

Website-  **edristi.in**

NAVATRA

Monthly Magazine on Current Events

Vol. - 2 >>> Issue - 11 >>> May, 2019



MHRD

Government of India
Ministry of Human Resource Development



INDIA RANKINGS 2019

Ranking of Higher Educational Institutions on Performance

and

ARIIA 2019

Atal Ranking of Institutions on Innovation Achievements

 **WORLD**
PRESS
FREEDOM
INDEX
2019

#RSFINDEX

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

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

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

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

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

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

Table of Contents

Preface	1
National.....	9
India Rankings-2019	9
World Press Freedom Index 2019.....	9
Political Leaders Position and Action on Air Quality in India 2014-2019 Report.....	10
ELearning training for field staff	11
Dhanbad: India's 4G City with Maximum Availability.....	11
Block chain based coffee E-Marketplace	12
C295 plane deal in final stages.....	12
Around 5000 Konyak women dance to set Guinness World record.....	13
Airport Specific Fund.....	13
Womens Safety App Launched	14
Cabinet approved the creation of one post of Deputy Comptroller and Auditor General.....	14
Young Scientist Programme (YUVIKA)	15
Super Worm Equinox Moon	16
Rare ISO 22000 Certification to Indian Firm	16
Procurement of 464 T-90 tanks	17
Climate vulnerability Index	17
Interbrand Best Indian Brand 2019.....	18
Union Government Approves the proposal for accession to Nice, Vienna and Locarno	18
UNEA adopts India's resolutions on Single-Use Plastics and Sustainable Nitrogen Management	19
Combat Casualty Drugs.....	20
Veer Parivar App Launched.....	20
Gold rating to Vijayawada station	21
India-Korea Startup Hub Launched Under Startup India Banner	21
HIV remission achieved through stem cell transplantation.....	22
Health Ministry takes stock of the public health measures for controlling West Nile Virus.....	22
IIT-Delhi researchers use Big Data Analysis, Artificial Intelligence to detect diseases – automate pathology process.....	23
Dolphin numbers drop in Gandak.....	24
Atal Ranking of Institutions on Innovation Achievements (ARIIA)	24

Foreign Minster Visit.....	25
NGT slaps Rs 100 crore penalty on Andhra Pradesh.....	26
Azaadi Ke Diwane Museum	26
India's first carbon-positive settlement.....	27
Sale approval of 24 MH 60 Romeo Seahawk Helicopters to India	27
Ramappa temple for world heritage site.....	28
India offers US\$ 100 million line of credit for developmental projects.....	28
GI Tag to five varieties of coffee	29
Visit of President to three countries.....	30
Swachh Survekshan-2019 Awards	32
National Institute of Mental Health Rehabilitation	32
National Annual Rural Sanitation Survey (NARSS) 2018-19.....	33
Loan for Additional Financing for Uttarakhand Disaster Recovery Project	33
Financial stability Board	34
International	34
India may stop Oil imports from Iran.....	34
Asian Tea Alliance	35
Sri Lanka Bomb Explosions.....	36
Destruction of thirty thousand World Maps by China.....	36
General Elections in Finland.....	37
Ban on Single use Plastics	37
Announcement of long-term visas for best 100 Arab start-ups	38
London introduces world's first 24*7 ultra low emission zone	38
Sudan's President Ousted by Army.....	39
UN to investigate massacre of 157 Malian villagers.....	39
Russia releases coin commemorating annexation	39
Tesla's largest Energy Storage System in Asia	40
Renewable Energy production Tripled	41
Islamic State defeated, caliphate eliminated by US-backed SDF.....	41
Masood Azhar listing blocked in UNSC	41
Hawaii bans plastics at restaurants	43
Golan Heights: 14 Security Council Nations criticized United States	43
Global Energy Transition Index 2019	44
First BRICS Sherpa Meeting.....	45

ESPN World Fame 100	45
Abu Dhabi International Book Fair 2019.....	46
Japanese new era Reiwa	46
World's longest Salt Cave	46
Population of World by 2050	47
Changi Airport crowned as Best Airport	47
1st female President of Slovakia.....	48
First fully-fledged 5G mobile networks.....	48
New President of Comoros	49
India-Africa Institute of Agriculture and Rural Development	49
Global Energy and CO2 Status Report	50
Worldwide Cost of Living 2019	51
Renaming of Kazakhstan Capital.....	52
Russia's arms export to India fell by 42%	52
New Palestinian Prime Minister.....	53
Global Influenza Strategy.....	53
Economics	54
World's Best Bank's survey	54
First Central Bank in the Asia-Pacific region to begin an explicit interest rate easing cycle	55
Dun & Bradstreet Composite Business Optimism Index	55
Disaster-Resilient infrastructure in Asia	56
Digital Home Loan Products of ICICI Bank	56
BSE-MOEX Deal	57
GST Revenue Collection	57
First Bi-monthly Monetary Policy, 2019-20	58
Asian Development Outlook 2019	58
Relaxation in Trade Credit Policy	59
OECD Growth Forecasts 2019	60
Fitch Ratings: India economic growth Forecast.....	60
Non-convertible debentures.....	61
Withdraw of GSP benefits to India	62
Transport and Marketing Assistance (TMA) for Specified Agriculture Products Notified.....	62
Task Force on Offshore rupee market	63
Moody's Growth Estimate	63

Data of IIP and Retail inflation	64
Scientific.....	65
Defense/Science Short Notes	65
Varuna Naval Exercise 2019.....	65
World First Malaria Vaccine.....	65
Nirbhay successfully test fired	66
Satellite launch by ISRO	67
Langkawi International Maritime Aero Expo 2019	67
Sports	68
Tennis.....	68
2019 Monterrey Open	68
Cricket	68
Wisden's leading cricketers of the year 2019.....	68
Syed Mushtaq Ali Trophy 2019	69
National Wheelchair Cricket Championship, 2019	69
India Australia ODI Series 2019.....	70
Hockey.....	70
Azlan Shah Cup.....	70
Football	71
Under 17 Womens World Cup 2020 host.....	71
Indian Super League 2019.....	71
Badminton.....	72
Kidambi Srikanth	72
2019 Badminton Asia Mixed Team Championships	72
Boxing.....	72
Cologne Boxing World Cup 2019	72
Formula One	73
Lewis Hamilton wins Bahrain Grand Prix.....	73
Athletics	73
Gelete Burka and Abrha Milaw win 2019 Paris Marathon	73
Short Notes	74
Personalities.....	74
Former Cricketer Ravi Shastri appointed as a Corporate Ambassador of the Dubai base 'RAKEZ'	74
Graham Reid	75

First New President of Algeria after 20 years	75
First Indian FIH Health & Safety Committee Head.....	76
Chief Justice of Bombay High Court.....	76
Sanjay Jasjit Singh	77
WikiLeaks Founder arrested	77
President of International Chamber of Commerce	78
Ambassador of India to Jordan	78
Rajesh Pendharkar	79
Karambir Singh.....	79
BCCI's ad-hoc Ethics Officer: Committee of Administrators.....	79
Vinod Dasari	80
Vijay Chandok	80
Ole Gunnar Solskjaer.....	81
India High Commissioner to Fiji	81
India Ambassador to Uzbekistan	82
Haku Shah	82
Director General Naval Operation	82
C.S Shivalli	83
Citibank CEO.....	83
Candidate Connect and Share You Voted.....	83
\$ 1 billion fund for US-Mexico border wall.....	84
Appointment of new Chairman of LIC	85
Nuclear, Biological, Chemical Training Facility – ABHEDYA	85
Vipin Anand takes over as Managing Director of LIC.....	86
New Chairman of Agricultural Scientific Recruitment Board	86
First Indian Athlete to qualify for Tokyo Olympics 2020	87
Indian origin Jagmeet Singh enters Canada parliament	87
Awards & Honors	88
Master Deenanath Mangeshkar Awards 2019	88
K Siva Reddy to get Saraswati Samman	88
PM Modi gets highest civilian award of Russia.....	89
Nobel Prize of Computing 2018	89
Nobel Prize recipient honoured with Oxford University's Bodley Award	90
Global Teacher Award 2019.....	90

Best Sportspersons Award	91
10th Biennial National Grassroots Innovation Awards	91
UAE confers prestigious Zayed Medal to PM Modi	92
Vikram Patel gets global health award	92
Templeton Prize	93
Operations & Campaign	93
Bank of Baroda: Power of 3	93
India Myanmar joint military operation	94
Indian Navy ship departs for Mozambique with Relief Material	94
Operation Sahayata	95
Planning & Project	96
Measures to promote Hydro Sector	96
National Mineral Policy 2019	97
DAC approves acquisition of defence equipment worth Rs 2700 crore	98
Treaty & Agreements	98
TCS, Google partner to build industry-specific cloud solutions	98
MoU between India and Cambodia	99
Signing Of Inter Governmental Agreement for Exchange of Country-By-Country Reports between India and the United States of America	99
To develop India's first Peta Flop High Performance Computing Facility	100
Global cyber security company acquired by NSEIT	100
MoU on India-Africa Health Sciences Cooperation	101
Cabinet approves MoU between India and Republic of Korea on Startup Cooperation	101
Cabinet approves MoU to combat illicit trafficking in narcotic drugs, psychotropic substances and its precursors	102
Conference	103
General K Sundarji Memorial Lecture	103
4th Meeting of India- Ukraine working group	103
First Workshop on India Energy Modelling Forum	104
3rd Indo-Japan Workshop on Disaster Risk Reduction	104
National Workshop on Management of Grey Water	105
Law & Justice	106
Delhi High Court seeks CCS response on plea over Assam Rifles	106
Daman and Diu Civil Courts (Amendment) Regulation, 2019	106
Centre allowed State governments to put enemy properties to Public Use	107

Year, Day & Week	108
Earth Day 2019.....	108
World Health Day 2019.....	108
International Forest Day	109
World Autism Awareness Day.....	109
Earth Hour 2019.....	110
World Tuberculosis Day.....	110
Miscellaneous	111
Cyclone Kenneth	111
54th Valour Day of CRPF	111
India's first indigenous 4G-5G semiconductor chips unveiled.....	112
Navroz	112
Tipu Sultan's silver-mounted gun	113
Thakurani Jatra festival 2019	113
The Delhi Horse Show	113
Water Storage level of 91 major reservoirs.....	114

National India Rankings-2019

Question: Consider following statements regarding National Institutional Ranking Framework (NIRF)-2019?

- (1) The NIRF rankings were released for a total of 9 categories
 - (2) Indian Institute of Technology, Madras (IIT Madras) has topped the list in Overall Category
 - (3) This ranking was launched by Human Resource Development Ministry
- Which of the following is/are correct?**

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

Answer: (d)

Related facts:

- On 8th April, 2019, President of India has announced the results for National Institutional Ranking Framework (NIRF)-2019 at a function held in Vigyan Bhawan at New Delhi.
- The fourth Edition of NIRF rankings were released for a total of 9 categories including Overall, Universities, Engineering, Colleges, Management, Pharmacy, Medical, Architecture, and Law.

NIRF Rankings – 2019:

- Indian Institute of Technology Madras topped the list in Overall category;
- Indian Institute of Science, Bengaluru has topped University category;
- Banaras Hindu University (BHU) has retained its third position in the top 10 universities in the country for the third consecutive year;
- Miranda House, Delhi has secured the top position in Colleges category;
- Indian Institute of Technology, Madras in Engineering category;
- National Law School of India University, Bangalore in Law category;
- Indian Institute of Technology, Kharagpur in Architecture category;
- All India Institute of Medical Science, New Delhi in Medical category;
- Indian Institute of Management, Bangalore in Management category;
- Jamia Hamdard, New Delhi in Pharmacy Category.



National Institutional Ranking Framework (NIRF):

- The National Institutional Ranking Framework (NIRF) was launched by the Minister of Human Resource Development on 29th September 2015. This framework outlines a methodology to rank institutions across the country.
- The parameters broadly cover Teaching, Learning and Resources, Research and Professional Practices, Graduation Outcomes, Outreach and Inclusivity and Perception.

Links:

<https://www.nirfindia.org/About>

World Press Freedom Index 2019

Question: Consider the following statement regarding World Press Freedom Index 2019:

- (1) India is at 140th rank featuring dropdown to two places from 2018 report
- (2) Total 180 countries are included in this report
- (3) Norway has topped from last three years

Choose the correct statement/s from the above

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

Answer: (d)

Related facts:

- India's rank in the World Press Freedom Index 2019 dropped two places to 140th in 2018. One of the most striking features of the current state of press freedom in India is violence against journalists including police violence, attacks by Maoist fighters, criminal groups and corrupt politicians.
- The year 2018 witnessed a surge in attacks against journalists. The emergence of #Me-too movement in India exposed many cases of sexual harassment to which women reporters have been subjected. The media coverage in the sensitive regions like Kashmir continues to be very difficult.
- This year, the index has been topped by Norway again for the third year, followed by Finland and Sweden at second and third positions, respectively.
- At the bottom of the Index, North Korea fetched 179th position; and Turkmenistan moved two positions down to 180th rank.
- Only 24% of the 180 countries and territories were classified as good or fairly good, as compared to 26% last year.
- Published annually by Reporters Without Borders (RSF) since 2002, the World Press Freedom Index measures the level of media freedom in 180 countries.
- It is based on an evaluation of media freedom that measures pluralism, media independence, the quality of the legal framework and the safety of journalists in 180 countries. It also includes indicators of the level of media freedom violations in each region.
- The global indicator and the regional indicators show that there has been a deep and disturbing decline in respect for media freedom throughout the world.
- It is compiled by means of a questionnaire in 20 languages that is completed by experts all over the world. This qualitative analysis is combined with quantitative data on abuses and acts of violence against journalists during the period are evaluated.



Links:

<https://rsf.org/en/2019-world-press-freedom-index-cycle-fear>

Political Leaders Position and Action on Air Quality in India 2014-2019 Report

Question: What is the rank of Varanasi in the WHO's list of 15 most polluted cities?

(a) Third (b) Fourth (c) Fifth (d) Sixth

Answer: (a)

Related facts:

- In order of measuring air pollution level, a report named Political Leaders Position and Action on Air Quality in India 2014-2019 was released by Climate Trends.
- In the published list, Kanpur in UP is the most polluted city in the world and is ranked one on the list. Faridabad in Haryana has been ranked second and Varanasi third.
- The air quality in **Varanasi** is ranked **third** on the WHO's list of **15 most polluted cities**. The situation is deterioration as its MP has focused on beautification and infrastructure.



- The **Air Quality Index (AQI)** in **Varanasi** reached an alarming **490 in 2017 and 384 in December 2018** which is **very poor**.
- **Delhi is ranked sixth** on the list and there has been **laziness** on part of its elected caretakers in **tackling air pollution** in the city.
- An AQI between **0 & 50** is considered **good**, **51 and 100 satisfactory**, **101 and 200 moderate**, **201 and 300 poor**, **301 and 400 very poor**, and **401 and 500 severe**, as per **pollution control authorities**.

Link:

<https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/politics-and-nation/varanasis-air-quality-deteriorating-delhi-victim-of-negligence-report/articleshow/68809954.cms?from=mdr>

eLearning training for field staff

Question: Which state topped in eLearning training for field staff?

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

Answer: (a)

Related facts:



- In eLearning training, Telangana has ranked number one by reaching to 20,000 field staff during 2018-19.
- This is the second year in succession that the state got the distinction under the Department of Personal and Training (DoPT), Government of India.
- During the financial year 2018-19, Dr MCR HRD Institute (Telangana) has enrolled over 20,000 field staff in different districts of the state to impart training.
- The training will be given on 12 soft skill modules and three domain-specific modules on RTI, Office Procedures, Finance and Accounts, apart from Sustainable Development Goals.
- During the past two years, over 40, 000 field staff belonging to different departments were trained in the State.
- The Institute is also mentoring other states such as Punjab, Madhya Pradesh, J&K, Odisha, Uttarakhand, and Gujarat to train the trainers for e-Learning training program and develop modules in regional languages.
- A national module on SDGs was prepared at the request of NITI Aayog and the Central Government.

Links:

<https://www.thehindubusinessline.com/news/education/telangana-tops-in-elearning-training-for-field-staff/article26699587.ece>

Dhanbad: India's 4G City with Maximum Availability

Question: As per survey by 'Open Signal' which of the following two cities have more than 95% 4G availability?

(a) Dhanbad and Ranchi (b) Patna and Muzaffarpur (c) Kolkata and Asansol

(d) Kanpur and Lucknow

Answer: (a)

Related facts:



- According to Open Signal's measurements for 4G availability Dhanbad scored 95.3 percent, becoming one of only two cities among India's 50 Cities to pass the 95 percent mark. The other city was Ranchi which scored 95 percent in 4G availability.
- In the third place, the list saw Srinagar that was just shy of the 95% mark with a 4G availability score of 94.9 percent.
- Survey found Raipur at the fourth place which scored 94.8%, followed by Patna with 94.5%.

- 4G Availability in India's largest cities (Top 5 Cities): Dhanbad ,Ranchi Srinagar, Raipur, Patna and Gwalior.
- The 50 largest Indian cities which were measured scored over 87% in the 4G availability.

Links:

<https://www.news18.com/news/tech/dhanbad-scores-95-3-percent-4g-availability-highest-among-50-indian-cities-2080979.html>

Block chain based coffee E-Marketplace

Question:What is India's position in Coffee (Green) production?

(a) Eighth (b) Seventh (c) Third (d) Second

Answer: (a)

Related facts:

- On 28th March, 2019, Commerce Secretary, Dr. Anup Wadhawan, launched block chain based coffee e-marketplace through video-conferencing in New Delhi.
- The share of farmers in the final returns from coffee is very meager. The block chain will also reduce the number of layers between coffee growers and buyers and help farmers double their income.
- The project was activated simultaneously by Mr. Jose Daustersette, Executive Director, International coffee Organization's (ICO) from Nairobi, Kenya.
- Block chain based market place App for trading of Indian coffees is intended to bring in Transparency in the trade of Indian coffee, maintain the traceability of Indian coffee from bean to cup so as the consumer tastes real Indian coffee and the grower is paid fairly for his coffee produced.
- This initiative will help in creating a brand image for Indian coffee through traceability in finding right coffee suppliers for exporters and within the stipulated time to meet the growing demands and will help in building long term partnership.
- Coffee Board is collaborating with M/s Eka Plus, one of the global leaders in Digital Commodity Management platforms for Agriculture for development of Blockchain based marketplace application.
- The stakeholder like coffee farmers, traders, coffee curers, exporters, rosters, importers and retailers register on the platform to make trade transactions.



Link:

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=189586>

C295 plane deal in final stages

Question: The deal of C295 plane is in its final stage. Which plane will it replace after getting inducted?

(a) Mig 21 (b) Mig 27 (c) Avro Fleet (d) Sukhoi M30

Answer: (c)

Related facts:

- The long-delayed deal for **C-295 transport aircraft** will be finalized in the meeting post Lok Sabha Election in June. It will replace the ageing **Avro fleet** of Air Force.
- The IAF has 56 Avro transport aircraft which are in urgent need of replacement. As per the deal, **16 aircrafts** will be built by an **Original Equipment Manufacturer (OEM)** and the remaining 40 to be built in the country by an Indian manufacturer under transfer of technology under **Make in India initiative**.



- The sole bid by **Airbus and Tata** with the C-295 aircraft was approved by the DAC in May 2015. **The Request for Proposal (RFP)** was issued to global companies in May 2013.
- This deal has become even more critical as a **separate project jointly co-developed** and produced by a **Medium Transport Aircraft (MTA) of 20 tons** with **Russia** to replace the **An-32s** in service was scrapped after initial design discussions of the project.
- The An-32s are being upgraded under a **\$ 400 mn** deal finalized with **Antonov State Corporation of Ukraine** in 2009. They are the workhorse of the IAF.

Links:

<https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/c-295-plane-deal-in-final-stages/article26836993.ece>

Around 5000 Konyak women dance to set Guinness World record

Question: Konyak community belongs to which of the following Indian state?

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

Answer: (a)

Related facts:

- On 5th April 2019; 5,000 Konyak community women danced in an attempt to set a new Guinness World Records in the category of **largest traditional Konyak dance display**.
- This program coincided with the Aoleang festival of the state. The theme of this year's Aoleang, (also called Mini Hornbill festival), was **Empowering Women for Cultural Heritage**.
- The event was organised by the Konyak Union in coordination with Konyak Nyupuh Sheko Khong (KNSK) and Konyak Students' Union (KSU).
- Aoleang is the main festival of the Konyaks from northern Nagaland. It is celebrated in the first week of April every year, this year district Mon of Nagaland has witnessed the celebration from 1st – 6th April.
- This festival is observed after sowing seeds in the new fields. Aoleang celebrations also mark the end of the current year and welcome the beginning of the New Year with the spring season.
- This festival also showcases the rich cultural heritage, with indigenous dances, songs and games combined with the modern music talents of the district. It aims to develop relationships between the government and the people, bridging the communication gap, promoting peace, culture and progress.



Links:

<https://www.aninews.in/news/national/features/around-5000-naga-konyak-women-dance-to-set-a-new-world-record20190407161605/>

Airport Specific Fund

Questions: Airport Specific Fund can raise capital up to which amount?

(a) Rs 10,000 crore (b) Rs 20,000 crore (c) Rs 30,000 crore (d) Rs 40,000 crore

Answer: (a)

Related facts:

- SEBI has recently approved an Airport Specific Fund.
- As a Category II Alternative Investment Fund it can raise a capital of up to Rs. 10,000 crores.
- Chennai-based **Taking off to The Future Investment Management LLP** is the sponsor and the investment manager of the fund. This company has a presence in the airport sector.



- The fund would receive contributions from banks, corporate, institutional investors, insurance companies, pension funds, high net worth individuals and other investors in India and abroad as permitted under the AIF Regulations.
- The fund is targeting a minimum capital contribution of Rs. 3,500 crore and a maximum capital contribution of Rs. 7,000 crore.
- The trustee and the Investment Manager shall have the option, at their discretion, to revise the target Capital commitments, subject to the maximum size of the fund, not exceeding Rs. 10000 crore.

Link:

<https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/business/india-business/in-a-first-sebi-gives-nod-to-rs-10000-crore-airport-fund/articleshow/68746758.cms>

Womens Safety App Launched

Question: What is the name of safety app launched recently on Womens safety by Airtel and FICCI Ladies jointly?

- (a) My Life
- (b) My Safety
- (c) My Circle
- (d) My Security

Answer: (c)

Related facts:



- My Circle App was launched by Telecom operator Bharti Airtel and the FICCI Ladies Organisation (FLO) on April 14, 2019.
- This is a safety app aiming to help women in any event of distress or an emergency situation, by sending an SOS alert.
- This app can be installed by both Airtel and non Airtel customers.

My Circle App:

- My Circle app allows women to send SOS alerts to any five of their family or friends.
- The message could be sent in 13 languages including English, Hindi, Tamil, Telugu, Malayalam, Kannada, Marathi, Punjabi, Bangla, Urdu, Assamese, Oriya, and Gujarati.
- One can launch SOS alert by pressing the SOS prompt on the app.
- The App can also be activated by voice command through Siri on iOS. The voice activation via Google Assistant will soon be available on Android devices.
- An SOS alert along with the user's location will be sent to the five contacts selected by the user over SMS and advise them to immediately reach out or respond to the emergency situation.
- The app operates by estimating the accurate location of the user which their family and friends can track in real time on a link that is sent as part of the alert SMS.
- My Circle app has been developed by Airtel X labs and was conceptualised by an all-women cross-functional team.

Links:

<https://www.hindustantimes.com/tech/airtel-ficci-ladies-organisation-launch-women-s-safety-app-my-circle/story-5qoh7XDZxG8QbTLknNiTHK.html>

Cabinet approved the creation of one post of Deputy Comptroller and Auditor General

Question: The Cabinet has approved the creation of which post in the office of Comptroller and Auditor General of India on April 15, 2019?

- (a) Deputy Comptroller and Auditor General
- (b) Sub Deputy Comptroller and Auditor General
- (c) Cashier Deputy Comptroller and Auditor General
- (d) None of the above

Answer: (a)

Related facts:



- The Union Cabinet under the Chairmanship of Prime Minister Narendra Modi has approved to create one post of Deputy Comptroller & Auditor General in Pay Level-17 (by abolishing one STS level post) in the Office of the Comptroller & Auditor General of India.
- The Deputy Comptroller & Auditor General shall oversee the coordination among State Audits, audit of telecommunication and to coordinate the various Information Systems (IS) initiatives within the Indian Audit & Accounts Department (IA&AD).
- Expenditure on account of creation of this post will be Rs.21 Lakh (approx.).

Link:

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=189743>

Young Scientist Programme (YUVIKA)

Question: Consider the following statement regarding YUVIKA:

- 1) YUVIKA stands for “Young Scientist Programme” YUva Vigyani KAryakram
- 2) Indian Space Research Organisation has launched this programme for School Children
- 3) This programme aimed at creating awareness amongst the youngsters who are the future building blocks of our Nation

Which of the following is/are correct?

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

Answer: (d)

Related facts:



- Indian Space Research Organisation has launched a special programme for School Children called Young Scientist Programme / YUva Vigyani KAryakram from this year, in tune with the Government's vision Jai Vigyan, Jai Anusandhan.
- The Program is primarily aimed at imparting basic knowledge on Space Technology, Space Science and Space Applications to the younger ones with the intent of arousing their interest in the emerging areas of Space activities.
- The program is aimed at creating awareness amongst the youngsters who are the future building blocks of our Nation. ISRO has chalked out this programme to Catch them Young.
- The programme will be of two weeks duration during summer holidays (second half of May 2019) and the schedule will include invited talks, experience sharing by the eminent scientists, facility and lab visits, exclusive sessions for discussions with experts, practical and feedback sessions.
- It is proposed to select 3 students each from each State/ Union Territory to participate in this programme covering CBSE, ICSE and State syllabus.
- Those who have just completed 9th standard (in the academic year 2018-19) and waiting to join 10th Standard (or just joined 10th Standard) will be eligible for the online registration to the programme.
- The selection is based on the 8th Standard academic performance and extracurricular activities.

Link:

<https://www.isro.gov.in/update/26-mar-2019/young-scientist-programme-yuvika-online-registration>

Super Worm Equinox Moon

Question: Mention the date on which Super Worm Equinox Moon appeared in the sky recently?

