highest number of Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana (PMJDY) account?

(a) Rajasthan (b) Maharashtra (c) Uttar Pradesh (d) Gujarat

Answer: (c)

Related Facts:

- Uttar Pradesh tops the list with the highest number of accounts followed by Bihar.
- The total number of beneficiaries under the Centre's financial inclusion scheme, Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana (PMJDY), has crossed the 44 crore mark.



- The total number of accounts opened under PMJDY stood at 05 crores, with a total balance of ₹1,47,812 crore as on December 8.
- The PMJDY was launched on August 28, 2014, with an aim to provide universal access to banking facilities to the people in the country.

Reference: <https://www.google.com/amp/s/www.thehindubusinessline.com/money-and-banking/landmark-achievement-jan-dhan-accounts-surpass-the-44-cr-mark/article37999189.ece/amp/>

Indian Oil Corporation limited Acquired 4.93% Stake In Indian Gas Exchange

Question: Indian Oil Corporation Limited (IOCL) acquired _% stake in Indian Gas Exchange.

(a) 3.93 % (b) 4.93 % (c) 5.93 % (d) 6.93 %

Answer: (b)

Related Facts:



- Indian Oil Corporation Limited (IOCL) announced that it has acquired a 4.93 per cent equity share in Indian Gas Exchange Limited – the country’s first automated national level gas exchange.
- Indian Oil’s board of directors approved the deal at its meeting held on December 20, 2021 according to a regulatory filing by Indian Oil to the stock exchanges.
- “The Board of Indian Oil at its meeting held on 20 December 2021 has accorded approval for the acquisition of 36,93,750 equity shares of the face value of Rs.10/- each equivalent to 4.93 per cent of the share capital in Indian Gas Exchange Limited (IGX),.
- The acquisition of an equity stake in IGX is a strategic opportunity for the country’s top oil refiner to become part of India’s natural gas market.
- IGX is a subsidiary of the Indian Energy Exchange (IEX).
- Indian Gas Exchange is the country’s first automated national level gas exchange, that ensures transparent price discovery in natural gas and facilitates the growth of natural gas in India’s energy basket.

Reference: <https://www.google.com/amp/s/www.ndtv.com/business/indian-oil-shares-today-indian-oil-corporation-limited-iocl-acquires-4-93-equity-stake-in-indian-gas-exchange-2662892/amp/1>

Employment increased by 29% in nine selected sectors of economy

Question : According to the results of the first round of “All India Quarterly Establishment Based Employment Survey”, employment has increased by what percentage in nine selected sectors of the economy as compared to the 6th Economic Census ?

a. 29 percent b. 35 percent c. 22 percent d. None of the above

Ans. a.

Related facts —

- All-India Quarterly Establishment Based Employment Survey (AQEES) had been launched in April, 2021.
- According to the result of the first round of Quarterly Employment Survey for the period April to June 2021, employment increased to 3.08 crore in the nine selected sectors of the economy against a total of 2.37 crores in these sectors taken collectively, as reported in the sixth Economic Census (2013-14) reflecting a growth rate of 29%.



- **Key points —**

1. IT/BPO sector — It has been recorded the most impressive growth of 152 percent.
2. Growth rates in Health is 77 percent, in Education it is 39 percent, in Manufacturing it is 22 percent, in Transport it is 68 percent and in Construction it is 42 percent.

Link:

<https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1783415>

IDFC FIRST Bank debuts FIRST Private Infinite Card, India's first standalone metal debit card

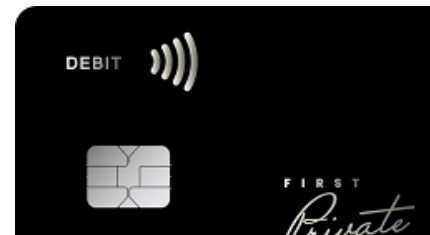
Question: IDFC FIRST Bank debuts FIRST Private Infinite Card, India's first standalone metal debit card. Who is MD of IDFC ?

a) Mr. V. Vaidyanathan b) Rajnish kumar c) Sushil kumar d) None of these

Ans a

RelatedFacts:

- IDFC FIRST Bank debuts FIRST Private Infinite Card, India's first standalone metal debit card IDFC FIRST Bank debuts FIRST Private Infinite Card, India's first standalone metal debit card
- FIRST Private Infinite is a lifetime free card designed specifically for customers who are part of the Bank's FIRST Private program,
- The FIRST Private program offers an unrivalled banking and investment experience to customers and comes with a range of exceptional investment, banking, lifestyle and wellness benefits
- A statement black card, FIRST Private Infinite is crafted from hybrid metal with details etched in silver, created to deliver an exclusive payment experience.
- Highlight point:
- IDFC Limited was set up in 1997 to finance infrastructure, focusing primarily on project finance and mobilization of capital for private sector infrastructure development.
- IDFC Bank was created by demerger of the infrastructure, lending business of IDFC to IDFC Bank in 2015.



Links:

<https://www.idfcfirstbank.com/about-us/our-history>

Share this:

Sebi tweaks operational guidelines on listing of CP

Question : Recently SEBI has made amendments in the operational guidelines pertaining to listing of commercial papers(CP). CP was introduced in India in the

—
a. year 1990 b. year 1996 c. year 1999 d. year 1988

Ans. a.

Related facts —



- Based on feedback from market participants and recent regulatory changes, in order to bring about uniformity in requirements, certain amendments are being made to guidelines pertaining to listing of commercial paper(CP), Sebi said in a circular on December 17, 2021.
- An issuer who plans to list CP needs to forward an application for listing along with disclosures to the stock exchanges concerned.
- An issuer needs to submit details of current tranche including ISIN, amount, date of issue, maturity, all credit ratings including unaccepted ratings, date of rating, name of credit rating agency, its validity period, declaration that the rating is valid as at the date of issuance and listing, details of issuing and paying agent.
- The issuer needs to submit audited or limited review of half-yearly consolidated and standalone financial information along with auditor qualifications, if any, for last three years with latest available financial results, if the issuer has been in existence for three years and above.
- The new framework will come into effect immediately.
- **CP —**
- Commercial Paper(CP) is an unsecured money market instrument issued in the form of a promissory note.
- CP was introduced in India in 1990 with a view to enabling highly rated corporate borrowers to diversify their sources of short-term borrowings and to provide an additional instrument to investors.

Link:

<https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/markets/stocks/news/sebi-tweaks-operational-guidelines-on-listing-of-commercial-papers/articleshow/88347776.cms>

PANEX-21

Question: PANEX-21 which is a HADR (Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief) Exercise is being conducted from 20-22 December 2021 in which city in India?

(a) Pune (b) Delhi (c) Nagpur (d) Kochi

Ans: a

Recent Context



- PANEX-21 Exercise is being conducted from 20-22 December 2021 in the city of Pune of Maharashtra.
- **Related Facts**
- PANEX-21 is HADR (Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief) Exercise.

- It is being conducted among BIMSTEC (Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation) countries.
- Exercise will see the participation of subject matter experts and delegates from India, Bangladesh, Nepal, Bhutan, Myanmar, Sri Lanka and Thailand.
- Primary aim of the exercise is To foster joint planning and build regional cooperation for responding to natural disasters among BIMSTEC countries.

Reference:

<https://pib.gov.in/PressReleaselframePage.aspx?PRID=1778741>

LogiXtics: Hackathon for Logistics

Question: Which government organization has launched Unified Logistics Interface Platform's (ULIP) Hackathon – 'LogiXtics' recently?

- (a) NITI Aayog (b) Department of Commerce
(c) Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT)
(d) None of the above

Ans: c

Recent Context



- The Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT) has launched the Unified Logistics Interface Platform's (ULIP) Hackathon – 'LogiXtics' recently.
- **Related Facts**
 - Hackathon was organized to crowd source more ideas which will benefit the logistics industry.
- **About ULIP**
 - It is designed to enhance efficiency and reduce logistics cost in India.
 - It does so by creating a transparent platform that can provide real time information to all stakeholders and remove all asymmetry information.
 - It will also converge visibility of multi-modal transport across the existing systems of various Ministries/Departments working in silos.
- **About Hackathon**
 - The ULIP Hackathon – LogiXtics was organised by NITI Aayog and Atal Innovation Mission and supported by National Industrial Corridor Development Corporation (NICDC) and NICDC Logistics Data Bank Services Limited (NLDSL).
 - It was launched by Shri Amitabh Kant, CEO, NITI Aayog.
 - Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT)
 - It is a central government department under the Ministry of Commerce and Industry in India.
 - It is responsible for formulation and implementation of promotional and developmental measures for growth of the industrial sector, keeping in view the national priorities and socio-economic objectives.
- **Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT)**

- It is a central government department under the Ministry of Commerce and Industry in India.
- It is responsible for formulation and implementation of promotional and developmental measures for growth of the industrial sector, keeping in view the national priorities and socio-economic objectives.

Reference:

<https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1782585>

Canine Parvovirus

Question: In which Indian state cases of ‘Canine parvovirus’ in dogs have been found recently?

(a) Maharashtra (b) Uttar Pradesh (c) Kerala (d) Mizoram

Ans: a

Related Facts

- Nearly 2,000 pet and stray dogs in Maharashtra’s Amravati were infected with the Canine Parvovirus in November, according to several reports.
- **About Canine Parvovirus**
 - It is one of the most serious and highly contagious virus that dogs can get.
 - This virus was discovered in 1967 and has rapidly become a serious threat to canine health.
 - This virus affects the intestinal tract of canines and puppies are more susceptible to it.
 - Symptoms associated with the virus include- vomiting, bloody diarrhoea, dehydration, drastic weight loss, and lethargy.
 - Parvovirus has reported a 90 per cent mortality rate.
 - While canine parvovirus is not airborne, it can be found on many surfaces within the environment.
 - Parvovirus spreads through direct contact with the infected dog or by indirect contact with any contaminated object, like hands and clothing of people handling infected dogs
- **Can Humans Get Parvovirus?**
 - Parvovirus is species-specific, so humans have their own version of the virus. This means that humans cannot get parvovirus from dogs, and dogs cannot get parvovirus from people.
- **Cases in Amaravati**
 - According to Amravati-based WASA Conservation organisation, government-run clinic is getting reports that 20 dogs affected by this virus daily.
 - Veterinarians have also cautioned pet owners against a severe outbreak.



Reference:

<https://www.hindustantimes.com/science/nearly-2-000-dogs-in-amravati-infected-with-canine-parvovirus-what-is-it-101639914932606.html>

Global FinTech Hackathon Series of IFSCA

Question: GIFT City, which is first and only International Financial services Center(IFSC), located in which of the following state

a) Gujarat b) Maharashtra c) West Bengal d) Uttar Pradesh

Answer: (a)

Related Facts:-

- On 7th October 2021; International Financial Services Centres Authority (IFSCA) and GIFT City launched I-Sprint'21, the global FinTech Hackathon Series of IFSCA.
- The first Sprint of the series "Sprint01: BankTech" is focussed on FinTechs for the Banking sector.
- Sprint01: BankTech is hosted jointly by IFSCA and GIFT city in collaboration with NITI Aayog.
- The Partners to the Hackathon are ICICI Bank, HSBC Bank, iCreate, Zone Startups and Invest-India.
- It should be noted that GIFT City stands for Gujarat International Finance Tec City.
- GIFT City is India's first and only International Financial Services Centre (IFSC).
- At this kind of IFSC banks, stock exchanges and financial services firms have set up their global operations.
- The IFSCA is a unified authority for the development and regulation of financial products, financial services and financial institutions in the International Financial Services Centres (IFSCs) in India.
- IFSCA endeavours to encourage the promotion of financial technologies (FinTech) initiatives across the spectrum of banking, insurance, securities and fund management in IFSC.
- In this context, a series of Hackathons cutting across these sectors have been planned under the banner of I-Sprint'21.
- This hackathon is first under the I-Sprint series focussing on the Banking Sector and is one of its kind being backed by a Regulator.
- It shall be conducted virtually and is open to eligible FinTechs from across the Globe.



Links:-

<https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1762086>

Myanmar shadow government approved use of stablecoin Tether

Question: Recently, Which of the following Cryptocurrency is allowed in Myanmar?

(a) Litecoin (b) Tether (c) Bitcoin (d) Ethereum

Answer: (b)

Related Facts:

- Myanmar's shadow government has allowed the use of the world's largest cryptocurrency called Tether.
- Tether, as an official currency, potentially making it easier for it to raise funds and make payments.



- Tether can be transferred in a similar way to other cryptocurrencies like bitcoin making it hard for governments and other authorities to track or prevent payments.
- Tether has a market value of \$76 billion, and following criticism and suspicion about the value of the assets underpinning the stablecoin, the company – also called Tether, publishes regular reports by auditors of its reserves.

Reference: <https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/business/cryptocurrency/bitcoin/myanmar-shadow-government-approves-use-of-stablecoin-tether/articleshow/88269217.cms>

Asian Development Bank scales down India growth estimate further to 9.7% in FY22

Question: Asian Development Bank (ADB) projected growth forecast for 2021-2022 for India at what Percent?

(a) 6.7% (b) 7.7% (c) 8.7% (d) 9.7%

Answer: (d)

Related Facts:

- Asian Development Bank (ADB) projected growth forecast for 2021-2022 for India at 9.7%.
- ADB cut India's growth estimate to 9.7 percent for 2021, compared with 10 percent in September, with its 2022 estimate of 7.5 percent growth remaining unchanged.
- Asian Development Bank forecasts slower growth for China and India following emergence of new coronavirus variant.
- ADB trimmed China's growth forecast to 8 percent in 2021 and 5.3 percent next year, down 0.1 percent and 0.2, respectively, from its September estimate.
- Growth for Southeast Asia was cut to 3.1 percent for 2021, down 0.1 percent, but raised 0.1 percent to 5.1 percent for next year.
- The Asian Development Bank is a regional development bank established on 19 December 1966.
- The headquarter of Asian Development Bank is located in Manila, Philippines.



Reference: <https://www.aljazeera.com/economy/2021/12/14/asias-growth-forecast-trimmed-on-omicron-fears>

Sebi committee on technology

Question : SEBI has recently(December 2021) constituted an advisory committee for guiding it to enhance technological capabilities and explore appropriate technological solutions for early detection of market anomalies. Who is the head of this committee ?

a. Madhabi Puri Buch b. Sarla Bajaj c. Mahesh Chandra d. Romila Kutti

Ans. a.

Related facts —

- SEBI on December said it has constituted an advisory committee for guiding it to enhance technological capabilities and explore appropriate technological solutions for early detection of market



anomalies.

- Madhabi Puri Buch, Former Whole Time Member of SEBI will head the new committee .
- The seven-member expert group(named – ALeRTS) will guide SEBI on ways to “enhance technological capabilities and explore appropriate technology solutions for early detection of market anomalies.”
- **ALeRTS stands for** — Advisory Committee for Leveraging Regulatory and Technology Solutions.

Link:

https://www.business-standard.com/article/markets/madhabi-puri-buch-to-head-newly-set-up-sebi-committee-on-technology-121121400997_1.html

ADB Helps Establish a Skill University in Assam, India

Question : The Asian Development Bank has recently(December 2021) approved a __ loan to strengthen skills education and training through the establishment of the Assam Skill University.

a. 112 million dollar b. 212 million dollar c. 312 million dollar d. 412 million dollar

Ans. a.

Related facts —

- The Asian Development Bank has recently(December 2021) approved a 112 million dollar loan to strengthen skills education and training through the establishment of the Assam Skill University(ASU).
- **Background —**
- It is notable that Assam’s economy is dominated by low value-added, natural resource-based products and is poorly integrated with global and regional value chains.
- The state is prone to natural hazards, which are likely to intensify because of climate change. Fewer growth prospects have propelled out-migration for jobs and education, exacerbating shortages of skills in Assam.
- **Significance —**
- The project will improve skills and employability of youth and adults, especially women and disadvantaged groups, and their prospect of getting higher-paying, decent jobs.
- The project will further enhance collaboration between the ASU and TVET(technical and vocational education and training) and higher education institutions in neighboring countries to establish programs for common strategic industries.
- **Role of JFPR —**
- An additional \$1 million grant from the Japan Fund for Poverty Reduction will support the introduction of technologies for smart campus management and integrated teaching, learning, and career development management.



Link:

<https://www.adb.org/news/adb-helps-establish-skill-university-assam-india>

Question: which of the following bank in India launched a wearable line of products for payments, integrated with a complete health ecosystem?

a) Punjab national Bank b) State Bank of India c) Bank of Baroda d) None of these

Answer: (c)

Related Facts:-

- Bank of Baroda (BOB) in collaboration with National Payments Corporations of India (NPCI) has launched the bob World Wave.
- It is a wearable line of products for payments, integrated with a complete health ecosystem.
- A bob World Wave wearable device will allow customers to monitor their SpO2, body temperature, heart rate and blood pressure.
- With bob World Wave, BOB is providing an exclusive 3-months free wellness package along with a personal health coach, doctor tele-consultation and interactive video coaching.
- The device will provide contactless payments of up to ₹5,000 in all NFC enabled PoS devices.
- Customers under this facility can do contactless payment above ₹5,000 using a PIN.
- BOB will also provide a dummy plastic card (with the same card number printed as that of the wearable device along with expiry date and CVV).
- It will enable customers to do e-commerce transactions at ease.
- Ajay K Khurana, Executive Director at Bank of Baroda said that wearable technology is witnessing a tremendous interest and absorption globally.
- He said that people nowadays, are increasingly adopting more convenient and cashless digital transactions.



Links:-

<https://www.thehindubusinessline.com/money-and-banking/bank-of-baroda-launches-bob-world-wave-a-wearable-payment-solution/article37946265.ece>

LIC's Dhan Rekha savings life insurance plan

Question : The Life Insurance Corporation of India has launched a new savings insurance policy called Dhan Rekha with effect from ____.

a. December 13, 2021 b. December 10, 2021 c. December 09, 2021
d. December 08, 2021

Ans. a.

Related facts —

- The Life Insurance Corporation of India launched a new savings insurance policy called Dhan Rekha with effect from December 13, 2021.
- It is a non-linked, non-participating, individual savings life insurance plan.
- The product has various benefits and unique features. Such as

1. There are special premium rates for female Lives.



2. Plan is allowed to Third Gender. All Benefits under the plan are fully Guaranteed.
3. It pays a percentage of the basic sum assured as a survival benefit at regular intervals of the premium-paying term.
4. Under this plan, the minimum sum assured is Rs 2 lakh, with no upper restriction on the maximum sum assured.
5. The minimum age to enter ranges from 90 days to 8 years.
6. The maximum age at entrance can range from 35 to 55 years old.

Link:

<https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/wealth/insure/life-insurance/lic-launches-savings-life-insurance-policy-dhan-rekha-check-details/articleshow/88269626.cms?from=mdr>

Doorstep bill payment service : India Post Payments Bank & NPCI partnership

Question : With which of the following has IPPB recently(December 2021) tied up to facilitate cash-based bill payments service at customer's doorstep ?

- a. Bharat BillPay Ltd
- b. Indo-Nepal Remittance Service Ltd
- c. Immediate Payment Service Ltd
- d. None of the above

Ans. a.

Related facts —

- India Post Payments Bank (IPPB) and NPCI Bharat BillPay Ltd., the wholly-owned subsidiary of National Payments Corporation of India, today announced facilitating cash-based assisted bill payments anywhere in the country at customers doorstep through the Bharat BillPay platform.
- The platform will also enable all non-IPPB customers to pay bills for various utility and other recurring services.
- The bill payments service will benefit millions of unbanked and underserved customers in remote locations who will now be able to access payment solutions at their doorstep.
- Customers will now be able to conveniently pay for their recurring bills not only from the comfort of their homes but also by visiting their nearest post office.
- IPPB has also revamped its bill payments platform by including the best-in-class product features and various user interfacelrelated enhancements.
- With this upgrade, over 20,000+ billers that are on Bharat Bill Payment System will be available to customers of various banks and IPPB.



Link:

<https://www.npci.org.in/PDF/npci/press-releases/2021/Press-Release-India-Post-Payments-Bank-Enables-Recurring-Payments-at-Doorstep-in-Collaboration-with-NPCI-Bharat-BillPay-Ltd.pdf>

LIC got RBI's Approval To Hold 9.99% Stake In IndusInd Bank

Question: LIC got RBI's approval to hold how much percent stake in IndusInd Bank?

(a) 8.99 Percent (b) 9.99 Percent (c) 7.99 Percent (d) 6.99 Percent

Answer: (b)

Related Facts:

- The country's largest insurer – LIC received approval from the Reserve Bank of India to raise its holding in private lender IndusInd Bank to 9.99 per cent from the existing 4.95 per cent.
- The approval will be valid for 1 year i.e., up to December 8, 2022.
- LIC had also received a similar kind of approval from RBI to increase its stake in Kotak Mahindra Bank to 9.99 per cent.



Reference: <https://www.ndtv.com/business/life-insurance-corporation-lic-gets-rbis-approval-to-hike-its-stake-indusind-bank-to-9-99-2647036>

Fitch Ratings cut India's FY22 economic growth forecast to 8.4%

Question: Fitch Ratings slashed India's FY22 GDP Growth Forecast to how much percent?

(a) 8.8 Percent (b) 7.8 Percent (c) 8.4 Percent (d) 9.4 Percent

Answer: (c)

Related Facts:

- Fitch Ratings has cut India's economic growth forecast to 8.4 per cent, earlier it was estimated at 8.7 per cent for the current fiscal year (2021-22, or FY22).
- It raised GDP growth projections to 10.3 per cent, from the earlier expected 10 per cent for the next fiscal year (2022-23).
- Fitch Ratings Inc. is an American credit rating agency and is one of the "Big Three credit rating agencies", the other two being Moody's and Standard & Poor's.



Reference: https://www.business-standard.com/article/economy-policy/fitch-ratings-cut-india-s-fy22-economic-growth-forecast-to-8-4-121120801447_1.html

Startup Innovation Challenge

Question : Which of the following has recently launched Startup Innovation Challenge in partnership with Invest India ?

a. Airtel b. BSNL c. Vodaphone d. IBEF

Ans. a.

Related facts —

- Airtel has recently(December 2021) launched Startup Innovation Challenge in partnership with



Invest India.

- Under this innovation challenge organiser Invites early stage Indian startups to demonstrate solutions for 5G, IoT, Cloud Communications, Digital Advertising and Digital Entertainment.
- Top 10 startups shall receive cash prizes, have the opportunity to leverage Airtel's Digital Innovation Lab and Global Partner Ecosystem.
- Select startups shall be offered the opportunity to on-board onto the Airtel Startup Accelerator Program.
- It is noteworthy that Invest India, set up in 2009, is a non-profit venture under the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade, Ministry of Commerce and Industry, Government of India.

Link:

<https://www.airtel.in/press-release/12-2021/airtel-launches-startup-innovation-challenge-in-partnership-with-invest-india>

Paytm Payments Bank : RBI nod for scheduled bank status

Question : Paytm Payments Bank has recently(December 2021) announced that it has received an approval from the Reserve Bank of India for its inclusion in scheduled banks under the RBI Act, 1934. Paytm Payments Bank, a subsidiary of which of the following ?

- a. One97 Communications b. One98 Communications c. One99 Communications
d. One96 Communications

Ans. a.

Related facts —



- Paytm Payments Bank is a subsidiary of One97 Communication.
- It has recently(December 2021) announced that it has received an approval from the Reserve Bank of India for its inclusion in scheduled banks under the RBI Act, 1934.
- Being a scheduled payments bank, it can now explore new business opportunities.
- **Significance —**
- Paytm Payments Bank can participate in government and other large corporations issued Request for Proposals(RFP), primary auctions, fixed-rate and variable rate repos, and reverse repos, along with participation in Marginal Standing Facility.
- It would now also be eligible to partner in government-run financial inclusion schemes.
- Under the RBI Act 1934, banks whose affairs are not being conducted in a manner detrimental to the interests of its depositors, are included in the second schedule.
- Paytm Payments Bank now processes transactions with various instruments like Paytm Wallet, Paytm FASTag, net banking and Paytm UPI.

Link:

https://www.business-standard.com/article/finance/paytm-payments-bank-receives-scheduled-bank-status-from-rbi-121120900744_1.html

India's growth forecast

Question : Fitch Ratings has recently reduced India's economic growth forecast to what percent for the current financial year ending March 31, 2022 ?

a. 8.4 percent b. 8.1 percent c. 8.9 percent d. 6.7 percent

Ans. a.

Related facts —

- Fitch Ratings cut India's economic growth forecast to 8.4 per cent, from the previous 8.7 per cent for the current fiscal year (2021-22, or FY22) on December 8, 2021
- Fitch said risks to recovery remain, especially in the near term, given that less than one-third of the population is fully vaccinated.
- The newly discovered Omicron variant has added to the risk, it said.
- The rating agency raised GDP growth projections to 10.3 per cent, from the earlier expected 10 per cent for the next fiscal year (2022-23).



Link:

https://www.business-standard.com/article/economy-policy/fitch-ratings-cut-india-s-fy22-economic-growth-forecast-to-8-4-121120801447_1.html

Intellect Wealth Qube

Question : Which bank has recently(December 2021) chosen Intellect Wealth Qube for its digital wealth management transformation ?

a. SBI b. PNB c. BOB d. HDFC Bank

Ans. a.

Related facts —

- India's largest public lender SBI has recently(December 2021) chosen Intellect Wealth Qube, a digital wealth management suite, for its digital wealth management transformation agenda.
- SBI will utilise Intellect's digital wealth, contextual and composable platform to accelerate business expansion and improve operational efficiencies through STP.
- Intellect is honoured to bag the large digital wealth transformation deal from SBI to support them on their digital journey and growth plans.
- It is noteworthy that wealth management business is the bank's biggest priority and its key task is to offer the best products across categories from leading fund houses giving their customers the flexibility to invest, transact and view their portfolio via net banking, mobile and remote relationship model.
- The bank's decision to undertake this transformation program is a reflection of the bank's modernizing for the future.



Link:

<https://www.businesstoday.in/industry/banks/story/sbi-chooses-intellect-wealth-qube-for-its-digital-wealth-management-transformation-314668-2021-12-07>

India's first Nifty Alpha 50 ETF

Question : Which mutual fund has recently(December 2021) launched India's first ever Nifty Alpha 50 ETF ?

- a. Kotak Mahindra Mutual Fund b. HDFC Mutual Fund c. SBI Mutual Fund
d. Axis Mutual Fund

Ans. a.

Related facts —

- Kotak Mahindra Mutual Fund has recently(December 2021) launched India's first ever Nifty Alpha 50 ETF named the Kotak Nifty Alpha 50 ETF.
- It is an open-ended scheme that will track Nifty Alpha 50 index and gives investors an opportunity to invest in a well-diversified portfolio of stocks with high Alphas.
- It will track the performance of 50 stocks listed with NSE with high Alpha in the last one year.
- As per the criteria, these companies are selected from top 300 companies by average free-float market capitalization and average daily turnover for the last six months.



Link:

<https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/mf/mf-news/kotak-mahindra-mutual-fund-launches-indias-first-nifty-alpha-50-etf/articleshow/88070607.cms>

New and Renewable Energy : Achievement of 40 % installed electricity capacity from non- fossil fuel sources

Question : India has recently(November 2021) achieved the target of 40 % installed electricity capacity from non- fossil fuel sources. How much total installed non fossil fuel based capacity stood now ?

- a. 156.83 GW b. 180.85 GW c. 146.70 GW
d. None of the above

Ans. a.

Related facts —

- At COP 21, as part of its Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs), India had committed to achieving 40% of its installed electricity capacity from non-fossil energy sources by 2030.
- The country has achieved this target in November 2021 itself.
- The country's installed Renewable Energy (RE) capacity today stands at 150.05 GW while its nuclear energy based installed electricity capacity stands at 6.78 GW.
- This brings the total non-fossil based installed energy capacity to 156.83 GW which is 40.1% of the total installed electricity capacity of 390.8 GW.



Link:

<https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1777364>

Mangalore Refinery: Acquisition of bonds worth up to Rs 1,000 crore

Question: Mangalore Refinery (MRPL) will acquire the bonds of its subsidiary company up to Rs 1,000 crore. Which subsidiary/subsidiary of MRPL will issue these bonds?

- a. ONGC Mangalore Petrochemicals Limited b. IOC Mangalore Petrochemicals Limited
c. GAIL Mangalore Petrochemicals Ltd. d. none of the above

Answer a

Related facts—

- Mangalore Refinery and Petrochemicals Limited (MRPL) announced in December that it has received board approval to acquire compulsorily convertible debentures of up to Rs 1,000 crore issued by its subsidiary 'OMPL'.
- It is noteworthy that OMPL (ONGC Mangalore Petrochemicals Limited) is a wholly owned subsidiary of MRPL.



Link:

[https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/markets/bonds/mangalore-refinery-to-acquire-bonds-worth-up-to-rs-1000-cr-of-subsidiary/articleshow/88079969.cms#:~:text=New%20Delhi%3A%20Mangalore%20Refinery%20and,Mangalore%20Petrochemicals%20Limited%20\(OMPL\).](https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/markets/bonds/mangalore-refinery-to-acquire-bonds-worth-up-to-rs-1000-cr-of-subsidiary/articleshow/88079969.cms#:~:text=New%20Delhi%3A%20Mangalore%20Refinery%20and,Mangalore%20Petrochemicals%20Limited%20(OMPL).)

Alibaba : Appointment of new CFO

Question : Alibaba has recently decided to overhaul ecommerce businesses and appoint a new CFO. The new CFO will succeed Maggie Wu as the company's chief financial officer from _ .

- a. April 2022 b. January 2022 c. March 2022 d. None of the above

Ans. a.

Related facts —

- Alibaba has recently(December 2021) decided to overhaul ecommerce businesses and appoint a new CFO.
- The new CFO will succeed Maggie Wu as the company's chief financial officer from April.
- **Background —**
- The changes come as Alibaba faces headwinds on multiple fronts, including increased competition, a slowing economy and a regulatory crackdown.
- It would form two new units to house its main ecommerce businesses – international digital commerce and China digital commerce, in a bid to become more agile and accelerate growth.



Link:

https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/tech/tech-bytes/alibaba-overhauls-ecommerce-businesses-appoints-new-cfo/articleshow/88114531.cms?utm_source=contentofinterest&utm_medium=text&utm_campaign=cppst

India will have nine Nuclear reactors by 2024

Question: In which of the following northern state Union government has proposed to build a new nuclear plant first in Northern India?

a) Haryana b) Himachal Pradesh c) J&K d) None of these

Answer: (a)

Related Facts:-

- Union Minister Jitendra Singh has informed in the Rajya Sabha that the country will have nine nuclear reactors by 2024.
- It has been informed by the government that during COVID period 12 new nuclear reactors were permitted by the government.
- The minister has also notified the Rajya Sabha that a new nuclear plant, the first in northern India, will be built 150 kilometres from Delhi in Haryana's Gorakhpur.
- The minister stated that present government has not only expanded the number of nuclear plants but also attempting to create a pan-India nuclear energy based generating project.
- The central government is hopeful that nuclear energy will soon emerge as one of the most significant sources of alternative or clean energy for expanding power demand in India.



Links:-

<https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/industry/energy/power/india-will-have-nine-nuclear-reactors-by-2024/articleshow/88052174.cms>

SBI : Listing of Green Bonds worth \$650 million on INX and Luxembourg Stock Exchange

Question : Which bank has recently listed the green bonds worth 650 million dollar on INX and LUXembourg Stock Exchange ?

a. SBI b. PNB c. BOB d.HDFC Bank

Ans. a.

Related facts —

- SBI has recently(November 2021) listed its USD 650-million green bonds simultaneously on the India International Exchange(India INX) and the Luxembourg Stock Exchange(LuxSE).
- This listing was done on the occasion of the World Investor Week.
- **Background —**
- India INX is India's first international stock exchange and subsidiary of Bombay Stock Exchange.
- Last year in November it had announced its memorandum of understanding with the LuxSE for cooperation in financial services industry, maintenance of orderly markets in securities respective country, ESG (environmental, social and governance) and green finance in the local market.
- This dual listing of green bonds is the first step towards this collaborated effort.
- It is notable that SBI has raised USD 800 million in the green bond market so far.



Link:

https://www.business-standard.com/article/finance/sbi-lists-650-mn-green-bonds-on-india-inx-luxembourg-stock-exchange-121112201177_1.html

RBI takes over the powers of Reliance Capital Board

Question : Which of the following authority has recently(November 2021) taken over the powers of Reliance Capital Board ?

a. RBI b. SEBI c. National Company Law Tribunal d. None of the above

Ans. a.

Related facts —

- RBI has recently(November 2021) taken over the powers of Reliance Capital Board.
- Reliance Capital is an Anil Dhirubhai Ambani Group's company.
- **Reason —**
- It is noteworthy that Reliance Capital has failed to repay the debt to its debtors as well as has failed to fulfill the obligations of the Governance.
- **RBI's step —**
- The Reserve Bank has appointed Nageswara Rao, former executive director of Bank of Maharashtra, as the administrator of Reliance Capital under the RBI Act, who will currently look after the company's operations.
- RBI will soon start action against the company under the bankruptcy law.



Link:

<https://www.livemint.com/>

NSO's estimates of GDP

Question : NSO(National Statistical Office) has recently released the estimates of GDP. Accordingly, which of the following statement is correct ?

a. India's GDP grew by 8.4 percent in Q2(July-September) of 2021-22
b. India's GDP grew by 7.4 percent in Q2(July-September) of 2021-22
c. India's GDP grew by 6.4 percent in Q2(July-September) of 2021-22
d. None of the above

Ans. a.

Related facts —

- NSO(National Statistical Office) has recently released the estimates of GDP.
- **Key points —**
- India's GDP grew by 8.4 per cent in the second quarter (July-September) of 2021-22 fiscal year, compared to a 7.4 per cent contraction a year ago.
- This shows that India's effort to boost consumption through government spending and low-interest rates is paying off, with the economy gaining strength just as a new coronavirus variant emerges as the top threat to a global recovery.



- According to the figures issued by NSO, the gross domestic product (GDP) at constant prices in Q2 2021-22 is estimated at ₹35.73 lakh crore, as against ₹32.97 lakh crore in Q2 2020-21, showing a growth of 8.4 per cent as compared to the 7.4 per cent contraction in this quarter a year ago.
- According to the Bloomberg recovery is “led by the services sector, with individual mobility back to pre-Covid levels, and ultra-accommodative financial conditions,” as well as higher government expenditures.

Link:

<https://www.hindustantimes.com/business/indias-gdp-grows-8-4-in-q2-2021-22-compared-to-7-4-contraction-a-year-ago-101638275718292.html>

DBS cuts India's FY20 GDP forecast to 6.8% from 7% on weakening exports

Question: DBS cuts India's FY20 GDP forecast to 6.8% from 7% on weakening exports. Where located head office of DBS?

a) Singapore b) Beijing c) New Delhi d) None of these.

Ans : a

Related Facts :

- DBS Bank has revised India's GDP growth for fiscal year 2020 downwards to 6.8 per cent year-on-year (YoY) from 7 per cent projected earlier.
- We revise down our real GDP forecast for FY20 to 6.8 per cent YoY versus 7 per cent earlier, the bank said.
- The DBS team assessed that into FY23, beyond the thrust from reopening gains, precautionary savings and sectoral normalisation to pre-pandemic levels.
- **High light points :**
- DBS, a leading financial services group headquartered in Singapore, operates across 18 markets.
- The company was known as The Development Bank of Singapore Limited.
- The bank was set up by the Government of Singapore on 16 July 1968 to take over the industrial financing activities from the Economic Development Board.



Links:

https://www.business-standard.com/article/pti-stories/dbs-revises-india-gdp-forecast-for-fy20-down-to-6-8-pc-119062000265_1.html

IPO-bound India1 Payments installs 10,000 white-label ATMs

Question: when first ATM was setup in India ?

a) 1987 b) 1989 c) 1990 d) None of these

Ans a

Related Facts:

- IPO-bound India1 Payments installs 10,000 white-label ATMs.
- it has crossed a milestone of deploying 10,000-white-label ATMs



- The company has installed these machines mostly in semi urban and rural areas across 14 states and union territories.
- this milestone makes India1 ATM the second largest white label ATM (WLA) brand in the semi-urban and rural areas.
- According to the latest data from the RBI as of September, there were 2.4 lakh ATMs in the country, of them around 28,00 are white-label machines.
- India1ATM services over 72 million customer transactions and facilitates a gross transaction value of over Rs 13,600 crore every quarter on an average.
- It began operations in 2014 and since then it has installed more than a third of the WLAs.
- K Srinivas, managing director and chief executive of India1 Payments, said “despite the pandemic, we have leveraged our network with an average deployment of over 300 ATMs per month for the previous four months”.
- **Highlight point:**
- An Automated Teller Machine, better known as an ATM.
- The first ATM in India was set up in 1987 by HSBC in Mumbai.
- In 1960, an American named Luther George Simjian invented the Bankograph, a machine that allowed customers to deposit cash and checks into it
- The first ATM was set up in June 1967 on a street in Enfield, London at a branch of Barclays bank.
- A British inventor named John Shepherd-Barron is credited with its invention.
- In 1970, a British engineer, James Goodfellow, proposed the concept of a personal identification number (PIN), which automated verification of the identity of customers.
- In 1977, National Cash Register, a software and technology company in the U.S., launched the NCR Model 770, an easy-to-operate ATM that allowed the banks to offer services 24/7.

Links:

https://www.business-standard.com/article/companies/ipo-bound-india1-payments-installs-10-000-white-label-atms-121112901249_1.html

USD 250 mn loan pact for for NICDP

Question : National Industrial Corridor Development Programme(NICDP) is India’s most ambitious infrastructure programme aiming to develop new industrial cities as “Smart Cities” and converging next generation technologies across infrastructure sectors. ADB has recently signed a loan agreement for NICDP.

What is the loan amount ?

a. USD 125 mn b. USD 50 mn c. USD 75 mn d. None of the above

Ans. a.

Related facts —

- National Industrial Corridor Development Programme(NICDP) is India’s most ambitious infrastructure programme aiming to develop new industrial cities as “Smart Cities” and converging next generation technologies across infrastructure sectors.
- ADB has recently signed a loan agreement for NICDP.



- Additional Secretary, Ministry of Finance signed for the Government of India the agreement for first of the two sub-programs, each of USD 250 million, of the NICDP, while Takeo Konishi, Country Director of ADB's India Resident Mission, signed for ADB.
- **Aim** — to develop world-class industrial nodes that are buttressed by efficient urban agglomerations and multimodal connectivity, including international gateways like ports and airports and inclusive, climate-resilient, and sustainable infrastructure.
- As part of NICDP, it is also developing guidelines for green corridor frameworks and climate-resilient infrastructure as well as focusing on enhancing skills for the participation of female labour.

Link:

<https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/india/adb-signs-pact-for-usd-250-mn-loan-for-national-industrial-corridor-development-program/articleshow/88033741.cms>

Inclusive School Education in India : ADB approved a \$500 million loan

Question : How much amount of loan has ADB recently(December 2021) approved to improve quality and inclusive school education in India ?

- a. 500 million dollar b. 400 million dollar c. 300 million dollar
d. None of the above

Ans. a.

Related facts —

- ADB has recently(December 2021) approved a \$500 million loan to help the Government of India improve the quality of the country's school education and mitigate the impact of the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic on students' learning.
- The loan supports the Samagra Shiksha and the new Exemplar School Initiative of the MoE(Ministry of Education) to improve education quality by focusing on inclusive and equitable learning outcomes.
- It is notable that about 1,800 government schools will be transformed into exemplar schools in the states of Assam, Gujarat, Jharkhand, Tamil Nadu, and Uttarakhand.
- These schools will demonstrate quality learning environments and effective learning, which will become a model for replication in other government schools across India.
- In addition to supporting the Exemplar School Initiative, the loan will help scale up foundational learning for primary students and enhance the relevance of secondary education by introducing science, technology, engineering, the arts, and mathematics (STEAM) and integrated vocational education.
- The learning interventions will be implemented across a larger set of cluster-level schools in the five states.
- The loan will also provide continuous professional development for teachers and principals to build their pedagogic skills, subject knowledge, and digital skills.



Link:

<https://www.adb.org/news/adb-help-improve-quality-and-inclusive-school-education-india>

HSBC to issue cards with recycled plastic as part of net zero plan

Question : HSBC to issue cards with recycled plastic . who is CEO of HSBC in India ?

- a) Hitendra Dave b) Shri Dinesh Kumar Khara c) Shri Ashwani Bhatia
d) None of these

Ans: a.

Related Facts:

- As part of its commitments to sustainability and a net-zero future, HSBC has launched India's first credit card made from recycled PVC plastic.
- The cards are issued in partnership with IDEMIA . (a global cards manufacturer) and will help gradually eliminate single-use PVC plastic.
- The new rPVC cards are made from 85 percent recycled plastic waste, which will help save 3.18 gms of plastic waste per card.
- The card is not only efficient in minimalizing plastic waste but it will also help in lowering the overall carbon emission.
- **History of HSBC:**
- HSBC was born from one simple idea – a local bank serving international needs.
- In March 1865, HSBC opened its doors for business in Hong Kong, helping to finance trade between Europe and Asia.
- Today, n HSBC serve more than 40 million personal, wealth and corporate customers worldwide in 64 countries and territories.
- HSBC's origins in India date back more than 160 years to when the Mercantile Bank of India was set up in Mumbai.



Links: <https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/business/india-business/hsbc-to-issue-cards-with-recycled-plastic-as-part-of-net-zero-plan/articleshow/87918908.cms>

NSO Periodic Labour Force Survey – December 2021

Question: Consider the following statements:

- (i) The National Statistical Office under the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation releases the periodic labour force survey.
(ii) As per the ninth Periodic Labour Force Survey (PLFS) the unemployment rate for in CWS (current weekly status) in urban areas for persons of age 15 years and above was 10.3 per cent in October-December 2020.

Which of the above are correct?

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

Ans: c

Recent Context

- The National Statistical Office has recently released the Periodic Labour Force Survey – December 2021.
- Related Facts



- Unemployment rate for in CWS (current weekly status) in urban areas for persons of age 15 years and above was 10.3 per cent in October-December 2020.
- Unemployment rate for all ages in urban areas rose to 9.3 per cent in January-March 2021 from 9.1 per cent in the same month of the previous year.
- Unemployment rate among females in urban areas (age 15 and above) rose to 11.8 per cent in January-March 2021 from 10.6 per cent a year ago.
- The unemployment rate of urban males was 8.6% in 2021. It was 9.5% in 2020.
- The Worker Population Ratio in urban was at 43.1%. It was 43.7% in 2020.
- The Labour Force Participation Rate in urban areas was 47.5%. It was 47.3% in 2020.

Reference:

<https://www.financialexpress.com/economy/unemployment-rate-at-9-3-in-jan-mar-2021-nso-survey/2379340/>

Centre approves disinvestment of Central Electronics Limited

Question: Consider the following statements;

- (i) On 29th November 2021 The Centre has approved strategic disinvestment of Central Electronics Limited, a public sector enterprise (CPSE).
- (ii) Government is selling 50% of its stake in Central Electronics limited to M/s Nandal Finance and Leasing Private Limited.
- (iii) Government of India is set to get RS 210 crores out of this sale.

Which of the above are correct?

- (a) i, ii (b) i, iii (c) ii,iii (d) None

Ans: b

Recent Context

- On 29th November 2021 The Centre has approved strategic disinvestment of Central Electronics Limited, a public sector enterprise (CPSE).
- Related Facts
- Government of India is selling 100% of its stake in Central Electronics limited to M/s Nandal Finance and Leasing Private Limited.
- M/s Nandal Finance and Leasing Private Limited placed the winning bid for 210 crore sixty thousand rupees.
- The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA) empowered alternative mechanism (AM) approved the highest price bid.
- CEL was established in 1974 to commercially exploit indigenous technologies developed by National Laboratories and R&D institutions.



Reference :

<https://newsonair.gov.in/News?title=Centre-approves-strategic-disinvestment-of-Central-Electronics-Limited%3B-Nandal-Finance-emerges-highest-bidder&id=430524>

Defense/Science Short Notes

ICMR research team designs kit for Omicron detection

Question: Consider the following statements:

(1) The ICMR-Regional Medical Research Centre, NE, Dibrugarh, has developed a novel technology — real-time RT-PCR assay for detection of Omicron variant of SARS-CoV2 and a kit for the same

(2) Omicron was assigned to the B.1.1.529 variant of concern

Which of the above is/are correct?

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

Answer: (c)

Related Facts:

- The ICMR-Regional Medical Research Centre, NE, Dibrugarh, one of the institutes of the ICMR, New Delhi, has developed a novel technology — real-time RT-PCR assay for detection of Omicron (B.1.1.529) variant of SARS-CoV2 and a kit for the same.
- According to the World Health Organisation (WHO), Omicron has been detected in 89 countries. It is spreading significantly faster than the Delta variant.
- The Indian Council of Medical Research, the apex body in India for the formulation, coordination and promotion of biomedical research, is one of the oldest and largest medical research bodies in the world.
- The ICMR is funded by the Government of India through the Department of Health Research, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare.
- In 1911, the Government of India set up the Indian Research Fund Association (IRFA) with the specific objective of sponsoring and coordinating medical research in the country.
- It was redesignated the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) in 1949.



Reference: <https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/india/icmr-designs-kit-for-omicron-detection/articleshow/88400746.cms>

Indian Army launched indigenous messaging application called ASIGMA

Question: Consider the following statements:

(1) Indian Army has launched a contemporary messaging application named 'ASIGMA'

(2) ASIGMA stands for Army Secure IndiGeneous Messaging Application

(3) The application (ASIGMA) has been fielded on Army-owned hardware and lends itself to lifetime support with future upgrades

Which of the above is/are correct?

(a) Only 1 (b) 1 and 2 (c) 1 and 3 (d) 1,2 and 3

Answer: (d)

Related Facts:

- Indian Army has launched a contemporary messaging application named 'ASIGMA' (Army Secure IndiGeneous Messaging Application).
- It is a new generation web-based application developed entirely in-house by a team of officers of the Corps of Signals of the Army.
- The bespoke messaging application meets all futuristic user requirements and boasts of an enhanced user experience.
- The Indian Army has braced automation in a major way, especially post Covid-19 outbreak, and is taking substantial steps towards paperless functioning.
- ASIGMA will further boost these efforts and will add to the host of other applications already being employed by the Army over its captive pan Army network.



Reference: <https://www.google.com/amp/s/www.hindustantimes.com/india-news/army-launches-messaging-application-101640315264419-amp.html>

Rare Pink Handfish

Question: Researchers from which of the following country recently discovered a rare pink Handfish near the Tasmanian coast?

a) Australia b) China c) Japan d) Germany

Answer: (a)

Related Facts:-



- Australia's Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation (CSIRO) discovered a rare pink handfish near the Tasmanian coast.
- The last time 22 years before this fish was seen was in 1999.
- This rare pink handfish was discovered in the seabed in Tasman Fracture Marine Park.
- Actually Australian marine researchers discovered the pink handfish while reviewing the footage of a video; they had taken using an underwater camera in February 2021.
- The Tasman Fracture Marine Park is known for its deep crack in the earth's crust, which allows scientists to study marine life up to 4,000 meters below the surface.
- Pink handfish was previously thought to only live in shallow waters. This time, however, it was discovered at a depth of 150 meters.

Links:-

<https://www.bbc.com/news/world-australia-59778215>

India's first Intelligent Transport System

Question: In which of the following district of UP Union Minister for Road Transport and Highways Nitin Gadkari recently unveiled the India's first Intelligent Transport System?

a) Gorakhpur b) Prayagraj c) Varanasi d) Ghaziabad

Answer: (d)

Related Facts:-

- On 23 December 2021; Union Minister for Road Transport and Highways Nitin Gadkari unveiled India's first Intelligent Transport System.
- It is the Eastern Peripheral Expressway in Dasna, Ghaziabad inaugurated by Gadkari, will have the state-of-the-art technology called Intelligent Transport System.
- This system was created in order to reduce traffic congestion and improve commuter safety.
- It is cutting-edge, revolutionary technology; it will achieve traffic efficiency by encouraging efficient infrastructure use.
- It will be helpful in reducing traffic problems and will provide users with prior traffic information.
- It will then ultimately reduce travel time, and better improve the commuter safety and comfort.
- This system can detect any accident and send out alerts so that an ambulance can arrive at the scene in 10-15 minutes.
- The Eastern Peripheral Expressway is a 135-kilometer expressway with six lanes.
- It connects Kundli, Ghaziabad, and Palwal and run through Haryana and Uttar Pradesh.
- It runs from Kundli in Sonipat to Faridabad district in Haryana, passing through Baghpat, Ghaziabad, and Noida in Uttar Pradesh and Baghpat, Ghaziabad, and Noida in Uttar Pradesh.
- It finally connects to the Western Peripheral Expressway near Palwal's Dholagarh.



Links:-

<https://auto.hindustantimes.com/auto/news/eastern-peripheral-expressway-gets-intelligent-transport-system-for-safer-drives-41640315506042.html>

Dinosaur Embryo from a Perfectly-preserved Fossilised Egg Discovered

Question: Scientists from which of the following country discovered a Embryo from a Perfectly-preserved Fossilised Egg of the Dinosaur?

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

Answer: (c)

Related Facts:-

- Scientists recently announced the discovery of perfectly-preserved dinosaur embryo from a fossilised egg.
- This kind of perfectly-preserved dinosaur embryo in an egg of fossilised form now for the first time discovered in Ganzhou China.
- The specimen, which the scientists reckon was preparing to hatch just like a chicken, is one of the most complete dinosaur embryos ever found.
- The embryo, which is thought to be between 72 to 66 million years old, has been named Baby Yingliang.
- The scientists concluded the baby to be a toothless theropod dinosaur or oviraptorosaur.
- The egg is 7cm-long and 8cm-wide, and the skeleton is 24cm in length.



- It is one of the best dinosaur embryos ever found in history of discoveries related to Dinosaurs and their body remains.
- Dr Fion Waisum Ma, a University of Birmingham researcher co-authored a paper in the journal iScience, related to this new discovery.

Links:-

<https://www.timesnownews.com/the-buzz/article/perfectly-preserved-dinosaur-embryo-discovered-in-fossilised-egg-in-china/842589>

155 Multi-terrain Artillery Gun (MArG BR)

Question: Which of the following indigenous company prepared the 155 Multi-terrain Artillery Gun (MArG BR) for the Indian Army?

- a) Bharat Dynamics limited b) Bharat electronics Limited c) Bharat Forge Limited
d) None of these

Answer: (c)

Related Facts:-

- On 21 December 2021; Union Defence Minister Rajnath Singh launched kind indigenous– 155 Multi-terrain Artillery Gun (MArG BR).
- Army Chief General Manoj Mukund Naravane was also present on this important occasion associated with the Indian Army.
- Pune-based Indian MNC Bharat Forge Ltd has developed this sophisticated weapon.
- Its manufacturing in the country truly depicts the Government's commitment for the propagation of Make-in-India and Atmanirbhar Bharat Mission.
- The Made-In-India MArG 155 – BR is the only 155mm 39 calibre gun system mounted on 4×4 HMT in the world.
- The vehicle weighs 18 ton and has the capability to be deployed even in mountain regions.
- The gun system is equipped with shoot and scoot capability, providing advanced technical performance and high integration, explained the company.



Links:-

<http://www.indiandefensenews.in/2021/12/rajnath-singh-unveils-made-in-india.html>

India Successfully Tests 'Pralay Intercontinental ballistic missiles

Question: India Successfully Tests 'Pralay' Missile. When DRDO was founded?

- a) 1958 b) 1978 c) 1972 d) None of these.

Ans:a

Related Facts:

- India successfully test fired the short-range, surface-to-surface guided ballistic missile 'Pralay' off the Odisha coast in Balasore. On December 22, 2021.
- The solid-fuel, battlefield missile developed by the Defence Research Development Organisation is based on the Prithvi Defence Vehicle from the Indian ballistic missile programme.
- The missile, launched from the APJ Abdul Kalam Island.

- Pralay is a quasi ballistic surface-to-surface missile. The advanced missile has been developed in a way to able to defeat interceptor missiles.
- **High Light points:**
- Ballistic missiles are powered by rockets initially but then they follow an unpowered, free-falling trajectory toward their targets.
- There are four general classifications of ballistic missiles:
- Short-range ballistic missiles, traveling less than 1,000 kilometers (approximately 620 miles).
- Medium-range ballistic missiles, traveling between 1,000–3,000 kilometers (approximately 620-1,860 miles);
- Intermediate-range ballistic missiles, traveling between 3,000–5,500 kilometers (approximately 1,860-3,410 miles)
- Intercontinental ballistic missiles (ICBMs), traveling more than 5,500 kilometers.



Links:

<https://www.ndtv.com/india-news/india-successfully-tests-pralay-missile-off-odisha-coast-2664670>

India Successfully Test Fires Agni Prime

Question: India Successfully Test Fires Agni Prime missiles at which Island?

a) Dr APJ Abdul Kalam island b) Sriharikota c) Andrott Island d) None of these

Ans:a

Related Facts:

- India successfully testfired the nuclear-capable strategic Agni Prime missile off the coast of Odisha with the capability to hit targets between 1,000 to 2,000 kms on Saturday(December 18,2021).
- A lot of new features have been added to the nuclear-capable strategic missile Agni Prime during this test.
- The missile test met all its mission objectives with a high level of accuracy.
- The last test of the missile was done on June 28 , 2021.



Links:

<https://www.ndtv.com/india-news/india-successfully-testfires-nuclear-capable-strategic-agni-prime-missile-2658072>

Indigenous AERVs Integrated into the Indian Army

Question: Recently Indigenous AERVs integrated into the Indian Army, these new AERVs are designed by which of the following?

a) HAL b) BEL c) BDL d) DRDO

Answer: (d)

Related Facts:-

- On 21 December 2021; the first batch of indigenous Armoured Engineer Reconnaissance vehicles (AERVs) was integrated into the Indian Army.
- At an occasion in Pune, these next-generation vehicles were admitted into the Army's Corps of Engineers.
- Defense Research and Development Organisation designed the indigenous Armoured Engineer Reconnaissance vehicle (DRDO).
- Ordnance Factory Medak collaborated with Bharat Electronics Limited, Pune, to produce it.
- The Indian Army has placed an order for 53 AERVs.
- Individual engineering formations will be deployed with these vehicles, primarily on the Western front.



Links:-

<https://www.thehindu.com/news/cities/bangalore/indian-army-inducts-armoured-engineer-reconnaissance-vehicle/article38012445.ece>

New generation ballistic missile 'Agni P' successfully test-fired by DRDO

Question: Consider the following statements:

(1) India successfully test-fired the 'Agni P' missile off the coast of Odisha

(2) It is developed by the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO)

Which of the above is/are correct?

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

Answer: (a)

Related Facts:

- Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) successfully tested the new generation nuclear capable ballistic missile 'Agni P' from Dr APJ Abdul Kalam island off the coast of Odisha at 1106 hrs on December 18, 2021.
- Agni-P is a new generation upgraded version of Agni class missiles.
- It's a two-stage canisterized missile with a range of 1,000 to 2,000 kilometres.
- The Defence Research and Development Organisation is the premier agency under the Department of Defence Research and Development in Ministry of Defence of the Government of India, charged with the military's research and development.
- It was formed in 1958.
- The headquarter of DRDO is in Delhi, India.

Reference: <https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1782960>

Rare to India Barn Owl Sighted

Question: In which of the following state in our country rare Barn Owl Sighted recently?

a) Arunachal Pradesh b) Bihar c) Himachal Pradesh d) West Bengal

Answer: (b)

Related Facts:-

- On 15 December, 2021; rare barn owl sighted in Bihar which was rescued in the forest area of the Supaul, Bihar.
- Barn owls, scientifically named a *Tyto alba* are rare in the Indian subcontinent.
- Barn owls are specifically the natives of United States and also can be in the United Kingdom, and other parts of Europe.
- The Barn Owl is the world's most widely spread owl species.
- Except for the arctic and desert regions, Indonesia, the Pacific Islands, and Asia north of the Himalayas, the species can be found practically wherever.
- They specialize in hunting animals on the ground. Small mammals are their only source of food, which they track down via sound.
- They are pale-colored, medium-sized owls with long wings and a short, squarish tail and wingspan ranging from 80 to 95 cm.
- Barn owls can reproduce at any time of the year. However, there is still some seasonality



Links:-

<https://www.msn.com/en-in/news/other/rare-sighting-barn-owl-shows-up-in-indian-state-gets-rescued/ar-AARUZwO>

NASA's spacecraft successfully enters the Sun's Corona

Question: Which of the following space probe of NASA successfully entered the Sun's corona in 2021?

a) Parker b) Juno c) MAVEN d) Insight

Answer: (a)

Related Facts:-

- In 2021 NASA's Parker Solar Probe entered the Sun's Corona.
- Corona is the Sun's atmosphere's outermost layer. Strong magnetic fields bind plasma and prevent turbulent solar winds from escaping.
- Spacecraft had been flying just beyond the Alfvén point before 28 April 2021.
- Alfvén point:
- When solar winds reach a crucial speed, they can break out from the Sun's corona and magnetic fields, known as the Alfvén point.
- NASA's Parker Solar Probe was launched on 12 August 2018.
- It was launched to observe the Sun's outer corona. It got as close as 9.86 solar radii to the Sun's center.
- It will be at its closest approach by 2025. It is the only spacecraft penetrating the solar corona at a low altitude.
- This project was announced in 2009, with an estimated cost of US\$1.5 billion.
- Johns Hopkins University's Applied Physics Laboratory designed and built the spacecraft.



Links:-

<https://www.nasa.gov/feature/goddard/2021/nasa-enters-the-solar-atmosphere-for-the-first-time-bringing-new-discoveries>

Supersonic missile assisted torpedo system

Question – In December 2021, the Supsonic Missile Assisted Torpedo System was successfully launched. Which of the following is not true about this system?

- (a) On 13 December 2021, the supersonic missile assisted torpedo system was launched from Wheeler Island in Odisha.
- (b) This system is a next generation missile based stand off torpedo delivery system.
- (c) This system has been developed by the Defense Research and Development Organization (DRDO).
- (d) This missile can cover medium distance.

Answer—(d)

Related facts—

- In December 2021, the Supsonic Missile Assisted Torpedo System was successfully launched.
- **Key points —**
- On 13 December 2021, the supersonic missile assisted torpedo system was launched from Wheeler Island in Odisha.
- This system is a next generation missile based stand off torpedo delivery system.
- The missile carried a torpedo, parachute delivery system and release mechanisms.
- This system has been developed by the Defense Research and Development Organization (DRDO).
- The system has been designed to enhance anti-submarine warfare capability far beyond the conventional range of the torpedo.
- The missile is launched from ground mobile launcher and it can cover a range of distances.



Link:

<https://www.pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1780944>

Joint use of the Chabahar Port

Question: India recently held talks with Iran and which of the following country for the Joint use of the Chabahar Port.?

- a) Uzbekistan b) Turkmenistan c) Afghanistan d) Iraq

Answer: (a)

Related Facts:-

- On December 14, 2021, India, Iran, and Uzbekistan held talks on joint use of the Chabahar Port.
- Chabahar seaport is in Chabahar located in Iran, on the Gulf of Oman.
- In this meeting it has also been underlined the vital role played by the port in enhancing regional connectivity.
- The three countries discussed further development of transportation corridors across the port during the meeting.
- It was the second such virtual meeting among these countries on developing the strategically important port.
- Participating countries also highlighted the rise in transit traffic between South Asia and Central Asia through the Shahid Beheshti Terminal at Chabahar Port.
- They also discussed the event of the transportation corridor.



Links:-

https://www.business-standard.com/article/current-affairs/india-iran-and-uzbekistan-hold-meet-on-joint-use-of-chabahar-port-121121401718_1.html

HAL Signed a Contract for development of the LCA Tejas

Question: Recently HAL with which Signed a Contract with which of the following company for development of the LCA Tejas?

- a) Bharat Electronics Limited (BEL) b) Bharat Dynamics Limited (BDL)
c) Skyroot Aerospace d) None of these

Answer: (a)

Related Facts:-

- On 16 December 2021; HAL signed a contract with Bharat Electronics Limited (BEL) for development and supply of 20 types systems for the LCA Tejas.
- The five-year contract spanning from 2023 to 2028 is valued at Rs 2400 crores and seen as a major boost to indigenization Mk1A program.
- It involves supplying critical avionics Line Replaceable Units (LRUs), flight control computers and night flying LRUs.
- This is the biggest ever order that HAL has placed on any Indian company boosting 'Aatmanirbhar Bharat' campaign.
- LCA Tejas programme is an excellent example of synergies between Indian Defence establishments such as HAL, DRDO & BEL.
- The current order is for development and supply of 20 types of critical avionics LRUs for Tejas Mk1A is a shot-in-the-arm for Make in India activity.
- Mr R Madhavan, CMD, HAL on this occasion said that HAL stands committed to indigenous products.
- Ms Anandi Ramalingam, CMD, BEL said that the company is pleased to receive this order from HAL for the prestigious LCA Tejas program.
- He further said that the BEL is looking forward to continue strong partnership and to achieve joint success with HAL.
- The order for supply of these systems for 83 Tejas Mk1A fighter fleet will be executed by two Divisions of Bharat Electronics Limited at Bengaluru and Panchkula (Haryana).
- All the contracted items will be delivered by BEL to HAL in a ready to board condition.

**Links:-**

https://hal-india.co.in/HAL%20Signs%20Rs%202400%20Crore%20Contract%20with%20BEL,%20the%20Biggest%20Order%20Ever%20Placed%20on%20Indian%20Company/ND_362

Test in 90 minutes for Omicron developed by Researchers

Question: Researchers from which of the following IIT have recently developed the test to detect Omicron just in 90 minutes?

- a) IIT Delhi b) IIT Hyderabad c) IIT Madras d) IIT Mumbai

Answer: (a)

Related Facts:-

- Researchers from IIT Delhi recently developed a test, which can be conducted just in 90 minutes for Corona variant Omicron.
- It is the RT-PCR-based test that can detect the Omicron variant (B.1.1.529.1) of SARS-CoV-2 in 90 minutes.
- Researchers from IIT Delhi's Kusuma School of Biological Sciences put their best effort to achieve this success.
- The assay is based on detecting specific mutations, which are present in the Omicron variant and absent in other currently circulating variants of SARS-CoV-2.
- Primer sets that targeted these unique mutations in the S gene were designed for specific amplification of either Omicron variant or other variants of SARS-CoV-2 and tested through real-time PCR.
- A newly developed test was optimized by using synthetic DNA fragments.
- The Optimised test distinguishes the wild-type from the Omicron variant during a dynamic range of 107 to 100 copies per reaction.
- Previous Achievement by IIT Delhi:-
- IIT Delhi had another previous achievement as it earlier obtained ICMR approval for an RT-PCR test kit to diagnose SARS-CoV-2.
- IIT Delhi became the primary academic institution in India to try to do so. This test kit was successfully launched within the market.
- Omicron Identification:
- Until now Omicron test required over 3 days as it is being identified or screened using next-generation sequencing-based methods.



Links:-

https://www.business-standard.com/article/current-affairs/iit-delhi-develops-kit-that-can-detect-omicron-variant-in-90-minutes-121121301416_1.html

CURTAIN RAISER PANEX-21

Question: PANEX-21 is a Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief Exercise. It is to be held for which of the following group?