(a) 20th March 2019 (b) 9th March 2019 (c) 12th March 2019 (d) 17th March 2019

Answer: (a)

Related facts:



- On 20th March, 2019, the final supermoon of 2019 (Super Worm Equinox Moon) appeared in the sky, aligning with the Spring Equinox marking the end of winter.
- The above moon is the third supermoon of the year, following a super blood wolf moon on Jan. 21 and a super snow moon on Feb 19.
- A supermoon is also known by astronomers as a perigean full moon & it occurs when a full moon reaches its closest point (right after the sunset/ as it begins to rise) to the Earth in its elliptical orbit, making it appear unusually bright and large.
- Since 2000, a full moon has not aligned with the spring equinox and it will not happen together again for 11 years, or until 2030.
- The Equinox is the moment when the length of day and night become equal and the sun's rays fall directly on the earth's equator. At this time, the earth is neither tilted towards the sun nor away from the sun making the sunrise at due east and sunset at due west, with days and night counting roughly 12 hours each.

Links:

<https://slate.com/technology/2019/03/super-worm-equinox-moon-final-supermoon.html>

Rare ISO 22000 Certification to Indian Firm

Question: Which Indian firm received ISO-22000 certification recently?

(a) Flipkart (b) Tech Mahindra (c) FarmLink (d) Mindtree

Answer: (c)

Related facts:

- FarmLink, a fruits and vegetables (F & V) supply chain company, has received a rare ISO-22000 certification from TUV-NORD, a reputed international provider of quality accreditation.
- TUV-Nord Group conducted a three-stage audit at the distribution centre. It examined the process of Receiving, Processing, (Sorting Grading, Storage, Cold Storage, Packing) and Dispatch of fresh & cut vegetables & fruits.
- FarmLink also supports more than 1000 farmers in Maharashtra and Tamil Nadu by providing knowledge & extension services, including agriculture credit, crop insurance

and warehousing under a mission to develop nation's underdeveloped regions.

- The ISO 22000 family of international standards addresses food safety management. It is a non-governmental organization and is headquartered at Geneva, Switzerland. It has membership of 164 national standard bodies.
- TÜV NORD GROUP is one of the world's largest Inspection, Certification & Testing organizations.

Links:

<https://www.iso.org/iso-22000-food-safety-management.html>

Procurement of 464 T-90 tanks

Question: The Government of India cleared the procurement of 464 T 90 recently. Which country will supply these tanks to India?

(a) Israel (b) Turkey (c) US (d) Russia

Answer: (d)

Related facts:

- The Central Government has cleared the procurement of 464 T 90 tanks from Russia worth Rs 13,500 crore. These tanks would be provided to Armoured Corps and will be deployed along the Indo-Pakistan border.
- This deal will have a Make-In-India element for integration at the Heavy Vehicles Factory in Avadi near Chennai.
- Indian Army is also looking to develop new tanks under the Futuristic Main Battle Tank Project.



T-90 Tanks:

- The 10 new regiments of T-90MS tanks are fitted with thermal imaging night sights which will allow the tank commander to strike enemy locations during night battles.
- India has already inducted 18 regiments of T-90 tanks which are deployed in Rajasthan and Punjab against the Pakistan front.

Links:

<https://www.indiatoday.in/india/story/government-clears-procurement-of-464-t-90-tanks-amid-growing-tension-with-pakistan-1497936-2019-04-09>

Climate vulnerability Index

Question: Which of the following state has been given top rank in Climate vulnerability index?

(a) Assam (b) Arunachal Pradesh (c) Nagaland (d) Himachal Pradesh

Answer :(a)

Related facts:

- Climate vulnerability index is published for India.
- It was published by Department of Science and Technology under the ministry of Science and Technology.
- It was prepared for the 12 Himalayan states.
- In this index ranking a given between 0 and 1.
- Where 0 indicates least vulnerable and 1 indicates most vulnerable.
- In this index Assam and Mizoram get the point 0.72 and 0.71 which is highest in 12 Himalayan states.
- The study was done by IIT Bangalore.



- Sikkim is least vulnerable which got point 0.42.
- In this index Jammu and Kashmir got 0.62.
- In this report India is most vulnerable followed by Pakistan.

Links:

<https://www.thehindu.com/sci-tech/energy-and-environment/a-climate-vulnerability-index-for-india/article26537153.ece>

Interbrand Best Indian Brand 2019

Question: Which company bagged the top position in the 'Best Indian Brand, 2019' ranking issued by Brand Consultant company Interbrand?

(a) Tata (b) Reliance Industries (c) Airtel (d) Mahindra

Answer :(a)

Related facts:

- World's leading brand consultant company Interbrand released the 'Best Indian Brand, 2019' ranking on March 14, 2019.
- Tata topped the list followed by Reliance and Airtel.



Interbrand
BEST
INDIAN
BRANDS
2019

Important Highlights:

- The ranking is based on three key components that contribute to a brand's cumulative value: the financial performance of the branded products and services, the role the brand plays in influencing customer choice and the strength the brand has, to command a premium price or secure earning for the company.
- The retail sector also made its presence in the list, which was otherwise dominated by the automotive, diversified businesses & financial service sectors.
- The automotive sector has shifted gears to drive top growth. Royal Enfield, Bajaj Auto, Ashok Leyland, Hero, Maruti Suzuki and Mahindra demonstrate growth higher than average.
- Big Bazaar, DMart and Nerolac Paints enters the table for the first time. On the other hand, Reliance Group and Canara Bank exited the list this year.
- The combined value of the Top 40 brands was INR 5.03 Tn, which represented a 5.2% growth in value over the previous year.
- Tanishq, Royal Enfield, Kotak, Bajaj Auto, Ashok Leyland and Britannia were amongst the fastest growing brands.
- Ever since its inception, Tata has continued to hold the top position in the Best Indian Brands table.
- Tata's brand value grew by a modest 6.5%.
- Reliance witnessed an increase in brand value of 12%. This performance was bolstered by the phenomenal growth of JIO.
- HDFC Bank, LIC, State Bank of India, Infosys, Mahindra, ICICI Bank and Godrej round off the Top 10.
- Financial Services and Auto contributed the most to this year's Top 40, at 27% and 13% of value, respectively.

Link:

<https://www.interbrand.com/newsroom/interbrand-unveils-2019-best-indian-brands-celebrates-brave-growth-amidst-change/>

Union Government Approves the proposal for accession to Nice, Vienna and Locarno

Question: Recently Union Cabinet has approved which of the following Agreements?

(a) The Nice Agreement (b) The Vienna Agreement (c) The Locarno Agreement

(d) All of the above

Answer :(d)

Related Fact:



- On 13th March 2019, Union Cabinet has approved the proposal for India's Accession to the Nice, Vienna and Locarno Agreements.
- This will harmonize the classification systems for examination of trademark and design applications, in line with the systems followed globally.
- It is remarkable that Nice Agreement is based on the international classification of goods and services for the purposes of registration of marks.
- Vienna Agreement leads to setting up an International classification of the figurative elements of marks.
- Locarno Agreements deals with an International classification for industrial designs.
- The accession is expected to instill confidence in foreign investors in relation to protection of IP's in India.

Links:

https://www.business-standard.com/article/news-ians/cabinet-nod-for-joining-nice-vienna-locarno-agreements-119031300587_1.html

UNEA adopts India's resolutions on Single-Use Plastics and Sustainable Nitrogen Management

Question: Fourth Session of United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA) was organised in which of the following city?

(a) Nairobi (b) Kinshasa (c) Cairo (d) Abidjan

Answer :(a)

Related Facts:



- In a Significant First, India piloted resolutions on Single-Use Plastics and Sustainable Nitrogen Management at Fourth United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA).
- Fourth session of UNEA was held in Nairobi (capital of Kenya) from 11th to 15th March 2019.
- UNEA adopted both the resolutions with consensus.

Background

- The Global nitrogen use efficiency is low, resulting in pollution by reactive nitrogen which threatens human health, ecosystem services, contributes to climate change and stratospheric ozone depletion.
- Only a small proportion of the plastics produced globally is recycled with most of it damaging the environment and aquatic bio-diversity.
- The resolutions piloted by India at the UNEA are vital first steps towards addressing these issues and attracting focus of the global community.

Nitrogen

- Nitrogen is essential to all life on Earth as it forms an important component of life-building and propagating biochemical molecules like proteins.

- But overuse in agriculture in the form of Fertilizers and other fields have made this important element more bane than boon.
- This is why many scientists have called nitrogen the “New Carbon”.

Links:

<https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/home/environment/unea-adopts-indias-resolutions-on-single-use-plastic-sustainable-nitrogen-management/articleshow/68444026.cms>

Combat Casualty Drugs

Question: Recently, ‘Combat Casualty drugs’ has been developed by which of the following institute?

- (a) All India Institute of Medical Sciences (b) Armed Forces Medical College, Delhi
(c) Institute of Nuclear Medicine and Allied Sciences (d) None of the above

Answer : (c)

Related facts:



- On 11th March 2019, DRDO’s Medical laboratory has come up with a range of ‘Combat Casualty Drugs’ that can extend the golden hour till the trooper is shifted to hospital.
- It has been developed at the ‘Institute of Nuclear Medicine and Allied Sciences’, a laboratory of DRDO.
- The spectrum of combat drugs includes bleeding wound sealants, super absorptive dressings and glycerinated saline.
- It can save lives in the event of warfare in the jungle and high altitude areas as well as in terror attacks like Pulwama.
- This range of casualty drugs is aimed at enhancing the chances of survival and minimum disability by providing effective first aid care within the golden hour.

Links:

<https://www.thehindubusinessline.com/news/science/drdo-develops-combat-drugs-to-reduce-casualties-in-pulwama-type-attacks-warfare/article26497234.ece>

Veer Parivar App Launched

Question: Who launched the CRPF Veer Parivar app on the occasion of CRPF Valour Day 2019?

- (a) Rajnath Singh (b) Nirmala Sitharaman (c) Ram Nath Kovind (d) Narendra Modi

Answer: (c)

Related Fact:



- President Ram Nath Kovind launched ‘CRPF Veer Pariwar’ application to help the families of martyrs on April 9, 2019.
- President Kovind paid tribute to martyrs of CRPF personnel at National Police Memorial on the occasion of CRPF Valour Day 2019.

- He also presented medals to families of CRPF personnel martyred in line of duty along with the medals to 40 CRPF personnel who lost their lives in Pulwama attack on February 14, 2019.
- This app is developed to show the financial benefit provided to the families of martyrs. It will also provide various other kinds of help to their families.

Links:

<https://www.newdelhitimes.com/president-kovind-launches-crpf-veer-pariwar-mobile-app-helping-families-of-martyrs/>

Gold rating to Vijayawada station

Question: On April 8 2019, the Gold rating was given to the Vijayawada Railway Station for green initiative by which of the following organisation?

- (a) Indian Green Building Council (b) Indian Green Building Committee
(c) Indian Green Building Association (d) None of these

Answer: (a)

Related facts:

- Vijayawada Railway Station was awarded Gold Rating by Indian Green Building Council. It is one of the busiest railway junctions in the country.
- The IGBC-CII, with the support of Environment Directorate of Indian Railways has developed the Green Railway Stations Rating system to facilitate adoption of Green Concepts, thereby reducing the adverse environmental impacts due to station operation & maintenance and enhance the overall commuter experience.
- The rating system helps to address National priorities like water conservation, handling of waste, energy efficiency, reduced used of fossil fuel, lesser dependency on usage of virgin materials and health & well being of occupants.
- Vijayawada station is located in Andhra Pradesh. It has 100 per cent LED lighting, five star rated fans, pumps and motors and which makes it a model station.



Links:

http://www.scr.indianrailways.gov.in/view_detail.jsp?lang=0&dcd=12422&id=0,5,268

India-Korea Startup Hub Launched Under Startup India Banner

Question: Name the place where India-Korea Startup Hub Launched by Prime Minister Narendra Modi recently?

- (a) Seoul (b) Karachi (c) Delhi (d) Colombo

Answer: (a)

Related facts:

- India-Korea Startup hub has been launched by Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi in Seoul.
- This startup hub will serve as one-stop platform to bring Indian and Korean startup ecosystems closer and to facilitate joint innovation between the two economies.
- A joint statement was signed between The Korea Trade-Investment Promotion Agency (KOTRA) and Invest India on 9th July 2018.
- Startup Grand Challenge was also launched on the India-Korea Startup Hub; this challenge is focused on the issues related to cyber threat, analytics & rural healthcare.



- The State Bank of India & Mahindra Rise will provide mentoring, pilot opportunities & financial support to the winners of this challenge.
- Moreover, South Korea stands 12th on Global Innovation Index. Earlier in 2018, the country has attracted \$3.3 billion venture funding in 1,400 odd startups.

Links:

<https://inc42.com/buzz/india-korea-startup-hub-launched-under-startup-india-banner/>

HIV remission achieved through stem cell transplantation

Question: Name the technique used in the remission of HIV (Human Immuno Deficiency Virus) recently?

(a) ART (antiretroviral therapy) followed by Stem Cell Transplantation

(b) Vaccination (c) CAR-T therapy (d) Real time Cancer Diagnostics

Answer: (a)

Related facts:

- In a significant development, a person with HIV infection has been reported to be experiencing remission for the last 18 months after antiretroviral therapy (ART) was stopped following stem-cell transplantation in London.
- Remission is when HIV RNA (ribonucleic acid) is undetectable in blood. ART is used for treating HIV.
- The person with HIV was treated with advanced Hodgkin's lymphoma, a form of cancer, earlier in 2012. To treat the cancer, stem cells which give rise to blood cells were transplanted from a donor who had two mutant copies of a co-receptor for HIV infection.
- The co-receptor (CCR5) is used by the HIV virus to gain entry into host cells in humans. But a mutant does not allow the virus to enter the host cells and hence makes the person resistant to HIV infection.
- In the recent study, the research team led by Prof. Ravindra K. Gupta from University College London first confirmed that following transplantation, the recipient had two copies of the mutant. ART was stopped 16 months after transplantation. The HIV RNA has remained undetectable in blood for 18 months after ART was stopped. The results were published on 5th March 2019 in Nature.
- The researchers did not use radiation but instead used certain drugs to deplete the T cells, which play a crucial role in immunity, before performing stem cell transplantation. At present, achieving HIV remission through stem cell transplantation will be possible only in those cases where people with HIV also have some form of cancer.



Links:

<https://ojaankiasacademy.com/2019/03/05/hiv-remission-achieved-through-stem-cell-transplantation/>

Health Ministry takes stock of the public health measures for controlling West Nile Virus

Question: Consider the following statement regarding West Nile Virus?

(1) The virus was discovered in Uganda in 1937

(2) It was first found in India Malappuram District of Kerala

(3) West Nile Virus (WNV) is the leading cause of mosquito-borne disease in the continental United States Of the above correct statement/s is/are:

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

Answer: (d)

Related facts:

- A section of the media reported that a seven year old boy from Malappuram District of Kerala is suffering from a West Nile Virus (WNV), a mosquito-borne disease, mostly reported in the continental United States.
- Union Minister of Health and Family Welfare notified to the State Health Minister of Kerala in this regard and extended all support to Kerala in its prevention and management.
- The Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) has also been alerted and a close watch is being maintained at Central and State level.
- The virus was discovered in Uganda in 1937 and was first detected in North America in 1999.



West Nile Virus (WNV):

- West Nile Virus (WNV) is the leading cause of mosquito-borne disease in the continental United States.
- It most commonly spreads among the people by the bite of an infected mosquito. Cases of WNV occur during mosquito season, which starts in the summer and continues through fall.
- There are no vaccines available to prevent or medications to treat WNV in people.
- About 1 in 5 people who are infected develop a fever and other symptoms. About 1 out of 150 infected people develop a serious, sometimes fatal, illness.
- The risk of WNV can be reduced by using insect repellent and wearing long-sleeved shirts and long pants to prevent mosquito bites.

Links:

<https://www.cdc.gov/westnile/index.html>

IIT-Delhi researchers use Big Data Analysis, Artificial Intelligence to detect diseases – automate pathology process

Question: Name the technological system used by team of researchers at IIT Delhi to detect diseases & automate pathology process.

(a) Big Data Analysis & Artificial Intelligence (b) CNC programming
(c) Rosetta Terminology Mapping (d) Gene Transcription

Answer: (a)

Related facts:



- In a recently concluded research at Indian Institute of Technology (IIT), Delhi Researchers have successfully used analytics, Big Data Analysis (BDA) and pattern analysis in pathology.
- A new neuromorphic system can successfully detect tuberculosis, malaria, cervical cancer, etc within milliseconds.
- The system can read raw data from blood samples, patterns of a patient and predict diseases suffered by the patients within seconds.
- Nanotechnology has been implemented to curtail the size of the device.
- Earlier in 2017 & 2018, student researchers viz., Khushal Sethi, Narayani Bhatia, Vivek and Shridu Verma were awarded two Summer Undergraduate Research Awards (SURA) by IIT Delhi.
- This concept has received the Gandhian Young Technology Innovation Award (GYTI) earlier in 2018 for its innovative use in other streams.

Links:

<https://indianexpress.com/article/education/iit-delhi-researchers-use-big-data-ai-to-detect-diseases-automate-pathology-process-5643681/>

Dolphin numbers drop in Gandak

Question: Recently a survey was conducted by the Cetacean Specialist Group of the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) on Dolphin number. The survey showed drop in Dolphin number in which river?

(a) Gandak (b) Ghaghara (c) Ganga (d) Brahmaputra

Answer: (a)

Related facts:

- A count of the Ganges River Dolphin (*Platanista gangetica*) in two rivers of Bihar, Gandak and Ghaghara has revealed the presence of 280 dolphins.
- The number of dolphins recorded in a 324-km stretch of river Gandak were 155, a drop from 257 dolphins in 2009-10. In the 99-km stretch of river Ghaghara in Bihar the survey showed the presence of 125 dolphins.
- The estimation was done following the direct count method recommended by the Cetacean Specialist Group of the International Union for Conservation of Nature.
- Gandak is a regulated river due construction of river barrage on the Indo-Nepal border and thus the river depth is low, while the Ghaghara has deeper stretches.
- Ganges river dolphins usually prefer a depth of more than 2 metres and diversity in the river channels.
- Construction of National Waterway 37 is likely to pose a major threat to the population of Ganges river dolphin. Other threats include regulated discharge from Gandak Barrage, electrofishing (discharging electric current to kill fish) and mosquito-net fishing.
- The river system of Bihar, which includes Ganga and its other tributaries, are estimated to contain half of the population of Ganges river dolphin in the country.



Links:

<https://www.thehindu.com/sci-tech/energy-and-environment/dolphin-numbers-drop-in-gandak/article26537009.ece>

Atal Ranking of Institutions on Innovation Achievements (ARIIA)

Question: Consider the following statements regarding Atal Ranking of Institutions on Innovation Achievements (ARIIA) ranking:

1) It was the first edition of ARIIA ranking

2) IIT Madras has topped the Public funded Institutions Category

3) ARIIA focuses on quality of innovations and tries to measure the real impact created by these innovations nationally and internationally

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

Answer: (d)

Related facts:

- On 8th April 2019, MHRD released the first ARIIA ranking. It was announced by President Ramnath Kovind.
- IIT Madras has topped the 'Public funded Institutions Category'.
- Vellore Institute of Technology, Tamil Nadu has topped the 'Private Institutions Category'.

About the Rankings:

- It is an initiative of Ministry of Human Resource Development (MHRD), Govt. of India to systematically rank all the major higher educational institutions and universities in India on indicators related to "Innovation and Entrepreneurship Development" amongst students and faculties.

Major Indicators for consideration:

- Budget & Funding Support.
- Infrastructure & Facilities.
- Awareness, Promotions & support for Idea Generation & Innovation.
- Promotion & Support for Entrepreneurship Development.
- Innovative Learning Methods & Courses.
- Intellectual Property Generation, Technology Transfer & Commercialization.
- Innovation in Governance of the Institution.
- More than quantity, ARIIA focuses on quality of innovations and tries to measure the real impact created by these innovations nationally and internationally.

Links:

<https://ariia.gov.in/>

Foreign Minister Visit

Question: External Affairs Minister recently visited which of the following country dated 17-18 March?

(a) United Arab Emirates (b) Romania (c) Maldives (d) Fiji Islands

Answer: (c)

Related facts:

- External Affairs Minister Sushma Swaraj was on state visit of Male, Maldives on 17th and 18th March, 2019. She was accompanied by Foreign Secretary Vijay Gokhale and other senior officials.
- She met the Maldivian President Ibrahim Mohammed



Solih on March 18, 2019. She also had a bilateral meeting with Foreign Minister Shahid, delegation level meetings with the Minister of Defence, Minister of Finance, Minister of National Planning and Infrastructure etc.

- Maldives finance ministry has signed an agreement with India's Export-Import Bank (EXIM) for line of credit (LOC) of 800 million US dollars to finance the new government's infrastructure projects.
- This loan will be used to provide water and sewerage services on several islands. The EXIM Bank loans come with a 1.75 percent interest rate and a 15-year repayment period after five years of moratorium.
- She also inaugurated the renovated Indira Gandhi Memorial Hospital built in 1995. India was requested to build a cricket stadium in Maldives.

Links:

<https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/sushma-swaraj-meets-maldivian-home-minister-imran-abdulla-discusses-bilateral-ties/article26566507.ece>

NGT slaps Rs 100 crore penalty on Andhra Pradesh

Question: Recently, which of the following state has been charged of Rs 100 crore penalty by National Green Tribunal for inaction to prevent unregulated sand mining?

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

Answer: (c)

Related facts:

- The National Green Tribunal has imposed an interim penalty of Rs 100 crore on the Andhra Pradesh government for inaction to prevent unregulated sand mining in the state.
- The penalized sum is to be deposited as 'environment compensation' with the Central Pollution Control Board(CPCB) within a month.
- A bench, headed by NGT Chairperson Justice Adarsh Kumar Goel made this course of action on a public interest litigation filed by local resident Anumolu Gandhi and Rajendra Singh (popularly known as the Waterman of India).
- In its judgement,NGT constituted a committee comprising Central Pollution Control Board, Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEF&CC), National Institute of Mines, Dhanbad, IIT Roorkee and Madras School of Economics to investigate the environment damage within three months and furnish a report to theTribunal.
- This significant step towards environmental cause is commendable as it will prevent illegal sand mining causing damage to Krishna, Godavari rivers and their tributaries in the state.
- The National Green Tribunal (NGT) has been established on 18 September 2010 under the National Green Tribunal Act 2010 for effective and expeditious disposal of environmental disputes guided by principles of natural justice.



Links:

<https://indianexpress.com/article/india/andhra-pradesh-illegal-sand-mining-national-green-tribunal-5663692/>

Azaadi Ke Diwane Museum

Question: Recently at which among the following places Azaadi ke Diwane museum was inaugurated?

(a) Red Fort, Delhi (b) Amritsar, Punjab (c) Porbandar, Gujarat
(d) Lakshmi Bai Park, Jhansi



Answer: (a)

Related facts:

- On 4th March 2019; the Minister of State, Dr. Mahesh Sharma inaugurated Azaadi ke Diwane museum at Red Fort, Delhi. It has been developed by Archaeological Survey of India (ASI),
- This museum within the Red Fort complex pays homage to all the unsung heroes of freedom struggle of the nation, who would have otherwise been merged away in forgetfulness.
- The museum is fifth in the series of recently inaugurated museums in the Red Fort Complex. Others being, Subhash Chandra Bose and INA museum; Yaad-e-Jallian museum; Museum on 1857 – India's first war of Independence and Drishyakala – Museum on Indian Art.
- The 'Azaadi ke Diwane' museum emphasizes about the sacrifices of great freedom fighters. It pays tribute to the selfless sacrifices of the revolutionaries, brave female freedom fighters and valiant children.

Links:

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=189180>

India's first carbon-positive settlement

Question: Which of the following village recently got the tag of India's first carbon-positive settlement?

(a) Phayeng (b) Bishnupur (c) Thoubal (d) Tamenglong

Answer: (a)

Related facts:

- Phayeng Village situated in Imphal West district of Manipur has been given the tag of India's first carbon-positive settlement.
- A village is given carbon-positive tag if it cut off more carbon than it emits, slowing accumulation of greenhouse gases (GHGs) and mitigating effects of climate change.
- As part of the carbon-positive village project, Phayeng will receive a grant of Rs10 crore in phases to augment afforestation in the catchment of river Maklang that flows along the village.
- Phayeng Village is scheduled caste village of the Chakpa community.
- This major transformation as densely forested region from the dry and denuded village emerged out due to comprehensive afforestation by residents through funding under National Adaptation Fund for Climate Change (NAFCC).
- National Adaptation Fund for Climate Change (NAFCC) is a Central Sector Scheme established in August, 2015 to meet the cost of adaptation to climate change for the State and Union Territories of India that are particularly vulnerable to the adverse effects of climate change.
- It provides 100% funding to activities under it which are implemented in project mode.
- NABARD has been designated as National Implementing Entity (NIE) for implementation of adaptation projects under NAFCC by Govt. of India.



Links:

<https://www.hindustantimes.com/india-news/a-village-with-carbon-positive-tag/story-i4aeAisAO4oLalIEK21e8I.html>

Sale approval of 24 MH 60 Romeo Seahawk Helicopters to India

Question: Which country has approved the sale of 24 multi-role MH-60 Romeo Seahawk Helicopters to India?



(a) Russia (b) China (c) United States (d) Israel

Answer: (c)

Related facts:

- The Trump administration has approved the sale of 24 multi-role MH-60 Romeo Seahawk Helicopters to India at an estimated cost of 2.4 billion US dollars.
- This proposed sale will support the foreign policy of the US by helping to strengthen the US-Indian strategic relationship.
- It is considered the world's most advanced maritime helicopter. The choppers will provide the Indian defence forces with the capability to perform anti-surface and anti-submarine warfare missions.
- The helicopters will also perform secondary missions including vertical replenishment, search and rescue, and communications relay. These helicopters are designed to operate from frigates, destroyers, cruisers and aircraft carriers.

Links:

<http://newsonair.com/Main-News-Details.aspx?id=361749>

Ramappa temple for world heritage site

Question: Recently which temple is about to be listed as World Heritage Site?

(a) Ramappa temple (b) Bhadrachalam Temple (c) Thousand Pillar Temple

(d) Gnana Saraswati Temple

Answer: (a)

Related facts:

- Ramappa Temple at Palampet near Warangal, Telangana is about to be listed as UNESCO World Heritage Site.
- Ramappa Temple also known as Ramalingeswara temple is located in the valley of Palampet village, 77 km from Warangal.
- The Ramappa Temple's application, filed as 'The Glorious Kakatiya Temples and Gateways', has been fast-tracked from April 2014.



Uniqueness of the temple:

- This Siva temple is the only one in the country that is known by the name of the architect rather than the king who commissioned it or its presiding deity.
- The temple is known for its elaborate carvings, floating bricks and stands as a remarkable testimony of Kakatiyan architecture.
- The stunning dance sculptures and friezes of the temple appear as if they have been machined into shape on black dolomite, rather than being chiselled.
- The temple is built on a valley and it rests on bricks that are scientifically shown to float in water.

Links:

<https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/telangana/ramappa-temple-for-world-heritage-site/article26692459.ece>

India offers US\$ 100 million line of credit for developmental projects

Question: India has announced to give \$100 million line of credit for developmental projects to which of the following country?

(a) Cameroon



- (b) Maldives
- (c) Jordan
- (d) Bolivia

Answer: (d)

Related facts:

- The President of India **Ram Nath Kovind** was on a state visit of **Bolivia** from **28th to 30th March, 2019**.
- During this visit President Morales conferred the **highest State Honour of Bolivia – Condor de los Andes en el Grado de Gran Collar – on President Kovind**.
- India announced a **US\$ 100 million Line of Credit to Bolivia** for financing development projects in sectors that Bolivia may choose. Doubling of training slots to 10 under **Indian Technical Economic Cooperation** programme to Bolivia was also offered.
- The President led delegation-level talks between **India-Bolivia**. Following the delegation-level talks, the two Presidents witnessed the signing and exchange of **eight MOUs** in the field of fields of culture, visa waiver for diplomats, exchange between diplomatic academies, mining, space, traditional medicine, establishment of Centre of Excellence in IT and the Bi-Oceanic Railway project.
- India-Bolivia bilateral trade has picked up in the last two years and it stood at **US\$ 875 million in 2018. 60% of Bolivian gold is exported to India**.
- Both sides also agreed to **work together for exploration and extraction of Lithium**. India needs Lithium for its clean technology initiatives such as increased use of electric cars.
- Bolivia also joined the **International Solar Alliance** by signing the framework agreement on International Solar Alliance.
- Bolivia is a landlocked country in the center of South America. It is bordered by Brazil to the north and east, Paraguay and Argentina to the south, and Chile and Peru to the west.
- This is an **energy and mineral resource rich country** having huge deposits of hydrocarbons, natural gases and lithium used for making batteries.

Links:

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=189604>

GI Tag to five varieties of coffee

Question: Which of the following coffee variant/s is/are included in the recently declared GI Tag list by Government?

- (1) Coorg Arabica (2) Wayanad Robusta Coffee (3) Araku Valley Arabica
(4) Vizag Coffee Mocha

Choose the correct option:

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

Answer: (c)

Related facts:

- The **Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade** under Ministry of Commerce and Industry has awarded **GI (Geographical Indication) Tag to five varieties of Coffee** on 29th March, 2019.

These varieties include:

- **Coorg Arabica coffee:** It is grown specifically in the region of Kodagu district in Karnataka.



- **Wayanad Robusta coffee:** It is grown specifically in the region of Wayanad district of Kerala.
- **Chikmagalur Arabica coffee:** It is grown specifically in the region of Chikmagalur district of Karnataka.
- **Araku Valley Arabica coffee:** It is grown on the hilly tracks of Visakhapatnam district of Andhra Pradesh and Odisha region. This type of coffee is produced by the tribals following an organic approach.
- **Bababudangiris Arabica coffee** It is grown in the region of Chikmagalur district. This type of coffee is selectively hand-picked and processed by natural fermentation.
- In India, coffee is cultivated in about **4.54 lakh hectares** by **3.66 lakh coffee farmers** of which 98% are small farmers.
- The main coffee growing States are: Karnataka – 54%; Kerala – 19%; Tamil Nadu – 8%. Coffee is also grown in non-traditional areas like Andhra Pradesh and Odisha (17.2%) and North East States (1.8%).
- India is the only country in the world where the **entire coffee cultivation** is grown under shade, hand-picked and sun dried. Indian coffee is **highly valued in the world market** and sold as premium coffee in Europe.
- The recognition and protection that comes with GI certification will allow the coffee producers of India to invest in maintaining the specific qualities of the coffee grown in that particular region.

Links:

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=189595>

Visit of President to three countries

Question: President of India was on visit of which of the following three countries from March 25 to April 1, 2019?

- (a) Croatia, Chile and Hungary (b) Croatia, Venezuela and Argentina
(c) Croatia, Guatemala and Ghana (d) Croatia, Bolivia and Chile

Answer: (d)

Related facts:



- President of India **Ram Nath Kovind** was on a **state visit to Croatia, Bolivia and Chile** from 30 March to 1 April 2019.
- Accompanied by a **high-level delegation**, President's visit to these three countries **aims to strengthen bilateral ties** and provide new direction to multi-faceted development of India's bilateral relations.

Visit to Croatia:

- In Croatia, President had meetings with the **Croatian President Kolinda Grabar-Kitarović** and the **Prime Minister Andrej Plenković**.
- **Ram Nath Kovind** is the **first President of India** to visit Croatia.
- In order to encourage bilateral ties **four Memorandum of Understandings were signed: two in culture, one each in tourism, and sports.**

- President of India was also honoured with **Croatia's highest civilian award – the Grand Order of the King of Tomislav.**
- India and Croatia have **close cultural links.** The Indology Department at the University of Zagreb has a long history of over six decades, and an ICCR Hindi Chair was set up a decade ago.
- The two countries are now focusing on **strengthening trade and investment linkages.** There are already investments by some Indian companies in areas of **pharmaceuticals, information technology and renewable energy.**

Bolivia Visit:

- In his second leg of three nations tour, President visited Bolivia on 29 March 2019. He was welcomed by **Bolivian President President Evo Morales** at Viru Viru International Airport, Santa Cruz .
- It is worth to mention that Kovind is the first President of India to visit Bolivia.
- He participated in India-Bolivia business forum meeting and also interacted with the students at the University in Santa Cruz.
- Bolivia has large deposits of lithium, gold, silver and **gas reserves.**
- **Bolivia's Lithium and our needs for eMobility and eStorage** provide natural synergies. As Bolivia embarks on industrialization of its resources, India is a willing partner for know-how, technology and skills. In the Financial Year 2017-18, the bilateral trade grew by 205% to reach US 772 million dollar.

Visit to Chile:

- In Chile President met **Sebastián Piñera President of Chile** celebrating the 70th year **of establishment of India-Chile diplomatic relations.**
- President Kovind participated in the India-Chile Business Forum and interacted with young scientists at the University of Chile.
- President Kovind laid a wreath at Monument of General Bernardo O' Higgins, who struggled for Chile's independence from Spain.
- **Chile** has a **wealth of natural resources** including copper and forests, control over a large part of Antarctica and a **long maritime boundary.**
- **India** has a **Preferential Trade Agreement with Chile** that was expanded in the year 2017.
- **Chile** is the **sixth largest trading partner** of India in **LAC region.** India imports **2092 mn dollar** and exports **764 mn dollar.**

Links:

[https://www.mea.gov.in/outgoing-visit-](https://www.mea.gov.in/outgoing-visit-detail.htm?31172/State+Visit+of+the+President+of+India+to+Croatia+Bolivia+and+Chile+March+25++April+2+2019)

[detail.htm?31172/State+Visit+of+the+President+of+India+to+Croatia+Bolivia+and+Chile+March+25++April+2+2019](https://www.mea.gov.in/outgoing-visit-detail.htm?31172/State+Visit+of+the+President+of+India+to+Croatia+Bolivia+and+Chile+March+25++April+2+2019)

<http://newsonair.com/Main-News-Details.aspx?id=361429>

Swachh Survekshsan-2019 Awards

Question: _____ bagged award for cleanest city for third straight year in Swachh Survekshsan.

(a) Indore (b) Bhopal (c) Kolkata (d) Mumbai

Answer (a)

Related facts:



- On 6 March 2019, President Ram Nath Kovind presented Swachh Survekshsan-2019 Awards in New Delhi.
- Indore bagged award for cleanest city for third straight year in Swachh Survekshsan.
- New Delhi Municipal Council area gets cleanest small city award while Uttarakhand's Gauchar was adjudged Best Ganga Town in the survey.
- Top ranked cities received a statue of Mahatma Gandhi as award for their commendable work towards cleanliness.
- Swachh Survekshsan 2019 covered all Urban Local Bodies in the country, making it the largest such cleanliness survey in the world.

Link:

<http://www.newsonair.com/Main-News-Details.aspx?id=360650>

National Institute of Mental Health Rehabilitation

Question: The Central Government has approved on outlay of Rs ____ for National Institute of Mental Health Rehabilitation for an initial period of three years.

(a) 180 crore (b) 250 crore (c) 280 crore (d) 320 crore

Answer: (a)

Related facts:

- Secretary, DEPwD laid the foundation stone of the National Institute of Mental Health Rehabilitation at Sherpur village along Bhopal-Sehore highway, District Sehore, Madhya Pradesh on March, 3, 2019.
- This institute will be first of its kind in the country.



- The Central Government has approved an outlay of Rs. 180 crore for this project for an initial period of three years.
- The land for this institute measuring about 25 acre was allocated free of cost by the Government of Madhya Pradesh in October 2018.
- DEPWD stands for – Department of Empowerment of persons with Disabilities and 1 acre was allocated free of cost by the Government of Madhya Pradesh in October 2018.
- The institute will promote mental health rehabilitation using an integrated multidisciplinary approach, to undertake capacity building and to involve in developing trained professionals in the area of mental health rehabilitation and help the Government in formulating policy and programs/models for rehabilitation of persons with mental illness.

Link:

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=189163>

National Annual Rural Sanitation Survey (NARSS) 2018-19

Question: Which one of the following is key finding of National Annual Rural Sanitation Survey (NARSS) 2018-19?

- (a) 93.1% of households were found to have access to toilets during the survey period
- (b) 85.1% of households were found to have access to toilets during the survey period
- (c) 80.1% of households were found to have access to toilets during the survey period
- (d) None of the above

Answer:(a)

Related facts:

- The National Annual Rural Sanitation Survey (NARSS) 2018-19, conducted by an Independent Verification Agency (IVA) under the World Bank support project to the Swachh Bharat Mission Grameen (SBM-G), has found that 96.5% of the households in rural India who have access to a toilet use it.



Key findings of NARSS 2018-19:

- 93.1% of households were found to have access to toilets during the survey period (the corresponding figure as per the SBMG-MIS in November 2018 was 96%)
- 96.5% of the people who had access to toilets used them.
- 90.7% of villages which were previously declared and verified as ODF were confirmed to be ODF. The remaining villages also had sanitation coverage of about 93%.
- 95.4% of the villages surveyed found to have minimal litter and minimal stagnant water.

Links:

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=189193>

Loan for Additional Financing for Uttarakhand Disaster Recovery Project

Question: The Loan amount for Additional Financing for Uttarakhand Disaster Recovery Project is ____.

- (a) 96 million dollar
- (b) 75 million dollar
- (c) 50 million dollar
- (d) 66 million dollar

Answer: (a)

Related facts:



- signed a 96 million loan agreement on March 5, 2019.
- Agreement provides additional funds to the State of Uttarakhand in its post-disaster recovery plans, ongoing since the floods of 2013, as well as strengthens its capacity for Disaster Risk Management.
- The World Bank, through the Uttarakhand Disaster Recovery Project, has been supporting the State Government since 2014 to restore housing and rural connectivity, and to build resilience of communities.
- Natural Disasters cost the country on average of 9.8 billion dollar annually.
- So far, the project has completed more than 2,000 permanent houses and 23 public buildings and restored over 1,300 kilometers of roads and 16 bridges.

Links:

<http://www.worldbank.org/en/news/press-release/2019/03/05/world-bank-signs-agreement-to-provide-additional-funds-for-post-disaster-recovery-in-uttarakhand-state>

Financial stability Board

Question: Consider the following statements:

(1) The financial stability Board is an international Body that monitors and makes recommendations about the global financial system

(2) The Board includes all G-20 major economies (3) India is a member of FSB

Choose the correct option:

- (a) All the statements are correct (b) Only statements 1 & 2 are correct
(c) Only statement 1 is correct (d) Only statement 2 is correct

Answer: (a)

Related facts:

- Recently RBI drafted new rules aimed at ensuring that rewards for senior executives in private and foreign banks are in sync or aligned with the risk taking after the 2008 global financial crisis, the Indian Central Bank too is set to squeeze executive compensation.
- The FSB is an international body that monitors and makes recommendations about the global financial system.
- It was established after the G20 summit in April 2009 as a successor to the financial stability Forum (FSF).
- The Board includes all G20 Major Economics, FSB members and the European Commission.
- Hosted and funded by the Bank for International settlements the Board is leased In Basel, Switzerland.
- India too is a member of FSB.



Links:

<https://indianexpress.com/article/explained/levelling-the-bankers-field-reserve-bank-of-india-draft-rules-compensation-for-ceos-5614634/>

International

India may stop Oil imports from Iran

Question: Which one of the following is among the eight core industries in India?

- (a) Oil & Gas sector (b) Banking sector (c) FMCG sector (d) None



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

of the above

Answer: (a)

Related facts:

- India **plans to increase imports** from **major oil producing nations other than Iran**, indicating that it will be acceding to the **U.S plan to reduce Iran's oil exports to zero**.
- On 22 April 2019, **USA** announced that it would **be cancelling the waivers from sanctions it had granted eight countries, including India, allowing them to import oil from Iran**.
- Following the revocation of this waiver, any country violating the ban would face U.S Sanctions.
- The **Oil & Gas sector is among the eight core industries** in India and plays a major role in influencing decision making for all the other important sections of the economy.
- Other Core Industries are **Electricity, steel, refinery products, coal, cement, natural gas and fertilizers**.
- India is expected to be one of the largest contributors to non-OECD petroleum consumption growth globally.
- Oil imports rose sharply to **87.37 US billion dollar in 2017-18** from **70.72 US billion dollar in 2016-17**.
- India retained its spot as the **third largest consumer of oil in the world in 2017** with consumption of **4.69 mbpd of oil in 2017**, compared to **4.56 mbpd in 2016**.

Links:

<https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/india-may-stop-oil-imports-from-iran/article26926148.ece>

Asian Tea Alliance

Question: Recently Asian Tea Alliance was launched in which of the following country?

(a) China (b) Japan (c) Sri Lanka (d) India

Answer: (a)

Related facts:

- On 19th April, 2019, a union of **five tea-growing and consuming countries** launched an alliance named **Asia Tea Alliance (ATA) in Guizhou, China**.
- The members of the alliance are the Indian Tea Association, China Tea Marketing Association, Indonesian Tea Marketing Association, Sri Lanka Tea Board and Japan Tea Association.
- ATA plans to work towards enhancing tea trade, cultural exchanges, technology exchanges as well as globally promoting tea.
- It will also work towards enhancing global consumption of tea while creating a sustainability agenda for the future of Asian Tea.
- Memorandum of Understanding was signed earlier in December, 2018 between the Indian Tea Association and China Tea Marketing Association.
- The two associations signed the pact to promote green and black tea consumption in major tea markets of **Europe, the U.S., Russia and West Asia besides India and China**.
- **Tea exports** from India reached a **36 year high of 240.68 million kgs in calendar year 2017**. The previous record was **241.25 kgs** in the year **1981**.



Links:

<https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/economy/agriculture/with-240-68-million-kilograms-2017-tea-export-at-36-years-high/articleshow/62807516.cms?from=mdr>

Sri Lanka Bomb Explosions

Question: Consider the following statements regarding Sri Lanka bomb explosion:

- (1) Sri Lanka bomb explosion took place on 21st April 2019
(2) The attacks were quite coordinated and were targeted at minority Christians as well as foreign nationals

Choose the correct statement/s from the above:

- (a) Only (1) (b) Only (2) (c) Both (1) and (2) (d) Neither (1) or (2)

Answer: (c)

Related facts:



- On 21st April 2019 during Easter services, a series of bomb blast took place in Sri Lanka targeting churches and five-star hotels in Colombo, Negombo and Batticaloa.
- It is one of biggest attack in Sri Lanka since the war against LTTE ended in 2009.
- In the major terrorist attack 253 people were killed, including at least 42 foreign nationals and three police officers, and at least 500 were injured.
- As per Sri Lankan government officials, all seven of the suicide bombers in the attacks were Sri Lankan citizens associated with National Thowheeth Jama'ath, a local militant Islamist group with suspected foreign ties, earlier known for attacks against Buddhists.
- The explosions hit historic St. Anthony's Church in Colombo, St. Sebastian's church in the town of Negombo and the Zion Church in the east coast town of Batticaloa.
- The hotels that were bombed were the Shangri-La, Cinnamon Grand, Kingsbury and Tropical Inn.
- Later, in a move to ensure security President Maithripala Sirisena banned any face garment which "hinders identification" by an emergency law.

Links:

<http://www.newsonair.com/Main-News-Details.aspx?id=362527>

Destruction of thirty thousand World Maps by China

Question: The McMahon line is the demarcation line between the Tibetan region of China and the North-East region of India proposed by British colonial administrator Henry McMahon at the –

- (a) 1914 Shimla Convention (b) 1916 Shimla Convention (c) 1918 Shimla Convention
(d) None of the above

Answer: (a)

Related facts:

- According to the media report of 26th March, 2019, China has destroyed 30,000 world maps printed in the country for not mentioning Arunachal Pradesh and Taiwan as part of Chinese territory.
- China claims the north-eastern India state Arunachal Pradesh as part of South Tibet, and routinely objects to Indian leaders visiting Arunachal Pradesh to highlight its stand.
- India maintains that the state of Arunachal Pradesh is integral and inalienable part of the country and Indian leaders visit Arunachal Pradesh from time to time.
- China also claims the estranged island of Taiwan as part of its territory that must be reunified with the mainland, even by force.



Link:

<https://www.indiatoday.in/world/story/china-india-arunachal-pradesh-destroy-maps-1486989-2019-03-26>

General Elections in Finland

Question: Which party won General Elections in Finland?

- (a) Social Democrats Party (b) Finland Nationalist Party (FNP)
(c) Finland Democrats Party (FDP) (d) None of the above

Answer: (a)

Related facts:

- Parliamentary elections were held in Finland on 14th April, 2019.
- Finland's leftist Social Democrats have recorded a razor-thin victory in general elections, holding off the far-right Finns Party.
- With 100 percent of ballots counted, the Social Democrats, led by Antti Rinne, bagged 40 seats in the 200 member Parliament, while the Finns Party picked up 39 Seats.
- The National Coalition Party claimed 38 seats, with the ruling Center party winning 31 seats. The remaining seats were won by other parties.
- The Social Democrats will head a government for the first time in 16 years, though it has been a junior coalition member since then.



Links:

<http://www.newsonair.com/Main-News-Details.aspx?id=362250>

Ban on Single use Plastics

Question: Which of the following voted overwhelmingly for ban on single use plastic products?

- (a) European Union Parliament (b) Asian Countries (c) G8 Countries (d) None of the Above

Answer: (a)

Related facts:

- European lawmakers voted overwhelmingly for an EU-Wide ban on single-use plastic products. These single use plastic products are straws, cutlery and cotton buds that are clogging the world's oceans.
- The text had already been approved in negotiations with member states and EU officials and it will now be rapidly approved into law. The ban comes into effect from 2021.
- Europe was not the worst source of plastic pollution, but that the pioneering measure could serve as an example to the world. The EU will encourage member states to reduce the use of plastic packaging and introduce stricter labeling rules.
- The law sets a goal that 90 percent of plastic bottles will be gathered for recycling by 2029 and that they should be produced with 25 percent recycled material by 2025, 30 percent by 2030.
- According to the EU commission, the products prohibited under the law represent 70 percent of the waste that pours into the world's oceans, posing a threat to wildlife and fisheries.
- Every year, Europeans generate 25m tonnes of plastic waste, but less than 30% is collected for recycling. More than 80% of marine litter is plastic.



Links:

<https://phys.org/news/2019-03-eu-parliament-plastics.html>

Announcement of long-term visas for best 100 Arab start-ups

Question: Which of the following government has recently announced granting long-term visas for the top 100 start-ups shaping the Fourth Industrial Revolution?

(a) UAE (b) Saudi Arab (c) Bangladesh (d) Kuwait

Answer: (a)

Related facts:

- The UAE Government has recently announced granting long term visas for the top 100 start-ups shaping the fourth industrial revolution.
- The 100 Arab start-ups were selected at the World Economic Forum on the Middle East and North Africa, held in Jordan between 6th and 7th April, 2019.
- The start-ups will also have a chance to team up with “Area 2071” which serves as a gateway and a platform to design the future, through encouraging creativity, fostering talents as well as attracting local and global partnerships.
- This initiative reaffirms UAF’s commitment to build global partnerships between the government and the private sectors to promote future technologies and the exchange of global experiences and innovations in order to employ the Fourth Industrial Revolution Technologies in future cities.
- According to the World Economic Forum’s latest report, 20% of the Arab world’s 100 most promising startups are based in the UAE.



Link:

<http://www.newsonair.com/Main-News-Details.aspx?id=361938>

London introduces world’s first 24*7 ultra low emission zone

Question: Which of the following city became the first one in world to implement 24*7 pollution charge zone?

(a) London (b) Paris (c) Geneva (d) New York

Answer: (a)

Related facts:

- On 8 April 2019, London became the first city in the world to implement a 24*7 Ultra Low Emission Zone (ULEZ).
- Ultra Low Emission Zone is a special status given to a region in order to reduce air pollution. As a part of environment conservation measures, it will charge an entry fee for vehicles not meeting the emission standards.
- ULEZ is next stage to clean city’s air following T-charge — an extra charge for highly polluting vehicles in the city center — introduced in February 2017.
- The zone will cover the same area as the existing Congestion Charge — collected from drivers in the city center — until 2021.
- The ULEZ is set to be expanded to cover the entire area between the North and South Circular roads in 2021.
- These vital preventive measures resulted to fall of vehicles (around 11,000 per day) entering the zone and there has been a significant 55 per cent increase in emissions-compliant vehicles in the zone.
- It is worth to state that Air pollution costs Euro 3.7 billion to the capital every year, and Euro 20 billion to the country every year.



Links:

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

Sudan's President Ousted by Army

Question: Name the Sudan's President who has been ousted and arrested by the military?

(a) Omar al-Bashir (b) Al-Bagdadi (c) Omar Abdulla (d) Sheikh Mohammad Khalifa

Answer: (a)

Related facts:

- **Sudan's President Omar al-Bashir** has been ousted and arrested by the military on April 11, 2019.
- He has governed Sudan since 1989, was nearly **30 years in power**.
- Demonstrations against Bashir have been taking place for several months.
- The protesters are now demanding a civilian council to lead the transition rather than a military one.
- Accused of organizing war crimes and crimes against humanity in Sudan's western Darfur region, Bashir has an international arrest warrant issued by the **International Criminal Court (ICC)**.
- Bashir is a former army officer who came to power in a military coup in 1989.
- His rule has been marked by civil war. The civil conflict with the south of the country ended in 2005 and South Sudan became independent in 2011.



Links:

<https://www.bbc.com/news/world-africa-47891470>

<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2019/apr/11/sudan-army-ousts-bashir-after-30-years-in-power>

UN to investigate massacre of 157 Malian villagers

Question: Who will investigate the massacre of 157 Malian villagers?

(a) WTO (b) WHO (c) UN (d) IBRD

Answer: (c)

Related facts:

- The United Nations has dispatched human rights experts to central Mali to investigate massacre of at least 157 villagers.
- A conflict between Dogon hunters and Fulani herders that killed hundreds of civilians in 2018 and spreading across the Sahel, the arid region between the Sahara desert to the north and Africa's Savannas to the south.
- A team of 10 human rights specialists, a child protection agent and two MINUSMA investigators have been deployed to the Mopti region to conduct a special investigation.
- MINUSMA refers to the U.N. mission in Mali.



Link:

<https://www.reuters.com/article/us-mali-security/death-toll-from-attack-on-mali-herders-rises-to-157-idUSKCN1R72V7>

Russia releases coin commemorating annexation

Question: Russia releases coin commemorating annexation of which country?

(a) Crimea (b) Syria (c) Ukraine (d) None of the above

Answer: (a)

Related facts:



- In order to commemorate Crimea's "reunification with Russia", Russia's Central Bank issued a new five-ruble coin featuring the Crimea, or Kerch Strait, Bridge.
- The Kerch Strait Bridge, finished last year, has been a scene of division. This bridge is 19 kilometers long (12 miles), the bridge over the Kerch Strait is considered the longest in Europe, spanning a rough stretch of water previously only serviced by ferry.
- Two million new five-ruble (about \$0.08, €0.07) coins were pressed which also show an outline of the peninsula annexed by Russia in 2014.
- The annexation of the peninsula was condemned by Kyiv and the West as illegal.

Links:

<https://indianexpress.com/article/world/russia-releases-coin-commemorating-annexation-of-crimea-5624769/>

Tesla's largest Energy Storage System in Asia

Question: Tesla Company recently developed Asia's largest energy storage system in which of the following country?

(a) South Korea (b) Singapore (c) China (d) Japan

Answer: (d)

Related facts:



- Tesla has developed its largest power storage system in Asia. It is established to reduce energy demand and provide emergency backup power to trains in Japan.
- It has installed a bank of 42 Powerpacks at a train station in Japan's Osaka. It can provide sufficient backup power to safely move a train and its passengers to the nearest station during power outage. The 42 Powerpacks battery system will also help reduce energy demand on the Osaka grid during peak hours.
- This 7 megawatt-hours (MWh) system is its largest energy storage project in Asia, and the fourth largest in the greater Asia-Pacific (APAC) region. This system was developed in partnership with Kintetsu, a railway operator in Japan's Osaka.
- The new Tesla Powerpacks system is a fully integrated, AC-connected energy storage system that can connect to a building or utility network. It has 16 individual battery pods, each with an isolated DC-DC converter.
- Tesla, Inc. (formerly Tesla Motors, Inc.) is an American automotive and Energy Company based in Palo Alto, California. It was founded in 2003.

Link:

https://www.business-standard.com/article/news-ians/tesla-builds-its-largest-energy-storage-system-in-asia-119032800106_1.html

Renewable Energy production Tripled

Question: Which among the following countries has tripled its renewable energy production?

(a) China (b) Norway (c) Ukraine (d) Japan

Answer: (c)

Related facts:

- European country Ukraine has tripled its renewable energy production over the last year. Many of its new power plants run on bio-fuels. One of these plants is Koriukivka in Chernihiv region.
- Build in 2016, this power plant used wood chips as bio-fuel, approximately 140 tons of this fuel is used each day.
- The wood chips are produced from logs and waste from local woodworking industry. These are accumulated and crushed by a machine to get chips that suitable for burning and generating electricity.
- This power plant generates around 20 million kilowatt-hours of energy per year, allowing it to supply electricity to 3.5 thousand apartments.



Link:

<http://ddnews.gov.in/international/ukraine-triples-its-renewable-energy-production>

Islamic State defeated, caliphate eliminated by US-backed SDF

Question: Name the territory in Syria where Islamic State has been defeated recently & 'caliphate' is eliminated by Syrian Democratic Forces backed by US?