(a) BIMSTEC (b) SAARC (c) ASEAN (d) NATO

Answer: (a)

Related Facts:

- PANEX-21 is a Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief Exercise. It is to be held for the BIMSTEC countries.
- The exercise is to be held among the BIMSTEC countries: Bhutan, Bangladesh, Nepal, Myanmar, Sri Lanka, India and Thailand.
- The exercise is planned to be conducted from 20-22 Dec 21 at Pune.



- The event was presided over by Mr Ajay Bhatt, hon'ble Raksha Rajya Mantri in the august presence of many distinguished civilian and military guests.

Reference: <https://pib.gov.in/PressReleaselframePage.aspx?PRID=1778741>

Satellites: Shijian-6 05

Question: Which of the following country recently launched the group of satellites named as Satellites Shijian-6 05?

a) Japan b) South Korea c) China d) Philippines

Answer: (c)

Related Facts:-

- China successfully sent a new group of satellites into space from the Jiuquan Satellite Launch Center in northwest China on Friday.
- The satellites, Shijian-6 05, were launched by a Long March-4B rocket, have entered the planned orbit successfully.
- They will be used for space exploration and new technology test.
- The launch marked the 400th mission of Long March series carrier rockets.



Links:-

http://www.news.cn/english/2021-12/10/c_1310363096.htm

Innovation & Experience Centre in Bengaluru : Focused on IBM technologies

Question : __ has recently(November 2021) opened an Innovation & Experience Centre in Bengaluru.

a. L&T Infotech b. TechMahindra c. Maytas d. HCL Tech

Ans. a.

Related facts —

- L&T Infotech, part of the Larsen & Toubro Group, has recently(November 2021) opened an Innovation & Experience Centre at LTI Whitefield campus in Bengaluru (India) focusing on IBM technologies.
- It will assist enterprises in modernising their operations and accelerating digital transformation journeys.
- This Innovation & Experience Centre will showcase LTI solutions that have been co-created using IBM technologies(IBM Cloud and Cloud Parks etc).
- It will also allow customers to engage with LTI and IBM technical resources for in-depth technology briefings, solution demos, software, tool access and solution workshops.
- Through this Centre, IBM and LTI will collaborate and invest in creating joint solutions and develop industry viewpoints around digital transformation, hybrid cloud, data & AI, and security services.



Link:

<https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/tech/information-tech/lt-infotech-ibm-set-up->

Multi-agency exercise ‘Sagar Shakti’

Question – In which state was the multi-agency exercise ‘Sagar Shakti’ of armed forces and other security organizations held from 19 to 22 November 2021?

(a) Gujarat (b) Maharashtra (c) Goa (d) Odisha

Answer—(a)

Related facts—

- From 19 to 22 November 2021, the multi-agency exercise ‘Sagar Shakti’ by the Armed Forces and other security organizations was held in the Creek sector of Kutch peninsula in Gujarat.
- It is a part of the ongoing ‘Dakshin Shakti’ exercise in the training areas of Rajasthan and Gujarat.
- The Indian Army, Indian Navy, Indian Air Force, Indian Coast Guard, Border Security Force and Gujarat Police participated in it.
- The underlying objective in this exercise is comprehensive coordination and sharing of operational data amongst them to deal with emerging threats.
- The exercise involved military and complex maneuvers to deal with any potential security challenges in the area of land, water and air in an integrated manner.

Link:

<https://www.news18.com/videos/ivideos/sagar-shakti-i-india-tests-multi-agency-coordination-to-take-on-land-air-sea-security-threats-4482791.html>

Vertical launch-short range surface-to-air missile (VL-SRSAM)

Question: On 07 December 2021 from which of the following place DRDO test-fired Vertical launch-short range surface-to-air missile (VL-SRSAM)?

a) Chandipur b) Naval Ship c) Sriharikota d) None of these

Answer: (a)

Related Facts:

- On 7 December 2021; The Vertical launch-short range surface-to-air missile was test fired By DRDO.
- The missile was test-fired from an integrated test range in Chandipur, off the Odisha coast.
- Its launch was managed from a vertical launcher towards an electronic target at an external elevation.
- Vehicle’s flight path and health parameters were traced through several devices deployed by ITR Chandipur.
- The test launch was monitored by senior officials from DRDO and the Indian Navy.
- The first trial of this missile was conducted on February, 22, 2021.
- Defence expert say that this system will further raise the defense capability of Indian Naval Ships upon aerial threats.
- The launch of the short-range surface-to-air missile was administered to confirm the integrated operation of all weapon system elements.



Links:-

<https://www.indiatoday.in/india/story/india-successfully-tests-vertical-launch-short-range-surface-to-air-missile-1885263-2021-12-07>

New species of Butterfly Discovered from Dzongu valley

Question: Dzongu valley is part of which of the following state in India?

a) Himachal Pradesh b) Arunachal Pradesh c) Sikkim d) Meghalaya

Answer: (c)

Related Facts:-

- A new species of butterfly has been discovered from Dzongu valley in north Sikkim.
- It was discovered accidentally by a hobby photographer Sonam Wangchuk Lepcha.
- This new butterfly species has closest relatives in southeastern China, close to Hong Kong.
- Entomologist Dr Krushnamegh Kunte at the National Centre for Biological Sciences (NCBS), Bengaluru received the picture of this new butterfly from Lepcha.
- It was then upload on to the 'Butterflies of India' website maintained by the NCBS, in 2020.
- This new species is a golden yellow butterfly with brown borders and spots.
- All the observations submitted to this website are reviewed by an expert panel, including Krushnamegh Kunte of the NCBS.
- Dr Kunte counts lepidoptera or butterflies as one of his main research interests. Dr Kunte While reviewing Sonam's image, realised that this was a species previously unknown in India.
- **Chocolate-bordered Flitter**
- This new species of butterfly scientifically named as *Zographetus dzonguensis*, after Dzongu in north Sikkim, the place of its discovery.
- Its closest relatives are *Zographetus pangi* in Guangdong, and *Zographetus hainanensis* in Hainan, both in southeastern China close to Hong Kong.
- The physical appearance of the species differs slightly and the internal structures of the males also differ slightly.
- The details were published in a paper in Zootaxa on December 1.

**Links:-**

<https://www.thehindu.com/sci-tech/science/new-species-found-in-sikkims-dzongu-the-land-of-butterflies/article37829131.ece>

New Species of Bird Flatbill Flycatchers

Question: Recently from which of the following continent the New Species of Bird, Flatbill Flycatchers discovered?

a) South America b) North America c) Africa d) Australia

Answer: (a)

Related Facts:-

- A New Species of Bird named Flatbill flycatchers have been discovered in South America.



- Flatbill flycatcher is members of rubric Rhynchocyclus simply New World family Tyrannidae.
- Four given species in this rubric are distributed across southern Mexico to north-eastern Bolivia, Brazil and eastern Venezuela.
- Olivaceous flatbill (Rhynchocyclus olivaceus),
- Eye- ringed flatbill (Rhynchocyclus brevirostris),
- Pacific flatbill (Rhynchocyclus pacificus) and
- Fulvous-breasted flatbill (Rhynchocyclus fulvipectus).
- The recently discovered species has been named as cryptic flatbill (Rhynchocyclus cryptus) after its remarkable morphological cryptic nature.
- It largely contrasts with its high situations of oral and inheritable isolation.
- The species prefers seasonally swamped lowland timbers (varzea), including degraded patches near to mortal agreements.
- Other region of its preference are Amazon River, banks of Madeira River in Amazonas & Acre in Brazil, west of Marañon River in Peru, and south to north or central Bolivia in the Mamore.

Links:-

<http://www.sci-news.com/biology/cryptic-flatbill-rhynchocyclus-cryptus-10344.html>

NASA's LCRD Mission Launched

Question: What is the purpose of NASA's recently launched LCRD mission?

- a) To Study Red Dwarf b) To locate carbon in distant stars
c) Laser Communications Relay d) None of these

Answer: (c)

Related Facts:-

- On 07 December 2021; NASA launched its Laser Communications Relay Demonstration (LCRD).
- It also carried with itself NASA-U.S. Naval Research Laboratory space weather payload to study the Sun's radiation.
- The payloads launched aboard the Space Test Program Satellite-6 on a United Launch Alliance Atlas V rocket from Cape Canaveral Space Force Station in Florida.
- LCRD will demonstrate NASA's first two-way laser relay communications system, sending and receiving data over invisible infrared lasers.
- This way of communication can enable data rates 10 to 100 times greater than radio frequency systems traditionally used by spacecraft.
- Associate administrator for NASA's Space Technology Mission Directorate informed that this launch has introduced an exciting new technology for space missions.
- He said that demonstrating this innovative way of communicating with spacecraft will open the door for this technology to expand the horizons of future space missions.
- The other NASA science payload that launched aboard the satellite was the Ultraviolet Spectro-Coronagraph Pathfinder (UVSC Pathfinder).
- UVSC Pathfinder is a joint experiment with the Naval Research Lab that studies the origins of solar energetic particles, the Sun's most dangerous form of radiation.
- It has the potential to develop a new, high-impact tool with predictive capability for energetic solar particle storms that will enable future space missions, helping us explore farther and travel safer.



- NASA's LCRD will demonstrate the benefits of space-to-ground laser communications, also called optical communications.
- LCRD will send and receive data at a rate of 1.2 gigabits per second from geosynchronous orbit to Earth.
- At such speed, one could download a movie in under a minute.
- Laser communications systems are smaller, lighter, and use less power than radio frequency systems.
- These advantages, combined with laser communications' higher bandwidth, can advance robotic and human exploration across the solar system.

Links:-

<https://www.nasa.gov/press-release/nasa-s-laser-communications-tech-science-experiment-safely-in-space-0>

IXPE Mission of NASA

Question: With what objective NASA has launched the IXPE mission?

- I. To measure the polarisation of cosmic X-rays**
- II. To study the magnetic field of active galactic nuclei**
- III. To study the magnetic field of quasars and pulsars**
- IV. To study the magnetic field of magnetars, neutron stars, and black holes**

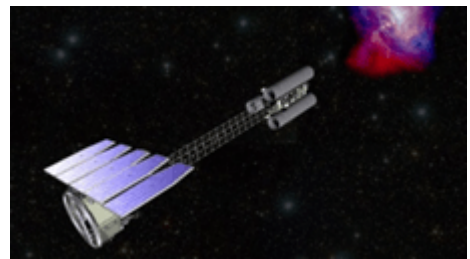
Read above statements and select correct answer from the following code-

- a) I is correct b) I & II are correct c) All I, II, III & IV are correct d) None of these

Answer: (c)

Related Facts:-

- On 09 December 2021; US space agency NASA launched its Imaging X-ray Polarimetry Explorer (IXPE) mission.
- SpaceX's Falcon 9 rocket carried away the mission spacecraft vertically in the sky from NASA's Kennedy Space Center in Florida.
- It is a joint effort of NASA with the Italian Space Agency.
- The IXPE observatory is NASA's first mission dedicated to measuring the polarization of X-rays from the most extreme and mysterious objects in the universe.
- The objects of study by this observatory are supernova remnants, supermassive black holes, and dozens of other high-energy objects.
- NASA regarding the launch of this IXPE mission told that It has added a new space observatory to the existing fleet.
- Agency further said that together with the joint effort of other partners in Italy and around the world, we will shape our understanding of the universe for years to come.
- It should be known that each of the NASA's spacecraft is carefully chosen to target brand new observations enabling new science.
- Same is true with IXPE mission which is going to show humans here on this planet the violent universe around it.
- We already now know that our universe contains the exploding stars and the black holes at the center of galaxies.
- The rocket performed as expected, it placed the IXPE in its orbit around Earth's equator at an altitude of approximately 372 miles (600 kilometers).



- IXPE carries three state-of-the-art space telescopes with special polarization-sensitive detectors.
- Polarization is a property of light that holds clues to the environment from which the light originates.
- These telescopes will measure the polarisation of cosmic X-rays.
- The observatory will study the magnetic fields of many cosmological targets.
- It will study active galactic nuclei, quasars, pulsars, supernova remnants, magnetars, neutron stars, and black holes.
- These cosmological objects are surrounded by high-energy X-ray radiation environments which can be polarised.
- Studying this polarised X-ray can provide information about the environments in which they were created.
- The mission is expected to last two years, during which it will have two primary scientific objectives.
- Firstly, to better understand radiation processes and the properties of cosmic X-ray sources.
- Secondly, to study general relativity and quantum mechanics in an extreme environments.
- The observatory will feature a set of three identical telescopes, each operating independently for redundancy.
- Each of the systems has a 4-meter focal length mirror which focuses X-rays onto a polarisation-sensitive imaging detector.
- These systems are all mounted on one optical bench which is co-aligned with the pointing axis of the spacecraft.

Links:-

<https://www.nasa.gov/press-release/nasa-launches-new-mission-to-explore-universe-s-most-dramatic-objects>

Comet A1 Leonard

Question: What is the orbital period of the Comet A1 Leonard, which will appear in the evening sky in December 2021?

a) 76 years b) 100 years c) More than 200 years d) None of these

Answer: (c)

Related Facts:-

- On 18 December 2021 Comet A1 Leonard will pass near the earth.
- it was first discovered in January 2021 by the astronomer GJ Leonard.
- Comet A1 Leonard is a long-period comet and it will cross near the earth on 18 December 2021.
- It will reach naked-eye visibility in December 2021, and will make its closest approach to the sun in January 2022.
- The long-period comets have eccentric orbits, as the period's range is more than 200 years.
- According to NASA the comet, also known as C/2021 A1, will appear brighter as it nears Earth's horizon during its flyby.
- Agency informed that in this will make it difficult for stargazers to view it.



- Astronomers are hopeful that after the close encounter on December 12, the comet will be visible in the evening sky, especially right after sunset around December 14.

Links:-

<https://gadgets.ndtv.com/science/news/leonard-comet-flyby-earth-date-december-12-view-spot-c-2021-a1-2640231>

Successfull flight test of VLSRSTA missile

Question : India recently(December 2021) successfully flight tested the indigenously developed new VLSRSTA missile from Odisha coast. Which of the following organisation built this missile ?

a. Lockheed Martin b. DRDO c. Raytheon Technologies d. Sukhoi

Ans. b.

Related facts —

- India recently(December 2021) successfully flight tested the indigenously developed new VLSRSTA missile from Odisha coast(Integrated Test Range at Chandipur).
- It is notable that DRDO built this missile.
- VLSRSTA stands for Vertical Launch Short Range Surface-to-Air Missile.
- To monitor the missile's trajectories number of tracking instruments were used.



Link:

<https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/et-tv/drdo-successfully-test-fires-vlsrsta-missile-will-strengthen-indian-navy/videoshow/88148870.cms>

Bangladesh, U.S. Kick Off Bilateral Exercise

Question: CARAT is a bilateral exercise between which of the following Countries?

(a) USA & India (b) USA & UAE (c) USA & Bangladesh
(d) USA & Russia

Answer: (c)

Related Facts:

- Bangladesh Navy (BN) and U.S. military personnel are partnering in the 27th annual CARAT maritime exercise, virtually and in the Bay of Bengal, beginning Dec. 1.
- CARAT stands for Cooperation Afloat Readiness and Training.
- The nine-day engagement focuses on a full spectrum of naval capabilities and features cooperative evolutions that highlight the ability of U.S. and Bangladesh to work together toward the common goal of ensuring a free and open Indo-Pacific.



Reference: <https://www.navy.mil/Press-Office/News-Stories/Article/2857608/bangladesh-us-kick-off-bilateral-exercise-carat-bangladesh/>

Exercise Ekuverin

Question: Exercise Ekuverin is joint military exercise between India and which other country?

(a) Maldives (b) Thailand (c) Indonesia (d) None of the above

Ans: a

Recent Context

- Exercise Ekuverin began on 6th December 2021 between India and Maldives at Kadhdhoo Island, Maldives.
- Related Facts
- Ekuverin means “Friends” in Dhivehi language. It is an Indo – Aryan language. It is spoken in India, Lakshadweep and Maldives.
- First time it was conducted in 2008.
- Exercise aims at enhancing inter – operability between the armed forces of India and Maldives including counter – insurgency and counter – terrorism operations.
- The 2021 joint military exercise will also include cultural and sports activities to enhance defence cooperation and bilateral relations.



Reference:

<https://newsonair.com/2021/12/06/joint-military-exercise-between-india-and-maldives-to-begin-today-at-kadhdhoo-island/>

Indian Army Contracts for refurbishment of IGLA – 1M Missiles

Question: With which of the following public sector defence company Indian army recently signed a contract for the refurbishment of IGLA – 1M missiles

a) DRDO b) Bharat Dynamics Limited(BDL) c) BEL d) None of these

Answer: (b)

Related Facts:-

- On 1 December 2021; Bharat Dynamics Limited (BDL) and Indian Army signed a contract for refurbishment of IGLA – 1M missiles.
- This is a contract of worth ₹471.41 crore which has been signed by the Indian Army and BDL in New Delhi.
- IGLA – 1M missiles after the refurbishment will get a fresh lease of life for 10 years.
- Bharat Dynamics Limited (BDL):
- In addition to carrying out refurbishment, the public sector defence unit BDL also deals with manufacture and supply of guided missiles and associated equipments.
- It makes underwater weapon systems, airborne weapon systems, ground support equipment and product life cycle support.
- To upgrade its technological capability, the firm has made a paradigm shift in its manufacturing processes by leveraging niche technologies.
- It is adopting practices like industry 4.0, and operating latest surface mounted devices assembly lines.



Links:-

<https://www.thehindu.com/news/cities/Hyderabad/bdl-signs-47141-crore-contract-with-indian-army/article37809616.ece>

NCC celebrating 73rd anniversary of its raising

Question: NCC celebrating 73rd anniversary of its raising. Where is the headquarters of NCC in India?

a) New Delhi b) Puna c) Kolkata d) NONE OF these.

Ans:a

Related Facts:

- National Cadet Corps (NCC), the largest uniformed youth organisation in the world, is celebrating its 73rd anniversary of its raising on November 28, 2021.
- Marking this solemn occasion, Director General NCC Lt Gen Gurbirpal Singh laid wreath and paid homage to the fallen heroes on behalf of the entire NCC fraternity at the National War Memorial, in New Delhi on November 27, 2021.
- The cadets and Associate NCC Officers, led by example in activities such as 'Ek Bharat Shresht Bharat', 'Atmanirbhar Bharat' and 'Fit India'.
- Narendra Modi was made the first member of this prestigious Alumni Association. Raksha Mantri Shri Rajnath Singh was made the second member of this association.
- **History Of ncc:**
- NCC was first started in 1666 in Germany. The NCC in India was formed with the National Cadet Corps Act of 1948. It was raised on 15 July 1948.
- In 1949, the Girls Division was raised in order to give equal opportunities to school and college going girls.
- The NCC was given an inter-service image in 1950 when the Air Wing was added, followed by the Naval Wing in 1952.
- the NCC syllabus at the behest of Late Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru who took keen interest in the growth of the NCC.
- Following the 1962 Sino-Indian War, to meet the requirement of the Nation, the NCC training was made compulsory in 1963. In 1968, the Corps was again made voluntary.
- During Indo-Pakistani war of 1965 & Bangladesh-Pakistani war of 1971, NCC cadets were second line of defence.

Links:

<https://pib.gov.in/PressReleaselframePage.aspx?PRID=1775564>

Inaugural 2+2 Dialogue of the Foreign and Defence Ministers of India and the Russian Federation

Question – Where will the Inaugural 2+2 dialogue of the Foreign and Defence Ministers of India and Russia be held on 6th December 2021?

(a) Moscow (b) New Delhi (c) Dushanbe (d) New York

Answer—(b)

Related facts—

- Inaugural 2+2 Dialogue of the Foreign and Defence Ministers of India and the Russian Federation will be held on 6th December 2021.
- Defense Minister Rajnath Singh and Dr S Jaishankar will lead the Indian delegation in the talks.
- While the Russian side will be led by Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov and Defense Minister Sergei Shoigu.
- Political and defense issues of mutual interest will be included in the agenda of the dialogue.



Link:

[http://www.mea.gov.in/press-](http://www.mea.gov.in/press-releases.htm?dtl/34541/Inaugural+22+Dialogue+of+the+Foreign+and+Defence+Ministers+of+India+and+the+Russian+Federation)

[releases.htm?dtl/34541/Inaugural+22+Dialogue+of+the+Foreign+and+Defence+Ministers+of+India+and+the+Russian+Federation](http://www.mea.gov.in/press-releases.htm?dtl/34541/Inaugural+22+Dialogue+of+the+Foreign+and+Defence+Ministers+of+India+and+the+Russian+Federation)

Indigenous Jet Aircraft engines to be developed in the Country

Question: AMCA in the battle field for India stands for which of the following?

a) Tanks b) Fighter Aircraft c) Missile d) None of these

Answer: (b)

Related Facts:-



- On 29 November 2021; GoI announced in the Parliament that India is proposed to develop indigenous Jet Aircraft engines for powering aircraft such as LCA variants etc.
- These new jet aircraft engines will be produced in association with an International Engine House.
- While the indigenous Light Combat Aircraft (LCA) Tejas is at present integrated with an imported engine, in future it will get such engines within the country.
- These indigenous engines will also be utilised to power Advanced Medium Combat Aircraft (AMCA).
- Flight Operational Clearance (FOC) arrangement of LCA Tejas needs higher pressure than the predetermined engine requirement.
- A modified engine version will be required to initiate with LCA Tejas.
- Thus, technological skills built through the Kaveri engine project will be used to develop the proposed engine.
- GE-F404 engines power the LCA FOC variant and the Mk-1A variant.
- The LCA-Mk2 and AMCA will be powered by a more powerful GE-F414 engine in the initial phases.

Links:-

<https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/india-to-develop-jet-engines-for-aircrafts/article37762645.ece>

IISF 2021

Question: In which of the following capital city; the 7th edition of India International science Festival – IISF 2021 – is being held?

a) Panaji b) New Delhi c) Lucknow d) Mumbai

Answer: (a)

Related Facts:-

- The 7th edition of IISF – IISF 2021 – is being held in the western region of the country at Panaji, Goa from December 10 to 13, 2021.
- The organisers of IISF 2021 are the Ministry of Earth Sciences, Ministry of S&T and Vigyana Bharati along with the Government of Goa.
- The nodal agency to organise the IISF 2021 is National Centre for Polar and Ocean Research (NCPOR) Goa.
- The theme of IISF 2021 is: Celebrating Creativity in Science, Technology and Innovation for Prosperous India.
- IISF 2021 will have twelve programs including the mega science and technology expo.
- These programs are designed on the basis of event theme.
- As we are celebrating the 75th year of independence, all the programs will reflect the spirit and idea of Aazadi ka Amrit Mahotsav.
- All programs have been categorised according to the five pillars suggested by our PM Shri. Narendra Modi.



Links:-

<https://www.scienceindiafest.org/aboutiisf2021>

Satellite: Zhongxing-1D

Question: Satellite Zhongxing-1D, which has been launched recently, belongs to which of the following country?

a) China b) Japan c) South Korea d) Saudi Arabia

Answer: (a)

Related Facts:-

- On 25 November 2021; China launched a new communications satellite Zhongxing-1D.
- It was launched from the Xichang Satellite Launch Center in China's southwestern Sichuan Province.
- A Long March-3B carrier rocket used for this launch and it successfully tumbled the satellite in the preset orbit.
- Developed by the China Academy of Space Technology, the satellite is able to provide high-quality voice, data, and radio and television transmission services.
- This time the launch of Zhongxing-1D marks the 399th flight mission of the Long March rocket series.



Links:-

http://www.news.cn/english/2021-11/27/c_1310336046.htm

Kyhytysuka sachicarum

Question: A recently discovered species Kyhytysuka sachicarum belongs to which of the following animal?

a) Mosquito b) Marine reptile c) Frog d) Snake

Answer: (b)

Related Facts:-

- Recently researchers discovered a new marine reptile species *Kyhytysuka sachicarum*.
- This new marine reptile species discovered by an international team of researchers from the countries Canada, Colombia and Germany.
- *Kyhytysuka sachicarum* is an extinct species.
- The team of researchers had discovered the new species, with a well-preserved metre-long skull, and is hailing it as one of the last surviving ichthyosaurs.
- Ichthyosaurs were ancient animals that resemble modern-day swordfish, according to a press release from McGill University.
- The team presented its findings in a study published this month in the *Journal of Systematic Paleontology*.
- According to McGill's Redpath Museum Director Hans Larsson, this animal evolved a unique dentition that allowed it to eat large prey said.
- He said that other ichthyosaurs had small, equally sized teeth for feeding on small prey.
- This new species modified its tooth sizes and spacing to build an arsenal of teeth for dispatching large prey, like big fishes and other marine reptiles.
- Researchers decided to name the new species *Kyhytysuka* (central Colombian language word) which translates to one that cuts with something sharp.
- Researchers chose the name in honour of the ancient Muisca culture that lived in Villa de Leyva area for millennia.
- It was identified from fossils found in central Columbia when earlier scientists believed it belonged to the *Platypterygius* genus.
- The new species has been named *Kyhytysuka sachicarum* to praise the Muisca culture of central Columbia.



Links:-

<https://www.ctvnews.ca/sci-tech/canadians-involved-in-new-fossil-discovery-of-extinct-swordfish-shaped-marine-reptile-1.5687542>

SWOT Mission

Question: Which of the following satellite by NASA, is scheduled for launch in November 2022 for the first global survey of the Earth's surface water and study fine-scale ocean currents?

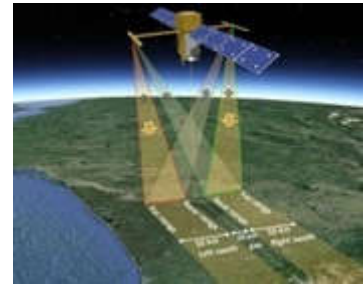
a) SWOT b) OSIRIS-Rex c) Parker d) None of these

Answer: (a)

Related Facts:-

- In November 2022; US space agency NASA will launch the mission for the first global survey of the Earth's surface water and study fine-scale ocean currents.
- The mission will be known by the name SWOT or the Surface Water and Ocean Topography.

- The final set of tests on the spacecraft has started, according to a statement by NASA.
- SWOT is collaboration between NASA and the French space agency Centre National d'Etudes Spatiales (CNES).
- The Canadian Space Agency and the UK Space Agency have also given their contribution for this specific mission
- SWOT satellite is of a size SUV that will collect data on the height of the Earth's salt and fresh water—including oceans, lakes and rivers.
- It will then enable researchers to track the volume and location of water around the world.
- SWOT will help to measure the effects of climate change on the planet's water.
- It will help in understanding the processes by which small, swirling ocean currents absorb excess heat, moisture and greenhouse gases like carbon dioxide from the atmosphere.
- The mission's measurements will also aid in following how much water flows into and out of the planet's lakes, rivers, and reservoirs, as well as regional shifts in sea level.
- Programme scientist at NASA said that SWOT will provide first global snapshot of all surface water that at present the Earth have now.
- It will give the idea about, how the water moves around the planet, and what happens to it in a new climate.



Links:-

<https://swot.jpl.nasa.gov/mission/overview/>

Sports

Tennis

Davis Cup 2021

Question: Which country has won Davis Cup 2021?

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

Ans: d

Recent Context

- On 5th December 2021 Russian Tennis Federation Clinched the Davis Cup Finals Title.
- Related Facts
- Russia defeated Croatia in the final held on 5th December 2021 in Madrid, Spain.
- Daniil Medvedev of Russia overcame Marin Cilic of Croatia 7-6(7), 6-2 in 89 minutes to secure victory for the Russian Tennis Federation.
- Earlier, Andrey Rublev had defeated Borna Gojo 6-4, 7-6(5) to give the Russian Tennis Federation a 1-0 lead.



- The Davis Cup is also called the World Cup of Tennis. It is an international team event in men's tennis. The women's equivalent of Davis Cup is Billie Jean King Cup.
- It is conducted by the International Tennis Federation.

Reference:

<https://www.atptour.com/en/news/russian-tennis-federation-croatia-davis-cup-finals-2021-sunday>

Cricket

Record for most T20I wins in a calendar year

Question – Which country's cricket team has made the record of winning most T20 matches in a calendar year?

(a) West Indies (b) Australia (c) India (d) Pakistan

Answer—(d)

Related facts—

- On December 2021, Pakistan set the record for winning most T20 matches in a calendar year.
- This feat was achieved by Pakistan defeating West Indies by 63 runs in the first match of the 3-match T20I series played in Karachi.
- This was Pakistan's 18th win in T20 this year.
- Pakistan improved their 2018 record where they had notched up 17 T20I victories.



Link:

<https://cricketpakistan.com.pk/en/news/detail/pakistan-register-18-t20i-win-in-2021>

Ravichandran Ashwin Surpasses Harbhajan Singh To Become India's 3rd-Highest Wicket-Taker In Tests

Question: Who became India's third-highest all-time wicket-taker in Test cricket, surpassing veteran off-spinner Harbhajan Singh in the elite list?

(a) Ishant Sharma (b) Ravinder Jadeja (c) Ravichandran Ashwin (d) Jasprit Bumrah

Answer: (c)

Related Facts:

- Ravichandran Ashwin became India's third-highest all-time wicket-taker in Test cricket, surpassing veteran off-spinner Harbhajan Singh in the elite list.
- Only Anil Kumble (619 Wickets) and Kapil Dev (434 Wickets) have taken more wickets for India in the whites than Ashwin (427 Wickets) (December 2021).



Reference: <https://sports.ndtv.com/india-vs-new-zealand-2021/ravichandran-ashwin-surpasses-harbhajan-singh-to-become-indias-3rd-highest-wicket-taker-in-tests-2629022>

Hockey

Uttar Pradesh Hockey win Junior National Championship 2021

Question : Uttar Pradesh Hockey win Junior National Championship 2021. Who is President of Uttar Pradesh Hockey team members?

a) Rakesh Katyal b) Raja Karan c) Geeta Sharma d) Ajay Tripathi

Ans: a

- Uttar Pradesh rode on a brace from Arun Sahani to script a 3-1 win over Chandigarh in the final of the 11th Hockey India-junior National men's hockey championship here on Saturday(December25,2021).
- UP completely dominated the final.
- UP thus maintained their 100 percent record in the tournament. Tournament top-scorer Sharda Nand Tiwari opened the scoring for Uttar Pradesh in the 15th minute with a trademark penalty corner, before Arun Sahani (16', 34') stretched the lead further with a brace.
- Raman pulled one goal back for Hockey Chandigarh in the in the 51st minute, but Uttar Pradesh Hockey held on to the lead to be crowned champions of the tournament.



Links:

<https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/sports/hockey/top-stories/uttar-pradesh-hockey-win-junior-national-championship-2021/articleshow/88503938.cms>

Argentina Stun 6-time Champions Germany to Win Second Junior Hockey World Cup Title

Question : Argentina Stun 6-time Champions Germany to Win Second Junior Hockey World Cup Title . how may team participate in this tournament?

a) 16 b) 15 c) 12 d) 10

Ans:a

Related Facts:

- Argentina on Sunday defeated the six-time champions Germany in the final to lift the FIH Men's Junior Hockey World Cup 2021 in Bhubaneswar, Odisha.
- Lautaro Domene struck a hat-trick as a determined Argentina stunned six-time champions Germany 4-2 to clinch their second FIH Junior Men's Hockey World Cup title at the Kalinga Stadium on Sunday December 5,2021.
- Six-time champions Germany and Argentina earned hard-fought wins over Spain and Netherlands respectively to enter the semifinals of the FIH Junior Men's Hockey World Cup here on Wednesday.
- The Germans won consecutive titles in 2009 and 2013 in New Delhi, which was their last crown.
- History of Junior Hockey World Cup:
- The first junior hockey World Cup was held in 1979.