(a) Baghouz (b) Al Hasakah (c) Idlib (d) Dimashq (Damascus)

Answer : (a)

Related facts:

- On 23 March 2019, Islamic State has been defeated at its final shred of territory of Baghouz in Syria, the US-backed Syrian Democratic Forces (SDF), announcing the end of its self-declared "caliphate" that once spanned a third of Iraq and Syria.
- Though the defeat of Islamic State in Baghouz ends the group's grip over the jihadist quasi-state straddling Syria and Iraq that it declared earlier in 2014, remains a threat.
- Over the past 2 months some 60,000 people poured out of that dwindling enclave, fleeing SDF (Syrian Democratic Forces) bombardment and a shortage of food so severe that some informed that they were reduced to cooking grass.
- Intense air strikes throughout the campaign have levelled entire districts and rights groups have informed that they killed many civilians, allegations the coalition has often disputed.
- A mass grave the SDF (Syrian Democratic Forces) discovered last month showed there were other dangers in the enclave, though it has released no details on the identities of the victims or how they died.



Link:

<https://www.thehindubusinessline.com/news/world/islamic-state-defeated-caliphate-eliminated-says-us-backed-sdf/article26618143.ece>

Masood Azhar listing blocked in UNSC

Question: Which of the following country blocked the listing of terrorist Masood Azhar in the United Nations Security Council using the veto?

(a) Russia (b) China (c) France (d) Saudi Arabia

Answer: (b)

Related facts:

- Neighbouring country and UNSC permanent member China put a “technical hold” on India’s proposal to list Masood Azhar as a global terrorist at the UNSC on March 13, 2019.
- China mentioned that it needs more time to study the matter for an in-depth assessment of the matter and put a hold in the 1267 Sanctions Committee at the UNSC.
- China has previously blocked his listing 3 times. This was a fresh bid by India following the Pulwama attacks which was done by JeM as claimed.
- This hold is valid for 6 months which could be further extended to 3 months.
- A total of 14 out of 15 members (4 of permanent and 10 of non-permanent) of UNSC supported India on the issue while seven members were co-sponsoring the resolution to list Azhar.
- This proposal was brought by France, UK and US to designate Azhar under the 1267 Al Qaeda Sanctions Committee of the UN Security Council post Pulwama terror attack.



Masood Azhar:

- Masood Azhar (Mohammed Masood Azhar Alvi) is a top Jaish-e-Mohammad leader and has been in the masterminds of various terrorist attacks over India which includes suicide bombing at Army Headquarter in Srinagar, 2001 Parliament attack, 26/11 Mumbai attacks of 2011, as well as the latest Pulwama attack in February 2019 which claimed more than 40 lives of CRPF personnel.
- He was arrested by security forces in India (Kashmir) in 1994 but was released after Indian Airlines plane flight 814 hijack which was forcibly made to land in Kandhar in 1999 and 3 terrorist including him was asked as a ransom.
- After this, he formed the Jaish-e-Muhammad (JeM) terrorist group in 2001. He was also a close aide to Osama bin Laden and has a strong presence in African terrorist and radical outfits.

Links:

<https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/masood-azhar-as-global-terrorist-china-blocks-bid-at-un-yet-again/article26525313.ece>

Hawaii bans plastics at restaurants

Question: Which of the following provinces of United States have banned the use of plastics at restaurants statewide?

(a) Hawaii (b) Seattle (c) San Francisco (d) None of the above

Answer :(a)

Related facts:

- On 19th March 2019, Hawaii became the first state in the United States to ban most plastics used at restaurants.
- The legislatures aims to cut down on waste that pollutes the ocean.
- It is remarkable that dozens of cities across the country have banned plastics earlier but Hawaii would be the first to bar them statewide.
- In the US, 500 million plastic straws are used and thrown out every day.
- It is noteworthy that 95 percent of plastic packaging worldwide is thrown out after being used once.



Links:

<https://www.cbsnews.com/news/hawaii-considers-banning-most-plastics-at-restaurants-to-cut-down-on-ocean-pollution/>

Golan Heights: 14 Security Council Nations criticized United States

Question: Golan Heights Issue is related to-

**(a) Recognition of Israel's sovereignty over the Golan heights
(b) Recognition of Australia's sovereignty over the Golan Heights
(c) Recognition of Pakistan's sovereignty over the Golan Heights
(d) None of the above**

Answer :(a)

Related facts:

- On 27 March 2019, United States came under sharp criticism from the 14 other Security Council nations for its decision to recognize Israel's sovereignty over the Golan Heights.
- Speakers at the open meeting supported Syria's sovereignty over the Strategic plateau and opposed Israel's annexation of the Golan Heights.
- They also opposed US President Donald Trump's proclamation.



Trump's Proclamation

- President Donald Trump informed that the United States should back Israeli sovereignty over the Golan Heights, Seized from Syria in 1967.

Golan Heights

- The Golan Heights were part of Syria until 1967, when Israel captured most of the area in the Six day War, occupying it and annexing it in 1981.
- That unilateral annexation was not recognised internationally. And Syria demands the return of territory.
- Syria tried to regain the Heights in the 1973 Middle East war, but was thwarted.
- Israel and Syria signed an armistice in 1974 and the Golan had been relatively quiet since.

- In 2000, Israel and Syria held their highest level talks over a possible agreement. But the negotiations collapsed and subsequent talks also failed.

Significance

- Security. Israel informs that the civil war in Syria demonstrates the need to keep the plateau as a buffer zone between Israeli towns and the instability of its neighbour.

Links:

<https://www.abc.net.au/news/2019-03-22/donald-trump-tweet-changes-decades-of-middle-east-policy/10928156>

Global Energy Transition Index 2019

Question: Global Energy Transition Index is an annual list, compiled by –
 (a) World Economic Forum (b) Asian Development Bank (c) World Knowledge Forum
 (d) None of the above

Answer: (a)

Related facts:

- Global Energy transition index released on March 25, 2019.
- This annual list compiled by Geneva- based world economic forum, has ranked 115 economies on how well they are able to balance energy security and access with environmental sustainability and affordability.
- India has moved up two places to rank 76th on this Index.
- India is amongst the countries with high pollution levels and has a relatively high CO2 intensity in its energy system.
- Report added that despite this, India has made significant strides to improve energy access in recent years, and currently scores well in the area of regulation and political commitment towards energy transition.



Top three and Major Economics

- Sweden remains on the top on the list and is followed by Switzerland and Norway in the top three.
- Among major economics, the UK is ranked 7th, Singapore 13th, Germany 17th, Japan 18th, and the US 27TH.
- Within Asia, Malaysia is ranked highest at 31st, Sri Lanka is 60th, Bangladesh 90th and Nepal 93rd.
- India is also the second best in the BRICS block of emerging economics, with Brazil being the best at 46th place globally.
- China is ranked even lower than India at 82nd position, though it ranks very high at seventh place in the world for regulation and political commitment.

Suggestion for India

- The report suggested there was a ground for optimism regarding India despite the current outdated energy system not being ready for the transition because an enabling environment is being built to support the future transition.
- While India has scored low in terms of system performance, it ranks considerably higher when it comes to readiness to adapt to future energy needs.

Links:

<https://www.thehindubusinessline.com/economy/india-ranks-76th-on-wefs-global-energy-transition-index-sweden-on-top/article26631544.ece>

First BRICS Sherpa Meeting

Question: Recently at which place first BRICS Sherpa meeting held?

(a) Curitiba, Brazil (b) New Delhi, India (c) Beijing, China (d) Pretoria, South Africa

Answer : (d)

Related Fact:

- On 14th March, 2019, a two-day, first BRICS Sherpa meeting was held in Curitiba, Brazil.
- It is remarkable that Brazil has identified countering terrorism as one of its priority areas for BRICS.
- Apart from this Science, technology and innovation, digital economy, New Development Bank and BRICS Business Council are also its priority areas.
- India conveyed its support for the priority areas set out by Brazil.
- It is noteworthy that Indian delegation was led by Shri T.S. Tirumurti, Secretary in the Ministry of External Affairs.

**Links:**

<https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/defence/brics-identifies-counter-terrorism-as-one-of-priority-areas/articleshow/68435729.cms>

ESPN World Fame 100

Question: Name the only Indian to feature in the top 10 in ESPN World Fame 100 List 2019?

(a) Virat Kohli (b) Sania Mirza (c) MS Dhoni (d) Geeta Phogat

Answer : (a)

Related facts:

- ESPN World fame 100 list 2019 released in March, 2019.
- The first such list was released in 2016.
- This is the magazine's fourth annual fame issue, with the top 100 most desirable and popular sports person from around the world.
- With the help of the Magazine's research department, senior writer Peter Keating along with ESPN's sports Analytics group ranked 800 athletes from over 78 countries around the World.
- Preparation: The list was prepared by looking at three aspects namely: search, score Endorsements and Social Following.

**The List:**

- With top three positions unchanged from last year, Cristiano Ronaldo (Soccer, Portugal) occupies first spot, LeBron James (Basketball, US) holds second rank while Lionel Messi (Soccer, Argentina) secures third position.
- Virat Kohli jumped 4 positions to sit on the 7th spot.
- He is the only Indian in the top-ten category, followed by MS Dhoni on the 13th position.
- Sania Mirza is not just the only female athlete to represent India but also the only non-cricket star from the country in the list.

- The 9 Indians to make it to the list of ESPN World Fame so are Virat Kohli, MS Dhoni, Yuvraj Singh, Suresh Raina, Ravichandran Ashwin, Rohit Sharma, Harbhajan Singh, Sania Mirza and Shikhar Dhawan.

Links:

http://www.espn.com/espn/feature/story/_/id/26113613/espn-world-fame-100-2019

Abu Dhabi International Book Fair 2019

Question: Which country will be the guest of honour in Abu Dhabi International Book Fair?

(a) Pakistan (b) Zambia (c) India (d) China

Answer: (c)

Related facts:



- India will be the Guest of Honour country at the 29th Abu Dhabi International Book Fair, ADIBF 2019, to be held from 24th to 30th of April.
- The fair aims to highlight the UAE's rich heritage, showcasing its authenticity and modernity, as well as its cultural and literary output.
- The Indian Pavilion will host Indian writers, authors and literary scholars who will serve as ambassadors for the literature and art of their country.
- A number of activities embracing the fields of literature, culture, and art are expected to engage the audience.
- India's participation will also provide a chance for investors wishing to explore and capitalize on opportunities offered by Indian groups and publishers that are present in the Gulf region.

Links:

<http://www.newsonair.com/News?title=India-to-be-Guest-of-Honour-country-at-ADIBF-2019&id=362123>

Japanese new era Reiwa

Question: Which country has named its new era to be Reiwa?

(a) Japan (b) USA (c) Singapore (d) Sri Lanka

Answer (a)

Related facts:



- On 1 April 2019, Japan unveiled the name of its new era titled Reiwa.
- Chief Cabinet Secretary Yoshihide Suga disclosed the name.
- This new royal age will formally start from 1 May after ascending to the throne by Crown Prince Naruhito.
- The beginning of 'Rewa' will end the Emperor Akihito's era 'Heisei' started in 1989.
- Apart from the Gregorian Calendar, Japan also uses indigenous Gengo Calendar.
- It is worth to mention that Japan incumbent Emperor Akihito is leaving the throne on April 30, 2019.
- In Japan, new imperial era begins on assuming throne by new emperor.

Links:

<https://www.thehindu.com/news/international/japan-says-name-for-new-era-of-naruhito-will-be-reiwa/article26698965.ece>

World's longest Salt Cave

Question: The world largest salt cave has been discovered by which country?

(a) Israel (b) United state (c) Palestine (d) Korea

Answer: (a)

Related facts:

- The world's longest salt cave has been discovered in Israel near a desert site and it runs through Mount Sodom, Israel's largest mountain.
- The cave is called Malham.
- The 10 km (6.2 miles) of passages and chambers inside Malham Cave, overlooking the Dead Sea, were mapped out over two years by cavers from nine countries, led by Hebrew University of Jerusalem.
- The desert site, according to Bible, was near to the place where Lot's wife was turned into a pillar of salt.



Links:

<https://www.thehindu.com/sci-tech/energy-and-environment/israel-unveils-worlds-longest-salt-cave/article26666130.ece>

Population of World by 2050

Question: What will be the population of World by 2050 as per United Nation report released recently?

(a) 9.7 billion (b) 10 billion (c) 9 billion (d) 8 billion

Answer: (a)

Related facts:



- As per the UN report the world's population is projected to reach around 9.7 billion in 2050 and rise further to about 11 billion by the end of the century.
- The report also stated that the world's population, estimated at 7.7 billion in 2019, will continue to grow, albeit at a decreasing rate.
- This report is titled, 'Review and Appraisal of the Program of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development and its contribution to the follow-up and review of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development'.
- The report was submitted by UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres to the 52nd substantive session of the UN Commission on Population and Development.
- This year marks the 25th anniversary of the International Conference on Population and Development – an initiative adopted by 179 countries in 1994 which recognized women's empowerment and gender equality as cornerstones of population development.

Links: <https://news.cgtn.com/news/3d3d414f31637a4e33457a6333566d54/index.html>

Changi Airport crowned as Best Airport

Question: Which airport has been named as Best Airport in the World as per survey by the UK-based Skytrax?

(a) Changi Airport (b) Indira Gandhi International (IGI) Airport (c) Heathrow Airport (d) Dubai international airport

Answer: (a)

Related facts:

- As per Skytrax World Airport Awards, Singapore's Changi Airport has been crowned the world's best aviation hub for the seventh time in a row.



- This airport connects customers to over 200 destinations worldwide, with 5000 arrivals and departures a week by 80 international airlines.
- As of 2018-2019 World Airport Survey, Tokyo International Airport (Haneda Airport), Japan holds the second spot while third position has been secured by Incheon International Airport, South Korea.
- New Delhi's Indira Gandhi International (IGI) Airport was featured at number 59th place followed by Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj International Airport at 64th place and Rajiv Gandhi Hyderabad International Airport at 66th place.
- The list has been compiled by the UK-based Skytrax, a consultancy firm which runs an airline and airport review and ranking site, featuring 100 airports.
- The Skytrax World Airport Awards are voted for by customers in a global airport customer satisfaction survey.

Links:

<https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/industry/transportation/airlines/-aviation/singapore-airport-named-best-new-delhis-igi-at-59th/articleshow/68609876.cms>

1st female President of Slovakia

Question: Recently who became the 1st Female President of Slovakia?

(a) Zuzana Caputova (b) Martina Kisková (c) Irena Schusterová (d) Silvia Gašparovičová

Answer: (a)

Related facts:

- In Slovakia, the government critic and anti-corruption activist Zuzana Caputova became the first female President defeating Maros Sefcovic.
- Zuzana Caputova is a liberal environmental activist and a political newcomer.
- She got 58% of the votes, while Maros Sefcovic who is EU energy commissioner got nearly 42% votes.
- Caputova will be Slovakia's fifth president since the country gained independence in 1993.
- He won prestigious Goldman Environmental prize in 2016, along with the nickname "Erin Brockovich of Slovakia."
- This award came in appreciation of his significant contribution for her decade-long crusade to shut down a toxic waste dump, which was spewing poison into her hometown of Pezinok in western Slovakia.



Links:

<http://www.newsonair.com/Main-News-Details.aspx?id=361630>

First fully-fledged 5G mobile networks

Question: Which country will launch the world's first fully-fledged 5G mobile networks?

(a) Japan (b) South Korea (c) North Korea (d) China

Answer: (b)

Related facts:

- On 3 April 2019, South Korea launched the world's first fully-fledged 5G mobile networks.
- Three top telecom providers — SK Telecom, KT and LG Uplus — began their 5G services in order to provide ultrafast network.
- The superfast communications heralded by fifth-generation wireless technology will bring smart phones near-instantaneous connectivity – 20 times faster than the existing 4G.



- It is crucial for the future development of devices ranging from self-driving vehicles that send data traffic to one another in real time, industrial robots, drones and other elements of the Internet of Things.
- 5G's hyper speed can connect one million devices within a one square kilometer zone simultaneously.

Links:

<http://www.newsonair.com/Main-News-Details.aspx?id=361757>

New President of Comoros

Question: Who is the newly elected President of Comoros?

- (a) Azali Assoumani (b) Ahamada Mahamoudou (c) Mohamed Daoudou
(d) Djaza Ahmed Mohamed

Answer: (a)

Related facts:

- Incumbent President **Azali Assoumani** got re-elected as the President of Comoros on 26th March, 2019. He won the presidential vote with **60.77% votes** while the runner up **Ahamada Mahamoudou** got **14.62% votes**.
- Assoumani is a former army officer. He came to power for the first time in a **coup in 1999** and won elections in 2002 and 2016.
- The Comoros presidency is traditionally rotated among leaders from the three main islands of the Indian Ocean archipelago.
- The **Comoros** is a volcanic archipelago off Africa's east coast, in the warm Indian Ocean waters of the Mozambique Channel. Its capital is **Moroni**.



Links:

<https://www.africanews.com/2019/03/27/comoros-president-wins-discredited-vote-with-6077-percent/>

India-Africa Institute of Agriculture and Rural Development

Question: India signed MoU with which organization to setup India Africa Institute of Agriculture and Rural Development in Malawi?

- (a) African Union (b) World Bank (c) APEC (d) NABCONS

Answer: (d)

Related facts:

- **Ministry of External Affairs** signed a MoU on 2nd April, 2019, with **National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development Consultancy Service (NABCONS)** for setting up **India-Africa Institute of Agriculture and Rural Development (IAIARD)** in Malawi.
- This step is taken in order to complement the efforts of the Government of India to enhance capacity in the areas of **agro-financing and entrepreneurship** development for African countries.
- **IAIARD** will be a **Pan-African Institute** wherein trainees not only from Malawi but also from other African countries, will receive training to develop their human resources and build their capacity.
- **IAIARD** will develop training programmes in the areas of **micro-financing and agro-financing, among others**.



- The entire expenditure on faculty from India, the travel, logistics and training course expenses for students from other African countries will be borne by the Government of India for an initial period of three years.
- This institute will be the first of its kind developed in an African country by India. This will further strengthen the bilateral relations with Malawi and India's relations with African Union.

Links:

[https://www.mea.gov.in/press-releases.htm?dtl/31205/IndiaAfrica Institute of Agriculture and Rural Development](https://www.mea.gov.in/press-releases.htm?dtl/31205/IndiaAfrica%20Institute%20of%20Agriculture%20and%20Rural%20Development)

Global Energy and CO2 Status Report

Question: Which of the following international organization recently released Global Energy and Carbon dioxide Status Report 2019?

- (a) International Solar Alliance (b) International Energy Agency
(c) World Meteorological Organization (d) Friends for the Earths

Answer: (b)

Related facts:

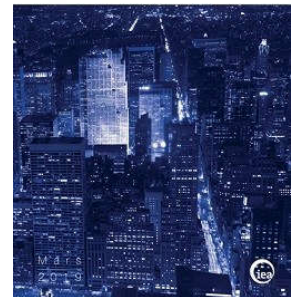
- The IEA's second **Global Energy and Carbon dioxide Status Report 2019** is an annual report giving an overview of recent global trends and developments across fuels, renewable sources, and energy efficiency and carbon emissions, in 2018.

The report:

- The global energy-related **CO2 emissions rose 1.7% to a historic high of 33.1 Gt CO2 in 2018**.
- While emissions from all fossil fuels increased, the **power sector accounted for nearly two-thirds of emissions growth**.
- **Coal use in power surpassed 10 Gt CO2. Asia, China, India, and the United States accounted for 85% of the net increase in emissions** while the emissions declined for Germany, Japan, Mexico, France and the United Kingdom.
- The increase in emissions took place **due to increase in energy consumption** resulting from a robust global economy and also due to weather conditions in some parts of the world that led to increased energy demand for heating and cooling.
- IEA, for the first time assessed the **impact of fossil fuel use on global temperature increases**. It found that CO2 emitted from coal combustion was responsible for over 0.3°C of the 1°C increase in global average annual surface temperatures above pre-industrial levels. With this **coal becomes the single largest source of global temperature increase**.
- The global average annual concentration of **CO2 in the atmosphere averaged 407.4 ppm in 2018**, up 2.4 ppm since 2017. This is a major increase from pre-industrial levels, which ranged between 180 and 280 ppm.

Global Energy & CO2 Status Report

The latest trends in energy and emissions in 2018



Trends by technology:

- **Coal-fired power plants** were the **single largest contributor to the growth** in emissions observed in 2018, with an increase of 2.9%, or 280 Mt, compared with 2017 levels, exceeding 10 Gt for the first time.
- Coal-fired electricity generation accounted for **30% of global CO2 emissions**. The majority of that generation is found today in **Asia**.

Trends by region

- In **China**, CO2 emissions grew by 2.5%, or 230 Mt, to 9.5 Gt. It saw an increase of over 5% in electricity generation from coal-fired power stations.
- **United States** witnessed an increase of 3.1% in CO2 emissions in 2018 against the reductions seen in 2017.
- **India** saw **emissions rise by 4.8%, or 105 Mt**, with the even growth distribution between power and other sectors such as transport and industry. Regardless of the growth India's **per capita emissions** remained low at only 40% of the global average.
- **Emissions fell by 1.3%, or 50 Mt in Europe**. The emissions decline was driven by a drop of 4.5% in Germany.
- Renewable energy generation also saw a record year in the **United Kingdom**, accounting for **35% of generation**, as the share of coal fell to 5%, a record low.

Links:

<https://www.iea.org/geco/emissions/>

Worldwide Cost of Living 2019

Question: Consider the following statements regarding the Worldwide Cost of Living Survey released recently:

- 1) This report is prepared by Economic Intelligence Unit (EIU)
- 2) Singapore is the most expensive city in the world followed by New York
- 3) The list compares the cost of 160 items, such as food, drink, transport, utility bills, and rent, in 133 cities
- 4) Capital New Delhi is ranked 123rd in the list as one of the least expensive cities

Of the above correct statements are:

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

Answer: (b)

Related facts:



- Economic Intelligence Unit (EIU) released the latest Worldwide Cost of Living Survey report recently. The survey compares the cost of 160 items, such as food, drink, transport, utility bills, and rent, in 133 cities. The company used New York as a benchmark to serve as a point of comparison for the cities.
- EIU found that costs in the cheapest cities were low by Western standards, partly because of the low wages limiting household spending are the norm there.
- The annual index was designed for helping the companies calculate cost-of-living expenses for migrants and business travelers.
- It is the first time that the top spot is bagged by 3 cities namely Singapore, Hong Kong and Paris.
- This is the sixth time that Singapore came on the top spot.
- The top 10 ranks include 4 cities of Europe (Paris 1st , Zurich 4th , Geneva 5th and Copenhagen 7th), 4 cities of Asia (Singapore 1st , Hong Kong 1st , Osaka 5th, Seoul 7th and Tel Aviv 10th) and 2 cities of US (New York 7th and Los Angeles 10th).
- Inflation and volatile currency fluctuations brought changes in the rankings of this year, with places like Argentina, Brazil, Turkey and Venezuela all witness a sharp fall in their cost of living ranking.
- Cities in warzone like situation had witnessed a very sharp decrease in the cost of living making them the cheapest cities in the world.
- Caracas of Venezuela is the cheapest city in the world while war hit Damascus of Syria is at second spot. Tashkent, capital city of Uzbekistan and Almaty of Kazakhstan are at 3rd and 4th position respectively.
- Bangalore holds 5th position in five cheapest cities in the world category.

- In the domain of World's Most Affordable Cities To Live, New Delhi is ranked 123rd. It was followed by Chennai ranked 125th and Bengaluru, which was ranked 129th.

Links:

<http://www.eiu.com/topic/worldwide-cost-of-living>

Renaming of Kazakhstan Capital

Question: What is the new name of the capital city of Kazakhstan?

(a) Astana (b) Almaty (c) Nursultan (d) Taraz

Answer: (c)

Related facts:

- Kazakhstan's Parliament voted to rename the country's capital Astana as Nursultan on 20th March, 2019.
- This was done in honour of former President Nursultan Nazarbayev, who resigned dramatically from his post on 19th March, 2019. Nursultan, 78 was the President of Kazakhstan since it was disintegrated from Soviet Union in 1991.
- Kassym-Jomart Tokayev took oath as the interim President of Kazakhstan; Mr Tokayev proposed the new name to the capital city. The election is due on April 2020.
- The Senate also appointed eldest daughter of Nursultan Nazarbayev, Dariga Nazarbayev as the Speaker. She is the potential contender to succeed her father.
- Astana (now Nursultan) became the capital of Kazakhstan in 1997. With a population of more than 10 lakhs the capital is the second-largest city in Kazakhstan, behind Almaty.



Links:

<http://www.newsonair.com/News?title=Kazakhstan-to-rename-country%26%2339%3bs-capital-Astana-as-Nursultan&id=361224>

Russia's arms export to India fell by 42%

Question: According to SIPRI REPORT, Russia's arms export to India fell by _____ between 2014-18 and 2009-2013.

(a) 42% (b) 48% (c) 52% (d) 60%

Answer: (a)

Related facts:

- Russia's arms export to India fell 42% between 2014-18 and 2009-2013, according to a recent report by the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI).
- The report released on 11th March, 2019.
- In the same period (2014-18 and 2009-13), India's arms imports decreased 24%, which was partly attributed to delays in deliveries of arms produced under license from foreign suppliers, such as combat aircraft ordered from Russia in 2001 and submarines ordered from France in 2008.
- Still, India was the world's second largest importer of major arms in 2014-18.



Key findings:

- A total of 155 countries imported major arms in 2014-18.
- The top five arms importers are:

- Saudi Arabia (12%), India (9.5%), Egypt (5.1%), Australia (4.6%), Algeria (4.4%) – accounted for 35% of total arms imports in 2014-18
- 67 Countries exported major arms in 2014-18.
- The top five – the US, Russia, France, Germany and China – accounted for 75% of all arms exports.
- The top five exporters in 2014-18 were the same as in 2009-13 but their combined total exports of major arms were 10% higher.
- Top 25 arms exporters accounted for 99% of the world's major arms exports in 2014-18, with a total of 87% coming from states in North America and Europe.
- Volume of International transfers of major arms in 2014-18 was 7.8% higher than in 2009-13 and 23% higher than in 2004-08.

Links:

<https://www.businesstoday.in/latest/russia-arms-export-to-india-fell-by-42-between-2014-18-and-2009-2013-report/story/326452.html>

New Palestinian Prime Minister

Question: Who has been named as Palestinian Prime Minister recently?

- (a) Mohammad Shtayyeh (b) Mahmoud Abbas (c) Rami al-Hamdallah
(d) Ismail Haniyeh

Answer:(a)

Related facts:

- Mohammad Shtayyeh has been named as Palestinian Prime Minister by President of Palestinian Authority Mahmoud Abbas.
- A member of the West Bank's dominant Fatah party is a long time ally of Abbas.
- The announcement comes six weeks after Rami al-Hamdallah tendered his resignation from the post and of his unity government to President Mahmoud Abbas, underscoring the failure of Hamas and Fatah to implement a power-sharing deal.
- Shtayyeh, a former government minister, has been part of a number of Palestinian negotiating teams in the United States-brokered talks with Israel.



Link:

<http://www.newsonair.com/News?title=Mohammad-Shtayyeh-named-as-Palestinian-PM&id=360836>

Global Influenza Strategy

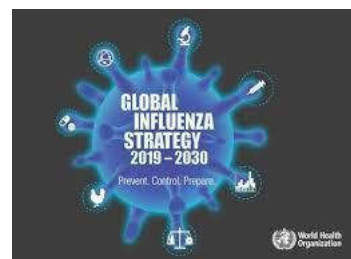
Question: Three of the _____ types of Influenza viruses affect humans.

- (a) Four (b) Five (c) Six (d) Seven

Answer :(a)

Related facts:

- **WHO (World Health Organization)** released a **Global Influenza Strategy** for **2019-2030** on March 11, 2019.
- The strategy aimed at protecting people in **all countries** from the **threat of Influenza**.
- The goal of the strategy is to prevent **seasonal influenza**, control **the spread of influenza** from animals to humans, and prepare for the **next influenza pandemic**.
- **Influenza** remains one of the **world's greatest public health challenges**.



- **Every year across the globe**, there are an estimated 1 billion cases, of which 3 to 5 million are severe cases, resulting in **290,000 to 650,000 influenza-related respiratory deaths**.
- WHO recommends annual influenza vaccination as the most effective way to prevent influenza viruses affect humans: **Type A, Type B, Type C**.
- **Type D** has not been known to **infect humans**, but is believed to **have the potential** to do so.
- The new influenza strategy builds on and benefits from successful WHO programmes.
- For more than 65 years, the global influenza surveillance and Response system (GISRS), comprised of WHO collaborating centers and national influenza centers, have worked together to monitor seasonal trends and potentially pandemic viruses.

Links:

https://www.paho.org/hq/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=15016:who-launches-new-global-influenza-strategy&Itemid=135&lang=en

Economics

World's Best Bank's survey

Question: Which Bank was ranked No.1 in India by customers in the World's Best Banks survey conducted by Forbes recently?

(a) HDFC Bank (b) ICICI Bank (c) Yes Bank (d) Axis Bank

Answer: (a)

Related facts:



- **HDFC Bank** was ranked **No. 1** in India by customers in the **World's Best Bank's survey** conducted by **Forbes Magazine** recently.
- In the first edition of this survey, Forbes partnered with market research firm **Statista** to measure the best banks in 23 countries.
- Statista surveyed more than 40,000 customers around the globe for their opinions on their current and former banking relationships.
- Between 5 and 60 banks were identified as top banks in each country, based on the total evaluations collected, the number of banks in the specific country and the scores achieved.
- Customers were asked to rate banks on overall recommendation and satisfaction, as well as 5 key attributes or 'sub-dimensions' of Trust; Terms and conditions; Customer service; Digital service and Financial advice.
- As per the Forbes list the top 10 banks operating in India (in serial number) are as follows:
- HDFC Bank; ICICI Bank; DBS Bank; Kotak Mahindra Bank; IDFC Bank; Syndicate Bank; Punjab National Bank; Allahabad Bank; Vijaya Bank and at the 10th position was Axis Bank.

Links:

<https://www.apnnews.com/hdfc-bank-ranked-no-1-in-india-by-customers-in-forbes-survey/>

First Central Bank in the Asia-Pacific region to begin an explicit interest rate easing cycle

Question: Name the first central bank in the Asia-Pacific (APAC) region to begin an explicit interest rate easing cycle buoyed by benign food inflation and easier global financial condition?

- (a) Reserve Bank of India (b) Bank of Israel (c) Bank of Japan
(d) Hong Kong Monetary Authority

Answer: (a)

Related facts:



- According to **Fitch ratings** released on **24th April, 2019**, **RBI (Reserve Bank of India)** is the **first central bank in Asia-Pacific (APAC) region** to begin an **explicit interest rate easing cycle** buoyed by **benign food inflation** and **easier global financial condition**.
- In the four months of 2019, the RBI has **cut policy interest rates twice by 0.25 percent** each to one-year low of **6 percent**.
- This is the first back-to-back rate cut since the **Monetary Policy Committee (MPC)** was formed in **late 2016**.
- **Inflation at 2.9 percent** has remained within the **RBI's comfort zone of 4 percent (+/- 2 percent)**.
- The **Monetary Policy committee (MPC)**, headed by **RBI Governor Shaktikanta Das**, cut rates in **February and April** citing prospects of **benign inflation**.

Links:

<https://www.thehindubusinessline.com/money-and-banking/rbi-first-apac-central-bank-to-begin-interest-rate-easing-cycle-fitch/article26931595.ece>

Dun & Bradstreet Composite Business Optimism Index

Question: What is the relative percent increase in business sentiment of India in Q2 by Q1, 2019 as per D&B Composite Business Optimism report published recently?

- (a) 6.3% (b) 6.9% (c) 7.3% (d) 7.85

Answer: (a)

Related facts:



- Business sentiments continue to decline for the country's financial and macro-economic conditions in the second quarter of the year compared to the same period a year before, as per a latest report in April 2019.
- **Dun & Bradstreet Composite Business Optimism Index** stands at 78.4 during Q2 2019 as against 85.0 during Q2 2018 marking a 7.7 percent decline as per the report.
- However, as per report the sentiments **were marginally up by 6.3%** compared to the **first quarter**.
- The earlier decline in the business sentiments were down due to the banking fraud and its impact continue to unfold, and the tightening actions on LoUs (letter of undertaking) and LoCs (Letter of Credit) have led to reduced liquidity. Also, there is an apprehension of tighter regulatory and lending norms.
- The jump in the sentiments the second quarter compared to the first quarter this year however was mainly due easing of liquidity and foreign investors warming up to India.

Link:

Disaster-Resilient infrastructure in Asia

Question:What is the estimated amount of investment needed in developing Asia to build disaster-resilient infrastructure for the period 2016 to 2030,as per a report by ADB?

(a) 26 trillion dollars (b) 20 trillion dollars (c) 15 trillion dollars (d) 9 trillion dollars

Answer: (a)

Related facts:

- Developing economies across Asia are among the most vulnerable to natural disasters and have suffered damages estimated at 644 billion dollars since 2000, as per a recent (April, 2019) ADB report.
- As per report of ADB titled Asian Development Outlook, 2019; Strengthening Disaster Resilience, weather-related hazards caused the greatest share at 507 billion dollars (79%) while geophysical hazards accounted for the remaining 137 billion dollars (21%).
- Natural Hazards are storms, floods, droughts, tsunamis and earthquakes, and the impacts of climate change such as sea-level rise, coastal erosion and extreme temperatures.
- To build disaster-resilient infrastructure, investment needs in developing Asia are estimated at 26 trillion dollars from 2016 to 2030, or 1.7 trillion dollars per year, including necessary investments in climate-change initiation and adaptation.
- ADB, based in Manila, is dedicated to eradicating poverty in Asia and the Pacific through inclusive economic growth, environmentally sustainable growth, and regional integration.
- Established in 1966, ADB is celebrating 50 years of development partnership in the region.



Links:

https://www.business-standard.com/article/news-ani/1-7-trillion-needed-per-year-to-build-disaster-resilient-infrastructure-in-asia-ADB-119040600439_1.html

Digital Home Loan Products of ICICI Bank

Question: ICICI stands for-

- (a) Industrial Credit and Investment Corporation of India
- (b) International Credit and Investment Corporation of India
- (c) Investment Credit and International Corporation of India
- (d) None of the Above

Answer: (a)

Related facts:

- ICICI bank has launched two instant home loan products for up to Rs. 1 crore; both are first-of-its kind in the industry.
- The first initiative is Instant home Loan which enables pre approved salaried customers of the bank to avail loans up to Rs. 1 crore for a tenure of up to 30 years (based on the age of the customer) using internet banking facility.
- The second initiative is Insta Top Up Loan which helps existing home loan customers of the bank to avail the facility of top up loan instantaneously up to Rs. 20 Lakh for tenure of up to 10 Years in a paperless manner.
- The facility helps the customers get the top up amount disbursed immediately in their account as compared to the industry practice of approving and disbursing a top up home loan in a few working days.
- ICICI Bank is now offering home loans at over 1500 locations which is maximum among private sector banks.



- The bank's disbursement in these markets is growing at a CAGR of over 20 percent, as compared to the industry average of 12 percent.

Links:

<https://www.thehindubusinessline.com/money-and-banking/icici-bank-launches-two-instantaneous-home-loan-facilities/article26661321.ece>

BSE-MOEX Deal

Question: -MOEX stands for:

(a) Moscow Exchange (b) Moroccan Exchange (c) Mexican Exchange (d) None of the Above

Answer: (a)

Related facts:

- On 3rd April, 2019, Bombay Stock Exchange and the India International Exchange Limited (India Inx) signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Russian bourse Moscow Exchange (MOEX).
- Deal would connect investor community and companies in both countries besides allowing a capital formation platform on a larger scale.
- BSE and INX are the first Indian exchanges to enter in to the MoU with Moscow Exchange.
- The exchange companies have agreed to the secondment of senior personnel to enhance understanding of activities in each other's market.
- They will conduct joint research to explore the possibility of further cooperation in the area of cross-listing of derivative products, exchange traded fund, dual listing and fixed income product cooperation.
- BSE, India INX and MOEX will use the India-Russia initiative as an important portal for professional intermediaries in both markets to share their know-how and expand their client network in their home market and abroad.



Link:

[https://www.indiainx.com/media/98/Media%20Release%20-BSE%20India%20INX%20becomes%20the%20first%20Indian%20exchanges%20to%20sign%20an%20MoU%20with%20Moscow%20Exchange%20\(2\)\\$a74c7cdf-484b-4835-bd16-aadc6a6752c1.pdf](https://www.indiainx.com/media/98/Media%20Release%20-BSE%20India%20INX%20becomes%20the%20first%20Indian%20exchanges%20to%20sign%20an%20MoU%20with%20Moscow%20Exchange%20(2)$a74c7cdf-484b-4835-bd16-aadc6a6752c1.pdf)

GST Revenue Collection

Question: What is the money value of total Gross GST revenue collected in the month of March, 2019?

(a) Rs. 1,06,577 crore (b) Rs. 1,25,620 crore (c) Rs. 1,50,000 crore (d) Rs. 1,55,365 crore

Answer: (a)

Related facts:

- GST revenue collections stood at Rs. 1, 06,577 crore in March, as per government notification issued on 1 April, 2019.
- That marked the highest monthly collection since the introduction of GST.
- Out of the total GST collections last month, revenue from Central GST was at Rs. 20,353 crore, from State GST was at 27, 520 crore from IGST was at Rs. 50, 418 crore and from Cess was at Rs. 8,286 crore.
- The total number of GSTR 3B Returns filed for the month of February up to 31st March, 2019 is 75.95 Lakh.



- The revenue in March, 2018 was Rs. 92,167 crore and the revenue during March, 2019 is a growth of 15.6% over the revenue in the same month last year.
- The revenue for the last quarter in the year 2018-19 is Rs. 98,114 crore which is 9.2 % higher than FY 2017-18.
- These figures indicate that the revenue growth has been picking up in recent months, despite various rate rationalization measures.

Link:

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=189619>

First Bi-monthly Monetary Policy, 2019-20

Question: The Six-member monetary policy committee of the RBI voted 4-2 to reduce the policy repo rate by _____ on April 4, 2019.

(a) 25 basis points (b) 50 basis points (c) 75 basis points (d) None of the above

Answer: (a)

Related facts:

- First bi-monthly monetary policy statement (Resolution of the MPC) for 2019-20 released on 4 April, 2019.
- The six member monetary policy committee (MPC) of the RBI voted 4-2 to reduce the policy repo rate by 25 basis points.
- This was widely expected by economists and bond-market participants who anticipate at least one more cut in the coming policies.
- Banks, however, remain non-committal about paring down their lending rates.
- RBI kept the policy stance unchanged while the repo rate became 6 percent from 6.25 percent earlier.
- The first bi-monthly monetary policy of the fiscal 2019-20 was more concerned about growth than inflation.
- RBI now expects the GDP to grow at 7.2 percent in 2019-20, lower than its earlier projection of 7.4 percent.
- The CPI inflation is now expected to be 2.4 percent in the fourth quarter of 2018-19, 2.9-3.0 percent in the first half of 2019-20, and 3.5-3.8 percent in the second half, with risks broadly balanced.
- Policy Rates of RBI are as follows: Policy Repo Rate: 6.0%; Reverse Repo Rate: 5.75%; Marginal Standing Facility rate: 6.25%; Bank rate: 6.25%
- Reserve Ratios are as follows: CRR: 4%; SLR: 19.00%



Links:

https://www.business-standard.com/article/news-cm/rbi-projects-gdp-growth-at-7-2-for-2019-20-119040400487_1.html

Asian Development Outlook 2019

Question: What is the growth forecast of developing Asia in 2019 as per Asian Development Outlook, 2019 published by Asian Development Bank?

(a) 5.7% (b) 4.7% (c) 7.7% (d) 3.7%

Answer: (a)

Related facts:

- On 3rd April, 2019, Asian Development Bank released its report **Asian Development Outlook 2019** (flagship economic publication).

- ADB's annual macroeconomic forecast predicts growth in developing Asia will remain robust but moderate to 5.7% in 2019 and 5.6% in 2020. Developing Asia's growth in 2018 was 5.9%.
- Growth overall will remain solid with domestic consumption strong or expanding in most economies around the region and this will soften the impact of slowing exports. Inflation will remain subdued, while persistent trade tensions continue to weigh on the region.
- Sub-region wise, Southeast Asia will sustain growth at close to 5 percent this year and the next.
- India's growth is set to pick up and is expected to grow at 7.2 percent in the current fiscal in strengthening consumption.
- It is expected to rebound to 7.2 percent in 2019 and 7.3 percent in 2020 as policy rates are cut and farmers receive income support, bolstering domestic demand.



Links:

<https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/economy/indicators/india-set-to-grow-at-7-2-this-fiscal-on-rising-consumption-adb/articleshow/68701599.cms>

Relaxation in Trade Credit Policy

Question: RBI relaxed norms for imports of Capital and non-capital goods by raising the trade credit limit to ____.

- (a) 150 Million Dollar under the automatic route (b) 100 Million Dollar
(c) 125 Million Dollar (d) 75 Million Dollar

Answer :(a)

Related Facts:

- On 13 March 2019, Reserve Bank of India relaxed norms for imports of capital and non-capital goods by raising the trade credit limit to 150 million dollar under the automatic route.
- Announcing the modified revised frame look for 'Trade Credit Policy', the RBI, however, reduced the all-inclusive cost (all-in-cost) for overseas loans to benchmark rate plus 250 basis points from the earlier 350 bps.

Trade Credit:

- Trade credits (TCs) refer to the credits extended by the overseas supplier, bank, financial institution and other permitted recognized lenders for maturity for imports of capital and non-capital goods permissible.

Revision in framework:

- According to the revised Framework, TCs upto 150 Million Dollar or equivalent per import transaction for oil and gas refining and marketing, airline and shipping companies can be availed under the automatic route.
- For others, the limit us up to 50 million dollar or equivalent per import transaction.
- Earlier, under the automatic route, banks were permitted to approve trade credit up to 20 million dollar.
- TCs beyond 20 million dollar were required approval from the RBI.



Links:

https://www.business-standard.com/article/economy-policy/rbi-relaxes-norms-for-imported-goods-by-raising-trade-credit-to-150-mn-119031300904_1.html

OECD Growth Forecasts 2019

Question: Consider the following statements:

- 1) OECD has cut its 2019 forecasts for global economic growth to 3.3 percent for the current year, down from 3.5 percent it predicted earlier
- 2) The reason behind the slowdown is political uncertainty including Brexit and erosion of business and consumer confidence

According to the above given facts which of the following alternatives is/are true:

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

Answer : (c)

Related facts:



- On 6th March 2019, the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) has reduced the world economic growth forecasts for the year 2019.
- The report notes that trade tensions and political uncertainty, including Brexit and erosion of business and consumer confidence are contributing to the slowdown of the world economy.
- OECD has cut its 2019 forecast for global economic growth to 3.3 percent for the current year, down from 3.5 percent which it had predicted earlier.
- The 19-nation euro zone was particularly hard to hit with predicted growth dropping from 1.8 percent to 1 percent which was contributed to policy uncertainty including those over Brexit.

About OECD:

- OECD is an inter-governmental economic organization with 36 member countries to stimulate economic progress and world trade.
- In the year 1948, the OECD originated as the organization for European Economic Co-operation (OEEC).
- In the year 1961, the OEEC was reformed into OECD and membership was extended to non-European states.

Links:

https://www.business-standard.com/article/pti-stories/oecd-cuts-global-growth-forecast-over-trade-brexit-uncertainty-119030600687_1.html

Fitch Ratings: India economic growth Forecast

Question: For the current financial year 2018-19, Fitch had reduced the India's GDP growth from 7.8 percent to __ in December.

- (a) 7.2 percent (b) 7.4 percent (c) 7.6 percent (d) None of the above

Answer: (a)

Related Facts:

- Fitch Ratings cut India's GDP growth forecast for the next financial year 2019-20 to 6.8 percent from its previous estimate of 7 percent on weaker than expected outlook.
- Fitch released its 'Global Economic Outlook' in March 22, 2019.
- For the current financial year 2018-19, Fitch had reduced the India's GDP growth from 7.8 percent to 7.2 percent in December.



- It has also cut the growth forecast for the following financial year 2020-21 from 7.3 percent to 7.1 percent.
- Fitch expects a weaker oil price outlook and the possibility of acceleration in food prices in the months to come in order to support income and consumption of rural households.

Links:

<https://www.thehindubusinessline.com/economy/fitch-cuts-indias-gdp-growth-forecast-for-fy20-to-68/article26605764.ece>

Non-convertible debentures

Question: Consider the following statements regarding debentures:

- 1) Those debentures which cannot be converted into shares or equities are called non-convertible debentures (or NCDs)
- 2) Non-convertible debentures are used as tools to raise long-term funds by companies through a public issue
- 3) Debentures are long-term financial instruments which acknowledge a debt obligation towards the issuer
- 4) Debentures have a feature of convertibility into shares after a certain point of time at the discretion of the owner

Which of the following is/are correct?

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

Answer: (d)

Related facts:

- Debentures are long-term financial instruments which acknowledge a debt obligation towards the issuer.
- Some debentures have a feature of convertibility into shares after a certain point of time at the discretion of the owner.
- The debentures which can't be converted into shares or equities are called non-convertible debentures (or NCDs). Non-convertible debentures are used as tools to raise long-term funds by companies through a public issue.
- To compensate for this drawback of non-convertibility, lenders are usually given a higher rate of return compared to convertible debentures.
- Besides, NCDs offer various other benefits to the owner such as high liquidity through stock market listing, tax exemptions at source and safety since they can be issued by companies which have a good credit rating as specified in the norms laid down by RBI for the issue of NCDs.
- In India, usually these have to be issued of a minimum maturity of 90 days.
- **Secured and unsecured Non-convertible debentures (NCDs):**
 - An NCD can either be secured or unsecured. A secured NCD is backed by the issuing company's assets.
 - This means that the company has to fulfill its debt obligation whatsoever. However, that's not the case for unsecured NCDs.
 - This makes secured NCDs safer since they have a lower default risk.



Links:

<https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/definition/non-convertible-debentures>

<https://www.edelweiss.in/investology/introduction-to-primary-market-79a025/what-is-ncd-non-convertible-debentures-867611>

Withdraw of GSP benefits to India

Question: The United States of America on March 5, 2019 said that it had decided to withdraw the Generalized System of Preferences (GSP) status for India and ____

(a) Turkey (b) UAE (c) Pakistan (d) Sri Lanka

Answer ☐ a)

Related Facts:

- The United States of America on March 5, 2019 said that it had decided to withdraw the GSP status for India and Turkey.
- This move will have minimal impact.
- The impact would amount to 190 million dollar on total export amount under GSP of 5.6 billion dollar to the US.
- The GSP system is envisaged as a non-reciprocal benefit to developing countries.
- By US Statute, the changes to the Generalized System of Preferences (GSP) status cannot take effect until at least 60 days after the notifications to the US Congress and the Government of India, and will be enacted by a Presidential Proclamation.



Links:

<https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/us-move-to-withdraw-gsp-status-will-have-minimal-impact-says-india/article26436080.ece>

Transport and Marketing Assistance (TMA) for Specified Agriculture Products Notified

Question: Transport and Marketing assistance for specified agriculture products has been notified by which of the following?

(a) Department of Commerce of the Ministry of Commerce and Industry
(b) Ministry of Road Transport (c) Ministry of Agriculture (d) None of the above

Answer ☐ a)

Related facts:

- On 5 March 2019, Department of Commerce of the Ministry of Commerce and Industry notified a scheme for transport and Marketing Assistance for specified Agriculture Products.
- The scheme would be suitably included in the Foreign Trade Policy (2015-20).
- Scheme aims to provide assistance for the international component of freight and marketing of agricultural produce which is likely to mitigate disadvantage of higher cost of transportation of export of specified agriculture products due to trans-shipment and to promote brand recognition for Indian agricultural products in the specified overseas markets.



Coverage:

- All exporters duly registered with relevant Export Promotion Council as per Foreign Trade Policy of eligible agriculture products shall be covered under this scheme.
- The scheme would be applicable for a period as specified from time to time.

Applicability:

- The scheme would be applicable for a period as specified from time to time.
- Presently the scheme would be available for exports affected from 1.3.2019 to 31.3.2020.

Link:

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=189200>

Task Force on Offshore rupee market

Question: Recently RBI has constituted a task force on offshore rupee market. The panel will be chaired by which of the following RBI former Deputy Governor?

(a) Usha Thorat (b) BP Kanungo (c) Viral Acharya (d) None of the Above

Answer : (a)

Related facts:

- On 28th February 2019, RBI has constituted a task force on offshore rupee market to find ways to move non-resident Indian to the domestic to promote on-shore hedging activity.
- The panel will be chaired by former deputy governor of the RBI Usha Thorat.
- Ajit Ranade, Chief Economist of the Aditya Birla group, Sajid Chinoy, Chief Economist of JP Morgan India and Surendra Roshe, CEO of HSBC India are other members of the task force.
- The panel will also have nominees from the government, SEBI and the RBI.
- The task force will examine offshore rupee markets in depth and recommend appropriate policy measures that also factor in the requirement of ensuring the stability of the external value of the rupee.



Links:

<https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/markets/forex/rbi-forms-task-force-on-offshore-rupee-market/articleshow/68203839.cms?from=mdr>

Moody's Growth Estimate

Question: Recent Moody's growth estimate for Indian economy in 2019-20 is ____.

(a) 7.3% (b) 6.9% (c) 7.7% (d) 7.9%

Answer: (a)

Related facts:

- **Indian economy** is expected to grow at **7.3% in calendar years 2019 and 2020.**
- In its quarterly '**Global Macro Outlook for 2019 and 2020**' released in March 1, 2019, the agency informed that the country is less exposed to a **slowdown in global manufacturing trade growth** than other **major Asian economics** and **Emerging markets** and is **poised to grow** at a **relatively stable pace** in the **two years.**
- The announcement in **interim Budget 2019-20** on **direct cash transfer** programme for **farmers and the middle-class tax relief measures** will contribute a **fiscal stimulus** of about **0.45 percent of GDP.**
- **Moody's growth estimates** are based on the **calendar year.**



- India, however **measures its economic growth** on the basis of the **fiscal year** from **April to March**.

Links:

<https://www.thehindubusinessline.com/economy/india-to-grow-at-73-in-2019-2020-moodys/article26405129.ece#!>

Data of IIP and Retail inflation

Question: Growth in the Index of Industrial Production (IIP) was at ____ in December, 2018.

(a) 2.6% (b) 2.0% (c) 2.9% (d) 3.2%

Answer :(a)

Related facts:



- The data of **Index of Industrial Production (IIP)** was released by the **Central Statistics Office (CSO)** on 12 March, 2019.
- Growth in the IIP was at **2.6%** in **December 2018**.
- Industrial activity slowed in January 2019 growing by just 1.7% due in large part to a deceleration in the manufacturing, electricity and capital goods sectors.
- In a separate release, government data showed that retail inflation in February snapped a four-month declining trend by rising to 2.57%.
- IIP saw growth slip below the 2% for the second time in three months in January. With the previous occurrence being the 0.32% growth seen in November, 2018.
- Within the IIP, the mining and quarrying sector was one of the only major sectors that saw growth accelerating, from a contraction of 0.39% in December to a growth of 3.9% in January.
- The construction sector witnessed the strongest growth of all the major sectors, of 7.9%, but this was still significantly slower than the 10% seen in December.
- Retail inflation, as measured by the consumer Price Index (CPI), rose for the first time in five months in February to 2.57% from 1.97% in January, mainly due to firming food prices as per official data.
- Inflation in food and beverages sector stood at -0.07% in February compared with -1.29% in January.
- The housing sector saw inflation slowing marginally to 5.1% from 5.2% over the same period.
- The fuel and light sector saw inflation slowing to 1.24% in February from 2.12% in January.

Link:

<https://www.thehindu.com/business/iip-growth-slows-to-17-retail-inflation-rises-to-257/article26514977.ece#!>

Defense/Science Short Notes

Varuna Naval Exercise 2019

Question: Which countries will conduct naval exercise Varuna?

(a) India and Italy (b) India and France (c) India and Germany (d) India and Russia

Answer: (b)

Related facts:

- With the objective of expanding their strategic partnership in the Indian Ocean region (IOR), India and France will conduct their largest ever naval exercise Varuna off Goa coast.
- This will witness the participation of aircraft carriers, destroyers, submarines and fighters.
- India will deploy its aircraft carrier, INS Vikramaditya with its MiG-29K fighters.
- France will be dispatching its nuclear-powered aircraft carrier, destroyers, FNS Forbin, FNS Provence and FNS Latouche Treville, nuclear attack submarine FNS Amethyste and tanker FNS Marne for the Exercise Varuna.



Link:

<https://www.ibtimes.co.in/india-france-hold-largest-ever-varuna-naval-exercise-off-go-coast-796204>

World First Malaria Vaccine

Consider the following statements:

(1) In Sub-Saharan region malaria is transmitted through female Anopheles Mosquitoes

(2) Malawi is the first country where first malaria vaccine has been implemented

Which of the above mentioned statement/s is/are correct?