- It was only held for men and was an invitational tournament.
- The first edition of the FIH women's junior hockey World Cup was held in 1989, a decade after the first men's World Cup.
- The Netherlands are the most successful team, having won three titles.
- India's best finish at a women's junior hockey World Cup is third, in the 2013 edition.

Links:

<https://olympics.com/en/news/junior-hockey-world-cup-winners-champions-list>

Football

Bangladesh won SAFF U 19 Women's Championship

Question: Which of the following team won SAFF U 19 Women's Championship?

(a) India (b) Sri Lanka (c) Pakistan (d) Bangladesh

Answer: (d)

Related Facts:

- Bangladesh Under-19 Women's team defeated India by 1-0 to lift the SAFF U-19 Women's Football Championship in Dhaka.
- This match played at the jam packed Birshreshtha Shaheed Sepoy Mohammad Mostafa Kamal Stadium in Dhaka went Bangladesh way with the solitary late goal scored by Anai Mogini in the 81st minute of the game.
- Shaheda Akter Ripa of Bangladesh scored the maximum number of goals in the tournament.
- She received the 'most valuable player' award.



Reference: <https://newsonair.com/2021/12/23/bangladesh-win-saff-u-19-womens-championship/>

Partnership with OneFootball

Question – On 25 November 2021, Football Sports Development Limited (FSDL) announced a deal with which country's football media company 'OneFootball'?

(a) Spain (b) Germany (c) America (d) Brazil

Answer—(b)

Related facts—

- On 25 November 2021, Football Sports Development Limited (FSDL) announced a deal with Germany's football media company 'OneFootball'.
- Under this, the Indian Super League (ISL) will be broadcast in more than 200 countries around the world.
- Live matches and highlights of the 2021-22 ISL season can be seen on 'OneFootball Manch'.
- OneFootball has over 100 million active users a month internationally.



Link:

<https://www.outlookindia.com/website/story/sports-news-indian-super-league-joins-hands-german-company-to-expand-global-footprint/402522#:~:text=24%2B05%3A30-Indian%20Super%20League%20Joins%20Hands%20With%20German%20Company%20To%20Expand,million%20monthly%20active%20users%20internationally.>

Lionel Messi has won the Ballon d'Or for a seventh time after being named as the best player in 2021 by France Football

Question: Lionel Messi has won the Ballon d'Or for a seventh time after being named as the best player in 2021 by France Football. Who is President of France ?

a) Emmanuel Macron b) Vladimir Putin. c) Boris Johnson. d) Justin Trudeau

Ans:a

Related Facts :

- Lionel Messi won the men's Ballon d'Or for a record seventh time and Alexia Putellas won the women's Ballon d'Or on Tuesday december 2 ,2021.
- The 34-year-old Messi led Argentina to the Copa America title in July after losing in four major international finals.
- Cristiano Ronaldo finishes outside the top three in the Ballon d'Or for the first time since 2010.
- He won the prestigious award for a record of 6 times in 2019.
- **High light points:**
- **Ballon d'Or 2021 Winners:**
- **Ballon d'Or (Men):** Lionel Messi (PSG/Argentina)
- **Club of the year:** Chelsea Football Club
- **Yashin Trophy for best goalkeeper:** Gianluigi Donnarumma (PSG/Italy)
- **Ballon d'Or (Women):** Alexia Putellas (Barcelona/Spain)
- **Striker of the year:** Robert Lewandowski (Bayern Munich/Poland)
- **Kopa Trophy for best young male player:** Pedri (Barcelona/Spain)

**Links:**

<https://indianexpress.com/article/sports/football/ballon-dor-2021-award-winners-messi-result-7647924/>

Chess

Meltwater Champions Chess Tour

Question: Which of the following Chess Player has won the inaugural Meltwater Champions Chess Tour?

- (a) Vishwanathan Anand (b) Magnus Carlsen (c) Hikaru Nakamura
(d) Ian Nepomniachtchi

Answer: (b)
Related Facts:

- World Chess Champion Magnus Carlsen has won the inaugural Meltwater Champions Chess Tour (MCCT).
- The MCCT tour comprised of 10 total tournaments.
- The 2021 Meltwater Champions Chess Tour was the most viewed online chess event in the history of the game.
- The 10-month long online chess tournaments were held on chess24.com.



Reference: <https://chess24.com/en/read/news/magnus-carlsen-wins-the-meltwater-champions-chess-tour>

Badminton

Nitesh Kumar wins double gold as 4th Para-Badminton National C'ship

Question : who state of India organised Para-Badminton National Championship 2021 ?

a) Odisha b) Manipur c) Himanchal Pradesh d) Uttar Pradesh

Ans :a

Related Facts:

- The pair of Nitesh Kumar and Tarun defeated World No 1 Paralympic Games gold medallist Pramod Bhagat and Manoj Sarkar in straight sets 21-19, 21-11 to win the gold medal in the 4th Para-Badminton National Championship, here on Monday(December 27, 2021).
- Nitesh also won the gold medal in Men's SL3 category.
- Parul Parmar from Gujarat also secured gold while Mandeep Kaur from Uttarakhand won silver and Mansi Joshi won the bronze medal.
- In the Women's Wheelchair 1 category, Alpha James from Kerala secured gold, while the silver went to Neerja Goyal
- mala Mehta and Ranjeeta Maurya secured the bronze.
- In Women's Wheelchair 2 category, Ammu Mohan from Karnataka secured gold while silver was bagged by Shabana from Punjab.
- Prema Biswas and Suman Rawat had to settle for bronze.



Links:

<https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/sports/badminton/odisha-to-host-para-badminton-national-championship/articleshow/88165433.cms>

Kidambi Srikanth won silver medal at the Badminton World Championships

Question: Kidambi Srikanth became the first Indian man to win _ medal at the Badminton World Championships.

(a) Gold (b) Silver (c) Bronze (d) None of these

Answer: (b)

Related Facts:

- Shuttler Kidambi Srikanth became the first Indian man to win a silver medal at the BWF World Championships.
- Singapore's Loh Kean Yew defeated Kidambi in the summit clash 21-15, 22-20. The final lasted for 43 minutes.
- The badminton tournament was held from December 12 to 19, 2021 in Huelva, Spain.
- The 28-year-old former world No.1 is the first Indian to play the men's singles final. Prakash Padukone in 1983 and Sai Praneeth in 2019 had lost in the semifinals of the Worlds.



Reference: <https://thebridge.in/badminton/kidambi-srikanth-india-first-male-badminton-silver-world-champion-27500>

Sports Miscellaneous

Tokyo Olympics: Top searched news event by Indians on Google in 2021

Question: Which one of the following has the top searched news event by Indians on Google in 2021?

(a) Tokyo Olympics (b) Tokyo Paralympic (c) Black Fungus (d) Afghanistan news

Answer: (a)

Related Facts:

- Tokyo Olympics has the top searched news event by Indians on Google in 2021 followed by Black Fungus, Afghanistan news, West Bengal elections and Tropical cyclone Tauktae.
- Google released its 'Year in Search 2021' list on Wednesday, which, like every other year, displays what was searched the most — topics, trends, personalities, news — on its search engine around the world.
- Overall, in India, the top 5 searches were: Indian Premier League, CoWin, ICC T20 World Cup, Euro Cup and Tokyo Olympics.



Reference: <https://www.hindustantimes.com/india-news/google-year-in-search-2021-here-s-what-india-browsed-on-the-internet-this-year-101639016028945.html>

Anju Bobby George wins World Athletics' Woman of Year Award

Question: Anju Bobby George is associated with which sports?

(a) Long Jump (b) Badminton (c) Archery (d) Gymnastics

Ans: a

Recent Context

- The Indian Athlete Anju Bobby George has won the Woman of the Year Award at the World Athletics Award 2021.
- Related Facts
- Anju Bobby George is a retired Indian athlete.
- Anju Bobby George made history when she won the bronze medal in long jump at the 2003 World Championships in Athletics in Paris.
- She became the first Indian athlete ever to win a medal in a World Championships in Athletics jumping 6.70 m.
- She has been given the award for her efforts in advancing the sport in India as well as inspiring more women to follow in her footsteps.
- In 2016, she opened a training academy for young girls, which has already helped to produce a world U20 medallist.
- She has been a constant voice for gender equality and also mentors schoolgirls for future leadership positions within the sport.
- She is also a gold medalist in 2005 IAAF World Athletics Finals.



Reference:

<https://indianexpress.com/article/sports/sport-others/anju-bobby-george-wins-world-athletics-woman-of-year-award-7651991/>

Sports Personality

First Batsman To Reach 2,000 Men's T20 Runs In Single Calendar Year

Question – On 16 December 2021, who among the following has become the first and only cricketer in the world to score 2000 runs in T20 in a calendar year?

(a) Babar Azam (b) Mohammad Rizwan (c) K.L. A male name (d) Aaron Finch

Answer—(b)

Related facts –

- On 16 December 2021, Pakistan's Mohammad Rizwan has become the first and only cricketer in the world to score 2000 runs in T20 in a calendar year.
- He achieved the milestone during the third and final T20I against West Indies in Karachi, which Pakistan won by seven wickets.



Link:

<https://sports.ndtv.com/cricket/pakistan-vs-west-indies-3rd-t20i-mohammad-rizwan-becomes-first-batter-to-reach-2-000-mens-t20-runs-in-single-calendar-year-2655902>

ICC Player of the Month (November 2021)

Question – On 13 December 2021, which player has been chosen as the ICC Men's Player of the Month for the month of November?

(a) Abid Ali (b) Tim Southee (c) David Warner (d) Asif Ali

Answer—(c)

Related facts—

- On 13 December 2021, the International Cricket Council (ICC) announced the winners of the ICC Player of the Month Awards for the month of November.
- Australian cricketer David Warner has been named ICC Men's Player of the Month for the month of November.
- Warner was adjudged the 'Player of the Tournament' in the recently concluded T20 World Cup.
- West Indies all-rounder Hayley Matthews has been named the ICC Women's Player of the Month.
- Mathews scored 141 runs in 4 ODIs in November and took 9 wickets at an average of 13.11.



Link:

<https://www.icc-cricket.com/media-releases/2413724>

IND vs NZ 2nd Test: Azaz Patel creates history

Question: Consider the following statements:

- (i) Azaz Patel of New Zealand cricket team has become 2nd bowler in history after Anil Kumble to take 10 wickets in a single innings of a test match
- (ii) Azaz Patel achieved this feat against India.

Which of the above two are correct?

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

Ans: b

Related Facts

- Azaz Patel of New Zealand cricket team has become third bowler in history to take 10 wickets in a single innings of a test match.
- He created this history by taking all 10 wickets in an innings against India in the second test match in Mumbai's Wankhede on 4th December 2021.
- After Jim Laker and Anil Kumble, Azaz became the only third bowler to take all 10 wickets in an innings.
- His bowling figures were 47.5-119-10.
- English pacer Jim Laker took all 10 wickets in an innings against Australia in 1956 and Anil Kumble took all 10 wickets against Pakistan in 1999.
- Azaz Patel also became a bowler with the most wickets in an innings by a visiting player. Before him, Nathan Lyon (8/50) and Jason Krejza (8/215) were on the list.



Link:

<https://sportscafe.in/cricket/articles/2021/dec/04/ind-vs-nz-twitter-reacts-as-ajaz-patel-becomes-third-bowler-to-bag-all-10-wickets-in-a-test-innings>

“Indian Innings: The Journey of Indian Cricket from 1947” : Ayaz Memon

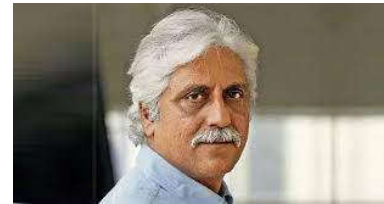
Question: Who is the author of the book titled ‘Indian Innings: The Journey of Indian Cricket from 1947’?

(a) Vinoo Mankad (b) Dattu Phadkar (c) Ayaz Memon (d) Vijay Hazare

Answer: (c)

Related Facts:

- A book titled ‘Indian Innings: The Journey of Indian Cricket from 1947’ authored by Ayaz Memon released.
- It is an anthology of Indian Cricket and marked several insights of Indian cricket of the last 70 years.



Reference: <https://www.thehindu.com/books/books-reviews/indian-innings-the-journey-of-indian-cricket-from-1947-review-perspectives-on-the-willow-game/article37697204.ece>

Short Notes

Personalities

EESL Appoints IAS Radhika Jha as its Chief Executive Officer

Question: EESL Appoints IAS Radhika Jha as its Chief Executive Officer. Where located head office of EESL ?

a) New Delhi b) Noida c) Kolkata d) Bangalore

Ans: a

Related Facts:

- Energy Efficiency Services (EESL) has appointed Radhika Jha as its Chief Executive Officer.
- Jha is an Indian Administrative Service cadre 2002 officer.
- EESL is a joint venture between NTPC, Power Grid, Power Finance Corp and REC, working to promote energy efficiency in the country.
- Jha was the Secretary to the CM of Uttarakhand from 2017 to 2021 where she assisted the Chief Minister of Uttarakhand on all executive and legislative matters..
- Energy Efficiency Services Limited (EESL) is a Super Energy Service Company (ESCO), which enables consumers.
- Hight Light points:
- Energy Efficiency Services Limited (EESL) is the organisation responsible for implementation of Domestic Efficient Lighting Programme (DELP) or the UJALA scheme.
- Energy Efficiency Services Limited (EESL) is a joint venture of state-run power companies, responsible for implementation of Domestic Efficient Lighting Programme (DELP). It has reduced the prices of LED bulbs by 75%.
- Energy Efficiency Services Limited (EESL) launched on 10 December 2009.



Links:

<https://eeslindia.org/en/about-us/>

Kamlesh Gandhi appointed Co-Chairman

Question: Kamlesh Gandhi appointed Co-Chairman of FIDC. Who is Director General of FIDC ?

a) Mr Mahesh Thakkar b) Mr. Gopalakrishna c) Suresh Bansal d) Rajesh mehara

Ans: a

Related Facts :

- Kamlesh Gandhi, CMD of MAS Financial Services has been appointed as Co-Chairman on December 24, 2021
- Finance Industry Development Council (FIDC) is a Self-Regulatory Organization (SRO) cum Representative Body of the Non-Banking Finance Companies (NBFCs).
- FIDC was formed in 2004, and is the recognized face of NBFCs, especially, those engaged in Assets and Loan financing.
- Finance Industry Development Council (FIDC) is registered with the Reserve Bank of India.
- FIDC is run by the strong Members of the Managing Committee comprising of the most active NBFC heads and the Director General Mr. MAHESH THAKKAR.

**Links:**

<http://www.ascon-india.com/MemberProfile.aspx?MemberNo=C0226AS>

Hyundai India signs Golfer Aditi Ashok as brand ambassador

Question: Hyundai India signs Golfer Aditi Ashok as brand ambassador. Who is founder of Hyundai Motor Company ?

a) Chung Ju-Yung b) Mong-Koo Chung c) Austin Morris d) None of these

Ans :a

Related Facts :

- Hyundai Motor India Ltd, signed an MoU with Ms. Aditi Ashok, the 2020 Arjuna Awardee and World's only golfer who has made cut in every major golf format.
- Aditi will be seen as a brand ambassador and will be representing Hyundai at national and international sports tournaments and championships.
- HMIL signing the Arjuna awardee aims to strengthen its brand voice, spirit, and innovative approaches which will further see the automobile manufacturer resonate with the youth of the country.
- Hyundai Motor India Ltd is a wholly owned subsidiary of the Hyundai Motor Company headquartered in South Korea.
- Hyundai Motor India Limited was formed on 6 May 1996 by the Hyundai Motor Company of South Korea.



Links: <https://sportsmintmedia.com/hyundai-indian-ropes-in-golfer-aditi-ashok-as-latest-brand-ambassador/>

Brian Lara has been appointed the batting coach

Question: Brian Lara has been appointed the batting coach of Indian Premier League (IPL) Sunrisers Hyderabad. Who is owner of Sunrisers Hyderabad franchise IPL team?

a) SUN Group b) Reliance Group. c) Birla Group d) Birla Group

Ans: a

Related Facts:

- Former West Indies captain Brian Lara has been appointed the batting coach of the Sunrisers Hyderabad team.
- Former India batsman Heman Badani has been named the fielding coach.
- Indian Premier League (IPL) champions Sunrisers Hyderabad on Thursday December 23, 2021 revealed their new-look coaching staff with as many as four fresh additions.
- while Muttiah Muralitharan will continue to serve as the strategy and spin bowling coach.
- The Sunrisers Hyderabad (stylised as SunRisers Hyderabad, abbr. SRH) are a franchise cricket team based in Hyderabad, Telangana, India, that plays in the Indian Premier League .
- The franchise is owned by Kalanithi Maran of the SUN Group.



Links:

<https://www.indiatoday.in/sports/cricket/story/brian-lara-dale-steyn-among-4-new-additions-in-sunrisers-hyderabad-srh-coaching-staff-for-ipl-2022-1891288-2021-12-23>

Divya Hegde has won the UN Women's Award

Question: Divya Hegde has won the UN Women's Award. What is name of Divya Hegde's organization?

a) Baeru Environmental Services b) National Organization for Women
c) Women's India Association d) None of these

Ans : a

Related Facts :

- December 20, 2021 Divya Hegde from Udupi, coastal Karnataka, has won the UN Women's Award.
- She has been recognised for her sustained efforts in advancing gender equality through climate action efforts.
- Her organisation, Baeru Environmental Services, works in the areas of waste management, creation of livelihoods for rural women, and developing a circular economy in the region.
- At Baeru, we are enabling rural women's socio-economic empowerment by leveraging the power of design and technology in lingual and regional contexts.



Links :

<https://theprint.in/ani-press-releases/indian-climate-action-entrepreneur-wins-united-nations-womens-award-for-leadership-commitment-to-gender-equality/784722/>

Vikram Misri Is New Deputy National Security Advisor

Question: Vikram Misri Is New Deputy National Security Advisor. Who is chief National Security Advisor ?

a) Ajit Kumar Doval b) Samant Kumar Goel c) Arvind Kumar d) None of these

Ans a

Related Facts:

- Vikram Misri has been appointed Deputy Nationwide Safety Adviser to the Nationwide Safety Council Secretariat.
- Mr. Misri will take over on January 1, 2022 after the tenure of Deputy NSA.
- Vikram Misri, a career diplomat from the 1989 batch of the Indian Foreign Service, has served as India's Ambassador to Myanmar and Spain.
- In 2019, he was appointed as the Ambassador to Beijing and served during a critical period in Indo-China ties.
- He was the Private Secretary to former Prime Minister Manmohan Singh from 2012 to 2014 and continued in the post when Narendra Modi took charge in 2014. Mr Misri served as Private Secretary to PM Modi from May to July 2014.
- In 1997, he was the Private Secretary to then Prime Minister Inder Kumar Gujral.
- Born in Srinagar, Vikram Misri attended the Scindia School before graduating from Delhi's Hindu College.
- High light points :
- Brajesh Mishra, then Principal Secretary to the Prime Minister, was appointed as the first National Security Advisor of India.
- The post was created on 19 November 1998 by then government headed by Atal Bihari Bajpayee.
- NSA is assisted by the Deputy National Security Advisors (Deputy NSAs).



Links:

<https://www.ndtv.com/india-news/vikram-misri-is-new-deputy-national-security-advisor-5-things-to-know-about-him-2674835>

‘Public Service Ethics – A Quest for Naitik Bharat’ : Prabhat Kumar

Question: Consider the following statements:

(1) Prabhat Kumar is the author of the book titled ‘Public Service Ethics – A Quest for Naitik Bharat’

(2) This book is launched by the Vice President of India, M Venkaiah Naidu

Which of the above is/are correct?

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

Answer: (c)

Related Facts:

- Prabhat Kumar is the author of the book titled 'Public Service Ethics – A Quest for Naitik Bharat'.
- The Vice President of India, M Venkaiah Naidu launched 'Public Service Ethics – A Quest for Naitik Bharat'.
- This book is published by IC Centre for Governance, at Upa-Rashtrapati Nivas, New Delhi.

Reference: <https://pib.gov.in/PressReleaseIframePage.aspx?PRID=1778220>

The Monk Who Transformed UP : Shantanu Gupta

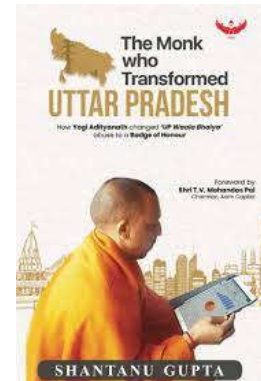
Question: The book titled “The Monk Who Transformed Uttar Pradesh: How Yogi Adityanath Changed UP Waala Bhaiya’ abuse to a Badge of Honour”, is authored by whom?

- (a) Aditya Gupta (b) Shantanu Gupta (c) Shubham Gupta
(d) Ram Gupta

Answer: (b)

Related Facts:

- The book titled “The Monk Who Transformed Uttar Pradesh: How Yogi Adityanath Changed UP Waala Bhaiya’ abuse to a Badge of Honour”, authored by Shantanu Gupta.
- This book is all about how Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath transformed the state in various aspects like law and order, connectivity, education, health infrastructure, and overall growth.
- This book is published by Garuda Prakashan.
- The author has previously written, “The Monk Who Became Chief Minister: The definitive biography of Yogi Adityanath” telling the BJP leader’s journey of becoming a politician.



Reference: <https://zeenews.india.com/india/the-monk-who-transformed-up-book-on-yogi-adityanaths-journey-released-2420219.html>

Austria’s President sworn in as the new Chancellor

Question: Karl Nehammer has been sworn in as the new Chancellor of which country?

- (a) Germany (b) Luxembourg (c) Australia (d) Austria

Answer: (d)

Related Facts:

- Karl Nehammer was sworn in as new Austria’s chancellor by Alexander Van der Bellen, President of Austria in a ceremony in Hofburg Palace, Vienna, Austria.
- He is succeeding the career diplomat Alexander Schallenberg who took charge as chancellor in October 2021.
- Karl is the 3rd person to hold the role of Austria’s Chancellor in the last two months.
- Nehammer, from the ruling conservative Austrian People’s Party (ÖVP), was formerly the country’s interior minister.



Reference: <https://www.google.com/amp/s/www.thehindu.com/news/international/austrias-president-swears-in-new-chancellor/article36944621.ece/amp/>

Justice Nanavati, head of panels that probed 1984 and 2002 riots, Passed away

Question: Girish Thakorlal Nanavati who has passed away recently, belongs to which profession?

(a) Teacher (b) Politician (c) Judge (d) Civil Servant

Answer: (c)

Related Facts:

- Former Supreme Court judge, Justice Girish Thakorlal Nanavati who headed two inquiry commissions formed to probe into the 2002 Godhra Riots & 1984 Anti-Sikh Riots, passed away.
- In his inquiry report in the 2002 riots, submitted in two parts — one in 2008 on the Sabarmati Express fire in which 59 people, mostly kar sevaks returning from Ayodhya, were killed; and another in 2014 on the riots that followed the incident, which was made public in 2019.
- Justice Nanavati gave a clean chit to then Gujarat chief minister Narendra Modi, and his council of ministers.
- The Justice G.T. Nanavati commission was a one-man commission headed by Justice G.T. Nanavati, a retired Judge of the Supreme Court of India.
- He was appointed by the then National Democratic Alliance (NDA) government in May 2000, to investigate the “killing of innocent sikhs” during the 1984 anti-Sikh riots.
- The commission was mandated to submit its report within six months, but it took five years.



Reference: <https://www.google.com/amp/s/indianexpress.com/article/cities/ahmedabad/justice-retd-nanavati-who-headed-gujarat-riots-panel-passes-away-7679131/lite/>

Veteran Spinner Harbhajan Singh announced Retirement From All Forms of Cricket

Question: Which of the following Indian player has announced his retirement from all forms of international cricket?

(a) Ravichandran Ashwin (b) Axar Patel (c) Harbhajan Singh (d) Shikhar Dhawan

Answer: (c)

Related Facts:

- Veteran India spinner Harbhajan Singh has announced his retirement from all forms of cricket.
- The legendary off-spinner last played for India on March 03, 2016, against UAE in the T20 World Cup.
- The off-spinner made his debut for India on March 25, 1998.
- Harbhajan finished his career with some magnificent numbers, in 103 Tests he claimed 417 wickets. While in 236 ODIs, the offie claimed 269 scalps.



Mohit Jain elected Indian Newspaper Society President

Question: Mohit Jain elected Indian Newspaper Society President. When Indian Newspaper Society was founded ?

a) 27 February 1939 b) 15 February 1939 c) 26 November 1930 d) 26 November 1929

Ans: a

Related Facts:

- Mohit Jain of The Economic Times was elected as president of the Indian Newspaper Society (INS) on Friday December 24, 2021.
- He succeeds Lakshmi Prasad Adimoolam of Health & The Antiseptic.
- K Raja Prasad Reddy (Sakshi) is the Deputy President, Rakesh Sharma (Aaj Samaj) is the Vice President and Tanmay Maheshwari (Amar Ujala) is the Honorary Treasurer of the Society for 2021-22. Mary Paul is the Secretary-General.
- **History of Indian Newspaper Society (INS) :**
- The society was founded in 1939. Its headquarters are at Rafi Marg, New Delhi.
- The Indian Newspaper Society (INS) (formerly Indian and Eastern Newspaper Society) acts as the central organization of the Press of India, an independent body authenticating circulation figures of newspapers and periodicals in India.
- On 27 February 2014, the society marked its platinum jubilee with a celebration at Vigyan Bhavan, New Delhi.
- INS membership comprises the owners, proprietors and publishers of print media who discuss and suggest various measures to the government regarding the problems related to the newspaper industry.



Links:

https://www.indiannewspapersociety.in/history_ins.php

Neelam Rao appointed PF Commissioner

Question: Neelam Rao appointed PF Commissioner. Where are EPFO office in India?

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

Ans: a

Related Facts:

- The Government on Saturday (December 5, 2021) appointed Madhya Pradesh cadre IAS officer Neelam Shammi Rao as the Central Provident Fund Commissioner in the Employees' Provident Fund Organisation (EPFO).
- Ms. Rao has been transferred from her current position as Director General of Training in the Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship in the rank and pay of Additional Secretary.
- The Central Provident Fund Commissioner (CPFC) is the Chief Executive Officer of EPFO and is the ex-officio Member Secretary of the Central Board, EPF.



Links:

[https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/neelam-rao-appointed-pf-commissioner/article37858162.ece#:~:text=The%20Government%20on%20Saturday%20appointed,Provident%20Fund%20Organisation%20\(EPFO\).](https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/neelam-rao-appointed-pf-commissioner/article37858162.ece#:~:text=The%20Government%20on%20Saturday%20appointed,Provident%20Fund%20Organisation%20(EPFO).)

Former CEC Shri Sunil Arora joins Board of Advisers for International Institute for Democracy and Electoral Assistance (IDEA)

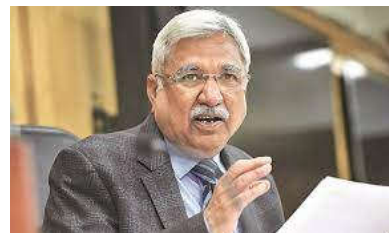
Question: Former CEC Shri Sunil Arora joins Board of IDEA. Where located head office of IDEA?

a) Strömsborg b) Switzerland c) London d) New delhi

Ans : a

Related Facts:

- Shri Sunil Arora had been the 23rd Chief Election Commissioner of India from 2nd December 2018 to 12th April.
- Shri Sunil Arora, former Chief Election Commissioner of India has been invited to join the Board of Advisers for International Institute for Democracy and Electoral Assistance (IDEA).
- The Institute is assisted by a 15-member Board of Advisers who are eminent personalities or experts from a wide variety of backgrounds.
- The International Institute for Democracy and Electoral Assistance (International IDEA), established in 1995.
- IDEA is an intergovernmental organization based in Stockholm, Sweden with a mission to support sustainable democracy worldwide.

**Links:**

<https://eci.gov.in/files/file/13851-former-cec-shri-sunil-arora-joins-board-of-advisers-for-international-institute-for-democracy-and-electoral-assistance-idea/>

Kinara Capital appoints Ravindra Jadeja as brand ambassador on the occasion of its 10th anniversary

Question: Kinara Capital appoints Ravindra Jadeja as brand ambassador on the occasion of its 10th anniversary. Who is founder of: Kinara Capital ?

a) Hardika Shah b) Jay shah c) Vijay Shekhar Sharma d) None of these

Ans:a

Related Facts:

- Kinara Capital, an innovative fast-growing fintech serving India's MSMEs, today announced that it has signed Indian cricket team's shining star, Ravindra Jadeja, as its official brand ambassador on the occasion of the company's 10th anniversary(December 3,2021).
- Kinara aims to boost its outreach in financing the MSME sector in the country.
- Kinara's innovative offerings include the recent release of the end-to-end digital myKinara app, availability of more than 400+ digital wallet payment options, free 'Grow with Kinara' workshop series for customers and the HerVikas discounted loan programme for women entrepreneurs.

- **History of Kinara capital :**
- Kinara Capital is a fast-growing fintech propelling financial inclusion of small business entrepreneurs in India.
- Kinara Capital has set itself apart in the industry with its emphasis on social impact and profitable growth.
- Kinara Capital is qualified as a Systemically Important NBFC by the Reserve Bank of India and is a debt listed entity on the Bombay Stock Exchange (BSE). Founded in 2011.
- Kinara Capital has made a mark with its innovation in financial inclusion by providing fast and flexible collateral-free loans in the range of INR 1-30 lakhs across 300+ MSME sub-sectors serving 3000+ pincodes in India. Headquartered in Bangalore.



Links:

<https://www.kinaracapital.com/news/kinara-capital-appoints-ravindra-jadeja-as-brand-ambassador-on-the-occasion-of-its-10th-anniversary/>

Adama Barrow re-elected The Gambia's president

Question: Adama Barrow re-elected The Gambia's president . the capital of Cambia is

a) Banjul b) Dakar c) Zambia d) Guinea

Ans :a

Related Facts:

- Adama Barrow has comfortably won a second term in The Gambia's presidential election
- Barrow garnered 53 percent of the vote, according to results released by the electoral commission late on Sunday December 5, 2021.
- His main challenger Ousainou Darboe won 27.7 percent.



Links:

<https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2021/12/6/the-gambias-barrow-wins-second-term-opposition-reject-results>

Sanjay Bhalla

Question : Who has took over the Command of the Eastern Fleet, the Sword Arm of the Eastern Naval Command, from Rear Admiral Tarun Sobti, VSM on 20 December 21 ?

a. Sanjay Bhalla b. Ajay Chopra c. Heeren Shah d. k Ghajpati Raju

Ans. a.

Related facts —

- Rear Admiral Sanjay Bhalla took over the Command of the Eastern Fleet, the Sword Arm of the Eastern Naval Command, from Rear Admiral Tarun Sobti, VSM on 20 December 21.
- The change of guard took place at an impressive ceremony held at Naval Dockyard, Visakhapatnam.



- Rear Admiral Sanjay Bhalla was commissioned into the Indian Navy on 01 Jan 1989 and is a specialist in Communication and Electronic Warfare.
- The Flag Officer is an alumnus of the Defence Services Staff College, Wellington; College of Naval Warfare, Mumbai and Royal College of Defence Studies, London.
- **Tarun Sobti's tenure —**
- Over the past 10 months, the Eastern Fleet under the command of Rear Admiral Tarun Sobti has maintained a high level of combat readiness and undertaken various operational missions including Operation Samudra Setu II towards the transfer of medical oxygen, Mission Sagar for providing humanitarian assistance to friendly foreign countries and multilateral maritime exercise Malabar 21 in Western Pacific off Guam.