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

Answer: (c)

Related facts:



- **African Nation Malawi** will be undertaking large scale pilot tests for the world's most advanced experimental **malaria vaccine Mosquirix**.
- The vaccine has been recommended by WHO for Pilot introduction in selected areas of 3 African countries – **Ghana, Kenya and Malawi** for the **malaria vaccine implementation programme (MVIP)**.
- **RTS, S/ASOI – trade name Mosquirix** – as a **recombinant protein based malaria vaccine**.
- Mosquirix – the brand name for RTS, S-trigger the immune system to defend against the first stages of the infections disease shortly after the malaria parasitic enters the blood stream through mosquito bite.
- RTS,S was created in 1987 by scientists working in GSK laboratories. In early 2001, GSK and PATH—with the support of the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation—entered into a partnership to develop the vaccine for infants and young children living in malaria endemic regions in sub-Saharan Africa.
- RTS,S received a positive scientific opinion from the European Medicines Agency in 2015 and was recommended by the World Health Organization (WHO) for a pilot implementation program to assess the feasibility of administering the required four doses of the vaccine in

children, the vaccine's role in reducing childhood deaths and severe malaria, and its safety in the context of routine use.

- The **country-led and WHO-coordinated Malaria Vaccine Implementation Programme** will also provide data and information for a WHO policy recommendation on the broader use of the vaccine.

About Malaria:

- **Malaria** is a life-threatening disease caused by parasites (**Plasmodium**) that are transmitted to people through the bites of infected **female Anopheles mosquitoes**. It is preventable and curable.
- Earlier In **2017**, there were an estimated **219 million cases** of malaria in **87 countries**.
- The estimated number of malaria deaths stood at **435 000** in **2017**.
- The **WHO African Region** carries a disproportionately high share of the global malaria burden. In **2017**, the region was home to **92% of malaria cases** and **93% of malaria deaths**.
- Total funding for **malaria control and elimination** reached an estimated **US\$ 3.1 billion in 2017**. Contributions from governments of endemic countries amounted to **US\$ 900 million**, representing **28% of total funding**.

Links:

<https://www.who.int/malaria/media/malaria-vaccine-implementation-qa/en/>

Nirbhay successfully test fired

Question: India successfully test fired sub-sonic cruise missile Nirbhay. Who developed this missile?

- (a) Indian Air Force
- (b) Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO)
- (c) Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO)
- (d) Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL)



Answer: (c)

Related facts:

- The Defence Research and Development Organization (DRDO) on 15th April, 2019; successfully test fired the underdevelopment long range sub-sonic cruise missile, Nirbhay. It was tested from Complex 3 of the Integrated Test Range (ITR), Chandipur, near Balasore in Odisha.
- This was the sixth development flight trial with objective to prove the repeatability of boost phase, cruise phase using way point navigation at very low altitudes.
- The entire flight was fully tracked by a chain of Electro-Optical Tracking Systems, Radars and Ground Telemetry Systems deployed all along the seacoast and all the mission objectives were met.
- The missile carries a range of 1000 km and can fly very low to the ground to avoid detection by enemy radar called terrain hugging capability. It was tested up to a range of 700 km.
- Once inducted, Nirbhay will provide Indian military forces a long range standout capability to strike targets on land, similar to US Tomahawk cruise missile.

Links:

<https://www.ndtv.com/india-news/sub-sonic-cruise-missile-nirbhay-successfully-test-fired-2023330>

Satellite launch by ISRO

Question: Which of the following satellite was launched by ISRO on April 1, 2019?

(a) GSAT 31-A (b) ASAT (c) EMISAT (d) MICROSAT-R

Answer: (c)

Related facts:

- PSLV-C45, launched the Indian Space Research Organization's satellite **EMISAT from Satish Dhawan Space Centre, Sriharikota on April 1, 2019.**
- It also launched **28 other smaller satellites** of international customers with textbook precision.
- PSLV C-45 is the **47th flight of PSLV** (Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle)



EMISAT:

- EMISAT is a **defence satellite**. It has lift weight of 436Kg, Altitude of 749 Kms, and with 800w power.
- EMISAT has been developed under DRDO's Project Kautilya which aims to boost India's space surveillance capacity. The main capability of EMISAT is in signal intelligence — intercepting signals broadcast by communication systems, radars, and other electronic systems on the ground from hundreds of kilometers away in space.
- The **foreign satellites include 24 from the US, two from Lithuania and one each from Spain and Switzerland.**

New PSLV:

- In this mission, the rocket **PSLV C45** flew in a new configuration called "**QL**".
- In this configuration, the rocket is fitted with **four longer versions of strap-on motors** that provide the vehicle the required additional thrust.

Links:

<https://www.thehindu.com/sci-tech/technology/pslv-isro-emisat-launch-from-sriharikota-on-april-1/article26699077.ece>

Langkawi International Maritime Aero Expo 2019

Question: Which among the following countries organized the Langkawi International Maritime Aero Expo 2019?

(a) Uganda (b) Guatemala (c) Cuba (d) Malaysia

Answer: (d)

Related facts:

- Langkawi International Maritime Aero Expo (LIMA-2019) was organised in Langkawi, Malaysia from 26th March to 30th March, 2019.



- For the first time, Indian Air Force participated in the Maritime Aero Expo. It showcased its indigenously developed LCA fighter aircraft in the expo.
- Participation of IAF in LIMA-2019 provided an opportunity to air-warriors to interact with their Royal Malaysian Air Force (RMAF) counterparts and foster close relationship between the two services.
- This served as a foundation for any future interaction with the Malaysian Air Force. It also provided an opportunity to RMAF to assess the capabilities of LCA.
- IAF contingent consists of 02 x LCA, 01 x C-130J and one x IL-76 ac along with 27 officers, 42 air-warriors and 11 HAL personnel.
- LIMA is a maritime and aerospace exhibition that takes place once every two years in Langkawi, Malaysia. The event is one of the largest maritime and aerospace exhibitions in the Asia-Pacific, and is focused mainly on the defence industry.

Links:

<http://pib.nic.in/PressReleaseDetail.aspx?PRID=1569270>

Sports

Tennis

2019 Monterrey Open

Question: The Monterrey Open is a professional ____ tournament.

(a) Women's Tennis (b) Women's Golf (c) Women's Badminton (d) Men's Football Tournament

Answer: (a)

Related facts:

- On 7th April 2019, Spain's Gabine Muguruza defended her Monterrey Open title when Victoria Azarenka retired injured from her first WTA singles final in three years.
- It was the 11th edition of the Monterrey Open and an International tournament on the 2019 WTA tour. It took place at the Club Sonoma in Monterrey Mexico.
- Asia Muhammad and Maria Sanchez won the Doubles title, defeating Monique Adamczak and Jessica Moore in the final.



Links:

<https://www.sport24.co.za/Tennis/WTATour/muguruza-retains-monterrey-title-as-azarenka-retires-20190408>

Cricket

Wisden's leading cricketers of the year 2019

Question: Which of the following Indian cricketers were named as leading cricketer of the year in the published Wisden Cricketers' Almanack 2019?

(a) Rohit Sharma and Smriti Mandhana (b) Virat Kohli and Mithali Raj
(c) Rashid Khan and Smriti Mandhana (d) Virat Kohli and Smriti Mandhana

Answer: (d)

Related facts:

- Indian captain **Virat Kohli** was named as the 'Leading Cricketer in the World' in this year's edition of the **Wisden Cricketers' Almanack** released on April 11, 2019.
- Virat Kohli achieved this feat for third time in a row.
- **Smriti Mandhana** was named as the Leading Cricketer in the women's category.
- Kohli has also won the ICC's cricketer, Test and one-day international player of the year awards in January 2019.
- He has scored 2,735 runs across all three international formats in 2018 with an average of 68.37 which included 11 centuries.
- Smriti Mandhana has scored 1,291 runs in limited over format.



Link:

<https://indianexpress.com/article/sports/cricket/virat-kohli-smriti-mandhana-wisden-leading-cricketers-5668768/>

Syed Mushtaq Ali Trophy 2019

Question: Name the winner of recently held Syed Mushtaq Ali Trophy 2019?

(a) Karnataka (b) Maharashtra (c) Punjab (d) Kerala

Answer: (a)

Related facts:

- On 14th March, 2019, Karnataka registered their 14th straight win in T20 cricket by defeating Maharashtra to win their maiden Syed Mushtaq Ali Trophy, 2018-19, at the Holkar Cricket Stadium in Indore.
- Maharashtra with a score of 155/4 lost to Karnataka which achieved the victory by 8 wickets.
- Syed Mushtaq Ali Trophy is a T-20 Cricket domestic championship in India. It is organized by Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI), among the teams from Ranji Trophy.
- It is named after a famous Indian cricketer, Syed Mushtaq Ali, who is famous for scoring the first overseas Test century (by an Indian player) against England at Old Trafford way back in 1936.



Links:

https://www.business-standard.com/article/news-ani/karnataka-defeat-maharashtra-to-clinch-maiden-syed-mushtaq-ali-trophy-119031401346_1.html

National Wheelchair Cricket Championship, 2019

Question: Name the winner of Second T-20 National Wheelchair Cricket Championship, 2019?

(a) Punjab (b) Haryana (c) Rajasthan (d) Chhattisgarh

Answer: (a)

Related facts:

- Punjab Wheelchair Cricket team won 2nd National Wheelchair Cricket Championship 2019, by beating Chhattisgarh team by 10 wickets in a one-sided final match at Noida.
- In the final, Punjab gave strong performance by getting Chhattisgarh all out for merely 28 runs in 5.4 overs.
- Punjab team defeated UP & Rajasthan before reaching in semi-final. In semi-final, Punjab beat Karnataka by chasing 197 runs in 19.1 overs.



Links:

<https://www.khaskhabar.com/local/punjab/punjab-chandigarh-news/news-punjab-won-second-t20-national-wheelchair-cricket-championship-title-news-hindi-1-374478-KKN.html>

India Australia ODI Series 2019

Question: Which player was awarded Man of the Series title in the recently concluded India-Australia ODI series?

(a) Bhubaneswar Kumar (b) Mohammed Shami (c) Virat Kohli (d) Usman Khwaja

Answer: (d)

Related facts:

- Australia defeated India by 35 runs in the final ODI at the Feroz Shah Kotla Stadium in Delhi to clinch the five-match One Day International (ODI) series by 3-2 on 13th March, 2019.
- Usman Khwaja was awarded Man of the Series title for his series winning performance. He scored a total of 383 runs with a decent average of 76.60.
- With this, Australia managed to claim their first ODI series win in two years.
- Aaron Finch became the first Australia captain of the decade to win an ODI series in India.
- Australian pacer Pat Cummins was the leading wicket taker with 14 wickets.



Links:

<https://indianexpress.com/article/sports/cricket/india-vs-australia-australia-win-first-odi-series-in-two-years-first-in-india-since-2009-5625154/>

Hockey

Azlan Shah Cup

Question: Which team won Azlan Shah Cup 2019, which took place in Malaysia on March 30, 2019?

(a) India (b) Malaysia (c) D. Korea (d) Canada

Answer: (c)

Related facts:

- The 28th edition of the Sultan Azlan Shah Cup hockey tournament was held in Ipoh (Epoh), Malaysia between March 23 and 30, 2019.
- World No. 17 South Korea defeated No. 5 India by 4-2 in the penalty shootout and won the title for the third time (gold medal).
- In the match played for third place, host Malaysia defeated Canada 4-2 to win the bronze medal.
- Japan remained fifth and Poland sixth.
- India, Malaysia, Canada, Japan, Poland and South Africa. Six teams, including Korea, participated in this tournament.
- The prizes given in the competition should be as follows-
- Man of the match-finals – Jang Jong Hyun (South Korea)
- Player of the Tournament – Surendra Kumar (India)
- Goalkeeper of the tournament – Kim Jae-Hyeon (South Korea)
- Top Goal Scorer – Mandeep Singh (India) and Jang Jong hyun (South Korea) both scored 7-7 goals.
- Fair Play Award – Japan



Links:

<https://www.indiatoday.in/sports/hockey/story/sultan-azlan-shah-cup-final-2019-india-vs-korea-hockey-penalty-shoot-out-1490332-2019-03-30>

Football

Under 17 Womens World Cup 2020 host

Question: Which country will host the 2020 FIFA U-17 Womens World Cup?

(a) China (b) France (c) India (d) Switzerland

Answer: (c)

Related facts:

- As per the announcement made by International Football Federation (FIFA) President Gianni Infantino on 16th March, 2019, India will host the 7th edition of the U-17 Women's World Cup 2020.
- This will be the second FIFA tournament which India will be hosting, after the U-17 Men's World Cup in 2017.
- The U-17 women's tournament began in 2008, when New Zealand hosted it.
- Spain is the current champions and they had beaten Mexico 2-1 in the final in Uruguay last year.
- Asian teams are the most successful teams in the tournament, with North Korea (2008 and 2016) having won it twice while Japan (2014) and South Korea (2010) had won it once each. France (2012) and Spain (2018) are the only non-Asian teams to win the tournament.



Links:

<http://ddnews.gov.in/sports/india-host-u-17-womens-world-cup-2020>

Indian Super League 2019

Question: Name the winner of the first edition of the Indian Super League Championship 2019?

(a) Bengaluru FC (b) Goa (c) Jamshedpur (d) Pune city

Answer: (a)

Related facts:

- Sunil Chhetri led Bengaluru FC side scripted history as they won their maiden Indian Super League (ISL), 2019 after defeating FC Goa by a goal at the Mumbai Football Arena on 17th March, 2019.
- Defender Rahul Bheke scored a stunning header at the 117th minute, in the second half of extra time for the winner from a set-piece.
- The match was evenly contested for the majority of the game but a red card to Goa's Ahmed Jahouh at the 106th minute gave Bengaluru an advantage, on which they capitalized successfully.



Links:

https://www.business-standard.com/article/pti-stories/bengaluru-fc-crowned-isl-champions-for-first-time-119031700746_1.html

Badminton

Kidambi Srikanth

Question: Who won Yonex-Sunrise India Open badminton tournament Men's Singles title recently played in New Delhi?

(a) Viktor Axelsen (b) Chou Tien-chen (c) Shi Yuqi (d) Kento Momota

Answer: (a)

Related facts:

- On 31 March 2019; Viktor Axelsen of Denmark bagged Yonex-Sunrise India Open badminton tournament Men's Singles title defeating Kidambi Srikanth.
- It was held in New Delhi.
- A former World No. 1 Srikanth blew two game points in the second game to lose 7-21, 20-22 to Axelsen in the men's singles summit clash.
- It was Srikanth's first final in a BWF world tour event in 17 months.
- He had last won a title at the 2017 French Open.



Links:

<http://www.newsonair.com/Main-News-Details.aspx?id=361636>

2019 Badminton Asia Mixed Team Championships

Question: Who won the 2019 Badminton Asia Mixed Team Championships?

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

Answer: (b)

Related facts:

- China won the 2019 Badminton Asia Mixed Team Championships held from 19-24 March 2019 at Queen Elizabeth Stadium in Hong Kong.
- The event was also known as the Tong Yun Kai Cup 2019.
- Japan was defeated in the final by the score of 3-2.
- Kanta Tsuneyama of Japan won Men's Singles whereas Women's Singles was bagged by Han Yue of China.



Links:

<https://bwf.tournamentsoftware.com/sport/teammatch.aspx?id=6E16BA47-5B06-43A3-B610-CF6D436A233D&match=37>

Boxing

Cologne Boxing World Cup 2019

Question: Cologne Boxing World Cup 2019 was organised in which of the following country?

(a) France (b) Germany (c) England (d) Italy

Answer: (b)

Related facts:

- **Cologne Boxing World Cup 2019** was held in **Cologne, Germany** from 9-14 April, 2019.
- The Cologne Boxing World Cup is the new official name of the well-known tournament **Chemistry Cup** with more than 20 nations and 160 boxers in seven women and ten men weight classes.
- Cologne Boxing World Cup 2019 was organized by **EUROPEAN BOXING CONFEDERATION (EUBC)**. It was held for the first time in **1970**.
- India with a haul of five medals finished its campaign at the Cologne Boxing World Cup 2019.
- Manipuri boxer Meena Kumari Maisnam (54kg) bagged the only gold medal for India in the tournament.
- Youth world champion Sakshi (57kg) and India Open gold medallist Pwilao Basumatary (64kg) finished with silver medals.
- Pinki Rani (51kg) and Parveen (60kg) confirmed bronze medals after losing their semi-final bouts.



Links:

<http://www.eubcboxing.org/news/cologne-boxing-world-cup-april-9-14-2019-cologne-germany/>

Formula One

Lewis Hamilton wins Bahrain Grand Prix

Question: Who won the Bahrain Grand Prix held at Bahrain International Circuit in Sakhir on 31 March, 2019?

(a) Sebastian Vettel (b) Lewis Hamilton (c) Charles Leclerc (d) Carlos Sainz

Answer: (b)

Related Facts:-

- On 31 March, 2019; defending world champion Lewis Hamilton won the Bahrain Grand Prix held at Bahrain International Circuit in Sakhir, Bahrain.
- He won the race for Mercedes, raced ahead of Charles Leclerc.
- The five-time champion, Hamilton gained the lead with 10 laps remaining, to Formula One's new star Charles Leclerc.
- It was Hamilton's first win of the season, third at the Bahrain International Circuit and the 74th of his career.



Links:

<https://www.thehindu.com/sport/motorsport/hamilton-wins-bahrain-grand-prix/article26695457.ece>

Athletics

Gelete Burka and Abrha Milaw win 2019 Paris Marathon

Question: Who won the 43rd edition of the Paris Marathon in 2019?

(a) Gelete Burka and Abrha Milaw (b) Gelete Burka and PT Usha (c) Geeta Mala and Abrha Milaw (d) Sakshi Malik and Vijendra Singh

Answer: (a)

Related facts:

- On 14 April 2019, Ethiopian athletes, Gelete Burka (in women's section) and Abrha Milaw (in the men's section) won the 43rd edition of the prestigious Paris Marathon.
- They led a record 60,000 participants to the finish line through the French capital.
- Milaw won the men's race with a time of 2 hours: 07 minutes and 50 seconds.
- Burka was the fastest woman with 2 hours: 22 minutes and 48 seconds.
- Kenyan Paul Lonyangata, a two-time Paris Marathon winner, was the third-fastest in the men's category.



Links:

<http://www.newsonair.com/News?title=Paris-Marathon%3A-Ethiopian-runners-Gelete-Burka-and-Abrha-Milaw-win-2019-race&id=362243>

Short Notes

Personalities

Former Cricketer Ravi Shastri appointed as a Corporate Ambassador of the Dubai base 'RAKEZ'

Question: Who has been appointed as a Corporate Ambassador of the Dubai base 'RAKEZ'?

(a) Sachin Tendulkar (b) Saurav Ganguly (c) Aakash Chopra (d)

Ravi Shastri

Answer: (d)

Related facts:



- Former Cricketer Ravi Shastri appointed as Ras Al Khaimah Economic Zone (RAKEZ) exclusive Corporate Ambassador to the Indian Business Community.
- He is currently the Head Coach of the Indian National Cricket team as well.
- Ravi Shastri will be representing RAKEZ in networking events, business forums and seminars, to build and sustain business relationships with key accounts and brands.
- As a Brand Ambassador Ravi Shastri may attract more Indian business leaders to set up or expand their operations in UAE through RAKEZ.
- 3,300 Indian companies are choosing RAKEZ as their business destination.
- RAKEZ is a powerhouse business and industrial hub established in 2017 by the Government of Ras Al Khaimah in the United Arab Emirates. It currently hosts over 14,500 companies coming from over 100 countries and operating in more than 50 industries.

Link: https://www.zawya.com/mena/en/companies/story/Ravi_Shastri_appointed_as_RAK_EZ_Corporate_Ambassador_to_the_Indian_business_community-ZAWYA20190417102957/

Graham Reid

Question: Which of the following former hockey player has been appointed as the chief coach of the men's hockey team of India?

(a) Sjoerd Marijne (b) Graham Reid (c) Danny Kerry (d) Colin Batch

Answer: (b)

Related facts:

- On 8th April, 2019; the appointment of Graham Reid as the chief coach of the men's hockey team was confirmed by Hockey India.
- 55-year-old Graham Reid is a former Australian field hockey player who played as a defender and midfielder for the Australian national team.
- To confirm his appointment, Hockey India and the Sports Authority of India forwarded his name last month for final clearance to the Sports Ministry.



Link:

<https://www.thehindu.com/sport/hockey/graham-reid-named-chief-coach-of-indias-mens-hockey-team/article26773412.ece>

First New President of Algeria after 20 years

Question: Recently who has been appointed as the new President of Algeria after 20 years following political upheaval in the country?

(a) Abdelkader Bensalah (b) Abdelaziz Bouteflika (c) Mohamed Boudiaf (d) Liamine Zérroual

Answer: (a)

Related facts:

- On 9 April 2019, President of the Council of the Nation (Upper House), Abdelkader Bensalah has been named as the interim President of Algeria.
- He is Algeria's first new President in two decades.
- This appointment came after the resignation of long-serving former President Abdelaziz Bouteflika facing pro-democracy protest movement backed by Army.
- However, the appointment of upper house speaker Bensalah as Algeria's first new president in 20 years failed to meet the demands of demonstrators.
- He will hold the office for a maximum of 90-days in accordance with Article 102 of Algerian constitution.
- Presidential elections in Algeria are scheduled to be held on 4 July 2019.



Links:

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

First Indian FIH Health & Safety Committee Head

Question: Who became the 1st Indian FIH health & safety committee head?

(a) Dr. BK Nayak (b) Sharad Powar (c) Anurag Thakur (d) Gautam Gambhir

Answer: (a)

Related facts:

- **Dr. Bibhu Kalyan Nayak** became the first Indian to be appointed as the head of the **International Hockey Federation (FIH) Health and Safety Committee** by the world governing body.
- Bibhu Nayak has extensively trained in sports traumatology and sports and exercise Physiology from National Institute of Sports Medicine at Havana, Cuba & National Sports Centre at Madrid, Spain.
- He will serve for tenure of 2 years.
- Nayak also served as a medical officer for the 2018 Men's World Cup.



Link:

https://www.business-standard.com/article/pti-stories/bk-nayak-appointed-fih-health-and-safety-committee-chair-119041300529_1.html

Chief Justice of Bombay High Court

Question: Who was recently appointed the Chief Justice of Bombay High Court?

(a) Pradeep Nandrajog (b) Naresh Patil (c) Ranjan Gogoi (d) Arun Mishra

Answer: (a)

Related facts:

- On 7 April 2019, Justice Pradeep Nandrajog sworn in as Chief Justice of the Bombay High Court.
- Maharashtra Governor Vidyasagar Rao administered the oath of office to Justice Nandrajog at a ceremony held at the Raj Bhawan.
- He has earlier served as Chief Justice of the Rajasthan High Court
- He succeeded Justice Naresh Patil who got retired as Chief Justice of the Bombay High Court on April 6.



Justice Nandrajog:

- Justice Pradeep Nandrajog is 61 and got enrolled as an advocate with the Bar Council of Delhi in 1981.
- He is a specialist in arbitration, commercial, service and company matters and also land revenue, elections, etc.
- Justice Nandrajog was elevated as an additional judge of the Delhi High Court on December 20, 2012 and appointed Chief Justice of the Rajasthan High Court on April 2, 2017.

Links:

<https://www.ndtv.com/mumbai-news/pradeep-nandrajog-sworn-in-as-chief-justice-of-bombay-high-court-2019346>

Sanjay Jasjit Singh

Question: Recently who took over as the Western Fleet Commander of Indian Navy?

(a) Sanjay Jasjit Singh (b) Shubhman Gill (c) Jasprit Singh (d) Sarvjeet Singh

Answer: (a)

Related facts:



- On 22nd March, 2019, Rear Admiral Sanjay Jasjit Singh took over as Western Fleet Commander of Indian Navy. He took charge of Western Fleet, the 'Sword Arm' of the Indian Navy, from Rear Admiral MA Hampiholi, AVSM, NM.
- Rear Admiral Sanjay Jasjit Singh was commissioned into the Indian Navy in 1986 and is an alumnus of the National Defence Academy, Khadakwasla.
- He is a specialist in Navigation and Direction; he has held a range of command, training and staff appointments during his career.
- His sea command appointments include that of the ASW and UAV-control Frigate Taragiri, where he was awarded the Nao Sena Medal, and the multi-role Frigate Trishul.
- Rear Admiral MA Hampiholi is proceeding to IHQ MoD (N), New Delhi, as Director General Naval Operations in the rank of Vice Admiral on 27 Mar 19.

Link:

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=189512>

WikiLeaks Founder arrested

Question: Who among the following is the founder of website WikiLeaks?

(a) Edward Snowden (b) Julian Assange (c) Larry Page (d) Jim Schole

Answer: (b)

Related facts:



- The WikiLeaks founder Julian Assange was arrested on 11th April, 2019, at Ecuadorian Embassy in London to face charges in the United States of conspiring to hack into a Pentagon Computer Network in 2010.
- Assange has been seeking asylum in the embassy since 2012 to avoid extradition to Sweden over a sexual assault case. He now faces US federal conspiracy charges related to one of the largest ever leaks of government secrets.
- The UK will decide whether to extradite Assange. He can be awarded five years in US prison if convicted on the charges of conspiracy to commit computer intrusion.
- Assange set up Wikileaks in 2006 for obtaining and publishing confidential documents and images.
- WikiLeaks specializes in the analysis and publication of large datasets of censored or otherwise restricted official materials involving war, spying and corruption. It has so far published more than 10 million documents and associated analyses.

Links:

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-47891737>

President of International Chamber of Commerce

Question: Who is newly elected as the President of International Chamber of Commerce (ICC) India?

(a) Vikramjit Singh Sahney (b) Manu Sawhney (c) Shashank anohar (d) Sishir Kunder

Answer: (a)

Related facts:

- On 8th April 2019, SUN Group Chairman Vikramjit Singh Sahney was elected as the new President of International Chamber of Commerce (ICC) – India.
- International Chamber of Commerce is the world organisation, enabling business to secure peace, prosperity and opportunity for all.
- It was established in 1919 at Atlantic City and headquartered in Paris. ICC is governed by its Executive Board, World Council, Chairmanship and Secretary General.
- ICC-India is headquartered in New Delhi.



Links:

<https://iccwbo.org/about-us/who-we-are/history/>

Ambassador of India to Jordan

Question: Recently who has been appointed as next ambassador of India to the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan?