Link:

<https://pib.gov.in/PressReleaselframePage.aspx?PRID=1783462>

Atul Anand

Question : Who has been assumed duties of Flag Officer Commanding Karnataka Naval Area (FOK) on 20 December 2021 ?

- a. Rear Admiral Atul Anand b. Rear Admiral Sanjay Bhalla
c. Rear Admiral Vipul Jain d. Rear Admiral Venkatpathi Shrinivasan

Ans. a.

Related facts —

- Rear Admiral Atul Anand, VSM assumed duties of Flag Officer Commanding Karnataka Naval Area (FOK) on 20 December 2021.
- **Flag Officer Commanding Karnataka Naval Area —**
- It is responsible to the Flag Officer Commanding-in-Chief, Western Naval Command for the operations and administration of all establishments and units at Karwar, including ships and submarines based at the Karwar Naval Base.
- **Vishisht Seva Medal recipient Rear Admiral Atul Anand —**
- He was commissioned on 01 Jan 1988 into the Executive branch of the Indian Navy. He is an alumnus of the National Defence Academy, Khadakvasla, the Defence Services Command and Staff College, Mirpur (Bangladesh), and the National Defence College, New Delhi.
- He has also attended the prestigious Advance Security Cooperation Course at the Asia Pacific Centre for Security Studies, Hawaii, USA.



Link:

<https://pib.gov.in/PressReleaseDetail.aspx?PRID=1783461>

Ashu Suyash

Question : Who has recently(December 2021) been appointed as an independent director of Kotak Mahindra Bank for a period of 5 years ?

- a. Ashu Suyash b. Sudeep Goyal c. Manjeet Kaur d. Nazim Daruwala

Ans. a.

Related facts —

- Kotak Mahindra Bank has recently(December 2021) appointed Ashu Suyash as independent director of bank for a period of 5 years.
- **Tenure —**
- The appointment is effective from January 24, 2022, up to January 23, 2027.
- Ashu was managing director of rating agency CRISIL.
- The bank's board has also approved raising Rs 5,000 crore in through debt instrument in one or more tranches next fiscal.



Link:

https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/industry/banking/finance/banking/kotak-mahindra-bank-appoints-ashu-suyash-as-director/articleshow/88242596.cms?utm_source=contentofinterest&utm_medium=text&utm_campaign=cppst

Time Person of the Year

Question: Who has been named as the Time Person of the Year 2021?

a) Narendra Modi b) Alan Musk c) Jeff Bezos d) None of these

Answer: (b)

Related Facts:-

- The prestigious TIME magazine has named the CEO of Tesla Elon Musk, 2021 Person of the Year.
- Tesla, the US-based electric-vehicle startup, in 2021 became a \$1 trillion company.
- Tesla's this achievement made the Musk world's richest person with an estimated net worth of around US \$255 billion.
- Musk is also the founder and CEO of rocket company SpaceX and leads brain-chip startup Neuralink and a infrastructure firm.
- Musk established SpaceX in 2002 and also had his hand in the creation of the alternative energy company SolarCity in addition to Tesla.
- Time Magazine Highlights
- The magazine highlights its annual acknowledgment for recognizing the person who had the most influence on the year's events, for good or for ill.
- The magazine also reported the influence Mr. Musk holds over an army of loyal followers and investors on social media.
- US President Joe Biden and Vice President Kamala Harris were named the Person of the Year for 2020 by Time magazine.



Links:-

<https://www.theindianexpress.net/tesla-ceo-elon-musk-named-prestigious-time-magazines-person-of-the-year-news-features-network/>

Leena Nair

Question: Recently Leena Nair named as the global CEO of which of the following company?

a) Microsoft b) Chanel c) Unilever d) IBM

Answer: (b)

Related Facts:-

- An executive from Unilever Leena Nair has been named as new global CEO of French fashion house Chanel.
- She is the second Indian-origin woman to take over as a global CEO after Indra Nooyi (PepsiCo)
- Leena is a British national born in India; with this appointment she will become a rare outsider in the company which is a tightly controlled fashion house.
- The company is known for its tweed suits, quilted handbags, and No. 5 perfume.
- French fashion house Chanel is the world's one of the biggest luxury groups.
- The company now has taken the positive and inclusive, picking the consumer goods veteran Leena to run one of the world's biggest luxury fashion groups.
- It should be known that US businesswoman Maureen Chiquet, who came from a fashion background and was CEO of Chanel for nine years until early 2016.



Links:-

<https://www.india.com/business/leena-nair-new-global-ceo-of-french-luxury-group-chanel-indian-5139480/>

Anne Rice

Question: Who was Anne Rice passed, who passed away recently?

a) Women astronaut b) Fiction author c) Child rights activist
d) Woman selected for Artemis Moon Mission

Answer: (b)

Related Facts:-

- On 11 December 2021; American gothic-fiction author Anne Rice passed away at the age of 80.
- Rice's biggest success was her first novel, "Interview with the Vampire," which was published in 1976 and introduced the character of the vampire Lestat.
- Lestat became the central character in the 13-book Chronicles series, the most recent of which was published in 2018.
- Rice said in a talk at Southern Illinois University in 2010, "I had an idea of Lestat as the man of action, the man who could do things that I couldn't do."
- She was born in New Orleans on 4 October 1941.
- Her other creations are Pandora, Violin, Christ the Lord: Out of Egypt, The Witching Hour etc.
- Rice's books have marketed over 100 million copies, earning her one of the best-selling writers of modern times.



Links:-

<https://edition.cnn.com/2021/12/12/entertainment/anne-rice-obit/index.html>

Catherine Russell to head UNICEF

Question: Who has been appointed as the new head of UNICEF?

(a) Antonio Guterres (b) Catherine Russell (c) Henrietta Fore (d) Tom Donilon

Answer: (b)

Related Facts:

- UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres has appointed Catherine Russell as the head of UN children's agency UNICEF, also known as the United Nations Children's Fund.
- Catherine Russell is an assistant to US President Joe Biden.
- The United States is the largest funder of UNICEF.
- UNICEF is a United Nations agency responsible for providing humanitarian and developmental aid to children worldwide.
- The agency is among the most widespread and recognizable social welfare organizations in the world, with a presence in 192 countries and territories.



Reference: https://www.business-standard.com/article/international/un-appoints-joe-biden-adviser-catherine-russell-to-head-unicef-121121100070_1.html

TIME Magazine's 'Person of the Year' for 2021: Elon Musk

Question: Consider the following statements:

(1) The prestigious TIME magazine has named Elon Musk, the CEO of Tesla, as the "2021 Person of the Year"

(2) In 2021, US-based electric-vehicle startup Tesla became \$1 trillion company as Musk became the world's richest person with an estimated net worth of around US \$255 billion

(3) Musk is also the founder and CEO of rocket company SpaceZ

Which of the above statements is/are true?

(a) Only 1 (b) 1 and 2 (c) 1 and 3 (d) 1,2 and 3

Answer: (b)

Related Facts:

- The prestigious TIME magazine has named Elon Musk, the CEO of Tesla, as the "2021 Person of the Year".
- In 2021, US-based electric-vehicle startup Tesla became \$1 trillion company as Elon Musk became the world's richest person with an estimated net worth of around US \$255 billion.
- Elon Musk is also the founder and CEO of rocket company SpaceX.
- Tesla, which is the world's largest manufacturer of electric cars, has its core market in the US, China and Europe.

Reference: <https://auto.hindustantimes.com/auto/news/tesla-ceo-elon-musk-announced-time-magazine-s-person-of-the-year-for-2021-41639406615167.html>

Olaf Scholz became Germany's New chancellor

Question: Who became the new chancellor of Germany?

(a) Olaf Scholz (b) Angela Merkel (c) Saskia Esken (d) Christian Lindner

Answer: (a)

Related Facts:

- Olaf Scholz became Germany's chancellor, marking the end of Angela Merkel's 16 years as the country's leader.
- He previously served as the Vice-Chancellor of Germany to Angela Merkel and as the Federal Minister for Finance from 2018 to 2021.
- Scholz's center-left Social Democratic Party, which won the most votes in September's federal election, leads a coalition government along with the Greens and the libertarian Free Democratic Party.



Reference: <https://www.npr.org/2021/12/08/1062130622/germany-new-chancellor-olaf-scholz-coalition-government>

Fortune India's Most Powerful Women 2021 announced

Question: Fortune India released the list of most powerful women in India 2021?

Who topped this list?

(a) Nita Ambani (b) Soumya Swaminathan
(c) Nirmala Sitharaman (d) Savita Kovind

Answer: (c)

Related Facts:

- Fortune India released the list of most powerful women in India 2021 in which Union Minister, Ministry of Finance & Ministry of Corporate Affairs Nirmala Sitharaman ranked 1st.
- She is followed by Reliance Foundation Chairperson and Goodwill Ambassador Nita Ambani in 2nd position, and Soumya Swaminathan, Chief Scientist, World Health Organization (WHO) at 3rd.
- Kiran Mazumdar-Shaw, Executive Chairperson of Biocon came at no 4.



Reference: <https://www.fortuneindia.com/mpw>

Miss Universe 2021: Harnaaz Sandhu

Question: Recently, Who won the Miss Universe 2021 title?

(a) Harnaaz Sandhu (b) Andrea Meza (c) Nadia Ferreira (d) Lalela Mswane

Answer: (a)

Related Facts:

- The 21-year-old from Punjab, representing India at the 70th Miss Universe 2021, held in Eilat, Israel, brought home the crown.



- She became the third Indian to win the Miss Universe title, after Sushmita Sen in 1994 and Lara Dutta in 2000.
- Harnaaz Sandhu, 21, edged out Paraguay's Nadia Ferreira and South Africa's Lalela Mswane in the final round of the Miss Universe pageant.

Reference: <https://www.ndtv.com/india-news/harnaaz-sandhu-21-dedicates-historic-miss-universe-win-to-india-2649053>

Catherine Russell

Question: UN Secretary General Antonio Guterres recently announced the appointment of Catherine Russell at which of the following post?

- a) Executive Director of WHO b) Executive Director of UNICEF
c) Executive Director of UNESCO d) None of these

Answer: (b)

Related Facts:-

- On 10 December 2021; UN Secretary General António Guterres announced the appointment of Catherine Russell as the next Executive Director of the UN Children's Fund (UNICEF).
- Catherine Russell of USA, is an assistant to U.S. President Joe Biden, who runs the White House Office of Presidential Personnel.
- From 2013-2017, she has also acted as the State Department's ambassador-at-large for global women's issues.
- Russell will follow Henrietta Fore, who quit in July 2021 due to family health issues.



Links:-

<https://news.un.org/en/story/2021/12/1107692>

Rachna Bahadur

Question : Who has recently been appointed by Edtech major Byju's as the senior vice president to lead its global expansion plans ?

- a. Rachna Bahadur b. Sailesh Kant c. Pramila Bajaj d. Neetika Bajpayee

Ans. a.

Related facts —

- Edtech major Byju's on December said it has appointed former Bain & Company Partner Rachna Bahadur as the SVP to lead its global expansion plans.
- In the role of SVP(senior vice president),Bahadur will lead the overall planning, strategy, and roadmap for Byju's expansion in new and existing markets.
- In addition to designing Byju's next growth phase, creating new partnerships, reinforcing sales, and solidifying the company's market positioning across the globe, she will also be responsible for strengthening the footprint of Byju's recent acquisition of Epic in the US market.
- It is notable that Byju's had acquired US-based digital reading platform Epic for \$500 million (around Rs 3,729.8 crore) and had announced an additional \$1 billion (about



Rs 7,459.7 crore) investment over the next three years in the North American market.

- Rachna's appointment is a step towards strengthening Byju's leadership across verticals as the company aims to further build world-class products, teams, and partnerships.

Link:

<https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/tech/startups/byjus-appoints-rachna-bahadur-to-lead-global-expansion-plans/articleshow/88202996.cms>

Rani Gaidinliu Tribal Freedom Fighters Museum

Question – On 22 November 2021, Union Home Minister Amit Shah laid the foundation stone of Rani Gaidinliu Tribal Freedom Fighters Museum in Luangkao village of Tamenglong district. In which state is Luangkao village located?

(a) Sikkim (b) Nagaland (c) Manipur (d) Tripura

Answer—(c)

Related facts—

- On 22 November 2021, Union Home Minister Amit Shah laid the foundation stone of Rani Gaidinliu Tribal Freedom Fighters Museum in Luangkao village of Tamenglong district in Manipur.
- The museum is to be constructed at a cost of Rs 15 crore sanctioned by the Ministry of Tribal Affairs, Government of India.
- The Central government took the decision in honour of the courage and spirit of the freedom fighters of Manipur who always fought the British tooth and nail in battle.
- The museum will honour and commemorate the unsung tribal freedom fighters of Manipur.
- It is notable that the first tricolour flag of India was first flown on the soil of Manipur when the INA hoisted the flag at Moirang in present Bishnupur district.



Link:

<https://pib.gov.in/PressReleaselframePage.aspx?PRID=1773990>

Geoff Allardice

Question – Which person has been appointed as the permanent new Chief Executive Officer of ICC on 21st November 2021?

(a) Anil Kumble (b) Geoffrey Boycott (c) Geoff Allardice (d) Kane Richardson

Answer—(c)

Related facts—

- Australian Geoff Allardice has been appointed as permanent CEO of the International Cricket Council after serving the role on an interim basis for more than eight months, the game's governing body said on November 21, 2021.
- He will succeed Manu Sawhney, who resigned from his post in July.
- Allardice, a former first-class cricketer and administrator from Australia, was the ICC's General Manager (Cricket) for eight years.



Link:

<https://www.thehindu.com/sport/cricket/icc-appoints-geoff-allardice-as-permanent-ceo/article37609796.ece>

Dr Mamballaikalathil Sarada Menon

Question: Who was Dr Mamballaikalathil Sarada Menon, passed away recently?

- a) India's 1st woman Psychiatrist b) India's 1st woman astronomer
c) India's 1st woman cardiologist d) None of these

Answer : (a)

Related Facts:-

- On 5 December 2021 India's 1st woman Psychiatrist Dr Mamballaikalathil Sarada Menon Passed away at an age of 98.
- Menon graduated from the Madras Medical College and trained in psychiatry in Bengaluru's NIMHANS.
- Dr M Sarada Menon began her career as a Psychiatrist in the Institute of Mental Health in Kilpauk, Chennai, in 1959 and became its 1st woman Director in 1961.
- She was born on 5 April 1923 in a South Indian family in Mangalore, Karnataka.
- She founded the Schizophrenia Research Foundation (SCARF India) in 1984
- She also established ASHA, a community-based platform assisting the families of those affected by mental illnesses.



Links:-

<https://www.hindustantimes.com/india-news/sarada-menon-india-s-first-woman-psychiatrist-dies-at-98-in-chennai-101638816656535.html>

Yusaku Maezawa and Yozo Hirano

Question : Which of the following Japanese personalities recently(December 2021) takes off for International Space Station ?

- a. Only Yusaku Maezawa b. Only Yozo Hirano c. Both a. & b.
d. None of the above

Ans. c.

Related facts —

- A Japanese billionaire and his producer rocketed to space Wednesday(8th December 2021) for a 12-day mission at the International Space Station.
- Fashion tycoon Yusaku Maezawa and producer Yozo Hirano, who plans to film his mission, blasted off for the ISS in a spacecraft along with Russian cosmonaut Alexander Misurkin.
- Spacecraft used in the mission is Soyuz(a Russian spacecraft).
- Maezawa and Hirano are scheduled to spend 12 days in space.
- They are thought to be the first self-paying tourists to visit the space station since 2009.



Link:

<https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/international/world-news/japanese-tycoon->

Alka Upadhyaya

Question : Who has recently been appointed as the chairperson of National Highways Authority of India ?

a. Alka Upadhyaya b. Mariya Khanna c. Sahdeo Prasad d. Amit Lamba

Ans. a.

Related Facts —



- Senior bureaucrat Alka Upadhyaya has been appointed as the chairperson of National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) as part of a major bureaucratic reshuffle effected by the Centre on December.
- She is a 1990-batch IAS officer of Madhya Pradesh cadre and is currently Additional Secretary, Department of Rural Development.
- **Other bureaucratic reshuffle —**
 1. Sanjay Bandopadhyay, Additional Secretary, Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways, has been named chairman, Inland Waterways Authority of India.
 2. Dharmendra S Gangwar, Additional Secretary and Financial Adviser, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, will be Secretary, Department of Border Management, and Sundeep Kumar Nayak has been appointed as Director General, National Productivity Council, Department for Promotion of Industry & Internal Trade.
 3. Upma Srivastava, a 1988-batch IAS officer of Sikkim cadre, has been named Secretary, National Commission for Scheduled Castes.
 4. Juthika Patankar, Additional Secretary, Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship, has been appointed as Secretary, Central Information Commission.
 5. Anita Praveen, Special Secretary, Department of Telecommunications, Ministry of Communications, will be Special Secretary, Ministry of Food Processing Industries.
 6. Amit Yadav, Director General, Directorate General of Foreign Trade, has been moved as Additional Secretary, Department of Commerce.
 7. Ashish Srivastava, Additional Secretary, Ministry of Women and Child Development, has been appointed Additional Secretary, Cabinet Secretariat.
 8. G Asok Kumar, Mission Director, National Water Mission, Department of Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation, will be Director General, National Mission for Clean Ganga.
 9. Neelam Shammi Rao has been appointed as Central Provident Fund Commissioner, Employees' Provident Fund Organization, Amit Agrawal will be Additional Secretary, Ministry of Electronics & Information Technology, and Deepti Umashankar as Establishment Officer & Additional Secretary, Department of Personnel & Training.
 10. Vivek Aggarwal, Additional Secretary, Department of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare, has been appointed as Additional Secretary, Department of Revenue.
 11. Hari Ranjan Rao, Joint Secretary, Department of Telecommunications, will now be Additional Secretary, Department of Telecommunications.
 12. Shyamal Misra, a 1996-batch IAS officer of Haryana cadre, has been appointed as Joint Secretary, Department of Home, Ministry of Home Affairs.

Link:

<https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/politics-and-nation/centre-effects-major-bureaucratic-reshuffle-alka-upadhyaya-appointed-nhai-chief/articleshow/88093703.cms>

Defence Chief General Bipin Rawat Dies In Chopper Crash

Question: Consider the following statements:

- (1) General Bipin Rawat was the First Chief of Defence Staff (CDS)
- (2) The CDS heads the Department of Military affairs which is to be created within the Ministry of Defence
- (3) The CDS is the head of the Army, Navy and Air Force and is be a Five star military officer

Which of the following is/are correct?

- (a) Only 1 (b) Both 1 and 2 (c) Both 1 and 3 (d) All of these

Answer: (b)

Related Facts:

- Chief of Defence Staff Bipin Rawat died today (8 December 2021) after an Air Force helicopter carrying him and 13 others crashed shortly after take-off in Tamil Nadu.
- The crash took place shortly after the Russian-made Mi-17 V5 chopper took off from the Air Force base in Sulur, Coimbatore, for Wellington in the Nilgiri Hills.
- On December 31, 2019, General Bipin Rawat was appointed as the First Chief of Defence Staff (CDS).
- The CDS heads the Department of Military affairs which is to be created within the Ministry of Defence.
- CDS acts as the military advisor to the Government of India.
- The CDS is the head of the Army, Navy and Air Force and is be a four-star military officer.



Reference: <https://www.ndtv.com/india-news/helicopter-carrying-general-bipin-rawat-crashes-in-tamil-nadu-2642099>

OYO appoints former SBI chairman Rajnish Kumar strategic group advisor

Question: OYO appoints former SBI chairman Rajnish Kumar strategic group advisor. Who is the owner of Oyo India?

- a) Ritesh Agarwal b) Nithin Kamath c) Sachin Bansal d) Bhavish Aggarwal

Ans: a

Related Facts:

- Oravel Stays Limited (Oyo) on Thursday December 2, 2021 appointed State Bank of India's (SBI's) former Chairman Rajnish Kumar strategic group advisor.
- Oyo's Board has three other independent directors and one nominee director, besides Chairman Ritesh Agarwal.
- The Board also includes Aditya Ghosh, former director at IndiGo-parent InterGlobe Group, as a non-executive nominee director.
- Ritesh Agarwal, founder & chairman, Oyo.



- Ritesh Agarwal, RA Hospitality Holdings and SoftBank Vision Fund are Oyo's largest shareholders.

Links:

https://www.business-standard.com/article/companies/oyo-appoints-former-sbi-chairman-rajnish-kumar-strategic-group-advisor-121120200785_1.html

Sambit Patra appointed as Chairman of ITDC

Question: Sambit Patra appointed as Chairman of ITDC. Which is tourism minister of india ?

a) Shri G. Kishan Reddy b) Nitin gadkari c) Prahlad joshi d) None of these

Ans :a

Related Facts :



- BJP national spokesperson Sambit Patra has been appointed as the Chairman of India Tourism Development Corporation (ITDC).
- As per an order dated November 30, 2021 the Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (ACC) has approved the Tourism Ministry's proposal to split the post of chairman and managing director of ITDC.
- Appointment of Dr. Sambit Patra as Part-Time Non Executive Director & Chairman of ITDC for a period of three years from the date of assumption of charge.
- The order added that 1990 batch IAS officer Ganji Kamala V. Rao will continue to hold the post of MD, ITDC, till further orders.
- **History of IDTC:**
- ITDC came into existence in October 1966 and has been the prime mover in the progressive development, promotion and expansion of tourism in the country.
- the main objectives of the Corporation are To construct, take over and manage existing hotels and market hotels, Beach Resorts, Travellers' Lodges/Restaurants
- provide transport, entertainment, shopping and conventional services.
- provide innovating, dependable and value for money solutions to the needs of tourism development and engineering industry including providing consultancy and project implementation.
- Presently, ITDC has a network of eight Ashok Group of Hotels, six Joint Venture Hotels, 2 Restaurants (including one Airport Restaurant), 12 Transport Units, one Tourist Service Station, 37 Duty Free Shops at International as well as Domestic Customs Airports, one Tax Free outlet and two Sound & Light Shows.

Links:

<https://tourism.gov.in/about-us/india-tourism-development-corporation-itdc>

Gita Gopinath appointed IMF's Deputy Managing Director

Question : Gita Gopinath appointed IMF's Deputy Managing Director who is managing director of IMF?

a) Kristalina Georgieva. b) Christine Madeleine Odette Lagarde.
c) Mohamed Aly El-Erian. d) Rodrigo de Rato y Figaredo.

Ans:a

Related Facts:

- Gita Gopinath, the IMF's Indian-American chief economist has been promoted as its First Deputy Managing Director (FDMD) on December 3, 2021.
- Gopinath would replace Geoffrey Okamoto who plans to leave the IMF early next year.
- She has served as the first woman chief economist of the Washington-based global lender for three years.
- She was born in India but also is a US citizen.
- **High lightpoint:**
- The IMF was established in 1944 in the aftermath of the Great Depression of the 1930s.
- Today, its membership embraces 190 countries, with staff drawn from 150 nations.
- The IMF provides loans—including emergency loans—to member countries experiencing actual or potential balance of payments problems.
- The IMF provides technical assistance and training to governments, including central banks, finance ministries, revenue administrations, and financial sector supervisory agencies.
- India is a founder member of the IMF.



Links:

<https://www.indiatoday.in/business/story/chief-economist-gita-gopinath-imf-first-deputy-managing-director-1883572-2021-12-03>

Vice Admiral R Hari Kumar named as next Chief of the Naval Staff

Question: Who has been named as next Chief of the Naval Staff?

(a) R Hari Kumar (b) Karambir Singh (c) Sunil Lanba (d) PK Harihar Singh

Answer: (a)

Related Facts:

- Vice Admiral R Hari Kumar has been named as the next Chief of the Naval Staff (25th Navy Chief).
- He will take on the new role with effect from November 30, 2021.
- He will replace the incumbent Chief of the Naval Staff, Admiral Karambir Singh, who will complete his tenure on November 30, 2021.



Reference: <https://www.indiatoday.in/india/story/vice-admiral-r-hari-kumar-take-charge-chief-of-naval-staff-1882302-2021-11-30>

Lt Gen Manoj Kumar Mago has taken over as the Commandant of National Defence College (NDC)

Question : Lt Gen Manoj Kumar Mago has taken over as the Commandant of National Defence College (NDC). When established National Defence college ?

a) 1960 b) 1976 c) 1979 d) 1955

Ans a

Related Facts :

- Lt Gen Manoj Kumar Mago has taken over as the Commandant of National Defence College (NDC), New Delhi.
- Lt Gen Mago, who hails from Ludhiana, was commanding the 10 Corps at Bathinda before being given the assignment at NDC.
- Lt Gen Mago, who passed out of Indian Military Academy, Dehradun, was commissioned into 7th Battalion of the Brigade of Guards in 1984.
- He later commanded 16 Guards.
- **History of NDC :**
- On May 6th, 1959, the Cabinet Defence Committee approved the proposal for establishing the National Defence College.
- The National Defence College (NDC) located at New Delhi, is India's apex institution of learning for the study and practice of National Security and Strategy.
- NDC Established in 1960 it has over the years earned a reputation for excellence and gained world renown.
- The National Defence College was organised on the pattern of the Imperial Defence College (now Royal College of Defence Studies) of the U.K. with its location in New Delhi .
- the historic occasion was fixed for 10.00 AM on Wednesday, the 27, April 1960.
- It is dedicated to the intellectual development and strategic enculturation of selected senior officers of the armed forces and civilian government services of India and those from foreign countries, for higher leadership positions and responsibilities.
 - In July 1958, the Ministry of Defence accepted the need for broad-based training within the country, for senior decision-makers, on matters related to national security and strategy.



Links:

<https://ndc.nic.in/About/about-ndc/ndc-origin>

World's tallest railway bridge pier to come up in Manipur

Question: World's tallest railway bridge pier to come up in Manipur which is governor of Manipur ?

a) Devendra Kumar Josh b) Anil Baijal c) Manoj Sinha d) La. Ganesan

Ans:d

Related Facts:

- The Indian Railways is constructing the world's tallest bridge pier in Manipur which is a part of 111 km long Jiribam-Imphal railway project.
- The bridge, which is being built at a pier height of 141 metres, will surpass the existing record of 139 meter of Mala – Rijeka viaduct, Montenegro in Europe.
- With the completion of the project, the 111 km of distance will be covered in 2-2.5 hours.
- Presently, the distance between Jiribam-Imphal (NH-37) is 220 km, which took about 10-12 hours of travelling.



- After the construction, the bridge crossing Noney valley will become the world's highest pier bridge," Sandeep Sharma, Chief Engineer of the project told ANI.
- According to the Chief Engineer, the total anticipated cost of the bridge is ₹374 crore.

Links:

<https://www.hindustantimes.com/india-news/worlds-tallest-railway-bridge-pier-to-come-up-in-manipur-101638058848881.html>

Jagdish Thakor

Question : Who has recently been appointed as Gujarat Congress president ?

a. Jagdish Thakor b. Malay Jadeja c. SanamBhai Jhanjhar d. None of the above

Ans. a.

Related facts —

- Jagdish Thakor has recently(December 2021) appointed as Gujarat Congress president.
- He replaced Amit Chavda.



Link:

<https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/politics-and-nation/jagdish-thakor-appointed-gujarat-congress-president/articleshow/88068508.cms>

The INTERPOL General Assembly has elected Ahmed Nasser Al Raisi of the United Arab Emirates as the Organization's new President

Question : The INTERPOL General Assembly has elected Ahmed Nasser Al Raisi of the United Arab Emirates as the Organization's new President. When INTERPOL established?

a) 7 september 1923 b) 12 january 1942 c) 6 december 1937 d) None of these

Ans a

Related Facts :

- The INTERPOL General Assembly has elected Ahmed Nasser Al Raisi of the United Arab Emirates as the Organization's new President.
- Mr Al Raisi was elected following three rounds of voting.
- UAE's Ahmed Al Raisi elected (November 26 ,2021) Interpol president for 4-year term.
- Under Article 16 of INTERPOL's Constitution, 'a two-thirds majority shall be required for the election of the President; should this majority not be obtained after the second ballot, a simple majority shall suffice.'
- As President, Mr Al Raisi's role during his four-year term will include chairing meetings of the Executive Committee which supervises the implementation of decisions taken at the General Assembly.
- High light point :
- The International Criminal Police Organization (ICPO; French: Organisation internationale de police criminelle), commonly known as the Interpol



- the Interpol is an international organization that facilitates worldwide police cooperation and crime control. Headquartered in Lyon, France.
- It was founded in September 1923 as the International Criminal Police Commission (ICPC).
- Motto of INTERPOL Connecting police for a safer world

Links:

<https://www.interpol.int/en/News-and-Events/News/2021/INTERPOL-General-Assembly-elects-new-President>

Sanjay Dutt appointed as Arunachal Pradesh's brand ambassador

Question : Sanjay Dutt appointed as Arunachal Pradesh's brand ambassador who is chief minister of Arunachal Pradesh?

- a) Shri Pema Khandu b) Himanta Biswa Sarma c) Y. S. Jagan Mohan Reddy
d) Conrad Sangma.

Ans:a

Related Facts:

- Bollywood actor Sanjay Dutt has been announced as the State's brand ambassador on the occasion of the golden jubilee celebrations, marking the 50th year of the naming of Arunachal Pradesh.
- Bollywood actor Sanjay Dutt, on Monday November 30 2021.
- The month-long celebrations will commence at Ziro on January 20, 2022, as it was in Ziro that Arunachal Pradesh got its name and Union Territory status in 1972.
- Lauding the beauty of Arunachal Pradesh Dutt said the state's culture, its food and the people are unique and assured to give his best in highlighting this uniqueness to the people outside.
- Sanjay Dutt Also the Brand Ambassador of Zanzibar



Links:

<https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/wealth/invest/the-dos-and-donts-for-new-investors-in-retail-markets/articleshow/87929601.cms>

Places

Pillar of Shame Demolished

Question: In which of the following place Pillar of Shame was located, which has been recently demolished?

- a) Hong Kong b) Myanmar c) Afghanistan d) Taiwan

Answer: (a)

Related Facts:-

- On December 23, 2021, Pillar of Shame, the statue commemorating people killed in Beijing's Tiananmen Square, Demolished in Hong Kong.
- Hong Kong's oldest university on December 23 launched an



overnight operation to demolish a statue commemorating people killed in Beijing's Tiananmen Square.

- It should be known that two years ago wide spread democracy protests held in Hong Kong and therefore China is currently remolding Hong Kong in its own authoritarian image.
- As a result, commemorating Tiananmen Square has effectively become illegal.
- The sculpture was ordered to be removed by University officials in October 2021, posing new legal risks.

Links:-

<https://www.washingtonpost.com/world/2021/12/22/hong-kong-pillar-shame-tiananmen/>

India's biggest drone show

Question: In which city was the largest ever drone show of the country organized on the occasion of 75 years of India's independence (Amrit Mahotsav) ?

a. Lucknow b. Kanpur c. Indore d. Bhopal

Ans. a.

Related facts —

- India's biggest drone show was organised in Lucknow today(20 DEC 2021) evening as part of Amrit Mahotsav series of events on 1857.
- More than 500 drones took part in this show.
- It is notable that so far since the start of AKAM(Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav) in March more than 13,000 programmes have been held making it one of the largest commemoration initiatives anywhere in the world.
- All programs under Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav are guided by a whole of government approach that brings together multiple stakeholders within and outside the Government, working towards a common goal.



Link:

<https://pib.gov.in/PressReleaselframePage.aspx?PRID=1783640>

Solar Hamam

Question: In which of the following region Solar Hamam has gained popularity?

a) Ladakh b) Uttar Pradesh c) Punjab d) None of these

Answer: (a)

Related Facts:-

- Scientists at the Himalayan Research Group, an NGO have devised a customized solar water and space heating system for the region.
- It is a part of the Government of India's Department of Science and Technology Core Support Programme of Science for Equity Empowerment and Development (SEED).
- (SEED) Division realised that technology interventions to conserve forests was required.