(a) Anwar Haleem (b) Navtej Sarna (c) Arun Kumar Singh (d)

Subrahmanyam Jaishankar

Answer: (a)

Related facts:

- On 3 April 2019, Anwar Haleem has been appointed as the next Ambassador of India to the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan.
- He will replace Shubhdarshini Tripathi at this post.
- He is 1991 batch Indian Foreign Service officer currently serving as Additional Secretary in the National Defence College in New Delhi.
- Prior to this, he has served at Indian missions in Egypt, UAE and Saudi Arabia. He has vast experience of working in different divisions of the Ministry of External Affairs.



Links:

[https://www.mea.gov.in/press-releases.htm?dtl/31208/Anwar Haleem appointed as the next Ambassador of India to the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan](https://www.mea.gov.in/press-releases.htm?dtl/31208/Anwar+Haleem+appointed+as+the+next+Ambassador+of+India+to+the+Hashemite+Kingdom+of+Jordan)

Rajesh Pendharkar

Question: Who has been appointed as the Flag Officer Commanding Maharashtra Naval Area recently?

(a) Rajesh Pendharkar (b) Sanjay Roye (c) Alok Bhatnagar (d) Anil Kumar Chawla

Answer : (a)

Related facts:

- On 25 Mar 2019; Rear Admiral Rajesh Pendharkar, VSM has taken over the charge as the Flag Officer Commanding Maharashtra Naval Area.
- He was commissioned into the Indian Navy in Jan 1987 and is an Anti-Submarine Warfare specialist.
- The Flag Officer is a recipient of the Vishisht Seva Medal for distinguished service.
- He also worked as Executive Officer of missile converter INS Kirpan and missile destroyer INS Mysore and command of missile converter INS Kora, missile frigate INS Shivalik and the aircraft carrier INS Viraat.
- He served as the Chief Staff Officer (Operations) at Headquarters Western Naval Command.



Link:

<http://pib.nic.in/Pressreleaseshare.aspx?PRID=1569498>

Karambir Singh

Question: Who will be the next Chief of Naval staff from March 31, 2019?

(a) Sunil Lanba (b) Sanjay Jasjit Singh (c) Bipin Rawat (d) Karambir Singh

Answer: (d)

Related facts:

- Vice Admiral Karambir Singh has been appointed as the next Chief of Naval Staff.
- He will replace Admiral Sunil Lanba, who retires on May 31 2019, according to the defence Ministry announcement on 23 March, 2019.
- This time the government made the selection following a merit-based approach and did not go with the tradition of appointing the senior most eligible officer to the post.
- At present, Vice Admiral Singh is serving as the Flag Officer Commanding in Chief (FOC-in-C) of the Eastern Naval Command in Visakhapatnam.
- He will take charge as Navy Chief on May 31 2019.



Links:

<https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/vice-admiral-karambir-singh-appointed-next-navy-chief/article26618416.ece>

BCCI's ad-hoc Ethics Officer: Committee of Administrators

Question: Who will be the BCCI's ad-hoc Ethics Officer?

(a) Justice DK Jain (b) Justice Deepak Mishra (c) Justice Chandrachud (d) Sharad Pawar

Answer: (a)

Related facts:

- The Committee of Administrators (COA) running Indian cricket informed that BCCI's newly-appointed ombudsman, Justice (Retd) DK Jain, will also be its ad-hoc Ethics Officer.



- The COA had requested the Supreme Court to appoint an Ethics Officer in addition to Ombudsman for looking into the matters of Conflict of Interest.
- The three-member COA requested Justice Jain to take over as Ethics Officer on an ad-hoc basis till a permanent appointment takes place.
- Justice Jain is already looking into Hardik Pandya-KL Rahul chat show controversy due to which the duo served provisional suspension, which was eventually lifted.

Link:

https://www.business-standard.com/article/pti-stories/ombudsman-dk-jain-to-double-up-as-bcci-s-ethics-officer-coa-119032800324_1.html

Vinod Dasari

Question: Recently Vinod Dasari was appointed as the CEO of which of the following company?

(a) Royal Enfield (b) Ashok Leyland (c) Cummins India Ltd (d) General Electric Co.

Answer (a)

Related facts:



- On 1 April 2019, Vinod Dasari was appointed as CEO of Royal Enfield.
- Dasari, who formerly also worked as CEO of Ashok Leyland, replaced Siddhartha Lal in the company.
- Dasari will also join the board of Eicher Motors Ltd—the parent company—as an executive director.
- Siddhartha Lal will remain to be the Managing Director of Eicher Motors.

Links:

<https://www.thehindu.com/business/vinod-dasari-named-royal-enfield-ceo/article26705064.ece>

Vijay Chandok

Question: Which of the following bank appointed Vijay Chandok as MD and CEO of its subsidiary for Securities?

(a) ICICI (b) HDFC (c) IDBI (d) SBI

Answer: (a)

Related facts:

- On 31 March, 2019; private lender ICICI Bank announced that Vijay Chandok will be the MD and CEO of its subsidiary ICICI Securities.
- At present, he is on the boards of ICICI Bank UK PLC and ICICI Bank Canada and is the Chairman of ICICI Investment Management Company.
- Mr Chandok, who joined the ICICI Group in 1993, will succeed Shilpa Naval Kumar for this post.
- Mr Chandok will be joining his duties with effect from May 7, 2019.
- Chandok presently is the Executive Director of ICICI Bank.



Links:

<https://www.thehindubusinessline.com/money-and-banking/vijay-chandok-to-head-icici-securities/article26689269.ece>

Ole Gunnar Solskjaer

Question: Recently who has been appointed as the Manager of the Manchester United club of England?

(a) Ole Gunnar Solskjaer (b) José Mourinho (c) Louis van Gaal
(d) David Moyes

Answer: (a)

Related facts:

- On 28 March, 2019; Ole Gunnar Solskjaer has been appointed as Manchester United Manager on a three-year contract.
- It should be noted that Manchester United is a professional football club based in Old Trafford, Greater Manchester, England.
- Solskjaer has guided Manchester United club to 14 wins in 19 matches as a caretaker boss since replacing Jose Mourinho in December, 2018.
- It competes in the Premier League, the top flight of English football.



Links:

<https://www.thehindu.com/sport/football/manchester-united-appoints-ole-gunnar-solskjaer-as-permanent-manager/article26663413.ece>

India High Commissioner to Fiji

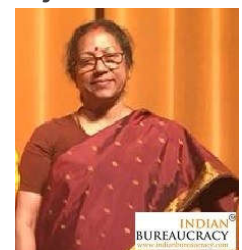
Question: Who has been appointed as the High Commissioner of India to Fiji?

(a) Harshvardhan Shringla (b) Padmaja (c) M R Kumar (d) Santosh Jha

Answer: (b)

Related facts:

- Padmaja has been appointed as the next High Commissioner of India to the Republic of Fiji.
- She is presently Deputy Director General, Indian Council for Cultural Relations.
- Republic of Fiji is sovereign island nation located in the South Pacific Ocean east of Vanuatu, west of Tonga and south of Tuvalu. Its capital is Suva.



Links:

https://www.mea.gov.in/press-releases.htm?dtl/31157/Ms_Padmaja_appointed_as_the_next_High_Commissioner_of_India

India Ambassador to Uzbekistan

Question: Recently who has been appointed as the Ambassador of India to Uzbekistan?

(a) Harshvardhan Shringla (b) Ajit Mohanty (c) M R Kumar (d) Santosh Jha

Answer: (d)

Related facts:

- Santosh Jha has been appointed as the next Ambassador of India to the Republic of Uzbekistan on 13th March, 2019.
- Santosh Jha is a 1993 batch IFS officer who is presently Deputy Chief of Mission, Embassy of India, Washington, US.
- Uzbekistan is a landlocked country in Central Asia, its capital is Tashkent. Shavkat Mirziyoyev is the President of Uzbekistan.



Links:

<https://mea.gov.in/press-releases.htm?dtl/31152/Santosh+Jha+appointed+as+the+next+Ambassador+of+India+to+the+Republic+of+Uzbekistan>

Haku Shah

Question: Haku Shah known for Gandhian principles was a-

(a) Painter (b) Journalist (c) Philosopher (d) Dancer

Answer: (a)

Related facts:

- Eminent painter Haku Shah died in Ahmedabad at the age of 85
- Apart from painting, he was a cultural anthropologist, curator and an author on folk and tribal art and culture.
- Haku Shah played a crucial role in conserving and preserving arts and crafts hiding in the lesser known parts of India.
- Shah designed the one-of-its-kind multi-art and crafts complex in Udaipur called Shilpgram.
- He also set up a tribal museum at Gujarat Vidyapeeth in Ahmedabad.



Link:

<https://indianexpress.com/article/india/haku-shah-painter-known-for-gandhian-principles-dies-5639038/>

Director General Naval Operation

Question: Who took charge as the Director General Naval Operation (DGNO) recently?

(a) Kalanpreet Singh (b) Sunil Lanba (c) MA Hampiholi (d) Prajjwal Jaju

Answer: (c)

Related facts:

- On 27th March 2019, Vice Admiral MA Hampiholi, AVSM NM has assumed charge as Director General Naval Operations.
- He is a graduate of the National Defence Academy and was commissioned in the Executive Branch of the Indian Navy on 1st July, 1985.



- He is a specialist in Anti-Submarine Warfare and has held important assignments both afloat and ashore. He is a recipient of the Nao Sena Medal in 2011 and the Athi Vishist Seva Medal in 2019.

Link:

<http://pib.nic.in/PressReleaseDetail.aspx?PRID=1569593>

C.S Shivalli

Question: CS Shivalli, who died recently, was the minister of Municipal Administration in the government of which of the following state?

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

Answer: (b)

Related facts:

- On 22nd March, 2019; Channabasappa Satyappa Shivalli passed away suffering a massive heart attack. He was 58.
- Shivalli was Municipal Administration Minister in the present Karnataka government.
- He was a three-time MLA from Kundagol constituency in Dharwad district.



Links:

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=189508>

Citibank CEO

Question: Recently who has been appointed as the CEO of Citibank India?

(a) Ashu Khullar (b) Pramit Jhaveri (c) Anand Ghosh (d) J.

Dinakaran

Answer: (a)

Related facts:

- Ashu Khullar has been appointed as the new CEO of Citibank . He will replace the current CEO Pramit Jhaveri.
- Ashu Khullar is currently Asia Pacific Head of Capital Market Origination at Citigroup in Hong Kong.
- Its current CEO, Pramit Jhaveri, is likely to take charge as vice chairman of Citi's banking, capital markets and advisory business across Asia Pacific from April 1, 2019.
- Citi India's balance sheet is considered among the best-performing in Indian banking, with net bad loans of 0.55% as of March 31, 2018.
- Due to deficiencies in regulatory compliance, the Reserve Bank of India imposed a fine of Rs 3 crore on Citibank in January 2019.



Link: <https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/industry/banking/finance/banking/ashu-khullar-to-succeed-pramit-jhaveri-as-citi-india-boss/articleshow/68328490.cms>

Candidate Connect and Share You Voted

Question: Which one of the following tools has been taken by Facebook to Boost Engagement ahead of Lok Sabha Elections?

(a) Candidate Connect (b) Share You Voted (c) Both (a) and (b) (d) None of the above

Answer: (c)

Related facts:

- On 27th March 2019, Social-networking site Facebook launched two new India-specific tools called Candidate Connect and Share You Voted to boost civic engagement on its platform during the general elections scheduled to commence in April, 2019.
- While Candidate Connect will help people learn more about candidates, the Share You Voted will provide people with polling information and enable them to announce and celebrate their vote.
- The voters in India would be able to watch 20-second videos of candidates contesting from their respective constituencies.
- The company emphasized that Candidate Connect is outcome of locally conducted consumer research programmes.
- Both the new tools are being made available in 12 local languages across India.



Links:

<https://www.news18.com/news/tech/facebook-candidate-connect-and-share-you-voted-tools-to-boost-engagement-ahead-of-lok-sabha-elections-2079125.html>

\$ 1 billion fund for US-Mexico border wall

Question: Which among the following has authorized the transfer of fund worth \$ 1 billion for the US-Mexico border wall?

(a) World Bank (b) Pentagon (c) Senate (d) International Monetary Fund

Answer: (b)

Related facts:



- The Pentagon has notified Congress for the transfer of USD 1 billion authorized by them for building 57-mile (91 km) fence at the southern U.S. border with Mexico.
- The funds are the first under the national emergency which was declared by President Donald Trump on 15 February after Congress refused his requests for \$5.7bn (£4.4bn) to construct the wall bypassing Congress. Opposition Party Democrats have protested against the move.
- President Trump has called the situation at the southern border a crisis. He held the view of constructing a physical barrier to stop criminals, illegal migrants and drug traffickers crossing into the US.

US-Mexico Border Wall:

- The US-Mexico border is 1,954 miles (3,145km) long and crosses vast deserts and mountains in California, Arizona, New Mexico and Texas. About 654 miles of that have some sort of manmade barrier, such as fencing or a wall mostly built after 2006.
- President Trump argues \$5.7bn (£4.5bn) in addition to the \$1.7bn already allocated for the construction of wall. Congress has so far approved \$1.7bn in funding for 124 miles of new and replacement barrier since Trump became President.
- Around 66,000 people were detained for illegally border crossing in February 2019, the highest of a decade.

Links:

<https://www.bbc.com/news/world-us-canada-47702152>

Appointment of new Chairman of LIC

Question: Recently, who has been appointed as the next Chairman of LIC?

(a) MR Kumar (b) Hemant Bhargava (c) VK Sharma (d) Usha Sangwan

Answer: (a)

Related facts:

- On 13 March 2019, M R Kumar has been appointed as the Chairman of Life Insurance Corporation (LIC). He will hold the post for five years.
- MD Hemant Bhargava was serving as Interim Chairman after VK Sharma's retirement on December 31, 2018.
- Prior to this elevation, Kumar was Zonal Manager (In-Charge) of North Zone, Delhi.
- In addition to this, Vipin Anand and TC Suseel Kumar were also appointed as the Managing Directors (MDs).
- LIC's Executive Board comprises one Chairman and four Managing Directors.



Links:

<https://www.moneycontrol.com/news/business/companies/mr-kumar-appointed-lic-chairman-vipin-anand-tc-suseel-kumar-named-managing-directors-3644101.html>

Nuclear, Biological, Chemical Training Facility – ABHEDYA

Question: ABHEDYA was commissioned at which of the following Naval Station?

(a) INS Dwarka, Orkha (b) INS Vajrakosh, Karwars (c) INS Shivaji, Lonavala

(d) INS Kalinga, Visakhapatnam

Answer: (c)

Related facts:

- On 25th March 2019, Admiral Sunil Lanba, Chief of the Naval Staff commissioned a state of the art Nuclear, Biological, Chemical Training Facility – ABHEDYA, at INS Shivaji, Lonavala.
- M/s. GSL had signed the contract with Indian Navy for construction of NBCTF on 31st March, 2016, and delivered the facility before schedule.
- The steel structure of the simulator represents the relevant NBC compartment of the ship such as upper decks, citadels, cleansing stations, DCHQ, etc.
- The upper deck compartment is equipped with live agents along with NBC equipment such as SIRS, SICADS and other NBC detection and monitoring equipment.
- This unique facility will assist Indian Navy in providing realistic simulation of Nuclear, Chemical & Biological warfare to its personnel during their NBC damage control training, which till now was limited to theoretical training largely.



Link:

<http://pib.nic.in/PressReleaseDetail.aspx?PRID=1569459>

Vipin Anand takes over as Managing Director of LIC

Question: Recently, who took charge as new Managing Director of Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC)?

(a) Bimalendu Chakrabarti (b) R N Chaturvedi (c) R.Chandrasekaran (d) Vipin Anand

Answer: (d)

Related facts:

- On 1 April 2019, Vipin Anand took charge as the Managing Director of Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC).
- Prior to this, he was serving as In-charge of LIC's western zone, comprising of 23 divisions, covering the states of Maharashtra, Gujarat and Goa and Union territories of Daman, Diu and Dadra and Nagar Haveli.
- He has also headed LIC's east central zone headquartered at Patna.
- He played a significant role in setting up LIC's operations in Singapore and Bangladesh.
- Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC) is an Indian state-owned insurance group and investment company headquartered in Mumbai.
- It was founded on 1 September 1956.
- M R Kumar is the Chairman of LIC, India.



Links:

https://www.business-standard.com/article/pti-stories/vipin-anand-assumes-charge-as-md-of-lic-119040101042_1.html

New Chairman of Agricultural Scientific Recruitment Board

Question: Who has been appointed as the new Chairman of Agricultural Scientific Recruitment Board recently?

(a) Aditya Kumar Mishra (b) Prof. Ved Prakash (c) Prof. M.S. Swaminathan

(d) Prof. D. P. Singh

Answer: (a)

Related facts:

- Aditya Kumar Mishra is appointed as the new Chairman of Agricultural Scientific Recruitment Board (ASRB).
- Aditya Mishra is a veterinary professor and former Vice-Chancellor of GB Pant University of Agriculture and Technology, Pantnagar.
- He will hold this post till January 5, 2022 when he attains the age of 65 years.
- ASRB was established on 1st November 1973 as an independent recruitment agency in pursuance of the recommendations of the Gajendragadkar Committee. ASRB recruits technical manpower for national agricultural research system.
- ASRB was restructured on August, 2018. The ASRB will now be a 4 Member body instead of 3 Members. It will have a Chairperson and 3 Members.
- ASRB was delinked from ICAR and attached with Department of Agricultural Research & Education (DARE) under Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers' Welfare.



Links:

<https://www.thehindubusinessline.com/economy/agri-business/a-k-misra-is-new-asrb-chief/article26480598.ece>

First Indian Athlete to qualify for Tokyo Olympics 2020

Question: Who is the first Indian athlete to qualify for Tokyo Olympics 2020?

(a) K T Irfan (b) Marry Kom (c) Vijendra Singh (d) Deepa Kamrakar

Answer: (a)

Related facts:

- **K T Irfan** became the **1st Indian from athletics** to qualify for **Tokyo Olympics 2020**.
- He finished **4th in the 20 km event** of the **Asian Race Walking Championships** in **Nomi, Japan**.
- Irfan holds personal best as well as national record of 1:20:21 attained during his 10th place finish in 2012 Olympics.
- Earlier, in 2018 Gold Coast Commonwealth Games he was one of the two Indian athletes who were expelled for not adhering to the 'no needle policy' of the Games.



Links:

<https://www.thehindu.com/sport/athletics/kt-irfan-becomes-first-indian-athlete-to-qualify-for-tokyo-olympics/article26559532.ece>

Indian origin Jagmeet Singh enters Canada parliament

Question: Which politician of Indian-origin became the first non white leader of the major opposition party in Canada?

(a) Jaspreet Singh (b) Jagmeet Singh (c) Shankaran M. (d) Bobby Jindal

Answer: (b)

Related facts:

- Politician of Indian-origin named **Jagmeet Singh** created history by making his debut in the **House of Commons** as the **first non-white leader** of a **major opposition party in Canada on March 20, 2019**.
- Jagmeet Singh is the leader of the **New Democratic Party**. He was elected in **federal by-elections** held on February 25 this year.
- Singh's **first words** as an **elected lawmaker** were about recent **terrorist attack** on **two mosques** in **New Zealand**.
- He is a **lawyer by profession** and both, a progressive and social democrat by ideology.



Links:

<http://newsonair.com/Main-News-Details.aspx?id=361205>

Awards & Honors

Master Deenanath Mangeshkar Awards 2019

Question: Who among the following has been conferred Master Deenanath Mangeshkar Lifetime Award for the year 2019?

(a) Salim Khan (b) Javed Akhtar (c) Yash Chopra (d) Anurag Kashyap

Answer: (a)

Related facts:

- On 24 April 2019, prestigious Master Deenanath Mangeshkar Awards were conferred.
- Eminent screenwriter Salim Khan has been conferred Master Deenanath Mangeshkar Lifetime Award recognizing his immense contribution in the Indian film industry.
- National Award-winning filmmaker Madhur Bhandarkar and yesteryears dancing diva Helen were honored with Master Deenanath Mangeshkar Special Award for his contribution to Indian cinema.
- Classical dancer Sucheta Bhide-Chapekar was awarded with Master Deenanath Mangeshkar Award for music and art.
- Vagvilasini Award went to Vasant Abaji Dahake; the Mohan Wagh Award to Bhadrakali Productions' "Soyare Sakal" for Best Drama of the Year.
- Anandmayee Puraskar was bestowed to Pandit Suresh Talwalkar of Taalyogi Ashram, Pune (Maharashtra).
- These awards are given in honour of Pt. Deenanath Mangeshkar, father of noted playback singer Lata Mangeshkar and Asha Bhosle, to felicitate legends from the fields of music, drama, art and social work.
- Award is instituted by charitable trust Master Deenanath Mangeshkar Smruti Pratishthan, Pune.



Links:

https://www.business-standard.com/article/news-ians/bhandarkar-helen-get-deenanath-mangeshkar-award-119042500432_1.html

K Siva Reddy to get Saraswati Samman

Question: On April 10, 2019, who was selected for the 28th Saraswati Award for 2018?

(a) Dr. K. Shiva Reddy (b) Mahabaleshwar Mishra (c) Yasharth Chaturvedi

(d) Sumitra Jain

Answer: (a)

Related facts:

- Telugu poet K Siva Reddy is to be conferred the prestigious Saraswati Samman 2018.
- He will be awarded this for his collection of poems titled Pakkaki Ottigilite (Turning Aside While Lying Down).
- Reddy was born in 1943 in a farmer's family in Andhra Pradesh's Guntur. He is counted among the most renowned modern poets in Telugu.
- Reddy has also published critical essays on poetry.
- Pakkaki Ottigilite is an anthology of 104 poems in blank verse capturing the responses of the poet over the years to social change, the evolution of his own self and his dynamic relationship with the world. It was published in 2016.
- This award is given by the KK Birla Foundation annually for an outstanding literary work written in any official Indian language and published during the preceding 10 years.



Saraswati Samman:

- It is the highest recognition in the field of Indian literature and carries a cash purse of Rs 15 lakh, apart from a citation and a plaque.
- The KK Birla Foundation has instituted three awards in the field of literature. Which are the Saraswati Samman, Vyas Samman (for Hindi) and Bihari Puraskar (for Hindi and Rajasthani writers of Rajasthan).
- Past recipients of the Saraswati Samman include poet Harivansh Rai Bachchan, and writers Vijay Tendulkar, Shamsur Rahman Faruqi and Dr Indira Parthasarathy Ramanujar, among many others.

Link:

<https://www.hindustantimes.com/india-news/k-siva-reddy-to-get-saraswati-samman/story-edPLtEtSy1xDs1CasJ2xuO.html>

PM Modi gets highest civilian award of Russia

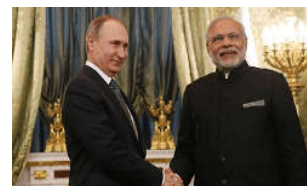
Question: Who has been conferred highest civilian award the Order of St. Andrew the Apostle recently?

(a) Narendra Modi (b) Benjamin Netanyahu (c) Sushma Swaraj (d) Theresa May

Answer: (a)

Related facts:

- On 12 April 2019, Prime Minister Narendra Modi has been conferred "Order of St. Andrew the Apostle the First-Called", the highest civilian award of the Russian Federation.
- This award is being conferred for developing the Special and Privileged Strategic Partnership between Russia and India.
- Among various major recognitions bestowed to PM Modi in five governing years, four highest civilian awards are conferred by Muslim countries (Afghanistan, Saudi Arabia, Palestine and United Arab Emirates) underlining his efforts at boosting India's ties with the Islamic world.
- Former recipients of the Order of St. Andrew the Apostle includes President of Azerbaijan Heydar Aliyev, President of Kazakhstan Nursultan Nazarbayev, Chinese President Xi Jinping and former Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev.
- The award is being given to outstanding personalities for exceptional services that contribute to the prosperity, greatness and glory of Russia since its inception in 1998.



Links:

<https://indianexpress.com/article/india/pm-narendra-modi-8th-international-honour-as-russia-confers-highest-state-award-5672637/>

Nobel Prize of Computing 2018

Question: Yoshua Bengio, Geoffrey Hinton, and Yann LeCun are awarded with Nobel Prize for Computing. What is the actual name of the award?

(a) A M Turing Award (b) C M Turing Award (c) Babbage Award (d) Abacus Fellowship

Answer: (a)

Related facts:

- Yoshua Bengio, Geoffrey Hinton, and Yann LeCun are awarded with 2018 ACM A.M. Turing Award for conceptual and engineering breakthroughs that have made deep neural networks a critical component of computing.
- This award is given by Association for Computing Machinery, ACM.



- Yoshua Bengio is Professor at the University of Montreal and Scientific Director at Mila, Quebec's Artificial Intelligence Institute.
- Geoffrey Hinton is VP and Engineering Fellow of Google, Chief Scientific Adviser of The Vector Institute, and University Professor Emeritus at the University of Toronto.
- Yann LeCun is Professor at New York University and VP and Chief AI Scientist at Facebook.
- Hinton, LeCun and Bengio developed conceptual foundations for the field, identified surprising phenomena through experiments, and contributed engineering advances that demonstrated the practical advantages of deep neural networks.
- The ACM A.M. Turing Award, often referred to as the "Nobel Prize of Computing," carries a \$1 million prize, with financial support provided by Google, Inc. It is named for Alan M. Turing, the British mathematician who articulated the mathematical foundation and limits of computing.

Link:

<http://www.newsonair.com/News?title=A.M.-Turing-Award%2c-referred-to-as-the-%22Nobel-Prize-of-Computing%22%2c-announced&id=361520>

Nobel Prize recipient honoured with Oxford University's Bodley Award

Question: Name the Nobel Prize recipient who has been honoured with Oxford University's Bodley Award recently?

(a) Amartya Sen (b) Arjuna Sengupta (c) Stephen Hawking (d) Srinivasa Ramanujan

Answer (a)

Related facts:

- On 15 March 2019, Nobel Prize-winning economist Amartya Sen has been awarded the prestigious Bodley Medal, the highest honour bestowed by the University of Oxford's world-famous Bodleian Libraries.
- The Medal is awarded to individuals who have made outstanding contributions to the fields in which the Bodleian is active, including literature, culture, science and communication.
- The honour was awarded to Sen at an annual event commemorating the birth of the Libraries' founder Sir Thomas Bodley.
- Past winners of the honour include physicist Stephen Hawking, novelist Hilary Mantel and inventor of the World Wide Web Tim Berners-Lee.



Links:

<https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/magazines/panache/nobel-laureate-amartya-sen-honoured-with-oxford-universitys-bodley-medal/articleshow/68609684.cms>

Global Teacher Award 2019

Question: Who amongst the following was announced to be awarded with Global Teacher Award for the year 2019?