- Hence they locally designed and a branded heating system called Solar Hamam gained popularity in Ladakh, Himachal Pradesh, and Uttarakhand.
- Solar Haman aims to provide clean energy keys to households across mountainous regions.
- It seeks to preserve forests, free women from collecting fuelwood and mitigate carbon emissions.
- The evolution of this technology is vital because households within the mountains rely upon natural resources to urge fuel, fodder, health, nutrition, agriculture, livelihood, and employment.

Links:-

<https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/other-states/solar-hamam-taking-care-of-heating-in-cold-himalayan-regions/article37948257.ece>

Endangered Bryde's Whale Carcass was found

Ques: Near the coast of which of the following state, Endangered Bryde's Whale carcass was found?

a) Odisha b) Gujarat c) Kerala d) Tamil Nadu

Answer: (a)

Related Facts:-



- On 9 December 2021; Endangered Bryde's Whale carcass was found nearby the Puri Border and Ganjam Districts of Odisha.
- It was the 48-foot-long female Bryde's whale which may have died due to sticking in the sea bed because of low water level.
- The dead whale was then buried near the shore after the post-mortem.
- Experts will try to find the exact cause of death only after getting a post-mortem report.
- According to Range Officer Narasingh Behera local fisher folk saw two whales – one male and the other female – near the coast on the evening of 8 December 2021.
- Range officer said that it might be the carcass is of that female one which got stuck in the sea bed due to low water level.
- Common Bryde's whale is a more extensive form occurring worldwide in warm temperate and tropical waters.
- Sittang or Eden's whale is a more diminutive form, restricted to the Indo-Pacific.
- A more diminutive & coastal form of Brydei is found off southern Africa.
- Anil Mohapatra, in charge of the Estuarine Biology Regional Centre (EBRC), Gopalpur, under the Zoological Survey of India said the forest department would be requested to preserve the skeleton in a museum for research purposes.
- We have collected tissue samples from the carcass of the whale for DNA analysis, Mohapatra said.

Links:-

<https://www.republicworld.com/india-news/general-news/carcass-of-endangered-whale-found-on-odisha-shore.html>

Doordarshan centre in Gorakhpur

Question : What thing is recently(December 2021) inaugurated in Gorakhpur by Anurag Thakur and UP chief minister Yogi Adityanath ?

- a. Ground sub-centre of Doordarshan b. International golf course
c. Fertilizer plant d. None of the above

Ans. a.

Related facts —

- Union Information and Broadcasting Minister Anurag Singh Thakur and Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath recently(December 2021) inaugurated the ground sub-centre of Doordarshan in Gorakhpur.
- With the inauguration of the ground sub-station of Doordarshan in Gorakhpur, now the local programmes would reach all over the country.
- From December 11, a special one-hour programme would be telecast in Bhojpuri from Doordarshan Kendra Gorakhpur.
- Anurag Thakur said that soon three more FMs of Akashvani would be launched at Sultanpur, Rampur and Maharajganj.
- **Other inaugurations —**
- Along with this, they also inaugurated the installation of three FMs of the newly-created Akashvani of 10 kilowatt each at Gadnia in Etawah, Lakhimpur Kheri and Nanpara in Bahraich.
- The stations were inaugurated through virtual medium.



Link:

<https://www.dailypioneer.com/2021/state-editions/thakur-yogi-inaugurate---doordarshan-ground---sub-centre-in-gkp.html>

Awards & Honors

CM Yogi, ISRO chairman to get SIES award

Question: CM Yogi, ISRO chairman to get SIES award. This award presented in memory of which Seer ?

- a) Sri Chandrasekharendra Saraswati. b) Sri Karpatri je maharaj c) Adi Shankaracharya
d) None of these

Ans: a

Related Facts:

- Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath , ISRO Chairman Dr K Sivan, Cardiac Surgeon and Chairman of Narayana Health Dr Devi Prasad Shetty, the Akshaya Patra Foundation, Bengaluru and Udaiyalur Kalyanarama Bhagavathar will receive the SIES Sri Chandrasekharendra Saraswati National Eminence Award on December 25 at 6 pm at Sri Shanmukhananda Hall, King's Circle.
- The awards were instituted by the South Indian Education Society in 1998 in memory of the late Seer of Kanchi, Sri Chandrasekharendra Saraswati.



- The awards are given in the fields of public leadership, community leadership, science and technology and social thinkers to those who had made outstanding contributions in the above four fields.
- . Each award carries a cash prize of Rs.2.5 lakh, a citation, an ornamental lamp and a scroll.
- The award could not be presented last year due to pandemic, said V Shankar, president of SIES.

Links:

<https://indianexpress.com/article/cities/mumbai/maharashtra-yogi-adityanath-isro-chairman-among-4-to-get-sies-award-7689304/>

Avani Lekhara : ‘Best Female Debut’ honour at Paralympic Awards

Question: Avani Lekhara, who took the ‘Best Female Debut’ at Paralympic Sport Awards, is associated with which of the following sports?

(a) Shooting (b) Badminton (c) Archery (d) Tennis

Answer: (a)

Related Facts:

- Tokyo Paralympics champion Avani Lekhara took the ‘Best Female Debut’ accolade at the 2021 Paralympic Sport Awards as announced by the International Paralympic Committee (IPC).
- Indian shooting Para sport athlete Avani Lekhara was joined by Czech Republic’s Boccia player Adam Peska as he took the Male Debut accolade.
- Lekhara became the first-ever female Paralympic gold medallist from India.
- The 19-year-old broke the Paralympic record and equalled the World record in the women’s 10m SH1 air rifle standing final.
- She also won bronze in the women’s 50m SH1 air rifle standing event to become the first Indian female to win two medals in the Paralympics.



Reference: <https://www.aninews.in/news/sports/others/anything-is-possible-with-hard-work-avani-lekhara-after-winning-best-female-debut-honour-at-paralympic-awards20211217134407>

Balasore was awarded as the Best Marine District in the country at World Fisheries Day Celebration

Question : Balasore was awarded as the Best Marine District in the country at World Fisheries Day Celebration. Who is minister of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and the Dairyin ?

a) Shri ParshottamRupala b) Prahlad joshi c) Bhupender Yadav
d) Narendra Singh Tomar

Ans :a

Related Facts:

- Odisha’s Balasore was awarded as the ‘Best Marine District’ in the country by the Centre on the occasion of ‘World Fisheries Day’ 2021, on Sunday(December 19,2021).

- While Andhra Pradesh was adjudged Best Marine State, the Best Inland State award was conferred on Telangana in a ceremony organised by the Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry & Dairying here.
- Balaghat in Madhya Pradesh won the Best Inland District award and Best Hilly and Northeastern State and District awards were given to Tripura and Bongaigaon, Assam respectively.
- World Fisheries Day is observed on November 21 to recognise the contributions of fisher folks, fish farmers, and people involved with fishery trade across the globe.
- Odisha is the fourth largest fish producing state in India, contributing to 2.33 per cent of the state economy.



Links:

<https://odishabytes.com/balasore-adjudged-best-marine-district-in-the-country-know-how-odisha-has-been-encouraging-aquaculture/>

The Sports Journalists' Federation of India award, 2021

Question – In the Annual General Meeting of Sports Journalists Federation of India on 14th December 2021, it has been decided to confer the prestigious SJFI Medal to whom?

(a) Kapil Dev (b) Sachin Tendulkar (c) Sunil Gavaskar (d) Rahul Dravid

Answer—(c)

Related facts –

- In the Annual General Meeting(AGM) of Sports Journalists Federation of India on 14th December 2021, it has been decided to confer the prestigious SJFI Medal to former cricketer Sunil Gavaskar.



• **Key points(decisions) of the AGM —**

1. Neeraj Chopra, who won India's lone gold medal at the Tokyo Olympics, was named the SJFI Sportsman of the Year award while weightlifter Mirabai Chanu, who clinched a silver at the quadrennial extravaganza, was adjudged SJFI Sportswoman of the Year.
2. The Indian men's team which won the hockey bronze in Tokyo was declared SJFI Team of the Year.
3. Sumit Antil and Pramod Bhagat, the stars of India's Paralympics campaign, were declared the SJFI Parathletes of the Year in the men's category while shooter Avani Lekhra was named the SJFI Parathlete of the Year in the women's section.

Link:

<https://www.thehindu.com/sport/sunil-gavaskar-conferred-with-sjfi-medal/article37955770.ece>

56th Jnanpith Award 2021

Question: Who has been honoured with the 56th Jnanpith Award 2021?

(a) Nilmani Phookan Jr (b) Damodar Mauzo (c) Both (d) None of these

Answer: (a)

Related Facts:

- On 7 December 2021, it was announced to confer the 56th Jnanpith Award to Assamese litterateur Nilmani Phookan Jr.
- He was awarded Padma Shri in 1990, Sahitya Akademi Award in 1981 and Assam Valley Literary Award in 1997.
- It is noteworthy that Phukan is the third Assamese writer to receive the Jnanpith Award.
- Earlier in the year 1979, Birendra Kumar Bhattacharya and Indira Goswami in the year 2000 have been given the Jnanpith Award.



Link:

<http://jnanpith.net/index.html>

Karnataka Bank got MeitY award

Question : Which of the following bank has recently(December 2021) got MeitY award(DigiDhan award) for highest Bhim-Upi transactions for two years ?

a. Karnataka Bank b. HDFC Bank c. Axis Bank d. Kotak Bank

Ans. a.

Related facts —

- Karnataka bank has recently(December 2021) been conferred with two DigiDhan awards instituted by the MeitY.
- **Here MeitY stands for** — Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology.
- Karnataka bank received these awards for achieving the target with the highest percentage in BHIM-UPI transactions under the private sector bank category consecutively for two years – 2019-20 and 2020-21.
- It is noteworthy that bank has always stood ahead of the time in adopting the latest digital technology to its products in order to provide the best in class service to its customers.



Link:

<https://www.thehindubusinessline.com/money-and-banking/karnataka-bank-bags-two-digidhan-award-from-meity/article37921142.ece>

Ramanujan Prize 2021

Question: Which of the following Indian Mathematician has been honoured with the Ramanujan Prize 2021?

(a) Neena Gupta (b) Meena Gupta (c) Tina Gupta (d) Neena Agarwal

Answer: (a)
Related Facts:

- Indian mathematician Neena Gupta has been honoured with the Ramanujan Prize for Young Mathematicians, 2021.
- She received the prize for her outstanding work in affine algebraic geometry and commutative algebra, in particular for her solution to the Zariski cancellation problem for affine spaces.
- The award was founded in 2004, and the first recipient in 2005 was Brazilian mathematician Marcello Viana.
- Neena Gupta is the third woman to receive the Ramanujan Prize.
- She is the fourth Indian to win this prestigious prize.
- Ramanujan Prize given internationally to young mathematicians under the age of 45 for their innovative work in the field.



Reference: <https://www.news18.com/news/education-career/indian-mathematician-neena-gupta-wins-ramanujan-prize-2021-4549259.html>

Mohamed Salah won African Player of the Year award 2021

Question: Who won African Player of the Year award 2021?

(a) Mohamed Salah (b) Riyad Mahrez (c) Hakim Ziyech (d) Sadio Mane

Answer: (a)

Related Facts:

- Liverpool and Egypt's national football team star Mohamed Salah has won the African Player of the Year award 2021.
- According to the France Football magazine (Ballon d'Or ranking), Salah ranked seventh best player in the world for 2021.
- Mohamed Salah is an Egyptian professional footballer who plays as a forward for Premier League club Liverpool and captains the Egypt national team.



Reference: <https://www.egyptindependent.com/mohamed-salah-wins-african-player-of-the-year-award-2021/>

57th Jnanpith Award 2021

Question: Who has been honoured with the 57th Jnanpith Award 2021?

(a) Nilmani Phookan Jr (b) Damodar Mauzo (c) Both (d) None of these

Answer: (b)

Related Facts:

- Konkani author Damodar Mauzo was awarded the 57th Jnanpith award 2021.
- The 77-year-old author was conferred with the nation's highest literary award for his "outstanding contribution to literature".



Reference: <https://indianexpress.com/article/books-and-literature/assam-poet-konkani-novelist-receive-jnanpith-award-7661414/>

Young Geospatial Scientist award

Question: Recently Ropesh Goyal won the Young Geospatial Scientist Award. In which of the following IIT, Rupesh is the research scholar?

a) IIT Delhi b) IIT Hyderabad c) IIT Kanpur d) IIT Madras

Answer: (c)

Related Facts:-

- On 7 December 2021; IIT-Kanpur's Ropesh Goyal won the Young Geospatial Scientist Award.
- He received this award from AS Kiran Kumar, a member of the Government of India's Space Commission and former Chairman of ISRO.
- Mr. Kumar gave the award to Goyal during the Geospatial World's DigiSmart India 2021 conference.
- Ropesh got this award for his unique contribution to developing the Indian Geoid Model and computing tools.
- Young Geospatial Scientist award, a gold medal has been given since 2011, to the young scientists under 35.
- The Geospatial World conducted the DigiSmart India 2021 conference event.
- This is given in the memory of Rachapudi Kamakshi, a strategic analyst with a keen interest in geography geospatial studies.
- The Rachapudi Kamakshi Memorial Trust was established to assist and support students studying in the field of geospatial sciences.
- This trust fully supports and helps the young and bright individuals with innovative ideas and research projects.



Links:-

<https://weather.com/en-IN/india/science/news/2021-12-08-iit-kanpur-scientist-bags-young-geospatial-scientist-award>

Delhi's Nizamuddin Basti conservation project wins two Unesco awards

Question: Delhi's Nizamuddin Basti conservation project wins two Unesco awards where located Headquarters of UNESCO ?

a) New Delhi b) Paris c) Geneva. d) Tokyo

Ans :b

Related Facts :

- Delhi's Nizamuddin Basti has received two awards at the Unesco Asia-Pacific Awards for Cultural Heritage Conservation this year (December 3 ,2021)
- Conservation efforts at Nizamuddin Basti are being undertaken by the Aga Khan Trust for Culture in partnership with the South Delhi Municipal Corporation.
- The conservation efforts include the restoration of over 20 historic monuments clustered around the 14th century mausoleum of Sufi saint Hazrat Nizamuddin Auliya
- **Highlight point:**
- The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) was born on 16 November 1945.



- UNESCO has 195 Members and 8 Associate Members and is governed by the General Conference and the Executive Board.
- The Organization has more than 50 field offices around the world and its headquarters are located in Paris.
- UNESCO's mission is to contribute to the building of a culture of peace, the eradication of poverty, sustainable development and intercultural dialogue through education, the sciences, culture, communication and information.

Links:

<https://www.hindustantimes.com/cities/delhi-news/delhis-nizamuddin-basti-conservation-project-wins-two-unesco-awards-101638471043659.html>

KU announced Rajib Goyal Prizes for young Scientist

Question : KU announced Rajib Goyal Prizes for young Scientist who is Governor of Hariyan?

a) Bandaru Dattatreya b) Kalraj Mishra c) Keshari nath tripathi d) None of these

Ans :a

Related fact:

- As per a statement issued by the university, four scientists, Dr Rajneesh Mishra of IIT Indore (applied sciences), Dr KM Sureshan of IISER Thiruvananthapuram (chemical sciences), Dr Rajeev Varshney of ICRISAT Hyderabad (life sciences), and Dr Suman Chakraborty of IIT Kharagpur (physical sciences), have been selected for the honour for outstanding work in their respective fields on December 2, 2021.
- These names were announced by Kurukshetra University vice-chancellor and chairman of the organising committee of the Rajib Goyal Prize, Prof Som Nath Sachdeva.
- These names were announced by Kurukshetra University vice-chancellor and chairman of the organising committee of the Rajib Goyal Prize, Prof Som Nath Sachdeva.
- Goyal Prize was instituted in 1992 by Ram S Goyal, an NRI settled in the US, and so far over 100 eminent scientists have been honoured by the prizes," said Prof Sanjiv Arora, convener of the organising committee.
- Highlighting the contributions of these young scientists aged below 45 years.
- The award ceremony will soon be organised at the Kurukshetra University.



Links:

<https://www.hindustantimes.com/cities/chandigarh-news/kurukshetra-university-to-award-rajab-goyal-prize-to-four-young-scientists-101638389838434.html>

Anju Bobby George wins World Athletics' Woman of Year Award

Question: Anju Bobby George wins World Athletics' Woman of Year Award. Who is president of world Athletics ?

a) Sebastian COE b) Hasan ARAT c) Geoff GARDNER d) None of these

Ans:a

Related Facts:

- In 2016, Anju opened a training academy for young girls, which has already helped to produce a world U20 medallist.
- Anju on Thursday December 2, 2021 tweeted saying she was 'truly humbled and honoured to be awarded Woman of the Year by World Athletics..
- The former international long jump star from India is still actively involved in the sport.
- In 2016, Anju opened a training academy for young girls.
- **High light points:**
- The governance and integrity reform of World Athletics was undertaken in 2016 to create an effective organization
- World Athletics (name since October 2019, formerly known as the International Amateur Athletic Federation (from 1912 to 2001) and International Association of Athletics Federations (from 2001 to 2019).
- The organisation's president is Sebastian Coe of the United Kingdom, who was elected in 2015 and re-elected unopposed in 2019 for a further four years.[1][2]



Links:

<https://indianexpress.com/article/sports/sport-others/anju-bobby-george-wins-world-athletics-woman-of-year-award-7651991/>

Rohan Bopanna honoured with Rajyaotsava award by Karnataka government

Question: Rohan Bopanna honoured with Rajyaotsava award by Karnataka government. Who is chief minister of Karnataka?

- a) Basavaraj Somappa Bommai. b) Muthuvel Karunanidhi Stalin. c) Pinarayi Vijayan.
d) Shri Pema Khandu

Ans:a

Related Facts:

- The Indian tennis star Rohan Bopanna was honoured with the Rajyaotsava award by the Karnataka state government on Tuesday NOVEMBER 30, 2021.
- Rohan Bopanna presented with Rajyotsava Award by Karnataka CM.
- Bopanna who started playing tennis at the age of 11, went on to achieve his highest doubles world rankings of No.3 in 2013.
- Currently ranked No.41, the 41-year-old has 19 career titles to his credit. He has also been a member of the Indian Davis Cup Team since 2002.
- He is only the fourth Indian to win a Grand Slam title after partnering Gabriela Dabrowski to claim the mixed doubles honours at the French Open in 2017.
- A runner-up finish at the US Open doubles event in 2010 is one of his career highs.



Links :

<https://www.aninews.in/news/sports/tennis/rohan-bopanna-presented-with-rajyotsava-award-by-karnataka-cm20211130224715/>

Chhattisgarh : Recipient of three national awards for doing excellent work for the divyang

Question : On which date did Chhattisgarh received three prestigious national awards from the Central government for remarkable work done for the welfare and empowerment of Divyangs ?

a. 3 December 2021 b. 2 December 2021 c. 1 December 2021 d. None of the above

Ans. a.

Related facts —

- On December 3rd Chhattisgarh received three prestigious national awards from the Central government for remarkable work done for the welfare and empowerment of Divyangs.
- The award was received by concerned minister of Chhattisgarh(Anila Bhediya) at a programme organised at Vigyan Bhawan in New Delhi on the occasion of International Day of Persons with Disabilities.
- Awards —



1. The Braille Press operated in Bilaspur by the Social Welfare Department bagged the award in the “Best Braille Press” category. The press has done remarkable work in online education in e-library besides preparing textbooks, literature and informative books in Braille.
2. The Nava Raipur Atal Nagar Development Authority received the award for outstanding work in creating a barrier-free environment (from roads to buildings and public places) in Nava Raipur Atal Nagar for Divyangs so that they can move around safely and freely.
3. The Nukkad Tea Cafe Ventures of Samta Colony in Raipur was conferred the national award in the “Best Employers and Placement Officers or Agencies” category.

Link:

<https://www.dailypioneer.com/2021/state-editions/c—garh-bags-3-awards-for-divyangs—empowerment.html>

Planning & Project

Free Smartphone Yojana

Question: Which state government will launch ‘Free Smartphone Yojana’?

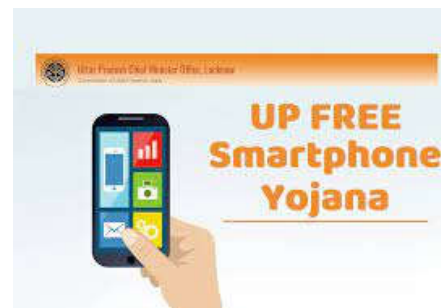
(a) Uttarakhand (b) Madhya Pradesh (c) Uttar Pradesh (d) Rajasthan

Answer: (c)

Related Facts:

- The Government of Uttar Pradesh will be launching an ambitious ‘Free Smartphone Yojana’.

- It will be launched on 25th December 2021 as it is the birth anniversary of Bharat Ratna and former Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee.
- In the first phase on December 25, 60,000 smartphones and 40,000 tablets will be distributed to the youth.
- On the occasion, CM Yogi will also launch “Digi Shakti Portal” and “Digi Shakti Adhyayan App”. “Digi Shakti Adhyayan App” is installed in all smartphones and tablets.
- Through the “Digi Shakti Adhyayan App”, the concerned university or department will provide study material to students.



Reference: <https://www.hindustantimes.com/cities/lucknow-news/up-govt-to-start-distribution-of-free-tablets-smartphones-today-101640371641503.html>

James Webb Space Telescope Mission

Question: Which of the following space agency is not the part of collaboration group associated with the launch of James Webb Telescope?

a) NASA b) ESA c) CSA d) ISRO

Answer: (d)

Related Facts:-

- On December 25, 2021; NASA has launched the James Webb Space Telescope Mission.
- It is a much-anticipated next-generation space telescope mission which will supersede the Hubble Space Telescope.
- The telescope was launched by the Arianespace Ariane 5 rocket.
- JWST has been in the works for decades, as NASA, the Canadian Space Agency (CSA), and the European Space Agency (ESA) collaborated on it.
- It was launched on Ariane mission VA256, which is the 256th mission of the Ariane spacecraft.
- James Webb Space Telescope (JWST) is NASA's flagship astrophysics mission.
- The Optical Telescope Element, or primary mirror, of the JWST, comprises 18 hexagonal mirror segments.
- These parts are made of Gold-plated beryllium.
- Scientists declared that JWST will provide clear view of some of the most distant events and objects in space.
- It will help us to watch and study the birth of the first galaxies and precise atmospheric parameters of possibly habitable exoplanets.



Links:-

<https://blogs.nasa.gov/webb/2021/12/22/nasa-partners-confirm-webb-launch-on-dec-25/>

Centre to launch scheme for upliftment of SC students

Quesdtion : Centre to launch scheme for upliftment of SC students. Who is chairman of Sc commission?

a) Vijay Sampla b) Rekha Sharma c) .B.S . Mavoji d) None of these

Ans:a

Related Facts:

- The Centre is set to launch the Residential Education for Students in High Schools in Targeted Areas (SRESHTA) scheme on Monday(December6 ,2021) for the upliftment and development of scheduled castes (SC) students.
- The announcement was made by Social Justice and Empowerment Minister Virendra Kumar .
- The scheme will focus on the socio-economics upliftment and overall development of the Scheduled Caste students by providing quality residential education to meritorious Scheduled Caste students in reputed private schools.
- This will enable bright SC students to have a better future by getting a high-quality education, aid in controlling dropout rates of SC students from class 9th to 12th.
- the continuous support to the existing institutions being run by the voluntary organizations for the target ground. In the next 5 years, the ministry has decided to extend support to 24800 meritorious SC students, involving Rs. 300 crores approx., for providing them with quality residential education from class 9 to 12 in reputed private residential schools in aspirational districts identified by the NITI Aayog.
- **History of sc commission:**
- The first National Commission for Scheduled Castes was constituted in 2004 with Suraj Bhan as the chairman.
- The National Commission for Scheduled Castes is an Indian constitutional body under the jurisdiction of Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment , Government of India
- Article 338 of the Indian constitution deals with National Commission for Scheduled Castes. Article 338 A deals with National Commission for Scheduled tribes.
- The first Commission for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes was set up in August 1978 with Bhola Paswan Shastri as Chairman and other four members



Links:

<https://www.hindustantimes.com/india-news/centre-to-launch-scheme-for-upliftment-of-sc-students-101638505908355.html>

Rajasthan government introduces 'Back To Work' scheme for women

Question: Rajasthan government introduces 'Back To Work' scheme for women.

Who is Governor of Rajasthan?

- a) Bandaru Dattatreya b) Shri Kalraj Mishra c) Acharya Devvrat
d) Shri Bhagat Singh Koshyari

Ans:b

Related Fact:

- Rajasthan government has introduced a 'Back To Work' scheme for women who have had to quit their jobs due to family reasons.

- Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot on Tuesday(December7,2021) approved the scheme through which regular or work-from-home job opportunities will be provided to such women with the help of the private sector.
- A target to provide 15,000 jobs in three years has been fixed.
- Those women who will not be able to do regular office job will be provided work-from-home job opportunities.

Links:

<https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/other-states/rajasthan-government-introduces-back-to-work-scheme-for-women/article37770190.ece>

Hydrogen Microgrid project

Question: Recently to which of the following state, State-owned NTPC Ltd has awarded State-owned NTPC Ltd has awarded?

a) Maharashtra b) Andhra Pradesh c) Himachal Pradesh d) Karnataka

Answer: (b)

Related Facts:-

- State-owned NTPC Ltd has awarded Andhra Pradesh India's first green hydrogen microgrid project.
- The project has been awarded to NTPC Ltd.'s Simhadri plant in Andhra Pradesh.
- At this plant the corporation will work on a project called Standalone Fuel-cell based Microgrid, with hydrogen production using electrolyzer.
- This will be India's first Green Hydrogen based Energy Storage Project and one of world's largest.
- The hydrogen would be produced using the advanced 240 kW Solid Oxide Electrolyser by taking input power from the nearby Floating Solar project.
- The hydrogen produced during sunshine hours would be stored at high pressure and would be electrified using a 50 kW Solid Oxide Fuel Cell.
- The system would work in a standalone mode from 5 PM to 7 AM.
- This unique project configuration is designed in-house by NTPC.
- This unique project for India would open doors for decarbonising the far-off regions of the country like Ladakh, Jammu & Kashmir (J&K) etc.
- The project is in-line with the vision of the Hon'ble Prime Minister for becoming carbon neutral by 2070 and making Ladakh a carbon-neutral territory.
- In addition, as part of its energy security strategy, India plans to invite bids for the construction of 4 gigawatts (GW) of electrolyzer capacity.
- This project will serve as a testbed for large-scale hydrogen energy storage systems.
- Multiple microgrids will also be studied and deployed in numerous off-grid and key places in India.
- Simhadri Super Thermal Power Plant, located in Simhadri, India, is a coal-fired power plant in the Andhra Pradesh city of Visakhapatnam.
- It's one of NTPC's coal-fired power plants. The coal for this power station comes from the Talcher Coal resources in Odisha's Kalinga Block.



Links:-

<https://www.ntpc.co.in/en/media/press-releases/details/ntpc-awards-india%E2%80%99s-first-green-hydrogen-microgrid-project>

Inauguration of multiple development projects in Goa

Question : On the occasion of Goa Liberation Day celebration, PM Modi inaugurated multiple development projects on December 19, 2021. Which of the following project is one of that ?

- a. Renovated Fort Aguada Jail Museum
- b. Super Speciality Block at Goa Medical College
- c. New South Goa District Hospital and Aviation Skill Development Center at Mopa Airport
- d. All of the above

Ans. d.

Related facts —

- On the occasion of Goa Liberation Day celebration, PM Modi inaugurated multiple development projects on December 19, 2021.
- **Goa Liberation day —**
- Goa Liberation day is celebrated to mark the victory of Indian armed forces to free Goa from 450 years of the Portuguese rule.
- On 19 December 1961, the Indian Army invaded with Operation Vijay. The operation took 36 hours and ended with the surrender of the Portuguese Governor General Vassalo da Silva and the annexation of Goa, and of Daman and Diu islands into the Indian union.
- Inauguration of multiple development projects in Goa —
- PM Modi inaugurated multiple development projects including the renovated Fort Aguada Jail Museum, Super Speciality Block at Goa Medical College, New South Goa District Hospital, Aviation Skill Development Center at Mopa Airport and the Gas insulated Substation at Dabolim-Navelim, Margao.
- He laid the foundation stone for India International University of Legal Education and Research of Bar Council of India Trust at Goa.
- He released 'My Stamp' depicting the Hutatma Smarak at Patradevi, which salutes the great sacrifices made by the martyrs of Goa Liberation Movement.
- He distributed awards to the best Panchayat/Municipality, Swayampurna Mitras and beneficiaries of Swayampurna Goa Programme.



Link:

<https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/india/pm-modi-inaugurates-multiple-development-projects-in-go/articleshow/88373071.cms>

Project on “INDEE+”

Question : Which of the following institute has recently(November 2021) been awarded a project “INDEE+”, aimed at spearheading the fuel transition in the seafood sector ?

- a. Central Institute of Fisheries Technology
- b. Indian Institute of Fisheries Technology
- c. Union Institute of Fisheries Technology
- d. None of the above

Ans. a.

Related facts —

- CIFT(Central Institute of Fisheries Technology) has recently(November 2021) been awarded a project named “INDEE+”.
- The project aimed at spearheading the fuel transition in the seafood sector.
- It is an umbrella project covering several dedicated schemes supporting the Indian refrigeration and air-conditioning sector in the transition towards cleaner and green technologies.
- This project is coordinated by Norwegian University of Science and Technology, and the Indian partners are CIFT Kochi; IIT Chennai; BITS Pilani; and IISc Bengaluru.
- **Significance —**
- This project intends to promote CO₂-based refrigeration and heating systems and replace the current refrigerants with natural, clean and safe refrigerants.



Link:

<https://www.thehindu.com/news/cities/Kochi/cift-awarded-green-refrigeration-project/article37814500.ece>

Mahila Mitra Plus : An exclusive feature-rich scheme for women

Question : Which Bank has recently(December 2021) launched an exclusive feature-rich scheme named ‘Mahila Mitra Plus’ for women ?

a. Federal Bank b. Karnataka Bank c. Catholic Syrian Bank d. SBI

Ans. a.

Related facts —

- Federal bank has recently (December 2021) launched an exclusive feature-rich scheme named ‘Mahila Mitra Plus’ for women.
- It provides a curated set of features, designed to make financial planning and investments easy for women.
- The features that include in it is exclusive preferential interest rates on housing loans, processing fee waiver for home loans, complimentary and customised insurance cover.
- Women are also encouraged to open savings accounts in the names of their minor children through the provision of two zero balance savings accounts.



Link:

<https://www.federalbank.co.in/mahilamitra-plus>

ONGC & SECI to Collaborate on Renewable Energy Projects

Question: SECI is related to which of the following type of energy

a) Coal b) Solar c) Nuclear d) None of these

Answer: (b)

Related Facts:-

- On 2 December 2021; ONGC and Solar Energy Corporation of India (SECI) has signed a MoU to realize its green energy objectives.
- The MoU was signed by ONGC CMD Subhash Kumar and SECI MD Suman Sharma on behalf of the two national energy companies in New Delhi.
- ONGC and SECI with this new agreement to collaborate and cooperate for undertaking renewable energy projects.
- These renewable energy projects will cover solar, wind, solar parks, EV value chain, green hydrogen, storage, etc.
- ONGC has a multipronged strategy to make its green energy portfolio richer and has plans to progressively move towards carbon neutrality.
- The company will achieve its goal by effective carbon management and adding Renewable Energy Capacity.
- Ms Suman Sharma MD, SECI expressed that company is happy to associate with ONGC in this path-breaking initiative.
- She said that present collaboration will open new avenues of sustainable development and promises to take India to new frontiers of technology and scale. We are dedicated towards fulfilling India's climate commitments and look forward to a continuing partnership.
- ONGC, India's leading oil & Gas Company, has been pursuing green energy agenda through various alternatives and renewable sources of energy.
- It has set a target of producing a minimum of 10 GW of renewable power by 2040 while continuing its focus on the core E&P business.
- ONGC is first non-American company to be a part of Global Methane Initiative (GMI).
- Through this program alone, ONGC could so far prevent approximately 20.48 MMSCM of methane gas leakages into the atmosphere.
- ONGC through its program with an environmental benefit of approximately 3 lac tons of CO2 Equivalent.
- ONGC Considers the strategic significance of CCUS technology towards transition to Net-Zero Emissions.
- Therefore it is partnering with IOC for setting up a CCUS project for Enhanced Oil Recovery (EOR) from depleted oil fields.
- The project will utilize CO2 captured from IOC's Koyali refinery for injecting in to the depleted reservoirs of Gandhar oil field in Gujarat.
- ONGC is also considering India's first 200-300 MW demonstration Wind offshore power project for which feasibility study is carried out jointly with NTPC Ltd.



Links:-

<https://pib.gov.in/PressReleaselframePage.aspx?PRID=1777519>

Kerala Tourism launches STREET project for experiential tourism

Question: Kerala Tourism launches STREET project for experiential tourism . who is minister of tourism ?

a) Shri G. Kishan Reddy b) Smt Smriti irani. c) Shri Anurag thakur. d) None of these.

Ans :a

Related Facts :

- Thiruvananthapuram Nov 27 PTI In a pioneering initiative to take tourism deep into the states interiors and rural hinterland Kerala Tourism will launch the STREET project in select spots in seven districts.
- In the first phase the project would be implemented in Kadalundi in Kozhikode Thrithala and Pattithara in Palakkad Pinarayi and Ancharakkandi in Kannur Maravanthuruthu and Manchira in Kottayam Valiyaparamba in Kasaragod Kanthalloor in Idukki and Chekadi in Wayanad .
- The project conceived by the Responsible Tourism Mission is inspired by the Tourism for Inclusive Growth slogan of The United Nations World Tourism Organization (UWTO).
- The STREET project would have a time-frame of four years for implementation Around 1000 local units connected to the sector would also be set up as part of the project Separate projects
- under the scheme for enterprises by women and other marginalized communities and in sectors like agri-tourism have also been envisaged it added PTI LGK ROH ROH..



Links:

<https://www.zee5.com/articles/kerala-tourism-launches-street-project-for-experiential-tourism>

WISER Program

Question: WISER program, a joint action of DST and IGSTC, is launched for which of the following group?

a) Workers b) Students c) Women d) None of these

Answer: (c)

Related Facts:-

- On 26, November 2021; Department of science & technology Government of India(DST) Indo-German Science & Technology Centre (IGSTC) launched the WISER program.
- WISER is the women's Involvement in Science & Engineering Research program for encourage women researchers in R&D projects.
- It is the first-of-its-kind program which has been launched to encourage women in research and development by lateral entry.
- WISER programme will allow gender equality and the assistance of women in Science & Technology through IGSTC's program.
- The WISER program was launched as a 2+2 program of the IGSTC in accession to the open-ended flagship, IGSTC's program.
- The program is a joint action of the Department of Science & Technology (DST), India, and Germany's Federal Ministry of Education & Research (BMBF).
- This program will help women scientists take regular or long-term research positions in academia or research institutes, or industry.
- Women can be involved in this program through side entry.
- There is no provision of break-in-career or any age limit, and it will enable easy assistance.



- IGSTC will support the awardees with a maximum amount of Rs. 39 Lakh from the Indian side and € 48000 from the German side.
- The WISER program will offer 20 awards per year.

Links:-

<https://dst.gov.in/first-its-kind-program-lateral-entry-women-researchers-joint-rd-projects-between-india-and-germany#:~:text=The%20programme%20called%20Women%E2%80%99s%20Involvement%20in%20Science%20and,for%20encouraging%20women%20researchers%20in%20joint%20R%26D%20projects.>

Treaty & Agreements

GAIL, Gujarat Alkalies sign MoU to set up bioethanol plant

Question: Consider the following statements:

(1) Gujarat Alkalies and Chemicals Limited (GACL) and Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC) has signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) for setting up a bioethanol plant in Gujarat

(2) This MoU was signed on the lines of the roadmap launched by Prime Minister of India Narendra Modi for 20% Ethanol Blending in Petrol by 2025

Which of the above is/are correct?

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

Answer: (b)

Related Facts:

- Gujarat Alkalies and Chemicals Limited (GACL) and GAIL (India) Limited has signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) for setting up a bioethanol plant with a production capacity of 500-kilo litre per day (KLD) in Gujarat.
- This MoU was signed on the lines of the roadmap launched by Prime Minister of India Narendra Modi for 20% Ethanol Blending in Petrol by 2025 in order to reduce the import of crude oil.
- The estimated project cost is to the tune of Rs 1,000 crore and it is expected to generate annual revenue of approximately Rs 1500 crore.
- An estimated savings of USD 70 million per year in foreign exchange outgo is expected through this project.
- The plant will be using corn/broken rice as feedstock with eco-friendly technology and it will produce 500 KLD bio ethanol, which will be used for blending in petrol.
- Gujarat Alkalies and Chemicals is engaged in the business of industrial chemical.
- It is one of the largest producers of caustic soda in India.
- GAIL (India) is an integrated energy company in the hydrocarbon sector and is engaged in gas marketing.
- The Government of India held 51.85% stake in the company as of 30 September 2021.



Reference: https://www.google.com/amp/s/wap.business-standard.com/article-amp/news-cm/gail-gujarat-alkalies-sign-mou-to-set-up-bioethanol-plant-121121800217_1.html

KUFOS to join ISRO- NASA Collaborative Research Programme

Question: In which of the following state KUFOS is located, a University related to fisheries and Ocean studies?

a) Kerala b) Karnataka c) Maharashtra d) Tamil Nadu

Answer: (a)

Related Facts:-



- KUFOS has been chosen to join a research project backed by the Space Application Centre of Indian Space Research Organisation ISRO.
- This research project is being undertaken in a programme under NASA-ISRO collaboration.
- KUFOS, or the Kerala University of Fisheries and Ocean Studies, has been selected as one of the nodal agencies in South India to implement the project,
- NASA and ISRO are jointly developing space-borne synthetic aperture radar (NISAR), to be launched in January 2023.
- NISAR will produce high resolution data for large areas with the capability for systematic observation of earth resources.
- It will provide time-series data for eco-systems applications benefiting several operational activities related to agriculture, forestry and others.
- Under this programme, ground truth data validation is planned prior to NISAR launch through collaboration with other research institutions.
- The Centre for Water Resources Development and Management (CWRDM) is also involved with this programme.
- KUFOS will establish long-term plots and its inventory in Shimoga (Karnataka) and Nilambur (Kerala).
- These are being established under the programme for validation of NISAR forest biomass products.
- The project will be headed by Girish Gopinath, Associate Professor of Remote Sensing and GIS at KUFOS and U. Surendran, senior scientist at CWRDM.

Links:-

<https://www.thehindu.com/news/cities/Kochi/kufos-chosen-as-partner-in-nasa-isro-research-programme/article38000379.ece>

MoU signed to promote Indian culture

Question : Prasara Bharati recently(December 2021) signed MoU with which of the following to promote Indian Culture ?

a. Indian Council for Cultural Relations b. Indian Council for Cultural Adaptions
c. Committee for Cultural Relations d. None of the above

Ans. a.

Related facts —

- Prasara Bharati recently(December 2021) signed MoU with ICCR to promote Indian Culture.
- **Aim —**
- It aims to bring forth the best of Indian Culture to the National and International audiences and provide TV and Digital platforms to the performing artists.



- **Significance —**
- Under this move the performances of the eminent artists associated with the ICCR(Indian Council for Cultural Relations) will be telecast on the national and International Channels of Doordarshan.
- The dance and music performances will be showcased on DD National, DD India, regional channels of Doordarshan and Prasar Bharati News Services (Digital Platform of Prasar Bharati) in the form of a weekly programme.
- In collaboration with ICCR, Doordarshan will produce 52 half an hour episodes, based on cultural events/concerts/performances of music/dance organized by ICCR.

Link:

<https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1783407>

Agreement between Tata Power – IIT Madras

Question – In December 2021, Tata Power has tied up with IIT Madras for research and development, consultancy, training and technical solutions. In the last few years, Tata Power has partnered with how many institutions to develop low-cost solutions in the field of clean energy?

(a) less than 50 (b) less than 65 (c) less than 75 (d) more than 100

Answer—(d)

Related facts—

- In December 2021, Tata Power has tied up with IIT Madras for research and development, consultancy, training and technical solutions.
- In the last few years, Tata Power has partnered with more than 100 institutions.
- As a part of the MoU, Tata Power and IIT Madras will aim to pursue advanced research in areas of future technology. The agreement also includes campus recruitment opportunities to postgraduate students of IIT Madras.
- IIT Madras is glad to partner with Tata Power to pursue research in topics of mutual interest and national importance and provide opportunities for employees to acquire advanced knowledge in emerging areas.



Link:

<https://www.thehindubusinessline.com/news/education/tata-power-and-iit-madras-ink-mou-to-work-on-rd-projects-tech-solutions/article37867655.ece>

Agreement between Adani Green & SECI

Question : Adani Green Energy has recently(December 2021) signed an agreement with the SECI to supply how much of green power ?

a. 4,667 MW b. 3,667 MW c. 5,667 MW d. 6,667 MW

Ans. a.

Related facts —

- Adani Green Energy recently(December 2021) signed an agreement with the SECI(Solar Energy Corporation of India) to supply 4,667 MW of green power.

- This is the world's largest ever green power purchase agreement.
- The AGEL-SECI agreement to supply 4,667 MW is part of a manufacturing-linked solar tender of 8,000 MW awarded to AGEL by SECI in June 2020, which set a record for being the world's largest solar development tender ever awarded.
- So far, AGEL has signed PPAs with SECI for a total generation capacity of close to 6000 MW of the 8,000 MW awarded in last year.



Link:

https://www.business-standard.com/article/companies/adani-green-inks-agreement-with-seci-to-supply-4-667-mw-green-power-121121400487_1.html

JV for chemical production partnership

Question : Reliance and TA'ZIZ has recently(December 2021) formed a joint venture for \$2 billion chemical projects in Ruwais. TA'ZIZ is the chemical derivatives company of which country ?

a. Kuwait b. Qatar c. UAE d. Saudi Arabia

Ans. c.

Related facts —

- Reliance Industries on December 7 announced the launch of a strategic joint venture(JV) with Abu Dhabi Chemicals Derivatives Company RSC Ltd(TA'ZIZ) for chemical projects worth \$2 billion in Ruwais.
- Ruwais is a city located some 240 km(150 mi) west of Abu Dhabi City, in the Western Region of the Emirate of Abu Dhabi.
- The JV will construct and operate a Chlor-Alkali, Ethylene Dichloride (EDC) and Polyvinyl Chloride (PVC) production facility, with an investment of more than \$2 billion.
- It boosts the long-standing strategic partnership between the state-owned Abu Dhabi National Oil Company (ADNOC) and RIL in the MENA region.
- Here MENA stands for — the Middle East and North Africa.



Link:

<https://www.moneycontrol.com/news/business/reliance-abu-dhabi-based-taziz-launch-joint-venture-for-2-billion-chemical-projects-in-ruwais-7800981.html>

ISRO signed an MoU to strengthen NavIC messaging Service

Question: Recently with which of the following smartphone maker ISRO signed a MoU to strengthen NavIC messaging service?

a) OPPO b) Lenovo c) Xiaomi d) None of these

Answer: (a)

Related Facts:-

- On 10 December 2021; ISRO signed an MoU with smartphone maker OPPO to strengthen NavIC messaging service.

- It will done through the research as well as development of the domestic satellite navigation system in collaboration with OPPO.
- This MoU will pave the way in future for India to develop indigenous solutions by incorporating the NavIC short messaging feature in the smartphones released by OPPO.
- NavIC system provides regional navigation services covering the Indian mainland and an area up to 1500 km beyond the Indian mainland.
- In addition to its primary function of providing PNT services, NavIC is also capable of broadcasting short messages.
- ISRO Chairman Dr K. Sivan on this occasion said that this messaging service is mainly used for broadcasting safety-of-life alerts in areas with poor or no communication, particularly in the oceans.



Links:-

https://www.business-standard.com/article/current-affairs/isro-signs-deal-with-oppo-for-development-of-navic-messaging-service-121121000388_1.html

Air Bubble Agreement

Question: India and which of the following country have recently signed an Air Bubble Agreement under which all eligible passengers will be allowed to travel between both the countries?

a) Japan b) Indonesia c) Australia d) France

Answer: (c)

Related Facts:-

- India and Australia signed an air bubble agreement, under which all eligible passengers will be allowed to travel between both the countries.
- A bilateral air bubble is a mechanism, under which countries resume flights with preconditions during Covid-19 pandemic.
- India currently has bilateral air bubble agreements with 33 countries.
- It should be known that recently India has suspended all the scheduled international flight operations till January 31, 2022.
- Noticeable that under the air bubble agreement, dedicated cargo flights with select countries continue to operate.
- Australian airline Qantas has started flights between Sydney and New Delhi, recently.
- It is also set to start flights between New Delhi and Melbourne before Christmas.
- Air India also operated direct commercial flights to connect New Delhi with Melbourne and Sydney before the Indian government suspended scheduled international flights.
- Air India flights between India and Australia will resume in coming days, said a senior official with the airline.
- It should be noted that India had suspended international flight operations from March 23, 2020 in the aftermath of Covid-19 pandemic.



Links:-

<https://www.livemint.com/news/india/india-signs-air-bubble-pact-with-australia-11639331806980.html>

Acquisition by HCL in Germany

Question : HCL has recently(December 2021) acquired banking firm in _.

a. Germany b. France c. Canada d. USA

Ans. a.

Related facts —

- India's third largest software services firm, HCL and Deutsche Apotheker- und Ärztebank eG (apoBank), the largest cooperative primary bank in Germany, has recently(December 2021) signed with Atruvia AG an agreement to acquire IT consulting company Gesellschaft für Banksysteme GmbH (gbs).
- The deal is expected to close in Jan. 2022.
- Post-closing, HCL will own 51%, while apoBank will own 49% stake of gbs.
- apoBank is currently a 10% shareholder and is increasing its stake in gbs from 10% to 49%.
- **Significance —**
- The acquisition will add an edge to HCL's existing capabilities to accelerate digital transformation and further enhance HCL's scale in Germany.

**Link:**

<https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/tech/technology/hcl-acquires-banking-firm-in-germany/articleshow/88170897.cms>

2021 India-ITU joint CyberDrill for Indian entities

Question: 2021 India-ITU joint CyberDrill for Indian entities. Who is chief of international telecommunication union ?

a) Houllion Zhao b) K Rajaraman c) Shri R.N jha. d) None of these.

Ans:a

Related Facts :

- The department with the support from ITU will be jointly organising a Cyber drill from November 28 to December 3 across government departments.
- This 2021 India-ITU joint CyberDrill for Indian entities will emphasize the role of national Computer Incident and Response Teams (CIRTs) and Computer Security Incident Response Teams (CSIRTs) in building cyber resilience and protecting critical information infrastructure.
- While ITU CyberDrills are generally held face to face, the first edition of the India-ITU Joint CyberDrill for Indian Entities will be held remotely and aims to bring together the cybersecurity community.



- especially India's CNIs (Critical National Infrastructures), operators in order to meet the challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic.
- **Highlight Points:**
- The International Telecommunication Union (ITU) is the United Nations specialized agency for information and communication technologies.
- Founded in 1865 to facilitate international connectivity in communications networks, we allocate global radio spectrum and satellite orbits, develop the technical standards that ensure networks and technologies seamlessly interconnect, and strive to improve access to ICTs to underserved communities worldwide.
- ITU is committed to connecting all the world's people – wherever they live and whatever their means. Through our work, we protect and support everyone's right to communicate.

Links:

<https://telecom.economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/dot-itu-team-up-to-organise-cybersecurity-drill/87867979>

Law & Justice

Andhra Pradesh Motor Vehicles Taxation (Amendment) Bill, 2021

Question – On 24 November 2021, the 'Andhra Pradesh Motor Vehicle Taxation (Amendment) Bill, 2021' was passed in the Andhra Pradesh Legislative Assembly. According to this bill, how much green tax will have to be paid every year on transport vehicles that are 7-10 years old from the date of registration?

(a) Rs 2000 (b) Rs 2500 (c) Rs 4000 (d) Rs 5000

Answer—(c)

Related facts —

- The “Andhra Pradesh Motor Vehicle Taxation (Amendment) Bill, 2021” was passed in the Andhra Pradesh Legislative Assembly on 24 November 2021.
- **Key points of the bill —**
- It aims to discourage people from using vehicles that harm the environment and motivate them to pay attention to newer and less polluting vehicles.
- Green tax of Rs 4000 per annum will be payable on transport vehicles that are 7-10 years old from the date of registration.
- If the vehicle is 10 to 12 years old, then this amount will be Rs 5000 per annum.
- Vehicles older than 12 years from the date of registration will have to pay green tax of Rs 6000 per annum.
- Tax on new vehicles costing less than Rs 5 lakh will increase by 1 percent.
- The tax on vehicles costing between Rs 10 lakh to Rs 20 lakh will increase by 3 per cent.
- There will be an 18 percent increase in tax on luxury vehicles costing more than Rs 20 lakh.



Link:

<https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/andhra-pradesh/green-tax-on-all-vehicles-more-tax-on-new-vehicles/article37674385.ece>

Law allowing Same-sex Couples Marriage

Question: Which of the following country has recently decreed a law allowing same-sex couples to marry and adopt?

a) Chile b) Argentina c) Bolivia d) Peru

Answer: (a)

Related Facts:-

- On December 9 2021; Chile has decreed a law allowing same-sex couples to marry and adopt.
- President Sebastian Pinera in a ceremony attended by activists for LGBT and broader human rights signed this odd Chilean law.
- The new law will permit all children with a father and a mother, two fathers, or two mothers to have the same rights and protection.
- This move will aid hundreds of children and adolescents who have been unable to obtain legal protection from both parents.
- In 1999 Chile depenalized sex between consenting adults of the same sex and outlawed arbitrary discrimination in 2012.
- In 2015, Leftist Chilean President Michelle Bachelet, signed a law that permitted gay civil unions.
- In 2017, introduced the bill to allow same-sex marriages and now It has finally been passed both houses of Congress on 07 December 2021.
- It should be noted that similar laws have been adopted in several Latin American nations in recent years.



Links:-

<https://indianexpress.com/article/world/chile-president-signs-law-allowing-same-sex-marriage-7665246/>

The High Court and Supreme Court Judges (Salaries and Conditions of Service) Amendment Bill, 2021 introduced by Law Minister Kiren Rijiju

Question: Recently, the High Court and Supreme Court Judges (Salaries and Conditions of Service) Amendment Bill, 2021 was introduced in Lok Sabha by the Law Minister Kiren Rijiju. This bill seeks to amend which of the following Acts?

- (a) High Court Judges (Salaries and Conditions of Service) Act, 1954, and the Supreme Court Judges (Salaries and Conditions of Service) Act, 1958
- (b) High Court Judges (Salaries and Conditions of Service) Act, 1958, and the Supreme Court Judges (Salaries and Conditions of Service) Act, 1954
- (c) High Court Judges (Salaries and Conditions of Service) Act, 1954, and the Supreme Court Judges (Salaries and Conditions of Service) Act, 1954
- (d) High Court Judges (Salaries and Conditions of Service) Act, 1958, and the Supreme Court Judges (Salaries and Conditions of Service) Act, 1958

Answer: (a)

Related Facts:

- Recently, the High Court and Supreme Court Judges (Salaries and Conditions of Service) Amendment Bill, 2021 was introduced in Lok Sabha. This Bill seeks to amend the High Court Judges (Salaries and Conditions of Service) Act, 1954, and the Supreme Court Judges (Salaries and Conditions of Service) Act, 1958.
- This bill seeks to bring clarity whether the SC and HC judges are entitled to get additional pension on attaining a certain age.
- Currently, every retired judge or his family (after his death) is entitled to get an additional quantum of pension. This is generally referred as family pension.
- According to the bill, in 2009 the two laws were amended to provide that every retired judge or after his death, the family, as the case may be, will be entitled to an additional quantum of pension or family pension.
- Currently, the retired High Court and Supreme Court judges are provided with additional quantum of pension on completing 80 years or 85 years or 90 years or 95 years or 100 years which ever the case may be.

Reference: <https://m.economictimes.com/news/india/bill-seeking-to-clarify-when-sc-hc-judges-will-get-additional-pension-introduced-in-ls/articleshow/88009383.cms>

Year, Day & Week

Good Governance Week : 20-25 December, 2021

Question: The Centre is all set to launch a nationwide ‘Good Governance Week’ from December 20 to December 25, 2021. What is the title of the nationwide campaign to be launched during this week?

- (a) Governance for the people (b) Prashasan Gaon Ki Aur
(c) Samridh shahar (d) Kushal Gaon

Answer: (b)

Related Facts:

- The Centre is all set to launch a nationwide ‘Good Governance Week’ from December 20 to December 26.
- The theme of Good Governance Week is “Prashasan Gaon Ki Aur”- a Nation-wide campaign for Redressal of Public Grievances and Improving Service Delivery will be held in all Districts, States, and Union Territories of India.
- Over 700 Districts Collectors will be participating in “Prashasan Gaon Ki Aur” and during the weeklong event will visit Tehsil/Panchayat Samiti Headquarters to provide timely grievance redressal and improve service delivery.
- Guidelines have been issued by DARPG and the State Governments on the activities that will be taken by the District Collectors at Tehsil/Panchayat Samiti Offices.
- DARPG in collaboration with the Department of Personnel and Training (DoPT), Department of Pension & Pensioners’ Welfare, Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade, Ministry of External Affairs, and Ministry of Panchayati Raj and Rural Development will be convening the events throughout the week.
- The campaign will be inaugurated by Union minister of state for personnel Jitendra Singh.



- December 25 is celebrated as 'Good Governance Day' to mark the birth anniversary of former Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee.

Reference: <https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1783208>

National Mathematics Day 2021

Question: Consider the following statements:

- (1) Every year, December 22 is celebrated as National Mathematics Day in India
- (2) This day is celebrated in honour of mathematical genius Srinivasa Ramanujan
- (3) The celebrations were announced by the then Prime Minister Manmohan Singh at Madras University in 2012

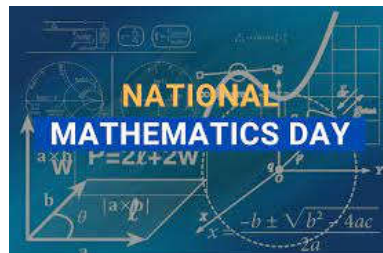
Which of the above is/are correct?

- (a) Only 1 (b) 1 and 2 (c) 1 and 3 (d) 1, 2 and 3

Answer: (d)

Related Facts:

- Every year, December 22 is celebrated as National Mathematics Day in India.
- This day is celebrated in honour of mathematical genius Srinivasa Ramanujan (1887-1920).
- The celebrations were announced by the then Prime Minister Manmohan Singh at Madras University in 2012.
- He had also declared that that the year would be celebrated as National Mathematics Year.
- Srinivasa Ramanujan was born on December 22, 1887 at Erode, Tamil Nadu.
- In 1916, Ramanujan received a Bachelor of Science (BSc) degree.
- He was elected to the London Mathematical Society in 1917.
- The Ramanujan Prize for Young Mathematicians 2020 was awarded to Dr. Carolina Araujo, Mathematician from the Institute for Pure and Applied Mathematics (IMPA), Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, in a virtual ceremony on 9th December 2020.
- Professor Neena Gupta, a mathematician at the Indian Statistical Institute in Kolkata, was recently declared the winner of the Ramanujan Prize for Young Mathematicians for this year (2021).



Reference: <https://www.moneycontrol.com/news/trends/current-affairs-trends/national-mathematics-day-2021-why-do-we-celebrate-srinivasa-ramanujans-birth-anniversary-7852721.html>

International Day of Epidemic Preparedness 2021

Question: On Which of the following date International Day of Epidemic Preparedness is observed?

- (a) 23 December (b) 25 December (c) 27 December (d) 29 December

Answer: (c)

Related Facts:

- The United Nations and World Health Organization marked December 27 as the International day for Epidemic Preparedness.



- The day aims to prepare people for future outbreaks and sensitise them about epidemics on all levels.
- The day was first observed last December when the United Nations General Assembly had emphasised on the need to advocate the importance of the preparedness for, prevention of and partnership against epidemics.

Reference: <https://www.google.com/amp/s/www.news18.com/amp/news/lifestyle/international-day-of-epidemic-preparedness-2021-history-significance-and-all-you-need-to-know-4589360.html>

Good Governance Day

Question: Consider the following statements:

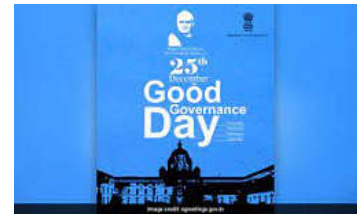
- (1) Good governance day is celebrated annually on 25th December
- (2) Good governance Day is celebrated to mark the birth anniversary of the former Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee

Which of the above is/are correct?

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

Answer: (c)

Related Facts:



- Good governance day is celebrated annually on 25th December to mark the birth anniversary of the former Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee.
- The aim is to create awareness of accountability in government among the citizens of India.
- The theme for this year is 'Prashasan Gaon Ki Aur', and the day will be observed as a part of the Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav.
- On December 23, 2014, Atal Bihari Vajpayee was conferred with the highest civilian award, Bharat Ratna.
- Following the announcement, the Modi government announced that the birth anniversary of the former Prime Minister would be treated as Good Governance Day.
- Since then the day is celebrated throughout the country every year on December 25.
- According to the United Nations, there are eight characteristics which indicate a good governance of a country.
- Good governance should be participatory, accountable, responsive, efficient, inclusive, equitable, consensus oriented and must follow the rule of law.
- Good governance is also expected to minimize corruption and take the voices of vulnerable communities and minorities into account.

Reference: <https://www.news18.com/news/lifestyle/good-governance-day-2021-here-is-how-late-atal-bihari-vajpayees-birthday-is-celebrated-on-december-25-4588442.html>

National Minorities Rights Day : 18 December

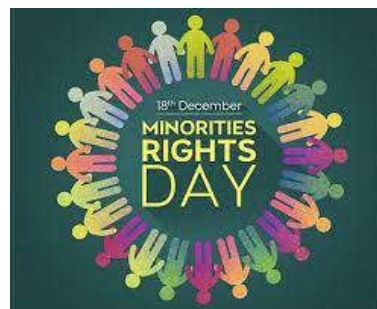
Question: National Minorities Rights Day is celebrated on which date?

- (a) 15 December (b) 18 December (c) 25 December (d) 27 December

Answer: (b)

Related Facts:

- Every year, December 18 is observed as the Minorities Rights Day.
- It is observed to uphold the right to freedom and equal opportunities for the ethnic minorities in India and create awareness about the respect and dignity of the minorities.
- The Minority Rights Day 2021 aims to uplift all the minority sections of society and back them to voice their opinion. Considering the COVID-19 pandemic, all the sessions, seminars, and debates are likely to take place digitally.
- On this day, the country focuses on the challenges and issues faced by the minority communities of different ethnic origins.
- December 18 was declared as the Minorities Rights Day back in 1992 by the United Nations.
- In India, it is the responsibility of the National Commission for Minorities (NCM) to carry out the events on this day.
- The NCM was established by the Union Government under the National Commission for Minorities Act, in 1992.



Reference: <https://www.news18.com/news/lifestyle/minorities-rights-day-2021-history-significance-and-theme-4566623.html>

National Consumer Day : 24th December

Question: Consider the following statements:

(1) National Consumer Day is celebrated on 24th December

(2) World Consumer Day is celebrated on 15th March

Which of the above is/are correct?

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

Answer: (c)

Related Facts:

- National Consumer day is celebrated on 24th December every year, the formation of this day was held in 1986 under Consumer Protection Act.
- World Consumer Day (Which is celebrated on 15th March) and National Consumer Day (Which is celebrated on 24th December). Both days have similar motives but they arrive on different dates.
- This day was made to protect consumer's rights and to make people aware about it.
- This step is one of those steps which the government took to control the market exploitations.
- It becomes important to celebrate National Consumer Day because the relationship between buyer and seller involves money and money is the most useful thing as well as the biggest threat to humanity.



Reference: <https://www.hindustantimes.com/brand-post/everything-you-need-to-know-about-national-consumer-day-101623326508971.html>

National Farmer's Day

Question: On which of the following date National Farmer's day is celebrated ?

(a) 23 December (b) 25 December (c) 27 December (d) 29 December

Answer: (a)

Related Facts:

- Farmer's Day is celebrated every year on 23 December 23rd, on the birthday of the 5th Prime Minister of India, Choudhary Charan Singh.
- He was also a farmer's leader, who introduced many policies to improve the lives of the Indian farmers.
- The National Farmers Day in India is also known as Kisan Divas in Hindi.
- It is celebrated by organising various programs, debates, seminars, quiz competitions, discussions, workshops, exhibitions, essays writing competitions and functions.
- Chaudhary Charan Singh, who briefly served as prime minister between 1979 and 1980, is widely regarded as one of the country's most famous peasant leaders.
- He was known for his pioneering work to promote the welfare of farmers and the agricultural sector.



Reference: <https://www.thereisadayforthat.com/holidays/india/national-farmers-day>

International Migrants Day

Question: International Migrant Day is celebrated on which day every year?

a) 10 December b) 11 November c) 18 December d) None of the above

Answer: c)

Related facts —

- International Migrants Day is celebrated every year on December 18.
- It is celebrated every year by United Nations and several other international organizations.
- This year, the International Migrants Day is celebrated under the theme HARNESSING THE POTENTIAL OF HUMAN MOBILITY.
- **Background —**
- The resolution to celebrate International Migrants Day was adopted by United Nations General Assembly on 18 December, 1990 during the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of their families.



Link:

<https://www.un.org/en/observances/migrants-day>

International Human Solidarity Day

Question: When is the International Human Solidarity Day celebrated?

(a) 20 December (b) 22 December (c) 24 December (d) 28 December

Answer: (a)

Related facts:

- International Human Solidarity Day is observed on December 20 every year.
- The Day aims to raise public awareness of the importance of solidarity. It encourages debate on the ways to promote solidarity for the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) including poverty eradication.
- On 22 December 2005, the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) identified solidarity as one of the fundamental and universal values and designated 20 December of each year as International Human Solidarity Day.
- On 20 December 2002, the UNGA established the World Solidarity Fund. It was set up in February 2003 as a trust fund of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP).
- The fund aimed to eradicate poverty and promote human and social development in developing countries.
- **Theme —**
- The theme is centered around promoting cultural equality, social justice that is directed towards human and social development (specifically in developing countries). The theme remains the same every year.



Link:

<https://www.un.org/en/observances/human-solidarity-day>

Sardar Patel death anniversary

Question: Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel's death anniversary is observed on which of the following date?

(a) 15 December (b) 25 December (c) 17 December (d) 27 December

Answer: (a)

Related Facts:

- Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel Death Anniversary is observed on 15 December.
- Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel is also known as Sardar Patel and the 'Iron Man of India'.
- He was the first deputy Prime Minister of India.
- He served as the first deputy Prime Minister of India from 1947 to 1950.
- The government of India declared his birthday October 30th as Rashtriya Ekta Diwas (National Unity Day).
- The Statue of Unity, the world's tallest statue, was dedicated to him on 31 October 2018 and is approximately 182 metres (597 ft) in height.



Reference: <https://indianexpress.com/photos/india-news/sardar-patel-death-anniversary-iron-man-india-deputy-pm-independent-india-7673827/>

National Energy Conservation Day 2021

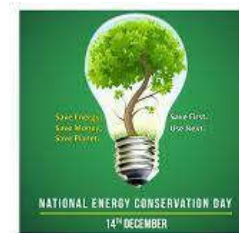
Question: On which of the following National Energy Conservation Day 2021 is observed?

(a) 14 December (b) 18 December (c) 22 December (d) 27 December

Answer: (a)

Related Facts:

- National Energy Conservation Day is observed on December 14, every year.
- The day focuses on making people aware of global warming and climate change and promotes efforts towards saving energy resources.
- The Energy Conservation Act was implemented by the Energy Efficiency Bureau (BEE) in 2001.
- BEE is a constitutional body that works under the Government of India and helps in the development of policies and strategies to reduce the use of energy.



**National
Energy
Conservation
Day 2021**

BY: AMIT GUPTA

Related Facts: <https://www.indiatoday.in/information/story/national-energy-conservation-day-2021-date-history-and-importance-1887495-2021-12-14>

International Universal Health Coverage Day

Question: International Universal Health Coverage Day is observed on?

(a) 12th December (b) 10th December (c) 4th December (d) 24th December

Answer: (a)

Related facts:

- International Universal Health Coverage Day is observed globally on 12th December every year since it was officially declared by the UN General Assembly in year 2017.
- This day is celebrated to raise awareness of the need for strong and resilient health systems and universal health coverage.
- This year's theme for International Universal Health Coverage Day 2021 is 'Leave No One Behind When It Comes to Health: Invest in Health Systems for All.'



Link:

<https://www.un.org/en/observances/universal-health-coverage-day>

Goa Liberation Day : 19 December

Question: Consider the following statements:

- (1) Every year, the Goa Liberation day is celebrated on December 19 in India.
(2) The day is celebrated to mark the victory of Indian armed forces to free Goa from the Portuguese rule.

Which of the following is/are correct?

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

Answer: (c)

Related Facts:

- Every year, the Goa Liberation day is celebrated on December 19 in India.
- The day is celebrated to mark the victory of Indian armed forces to free Goa from 450 years of the Portuguese rule.
- On 19 December 1961, the Indian Army invaded with Operation Vijay. The operation took 36 hours and ended with the surrender of the Portuguese Governor General Vassalo da Silva and the annexation of Goa, and of Daman and Diu islands into the Indian union.
- Goa, along with Daman and Diu, was organised as a centrally administered union territory of India.
- On 30 May 1987, the union territory was split, and Goa became India's twenty-fifth state, with Daman and Diu remaining a union territory.



Reference: <https://www.officeholidays.com/holidays/india/goa/india-go-a-liberation-day>

International Volunteer Day

Question: International Volunteer Day is observed on-

- (a) 5th December (b) 4th December (c) 1st December (d) 3rd December

Answer: (a)

Related facts:

- International Volunteer Day (IVD) is observed globally on 5th December every year.
- This day seeks to promote volunteerism, recognize volunteer's work among their communities, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), United Nations agencies, government authorities and the private sector.
- 2021 Theme: Volunteer now for our common future.
- The International Volunteer Day for Economic and Social Development was adopted by the United Nations General Assembly through Resolution 17th December, 1985.



Link:

<https://www.un.org/en/observances/volunteer-day>

International Anti Corruption Day

Question- When is 'International Anti Corruption Day' celebrated ?

(a) December 12 (b) December 9 (c) December 4 (d) December 8

Answer: (b)

Related facts:

- On December 9th, 2021, International Anti-Corruption Day was celebrated across the world.
- A six-week campaign starting at the beginning of November aims to highlight the role of key stakeholders and individuals in preventing and countering corruption in line with the theme, "Your right, your role: say no to corruption".
- It is to be noted that on October 31st, 2003, the UN General Assembly had announced to celebrate this day on 9th December every year.
- It is aimed at spreading awareness about corruption and its eradication worldwide.



Link:

<https://www.un.org/en/observances/anti-corruption-day>

Indian Navy Day

Question: When is the Indian Navy Day observed?

(a) 4 December (b) 2 December (c) 30 November (d) 5 December

Answer:(a)

Related facts:

- Every year Indian Navy Day is celebrated on December 4.
- The day traces back to the launch of Operation Trident by Indian Navy on 4 December 1971 during the Indo-Pakistan 1971 War.
- On that day Indian Navy sank four Pakistani vessels in its offensive mission that caused Pakistan a loss of over 500 navy personnel.
- Meanwhile, Indian navy suffered no loss.
- The theme of 2021 Indian Navy Day is 'Swarnim Vijay Varsh' signifying 50 years of India's victory in the Indo-Pakistan war that took place in 1971.



Link:

<https://www.indiatoday.in/information/story/indian-navy-day-2021-date-theme-history-significance-and-all-you-need-to-know-1884057-2021-12-04#:~:text=Indian%20Navy%20Day%202021%3A%20Theme&text=The%20theme%20of%202021%20Indian,Ready%2C%20Credible%20%26%20Cohesive%22>

World Soil Day : 5 December

Question: On Which of the following date World Soil day is observed?

(a) 5 September (b) 5 December (c) 5 January (d) 25 January

Answer: (b)

Related Facts:

- World Soil Day (WSD) is held annually on 5 December as a means to focus attention on the importance of healthy soil and to advocate for the sustainable management of soil resources.
- “Halt soil salinization, enhance soil production” is the theme for World Soil Day 2021.



Reference: <https://www.un.org/en/observances/world-soil-day>

Human Rights Day : 10 December

Question: On which of the following date Human Rights Day is observed?

(a) 1 December (b) 10 December (c) 13 October (d) 23 September

Answer: (b)

Related Facts:

- Human Rights Day is celebrated annually across the world on 10 December every year.
- The date was chosen to honor the United Nations General Assembly’s adoption and proclamation, on 10 December 1948, of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR), the first global enunciation of human rights and one of the first major achievements of the new United Nations.
- Human Rights Logo, unveiled in New York on 23 September 2011.



Reference: <https://www.ohchr.org/en/aboutus/pages/humanrightsday.aspx>

International Day of Persons with Disabilities

Question: When is the International Day of Persons with Disabilities observed ?

(a) 3 December (b) 2 December (c) 5 December (d) 10 December

Answer: (a)

Related facts:

- Every year the International Day of Persons with Disabilities is observed on December 3.
- The day promotes the rights and well-being of persons with disabilities in all spheres of society.
- Its annual observance was proclaimed by United Nations General Assembly in 1992.



Link:

<https://www.un.org/en/observances/day-of-persons-with-disabilities>

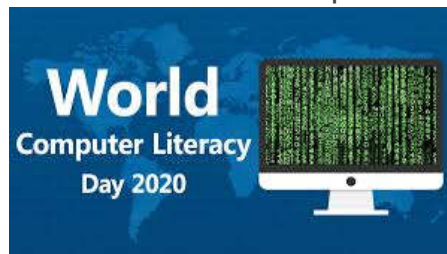
World Computer Literacy Day

Question – When is ‘World Computer Literacy Day’ celebrated ?

(a) 1st December (b) 23 November (c) November 25 (d) 2nd December

Answer—(d)
Related facts —

- World Computer Literacy Day was celebrated all over the world on 2 December 2021.
- **Objective** – To make more and more people proficient in the use of computers by spreading computer education.
- Along with this, this day is also celebrated especially to promote technical skills in children and women.
- The day was started by NIIT (Indian Computer Company) in the year 2001 to mark the 20th anniversary of its establishment.



Link:

<https://www.firstpost.com/world/world-computer-literacy-day-2021-history-theme-and-tips-to-enhance-you-digital-skills-10179851.html>

National Pollution Control Day

Question – When is ‘National Pollution Control Day’ celebrated?

(a) 26 November (b) 1st December (c) 2 December (d) 5th December

Answer—(c)

Related facts—

- On 2 December 2021, ‘National Pollution Control Day’ was celebrated across the country.
- This day is celebrated in the memory of the people who lost their lives in the Bhopal Gas Tragedy.
- It is noteworthy that the incident of Bhopal gas tragedy took place on the midnight of 2-3 December in the year 1984.
- Many people died in it due to a poisonous gas called methyl Isocyanate(MIC).
- The Bhopal Gas Tragedy is considered one of the biggest industrial pollution disasters.



Link:

<https://www.indiatoday.in/information/story/national-pollution-control-day-2021-date-significance-and-all-you-need-to-know-1883263-2021-12-02>

International Day for the Abolition of Slavery

Question – When is the ‘International Day for Abolition of Slavery’ observed ?

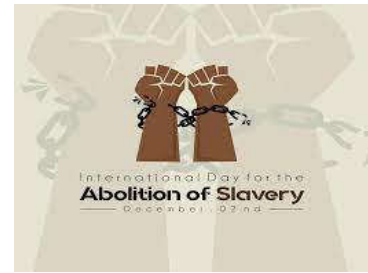
(a) 2nd December (b) December 3 (c) 1st December (d) 30 November

Answer—(a)

Related facts—

- International Day for the Abolition of Slavery observed globally on 2 December 2021.

- **Objective** — To eradicate contemporary forms of slavery such as human trafficking, sexual exploitation, forced marriage, use of slaves in armed conflict etc.
- It is noteworthy that on 2 December, the United Nations General Assembly adopted the United Nations Convention to End Human Trafficking and Exploitation of Prostitution.
- According to the ILO, 40 million people are in modern slavery.
- In which 24.9 million people are involved in forced labor and 15.4 million people in forced marriage.
- Of the 40 million people currently living in slavery, one out of four are children and three out of four are women and girls.



Link:

<https://www.un.org/en/observances/slavery-abolition-day>

Books

“India’s Ancient Legacy of Wellness” : Dr Rekha Chaudhari

Question: A book titled “India’s Ancient Legacy of Wellness” is written by whom?

(a) Rekha Chaudhari (b) Rekha Sharma (c) Niqi Kundhi (d) Smita Thackeray

Answer: (a)

Related Facts:

- A book titled “India’s Ancient Legacy of Wellness” authored by Dr Rekha Chaudhari.
- It was launched in the presence of the Governor of Maharashtra, Bhagat Singh Koshyari.
- It was launched on the occasion of the World Digital Day (WDD) celebration.
- This book highlights how important it is for human beings to be close to nature which helps to revive and recharge to do productive work.



Reference: <https://www.google.com/amp/s/theprint.in/ani-press-releases/dr-rekha-chaudharis-book-indias-ancient-legacy-of-wellness-launched-in-presence-of-honorable-governor-bhagat-singh-koshyari-and-smita-thackeray/782401/%3famp>

1971 : Charge of the Gorkhas and Other Stories by Rachna Bisht Rawat

Question: Consider the following Statements:

(1) 1971: Charge of the Gorkhas and Other Stories, written by Rachna Bisht Rawat.

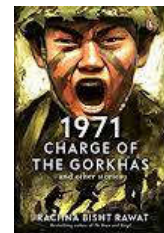
(2) This book is published by Penguin Random House India.

Which of the following is/are correct?

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

Answer: (c)

Related Facts:



- A new book that unearths true stories of the 1971 Indo-Pak war, '1971: Charge of the Gorkhas and Other Stories, written by Rachna Bisht Rawat.
- This book is published by Penguin Random House India.
- 1971 is a deeply researched collection of true stories of extraordinary human grit and courage that shows you a side to war that few military histories do.
- The book includes, from the story of the flight lieutenant who went missing after his plane crashed inside Pakistan to the 'last khukri attack' in modern military history.

Reference: <https://penguin.co.in/book/1971-3/>

Miscellaneous

India Among Top 5 Countries To Get Maximum Spam Calls

Question: Which of the following country has been the most affected by spam calls in the year 2021?

(a) India (b) Pakistan (c) Brazil (d) USA

Answer: (c)

Related Facts:

- Brazil has retained its title of the most spammed country in the world (four years in a row) with 32.9 spam calls per user per month.
- Caller ID app Truecaller has launched its fifth edition of the annual Global Spam Report – a study on how spam and scam affects all of us.
- The report lists the Top 20 Countries Affected by Spam Calls in 2021
- It is available for everyone to read on the Truecaller official website.
- According to the Truecaller Global Spam Report 2021, India has moved up in rankings from 9th to 4th position owing to a significant increase in sales and telemarketing calls.



Reference: <https://www.google.com/amp/s/www.news18.com/amp/news/tech/india-among-top-5-countries-to-get-maximum-spam-calls-report-4565168.html>

Lakshadweep declares Sunday as holiday for schools, ends Friday holiday system

Question: Which of the following Union Territory has declared Sunday as holiday, ends Friday holiday system?

(a) Puducherry (b) Lakshadweep (c) Andaman and Nicobar
(d) Dadra and Nagar Haveli and Daman and Diu

Answer: (b)

Related Facts:

- The Lakshadweep Education Department last Sunday officially declared all Sundays as holidays for schools, with six working days, shifting the holiday from Friday.
- The order will be effective from 2021-22 academic year.
- Earlier, Fridays used to be holidays.



- As per the new directives, the classes will be conducted from 9:30 am to 12:30 pm in the forenoon session and between 1:30 pm and 4:30 pm in the afternoon.
- The Education Department has decided to implement “Halcyon Heights” for a joyful learning experience in primary classes from Class 1 to Class 5 to ensure better physical, mental and social development of learners.
- “Halcyon” will be introduced during the first period on all days.

Reference: <https://www.google.com/amp/s/www.aninews.in/news/national/general-news/lakshadweep-declares-sunday-as-holiday-for-schools-ends-friday-holiday-system20211221124450%3famp=1>

Share this:

INS Khukri decommissioned after 32-year service

Question: Consider the following statements:

(1) INS Khukri, the first of the indigenously built missile corvettes, was decommissioned after 32 years of service

(2) It was decommissioned at Visakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh

(3) The warship was built by the Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders (MSD)

(4) It was commissioned on 23rd August 1989

Which of the above are correct ?

(a) Both 1 and 2 (b) Both 1 and 3 (c) 1, 2 and 4 (d) 1,2,3 and 4

Answer: (d)

Related Facts:

- INS Khukri (Pennant number 49), the first indigenously built Missile Corvette, was decommissioned after 32 years of service at Visakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh.
- The warship was built by the Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders (MSD).
- It was commissioned on 23rd August 1989 and had been part of both the Western and Eastern Fleets.
- The ship was commissioned in Mumbai by Shri Krishna Chandra Pant, the then Raksha Mantri and Mrs Sudha Mulla, wife of late Capt Mahendra Nath Mulla. Commander (now Retired Vice Admiral) Sanjeev Bhasin was the first Commanding Officer.
- At the solemn ceremony, the national flag, naval ensign and the decommissioning pennant were lowered at sunset in the presence of Vice-Admiral Biswajit Dasgupta, the Flag Officer Commanding-in-Chief of Eastern Naval Command and some serving and retired former commanding officers of the ship.
- The first INS Khukri with pennant number 149, which was a Type 14 Blackwood-class frigate, was built by J. Samuel White in England.



Reference: <https://www.google.com/amp/s/www.newindianexpress.com/states/andhra-pradesh/2021/dec/25/ins-khukri-decommissioned-after-32-year-service-2399551.amp>

UNSC Passed Resolution on Afghanistan Assistance

Question: Which of the following country proposed the resolution in UNSC, for the Afghanistan assistance recently?

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

Answer: (b)

Related Facts:-

- On December 22, 2021; the United Nations Security Council (UNSC) passed resolution 2615 proposed by the US on Afghanistan assistance.
- At this time UNSC on this subject unanimously passed this resolution allowing for sanctions exemptions against the Taliban.
- The exemptions are intended to make humanitarian aid delivery to Afghanistan easier.
- It covers urgent humanitarian assistance and other activities in Afghanistan to meet basic human needs.
- It will primarily benefit low-income or at-risk populations, as well as alleviate human suffering in other ways.



Links:-

<https://www.business-standard.com/article/international/un-passes-resolution-over-easing-financial-restrictions-on-afghanistan->

Manohari Gold Tea Made History

Question: On 14 December 2021; Manohari Gold Tea auctioned at which of the following price to made history this time?

a) Rs 89,000/kg b) Rs 99,999/kg c) Rs 20,000/kg d) None of these

Answer: (b)

Related Facts:-

- On 14 December 2021; Manohari Gold Tea, a famous and rare variety of Assam tea, has set a record after it was auctioned at a record price of Rs 99,999 per kg.
- It is thought to be the highest amount ever paid for tea at a public auction.
- Manohari Tea Estate produces Manohari Gold Tea in Assam's upper Dibrugarh district.
- Golden Butterfly Tea had previously sold for Rs 75000 per kg at the Guwahati Tea Auction Centre in August 2019. (GATC).
- Dikom Tea Estate of Rossell Tea Industries Dibrugarh (Assam) produces Golden Butterfly Tea, a rare form of handmade Assam tea.
- It's produced with fragile leaves and buds that are in season from June to July.
- The tea is named because only delicate golden tips are used to make this scarce and unique tea. It has a very sweet and soft caramel flavor.



Links:-

<https://www.indiatoday.in/trending-news/story/assam-s-manohari-gold-tea-sets-record-sells-for-a-whopping-rs-99-999-per-kg-1887740-2021-12-14>

Rashtriya Ekta Geet

Question: Which organization's cadet has composed Rashtriya Ekta Geet recently launched by Defence Minister Rajnath Singh?

- (a) National Service Scheme (NSS) (b) National Cadet Core (NCC)
(c) Scout and Guide (d) None of the above

Ans:b

Related Facts

- Defence Minister Rajnath Singh launched Rashtriya Ekta Geet composed by the National Cadet Core cadets recently.
- Song has been composed in 22 languages.
- It was launched during grand finale of Vijay Shrankhla aur Sanskrityon ka Mahasangam campaign on 17th December 2021.
- The mega event was conducted in New Delhi by NCC as part of Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav to commemorate 75 years of India's Independence.



Reference:

<https://newsonair.com/2021/12/18/azadi-ka-amrit-mahotsav-defence-minister-launches-rashtriya-ekta-geet-composed-by-ncc-cadets-in-22-languages/>

US Fashion Brand “Patagonia” Chooses Khadi Denim for its Apparels

Question : US Fashion Brand “Patagonia” Chooses Khadi Denim for its Apparels. Who is brand ambassador of Khadi Denim ?

- a) Akshay kumar b) Salman Khan c) Amitabh Bachchan. d) None of these

Ans:C

Related Facts:

- US-based world's leading fashion brand, Patagonia, is now using handcrafted Khadi Denim fabric for making Denim apparels(December 13,2021)
- Patagonia, through textile major Arvind Mills, has purchased nearly 30,000 meters of Khadi Denim Fabric worth Rs 1.08 crore from Gujarat.
- In July 2017, Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC) signed an agreement with Arvind mills Limited, Ahmadabad, to trade Khadi Denim products around the world.
- The purchase of Khadi Denim by Patagonia has created additional 1.80 lakh man hours, i.e. 27,720 man days of work for Khadi artisans.
- Khadi Denim is the only handcrafted Denim fabric in the world which has gained wide popularity in the country and abroad.



Links:

<https://pib.gov.in/PressReleaseDetailm.aspx?PRID=1780799>

Promotion of the production of Medicinal Plants

Question – On 6th December 2021, the National Medicinal Plants Board signed an MoU with which of the following to encourage the production of better quality planting material of medicinal plants?

- (a) National Botanical Research Institute
- (b) National Center for Research on Plant Biotechnology
- (c) CSIR-Himalayan Bioresources Institute of Technology, Palampur
- (d) CSIR-CIMAP, Lucknow

Answer—(d)

Related facts—

- On 6th December 2021, the National Medicinal Plants Board signed an MoU with CSIR-CIMAP.
- **CSIR-CIMAP stands for** — Council of Scientific and Industrial Research-Central Institute of Medicinal and Aromatic Plants.
- The MoU will facilitate development of QPM of medicinal plants and herbs identified by NMPB and help in establishment of their nurseries for QPM development, promotion, conservation and cultivation of the appropriate medicinal plants in different agro-climatic zones. CSIR-CIMAP Lucknow, can also undertake research on mass multiplication, agro-technology development, Quality Planting Material generation of selected medicinal plants and herbs.
- During the tenure of MoU, NMPB will work through its implementing agencies i.e. State Medicinal Plant Boards, State Horticulture Departments, Regional-cum-Facilitation Centres across India in conjunction and collaboration with CSIR-CIMAP Lucknow and support projects related to QPM Development of Medicinal Plants Species.



Link:

<https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1778389>

Mithila Makhana

Question: Why Mithila Makhana was recently in news?

- a) It got GI Tag b) High production c) Very low production d) None of these

Answer: (a)

Related Facts:-

- Bihar's Mithila Makhana Is Given the Geographical Indications (GI) Tag by the Centre.
- Makhana (Fox nuts) are lotus flower's seed.
- It is grown in water and is largely found in India and known as Makhana here.
- It should be noted that Geographical Indications Registry (GIR) has obtained the petition to rename Bihar Makhana as Mithila Makhana.
- The Petition regarding its renaming obtained Under the Central Ministry of Commerce.
- It also proposed further changes to the brand logo to reflect its origins.



- It also offered modifications within the brand logo to spotlight its origins and protect the product's Geographical Indications (GI) rights.
- The Sabour based Bihar Agriculture University (BAU) started an application on behalf of the Mithilanchal Makhana Utpadak Sangh (MMUS) to call their produce Mithila Makhana.
- Bihar Agriculture University (BAU) is continuously making efforts for the welfare of fox nut growers within the Mithila region.

Links:

<https://www.hindustantimes.com/india-news/centre-accepts-mithila-makhana-gi-tag-101639369086308.html>

Hong Kong Implemented its new Zero Covid Policy

Question: Visitors from which of the following country, under new Zero Covid Policy recently implemented by Hong Kong, will be subjected to the highest quarantine efforts?

a) India b) USA c) Spain d) Italy

Answer: (b)

Related Facts:-

- On 6 December 2021; Hong Kong implemented its new Zero Covid Policy.
- As the new rules have come into force, the visitors in Hong Kong from the United States will be dealt with special caution.
- Now Visitors from US subjected to the highest quarantine efforts in the semi-autonomous city.
- Hong Kong in this way adopted some of the most challenging anti-Covid policies worldwide.
- Hong Kong will drive the US the first country past Africa to be put under the quarantine center demand since the Omicron variant was first noticed in November.
- As per the new rules US tourists who are only fully immunized will be permitted to enter Hong Kong.
- These visitors from US will be needed to spend their first seven days at a quarantine centre attended by daily testing and health monitoring.
- US tourists then will need to spend another 14 days in quarantine at a hotel booked in advance.



Links:-

<https://www.france24.com/en/live-news/20211210-hong-kong-to-require-quarantine-camp-stay-for-travellers-from-us>

Lupin Inc : Acquisition of exclusive rights to develop, manufacture TTP inhalation products

Question : Which of the following pharmaceutical company recently inked a pact with 'TTP Plc' to acquire the exclusive worldwide rights to develop, manufacture TTP inhalation products ?

a. Lupin Inc b. Sun Pharma c. Biocon d. Cipla

Ans. a.

Related facts —

- Pharma major Lupin on December said its wholly-owned arm Lupin Inc has inked a pact with TTP Plc to acquire exclusive worldwide rights to develop, manufacture and commercialise inhalation products.
- TTP(The Technology Partnership) is a technology and product development company where scientists, engineers and designers collaborate to invent and develop new products and technologies.
- Its soft-mist inhalation (SMI) technology allows delivery of inhalation drugs from a small and portable hand-held inhaler device without the use of propellants.
- By leveraging this technology, Lupin expects to provide healthcare professionals with alternative solutions for delivering affordable inhaled medicines to patients across the globe.



Link:

https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/industry/healthcare/biotech/pharmaceuticals/lupin-acquires-exclusive-rights-to-develop-manufacture-ttp-inhalation-products/articleshow/88045328.cms?utm_source=contentofinterest&utm_medium=text&utm_campaign=cppst

Cambridge Dictionary names ‘perseverance’ Word of the Year 2021

Question: Consider the following statements:

(1) Cambridge Dictionary names ‘perseverance’ Word of the Year 2021.

(2) The Cambridge Advanced Learner’s Dictionary was first published in 1995 under the name Cambridge International Dictionary of English, by the Cambridge University Press.

Which of the following is/are correct?

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

Answer: (c)

Related Facts:

- Cambridge Dictionary names ‘perseverance’ Word of the Year 2021.
- Perseverance has been looked up more than 243,000 times on the website in 2021, the first time it has made a noticeable appearance.
- The Cambridge Advanced Learner’s Dictionary was first published in 1995 under the name Cambridge International Dictionary of English, by the Cambridge University Press.



Reference: <https://www.cam.ac.uk/research/news/cambridge-dictionary-names-perseverance-word-of-the-year-2021>

Earth Station of Doordarshan Kendra

Question: In which of the following district of UP recently Information and Broadcasting Minister Anurag Singh Thakur inaugurated the Earth Station of Doordarshan Kendra?

a) Prayagraj b) Gorakhpur c) Kanpur d) None of these

Answer : (b)

Related Facts:-

- On 3 December 2021; Earth Station of Doordarshan Kendra in Gorakhpur started functioning.
- Information and Broadcasting Minister Anurag Singh Thakur and Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath inaugurated this station.
- Three FM stations of All India Radio in Etawah, Lakhimpur Kheri, and Bahraich districts were also inaugurated at this juncture virtually.
- Union Minister Mr. Thakur said that the Earth Station now help the local programmes originating from Gorakhpur, to reach all over the country.
- He also announced that a one-hour programme in Bhojpuri will be telecast from Gorakhpur Doordarshan Kendra with effect from 11th of December.
- The Minister said, taking cognizance of the growing trend of the listenership of FM Radio in the country, the government has decided to give it a boost.
- He said that soon three more FM stations will be opened in Sultanpur, Rampur, and Maharajganj districts of Uttar Pradesh.
- On this occasion Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath said, with the inauguration of Earth Station at Gorakhpur, the four-year-old demand of the local artists has been fulfilled.
- He also thanked the Information and Broadcasting Minister for his commitment to open more FM stations.



Links:-

<https://newsonair.gov.in/News?title=UP%3A-I%26B-Minister-Anurag-Thakur-inaugurates-Earth-Station-of-Doordarshan-Kendra-in-Gorakhpur-along-with-three-FM-stations&id=430828>

Cyclone JAWAD

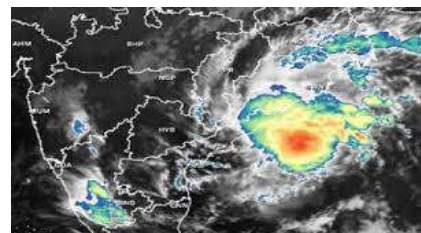
Question: Which of the following country has given the cyclone its name 'Jawad'?

(a) UAE (b) Saudi Arabia (c) Qatar (d) Pakistan

Answer: (b)

Related Facts:

- Saudi Arabia has given the cyclone its name 'Jawad'. The meaning 'Jawad' is liberal or merciful.
- Cyclone Jawad had made its landfall on December 4, 2021 about 230 km southeast of Vishakhapatnam, 410 km south-southwest of Puri and 490 km south-southwest of Paradip (Odisha).



- A deep depression in the Bay of Bengal had intensified into the cyclonic storm 'Jawad', IMD had informed on December 3, 2021.
- Cyclones are formed over the oceanic water in the tropical region.

Reference: <https://www.ndtv.com/india-news/cyclone-jawad-weakens-into-depression-near-odisha-coast-2638483>

LinkedIn announced the launching of its Hindi language support

Question : Networking platform LinkedIn on December 02 announced the launch of its Hindi language support that is first Indian regional language on LinkedIn.

LinkedIn owned by _

a.Microsoft b.Youtube c.Adobe d.None of the above

Ans. a.

Related facts —



- Networking platform LinkedIn on December 02 announced the launch of its Hindi language support that is first Indian regional language on LinkedIn.
- It is notable that LinkedIn is owned by Microsoft.
- This new move of LinkedIn has aim to to support 600 million Hindi language speakers globally.
- It is notable that India is a core market for growth at LinkedIn and the second largest market in terms of members after the US, accounting for 82 million members as part of a global community of 800 million members.
- With the launch of Hindi, LinkedIn now supports 25 languages globally. LinkedIn will also work towards widening the range of job opportunities available for Hindi speaking professionals across industries, including more banking, and government jobs.

Link:

<https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/tech/technology/professional-networking-platform-linkedin-launches-hindi-support-to-tap-600-million-users/articleshow/88052575.cms>

Cost of Living Index 2021

Question: Which country is costliest country to live in the world as per the Cost of Living Index 2021?

(a) New York (b) Tokyo (c) Tel Aviv (d) Karachi

Ans: c

Recent Context

- The Cost of Living Index 2021 was released by the Economic Intelligence Unit recently.
- **Related Facts**

- Worldwide Cost of Living explores the cost of living in 173 cities, measured against impactful global events.
- The index bench marks the prices against the prices in New York.



- As per the index prices for goods and services have risen by 3.5% year-on-year, the highest inflation rate seen in the last five years.
- Tel Aviv is the world's most expensive cities. It was followed by Paris in second place and Singapore in third place.
- In 2020, Paris was the most expensive city according to the index.
- The highest price rise was reported in the Iranian city Tehran. It jumped from 79th rank in 2020 to 29th rank in 2021. This was mainly due to US sanctions.
- The Syrian city Damascus was ranked the lowest.

Reference:

<https://www.eiu.com/n/campaigns/worldwide-cost-of-living-2021>

World AIDS Day

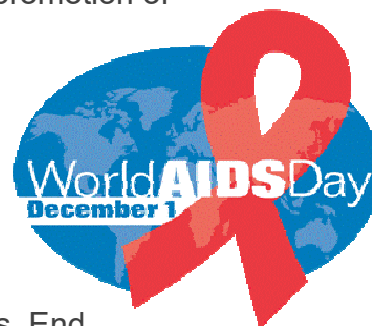
Question: On which day World AIDS Day is observed annually?

- (a) 30 November
- (b) 1 December
- (c) 2 December
- (d) None of the above

Ans: b

Recent Context

- Every year the World AIDS Day is celebrated on December 1.
- **Related Facts**
 - The day is being celebrated since 1988.
 - The Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS) became operational in 1996, and it took over the planning and promotion of World AIDS Day.
 - On this day people around the world unite to show support for people living with and affected by HIV and to remember those who lost their lives to AIDS.
 - It is one of the 11 official Global Public Health campaigns of World Health Organisation.
 - The 2021 World Aids Day is being celebrated with focus on ending inequality.
 - The Global AIDS Strategy 2021–2026: End Inequalities, End AIDS and the Political Declaration on AIDS adopted at the 2021 United Nations High-Level Meeting on AIDS have ending inequalities at their core.



Reference:

<https://www.unaids.org/en/2021-world-aids-day>

International Day of Solidarity

Question: On which day International Day of Solidarity is observed every year?

- (a) 29 November (b) 30 November (c) 1 December (d) None of the above

Ans: b

Recent Context

- On 29th November 2021 United Nation observed “International Day of Solidarity with Palestinian People”.
- Related Facts
- On 29th November 1947, the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) adopted the resolution on the partition of Palestine.
- In 1977 UNGA decided to observe the 29th November as “International Day of Solidarity with Palestinian People” every year. Its observance finally started in 1978.
- On this day UN encourages Member States to continue to give the widest support and publicity to the observance of the Day of Solidarity.
- The observance of this day is held at United Nations Headquarters in New York as well as United Nations Offices at Geneva and Vienna.
- Day presents an international opportunity every year to discuss the question of Palestine.



Reference: <https://www.un.org/en/observances/international-day-of-solidarity-with-the-palestinian-people>