(a) Marcelo Glieser (b) Peter Tabichi (c) Baba Amte (d) Nancie Atwell

Answer: (b)

Related facts:

- Peter Tabichi of Kenya won the prestigious Varkey Foundation Global Teacher Award 2019.
- Peter Tabichi is science teacher at Keriko Secondary School in Pwani Village, in a remote part of Kenya's Rift Valley.



- Tabichi received prize at a ceremony in Dubai, and the award was presented by actor Hugh Jackman. He won the award of \$1m prize beating 10,000 nominations from 179 countries.
- Tabichi gives away 80% of his total income to help the poorest students at the poorly-equipped and overcrowded school who cannot otherwise afford uniforms and books.

Links:

<https://www.globalteacherprize.org/winners/peter-tabichi/>

Best Sportspersons Award

Question: Which test cricketer has been conferred the Best Sportsman for his outstanding performance by the Delhi Sports Journalists Association (DSJA)?

(a) Virat Kohli (b) Rishabh Pant (c) Rohit Sharma (d) R Ashwin

Answer: (b)

Related facts:

- On 28 March 2019, Delhi Sports Journalists Association (DSJA) Best Sportspersons awards were presented by Indian Olympic Association (IOA) President, Narinder Dhruv Batra.



Awardees:

- Best Sportsman: Bajrang Punia (Wrestling) and Rishabh Pant (Cricket).
- Best Sportswoman: Rani Rampal (Hockey) and Manu Bhaker (Shooting).
- Lifetime achievement: Karnam Malleswari (Weightlifting) and Raj Singh (Wrestling).
- Best Coach: Jaspal Rana (Shooting) and Tarak Sinha (Cricket).
- Special Awards: Abhishek Verma (Archery), Divij Sharan (Tennis), Diksha Dagar (Golf), Gaurav Gill (Motor Sports), Meenakshi Pahuja (Channel Swimming) and Seema Yadav (Amateur marathon running).

Links:

<https://sportstar.thehindu.com/other-sports/delhi-sports-journalists-association-award-punia-pant-bhaker-rampal-batra/article26665589.ece>

10th Biennial National Grassroots Innovation Awards

Question: Who presented the 10th Biennial National Grassroots Innovation Awards?

(a) Ravi Shankar Prasad (b) Sushma Swaraj (c) Narendra Modi (d) Ram Nath Kovind

Answer: (d)

Related facts:

- On 15 March 2019, President of India Ram Nath Kovind presented the 10th Biennial National Grassroots Innovation Awards.
- The President also inaugurated FINE 2019, Festival of Innovation and Entrepreneurship in Gandhinagar, Gujarat where this award ceremony took place.
- Addressing the event, President emphasized on the need to build an ecosystem for converting innovations into enterprises. This requires backing for start-ups and for incubating young innovators by providing financial, mentoring and policy support.



Awardees:

- Prakash Singh Raghuvarshi was awarded the lifetime achievement award for Improved Plant Varieties.

- Shyamveer Singh and Ved Prakash were awarded in the field of agriculture technology.
- Sandeep Vishram Ghole was awarded for improved variety of onions.
- Various others awards in different fields were also distributed.

Links:

<http://pib.nic.in/PressReleaselframePage.aspx?PRID=1568896>

UAE confers prestigious Zayed Medal to PM Modi

Question: Zayed Medal is the highest civilian award of which of the following country?

(a) United Arab Emirates (b) Saudi Arabia (c) Qatar (d) Kuwait

Answer:(a)

Related facts:

- On 5 April 2019, PM Narendra Modi has been conferred the UAE highest civilian award, 'the Order of Zayed'.
- This award came in appreciation of the significant role of Indian PM in consolidating the long-standing friendship and joint strategic cooperation between India and United Arab Emirates.
- Prior to this, 3 other Muslim country such as Afghanistan, Saudi Arabia and Palestine has awarded PM Modi with their highest civilian honours for his commendable role towards bilateral ties.
- Former recipients of the Zayed Medal includes Russian President Vladimir Putin, Chinese President Xi Jinping, British Queen Elizabeth II, Saudi Arabia's King Salman and former Pakistan President Musharraf.



Links:

<http://www.newsonair.com/Main-News-Details.aspx?id=361792>

Vikram Patel gets global health award

Question: Who has been announced to be conferred with prestigious John Dirks Canada Gairdner Global Health Award for the year 2019?

(a) Vikram Patel (b) Anthony Fauci (c) Satoshi Ōmura (d) Vikram Sinha

Answer: (a)

Related facts:

- Leading global mental health researcher, a psychiatrist and professor of global health at Harvard Medical School, Dr Vikram Patel has been announced to be conferred with prestigious John Dirks Canada Gairdner Global Health Award for the year 2019.
- He has been recognized for his world-leading research in global mental health, generating knowledge on the burden and determinants of mental health problems in low- and middle-income countries and pioneering approaches for the prevention and treatment of mental health in low-resource settings.
- He is also the co-founder of Goa-based NGO 'Sangath' established in 1996.
- Goa and Boston-based, Dr Patel will be formally presented with the awards on 24 October 2019 at the annual Canada Gairdner Awards Gala in Toronto.



- The award includes a cash honorarium of \$100,000.

Links:

https://gairdner.org/winners/current-winners/#Vikram_Patel

Templeton Prize

Question: Who has been awarded the prestigious Templeton Prize for the year 2019?

(a) Jean Vanier (b) Marcelo Gleiser (c) John Langlands (d) Alvin Plantinga

Answer: (b)

Related facts:

- Marcelo Gleiser was announced as the 2019 Templeton Prize Laureate. He is a theoretical physicist, cosmologist, and a leading proponent of the view that science, philosophy, and spirituality are complementary expressions of humanity's need to embrace mystery and the unknown,
- He is Appleton Professor of Natural Philosophy and a professor of physics and astronomy at Dartmouth College in Hanover, New Hampshire. He is a native of Brazil. He becomes the first Latin American to be awarded the Templeton Prize.



Templeton Prize:

- The Templeton Prize, valued at 1.1 million British pounds, is one of the world's largest annual individual awards and honors a person who has made an exceptional contribution to affirming life's spiritual dimension whether through insight, discovery, or practical works.
- The award is given by John Templeton Foundation since 1972. It was established by global investor and philanthropist Sir John Templeton.
- The former recipients of the Templeton Prize include Archbishop Emeritus Desmond Tutu, Mother Teresa and Dalai Lama.

Link:

<http://www.templetonprize.org/currentwinner.html>

Operations & Campaign

Bank of Baroda: Power of 3

Question: Power of 3 is related to:

(a) New brand campaign of Bank Of Baroda (b) Car Loan scheme (c) Home loan scheme (d) Personal loan scheme

Answer: (a)

Related facts:

- From 1st April 2019, Bank of Baroda with its mergers came together to create Ab Saath hai teen, Behtar se Behtareen. This is a new brand campaign of 'Bank of Baroda'.
- The tripartite amalgamation of Bank of Baroda, Vijaya bank and Dena Bank, reflects the government's focus towards consolidation and strengthening of the public-sector banking.



- Bank of Baroda, erstwhile Vijaya Bank and erstwhile Dena Bank are established institutions serving the nation and the society at large, with a legacy of 80 – 100 years.
- In September 2018, in-principle, approval to the amalgamation was granted by the boards of the three banks pursuant to the Government proposal on the same.
- Subsequently, the government notified the scheme of Amalgamation on 2nd January, 2019, with the date of commencement as 1st April, 2019.

Links:

<https://indianexpress.com/article/india/sponsored-bank-of-baroda-strengthens-public-sector-banking-through-power-of-3-5652742/>

India Myanmar joint military operation

Question: Which militant organization was targeted during the joint military operation conducted by India and Myanmar?

(a) Bodo Liberation Front (b) Arakan Army (c) Kuki National Army (d) Zomi Revolutionary Army

Answer: (b)

Related facts:

- Indian forces and Myanmar Army conducted a joint operation named as Operation Sunrise and claimed to have destroyed militant camps of Arakan Army and Nationalist Socialist Council – Khaplang of Nagaland on the eastern border regions.
- This coordinated operation started on 17th February, 2019 and was completed on 2nd March, 2019.
- The action averted a possible threat to the Kaladan transit and transport project considered key for improving the connectivity in the north-east India and Kolkata.
- Myanmar Army has taken more than a dozen leaders of the NSCN-K faction into custody after operation at their base at Taga in Sagaing Division of Myanmar last month.



Links:

<https://indianexpress.com/article/india/india-myanmar-joint-operation-destroys-militant-camps-eastern-border-5629147/>

Indian Navy ship departs for Mozambique with Relief Material

Question: Which of the following Indian Ship departed for Mozambique with Relief Material?

(a) INS Magar (b) INS Sahyadri (c) INS Karanj (d) INS Kalvari

Answer: (a)

Related facts:

- INS Magar, an amphibious warfare vessel, departed Mumbai for Port Beira in Mozambique with essential relief material for the cyclone ravaged areas.
- The Indian warship is carrying 300 tons of relief supplies including essential medicines, anti epidemic drugs, food provisions, clothing, repair and rehabilitation equipment, and temporary shelters.
- The ship is also carrying a naval Chetak Light Utility helicopter that will be used in the ongoing relief operations.
- INS Magar will become the fourth Indian Navy ship after INS Sujata, Shardul and ICGS Sarathi of 1st Training Squadron to augment the Indian Navy's ongoing Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief efforts in Mozambique.



Link:

<https://www.indiannavy.nic.in/node/22385>

Operation Sahayata

Question: Consider the following statements with reference to Operation Sahayata:

(1) Operation Sahayata is a humanitarian assistance and disaster relief to the Cyclone hit Mozambique

(2) Cyclone Katrina hit the coastal area of Mozambique, Zimbabwe and Malawi bringing heavy disaster

(3) India sent its three naval ships for rescue operation to the port city of Beira

(4) Mozambique is an African country with its capital Maputo

Of the above correct statements are:

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

Answer: (b)

Related facts:

- Operation Sahayata is a humanitarian assistance and disaster relief for the Cyclone Idai hit Mozambique. It hit the coastal areas of Mozambique on 15th March 2019.

Operation Sahayata:

- On request from the Republic of Mozambique, the Government of India immediately diverted 3 Indian naval ships (INS Sujata, ICGS Sarathi and INS Shardul) to the port city of Beira to undertake Humanitarian Assistance Disaster Relief (HADR) in coordination with local authorities and the High Commission of India, Maputo.
- Indian naval crew has rescued/evacuated people, provided Medical assistance in medical camps set up by the Indian Navy, food & water packets were also provided in the cyclone hit areas.
- Indian Navy ships have also undertaking community service including clearing of debris and repairing damaged roads etc. Food supplies have also been provided to about 700 persons working in the port area. Assistance is also being sent to Zimbabwe and Malawi, two other countries hit by the cyclone.
- To sustain HADR operations, another ship INS MAGAR, suitably loaded with relief materials is being sent to Mozambique.
- Cyclone Idai made landfall near Beira, a city of 500,000 people, with approx. 177km/h winds on 14th March. The new figure puts the overall death toll at about 700 people across Mozambique, Zimbabwe and Malawi.



- Some 1.7 million people are estimated to be affected across southern Africa, with no electricity or running water in areas where homes have been swept away and roads destroyed by the floods.

Links:

[https://www.mea.gov.in/press-releases.htm?dtl/31174/Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief to MozambiqueOperation Sahayata 2019](https://www.mea.gov.in/press-releases.htm?dtl/31174/Humanitarian_Assistance_and_Disaster_Relief_to_MozambiqueOperation_Sahayata_2019)

Planning & Project

Measures to promote Hydro Sector

Question: What is the current capacity of India's hydropower energy?

(a) 45,400 MW (b) 45,700 MW (c) 45,900 MW (d) 45,200 MW

Answer: (a)

Related Fact:



- Union Cabinet chaired by the Prime Minister Narendra Modi has approved measures to promote Hydro Power Sector.
- These include declaring the Large Hydropower Projects (HPO) as part of non-solar Renewable Purchase Obligation (RPO).
- India's current hydropower capacity is 45,400 Mega Watt (MW).

Key Decisions:

- Large Hydropower Projects to be declared as Renewable Energy source (as per existing practice, only hydropower projects less than 25MW are categorized as Renewable Energy).
- HPO as a separate entity within non-solar Renewable Purchase Obligation to cover LHPs commissioned after notification of these measures (SHPs are already covered under Non-Solar Renewable Purchase Obligation).
- Budgetary support for funding flood moderation component of hydropower projects on case to case basis; and
- Budgetary support for funding cost of enabling infrastructure i.e. roads and bridges on case to case basis as per actual, limited to Rs. 1.5 crore per MW for upto 200 MW projects and Rs. 1.0 crore per MW for above 200 MW projects.

IMPACT:

- As most of the hydro power potential is located in the higher reaches of Himalayas and North- East Region, it will result in overall socio-economic development of the region by providing direct employment in the power sector.
- Another benefit would be of having a stable grid considering 160 GW capacity additions by 2022 from infirm sources of power like solar and wind.

Hydropower in India:

- India is endowed with large hydropower potential of 1, 45,320 MW of which only about 45,400 MW has been utilized so far. Only about 10,000 MW of hydropower has been added in the last 10 years.

- The hydropower sector is currently going through a challenging phase and the share of hydropower in the total capacity has declined from 50.36% in the 1960s to around 13% in 2018-19.
- The importance of hydropower is increasing even more as the country has targeted to add 160 GW of intermittent Solar and Wind power by 2022 and 40% of the total capacity from non-fossil fuel sources by 2030 to honour its Nationally Determined Contribution for Climate Change.

Links:

<http://pib.nic.in/PressReleaselframePage.aspx?PRID=1567817>

National Mineral Policy 2019

Question: Consider the following statement regarding the benefit of new National Mineral Policy, 2019 approved by Cabinet is:

- 1) The New National Mineral Policy will ensure more effective regulation
 - 2) It will lead to sustainable mining sector development in future while addressing the issues of project affected persons especially those residing in tribal areas
- Choose the incorrect statement**

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

Answer :(d)

Related facts:

- National Mineral Policy, 2019 is approved by Cabinet on 28 Feb 2019.
- Focus on transparency, better regulation & enforcement, balanced growth & sustainability, Grant of Industry status to Mining activity.
- The New National Mineral Policy will ensure more effective regulation.
- It will lead to sustainable mining sector development in future while addressing the issues of project affected persons especially those residing in tribal areas.
- The aim of National Mineral Policy 2019 is to have a more effective, meaningful and implementable policy that brings in further transparency, better regulation and enforcement, balanced social and economic growth as well as sustainable mining practices.
- The National Mineral Policy 2019 aims to attract private investment through incentives while the efforts would be made to maintain a database of mineral resources and tenements under mining tenement systems.
- The new policy would focus on the use of coastal waterways and inland shipping for evacuation and transportation of minerals and encourage dedicated mineral corridors to facilitate the transportation of minerals.
- It proposes a long term export import policy for the mineral sector to provide stability and as an incentive for investing in large scale commercial mining activity.
- It also introduces the concept of Inter-Generational Equity that deals with the well-being not only of the present generation but also of the generations to come and also proposes to constitute an inter-ministerial body to institutionalise the mechanism for ensuring sustainable development in mining.



Background:

- National Mineral Policy 2019 replaces the extant National Mineral Policy 2008 ("NMP 2008"). The impetus to review NMP 2008 came about by way of a direction from the Supreme Court wide its judgment in Common Cause v/s Union of India & Others.

Links:

<http://pib.nic.in/PressReleaselframePage.aspx?PRID=1566734>

DAC approves acquisition of defence equipment worth Rs 2700 crore

Question: Name the organization which gave the approval for acquisition of Defence Equipment worth Rs 2700 Crore?

(a) DAC (Defence Acquisition Council) (b) EAC (Economic Advisory Council)
(c) NIA (National Investigation Agency) (d) NAC (National Advisory Council)

Answer: (a)

Related facts:

- In the meeting held on 27th February, 2019, the Defence Acquisition Council (DAC) gave approval for the acquisition of Defence Equipment worth Rs 2700 Crore. The meeting was chaired by Defence Minister Nirmala Sitharaman.
- The DAC approved the procurement of three cadet training ships for the Indian Navy. The ships would be used to provide basic sea training for officer cadets, including women officer trainees.
- The objective of the Defence Acquisition Council is to ensure expeditious procurement of the requirements of the armed forces by optimally utilizing the allocated budgetary resources.
- The vessels would also be capable of undertaking hospital ship duties, providing humanitarian assistance and disaster relief, besides search and rescue missions and non-combatant evacuation operations.



Links:

https://www.business-standard.com/article/news-ani/dac-approves-acquisition-of-defence-equipment-worth-rs-2700-crore-119022700665_1.html

Treaty & Agreements

TCS, Google partner to build industry-specific cloud solutions

Question: With which company did TCS partnered to build industry-specific cloud solutions?

(a) Google (b) Wipro (c) Infosys (d) IBM

Answer: (a)

Related Facts:

- **Tata Consultancy Services partnered with Google Cloud** to build industry-specific cloud solutions on April 10, 2019.
- TCS' Data and Analytics Estate Modernization solution is now available on GCP.
- TCS' solutions on Google Cloud Platform (GCP) will help enterprises build **secure, cloud-native analytics platforms** that enable high levels of personalization, and are cost effective, easy to maintain, and future ready.
- A set of cloud enablement services is offered by TCS on GCP, applying the **Machine-First Delivery Model** across advisory, design and build, migration, platform engineering, amongst others.
- TCS is a primary partner of **Google Anthos**. It is a modern platform that simplifies building, running and managing services on premise as well as on cloud.



Link:

<https://www.thehindubusinessline.com/info-tech/tcs-google-partner-to-build-industry-specific-cloud-solutions/article26793900.ece>

MoU between India and Cambodia

Question: The Union Cabinet has approved a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) signed between India and Cambodia recently. This MoU is related to which of the following field?

(a) Security (b) Medicine (c) Communications (d) All of the above

Answer: (c)

Related facts:

- The Union Cabinet chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi has given ex post-facto approval to the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between India and Cambodia on April 15, 2019.
- The Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between India and Cambodia is on Cooperation in the field of Communications.
- The MoU was signed in Cambodia in March, 2019.
- The MoU will strengthen the bilateral cooperation and mutual understanding between India and Cambodia in the field of communications.



Link:

<http://pib.nic.in/PressReleaselframePage.aspx?PRID=1570605>

Signing Of Inter Governmental Agreement for Exchange of Country-By-Country Reports between India and the United States of America

Question: Recently India has signed an Inter-Governmental Agreement for Exchange of Country-By-Country (CbC) Reports with which country?

(a) United States of America (b) United Kingdom (c) France (d) Germany

Answer:

Related facts:

- India and United States of America have signed an Inter-Governmental Agreement for Exchange of Country-By-Country (CbC) Reports on 27th April, 2019.
- The Agreement was signed by P.C.Mody, Chairman, Central Board of Direct Taxes and Kenneth I. Juster, Ambassador of the United States of America to India on behalf of the two countries.
- India has already signed the Multilateral Competent Authority Agreement (MCAA) for Exchange of CbC Reports, which has enabled exchange of CbC Reports with 62 jurisdictions.
- This Agreement for Exchange of CbC Reports, along with the Bilateral Competent Authority Arrangement between the two Competent Authorities, will enable both the countries to automatically exchange CbC Reports filed by the ultimate parent entities of Multinational Enterprises MNEs in the respective jurisdictions, pertaining to the years commencing on or after 1st January, 2016.
- It would also obviate the need for Indian Subsidiary Companies of US MNEs to do local filing of the CbC Reports.
- A CbC Report has aggregated country-by-country information relating to the global allocation of income, the taxes paid, and certain other indicators of an MNE group.



- MNE groups having global consolidated revenue of 750 Million Euros or more (or a local currency equivalent) in a year are required to file CbC Reports in their parent entity's jurisdiction. This information will enable an enhanced level of assessment of tax risk by both tax administrations.

Link:

<http://pib.nic.in/PressReleaselframePage.aspx?PRID=1569599&RegID=3&LID=1>

To develop India's first Peta Flop High Performance Computing Facility

Question: Name the technological institute which inked an agreement with C-DAC to develop India's first Peta Flop High Performance Computing Facility recently?

- (a) Indian Institute of Technology, Kharagpur
- (b) Indian Institute of Technology, Delhi
- (c) Indian Institute of Technology, Mumbai
- (d) Indian Institute of Technology, Gandhinagar

Answer: (a)

Related facts:



- Indian Institute of Technology, Kharagpur, is all set to ramp up its research and development activities with the acquisition of a 1.3 petaflop high power computing facility and a data centre under the National Supercomputing Mission (NSM).
- The institute signed a memorandum of understanding with the Centre for Development of Advanced Computing (C-DAC) to facilitate supply, installation, commissioning and operations of the system.
- The research activities will include building hardware and software for high performance computing systems, data management, analytics, and visualizations.
- In addition, the system will be used for research in computational biology, drug design, atmospheric modelling, computational fluid dynamics, modelling of novel materials, computational chemistry and physics, numerical mathematics, computational mechanics, and non-equilibrium molecular dynamics.
- The National Supercomputing Mission is being implemented jointly by the Department of Science and Technology (DST) and Department of Electronics and Information Technology (DeitY) at an estimated cost of Rs. 4,500 Crore.
- It envisages installing vast supercomputing grid comprising of over 70 high-performance computing facilities spread across the country.

Links:

<https://www.thehindubusinessline.com/news/science/iit-kharagpur-gets-new-high-power-computing-facility/article26533957.ece>

Global cyber security company acquired by NSEIT

Question: Name the global cyber security company acquired by NSEIT recently?

- (a) Aujas (b) EY (c) Raytheon (d) Sophos

Answer: (a)

Related facts:



- On 22th March, 2019, NSEIT, the IT (Information Technology)-services focused subsidiary of the National Stock Exchange has acquired Aujas Networks Ltd., a company which provides information security consulting and IT (Information Technology) risk management services.
- It employs about 400 cybersecurity professionals and has over 390 customers globally.
- The service portfolio includes information risk advisory, identity & access management, threat management and security analytics.

- The combination with Aujas will be of great help and will offer next generation cyber security services and platforms to address emerging security threats. NSEIT and Aujas will focus on offering market leading solutions to customers globally.
- NSEIT currently provides technology solutions across industries such as capital markets, financial markets, banking and insurance.
- It also provides services relating to algorithmic trading (ultra low latency system), order management system exchange connectivity, Pre-trade and post-trade risk management, regulatory and compliance management, surveillance, exchange adapters, exchange simulator, and mobile trading.
- NSEIT Limited is a 100% subsidiary of the National Stock Exchange of India Limited (NSEIL).

Link:

<https://www.livemint.com/companies/news/nseit-acquires-cybersecurity-company-aujas-1553259245586.html>

MoU on India-Africa Health Sciences Cooperation

Question: On 27th March 2019, a MoU on India-Africa Health Sciences Cooperation was signed between the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) and which of the following country?

(a) South Africa (b) Kenya (c) Ethiopia (d) African Union

Answer: (d)

Related facts:

- On 27th March 2019; on India-Africa Health Sciences Cooperation was signed MoU between the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) and African Union in New Delhi.
- The signed MoU aims to formalize this partnership by establishing a framework.
- The MoU will pave the way for the cooperation in the areas of research and development, capacity building, health services, pharmaceutical trade and manufacturing capabilities for drugs and diagnostics.



Background:

- In 2016 MEA partnered with Indian Council of Medical Research and had jointly organized the First India-Africa Health Sciences Meet in New Delhi in order to carry forward the strategic vision of India-Africa Forum Summit (IAFS) III through a structured and concrete partnership in the health sector.
- Following the deliberations in this Meet, ICMR had taken up the mandate to initiate and strengthen the cooperation in health sector in a structured and organized manner.
- Outcome of this summit (i.e. IAFS) was establishment of an India-Africa Health Sciences Collaborative Platform (IAHSP) in 2016.

Links:

https://www.business-standard.com/article/news-ani/india-african-union-ink-mou-on-health-sciences-cooperation-119032701353_1.html

Cabinet approves MoU between India and Republic of Korea on Startup Cooperation

Question: On 27 March, 2019; the Union Cabinet, approved Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) in which of the following field between India and Republic of Korea?

(a) Nuclear Energy (b) Animal Husbandry (c) Health Care Systems

(d) Startup Cooperation

Answer: (d)

Related facts:

- On 27 March 2019; the Union Cabinet approved the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between India and Republic of Korea on Startup Cooperation.
- This approval was done in a meeting of Union cabinet chaired by the Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi.
- This is an ex-post facto approval as the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between India and Republic of Korea on Startup Cooperation was already signed in February, 2019.
- The MoU will facilitate and promote bilateral cooperation between the startups of both countries.
- The MoU will abide by the national laws and regulations of the two countries and any applicable international treaties, conventions and agreements to which the two countries are party.



Links:

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=189554>

Cabinet approves MoU to combat illicit trafficking in narcotic drugs, psychotropic substances and its precursors

Question: Recently, a MoU was signed between India and which of the following country to combat illicit trafficking in narcotic drugs, psychotropic substances and its precursors?

(a) Indonesia (b) Brazil (c) Malaysia (d) Brunei

Answer: (a)

Related facts:

- On 27 March 2019, Union Cabinet chaired by the Prime Minister Narendra Modi approved the signing of Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between India and Indonesia on combating illicit trafficking in narcotic drugs, psychotropic substances and its precursors.
- India has signed similar MoU with 37 other countries.
- The MoU shall facilitate and enhance the cooperation between the two countries in combating illicit trafficking of narcotic drugs, psychotropic substances and its precursors as defined by the United Nations International Drug Control Conventions.
- In accordance with this MoU, there is a provision of maintaining the secrecy of information and documents obtained.



Links:

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=189552>

Conference

General K Sundarji Memorial Lecture

Question: Who was the Chief Guest at the second General K Sundarji Memorial Lecture organised on 27th April, 2019?

**(a) Gen. G D Bakshi (b) Gen. Bipin Rawat (c) Gen. Deepak Kapoor
(d) Gen. Dalbir Singh Suhaag**

Answer: (b)

Related facts:

- The 2nd General K Sundarji memorial lecture was conducted on 27th April, 2019, at Manekshaw Centre, New Delhi.
- Gen Bipin Rawat, Chief of the Army Staff, graced the occasion as Chief Guest. The event was attended by serving and retired officers of the three Services as well as members of academia and think tanks.
- Navtej Sarna delivered a talk on Leading India in the 21st Century : Strategic Leadership incorporating Diplomatic, Information, Military and Economic (DIME) Aspects
- It was followed by Lt Gen PM Hariz, PVSM, AVSM, SM, VSM (Retd) who articulated on the topic From Brasstacks to Doklam: Exigent need for wisdom and vision in our strategic military leadership.
- Gen K Sundarji had during his tenure from 1986 to 1988, introduced a number of technical and operational initiatives for the Indian Army. Post his conceptualization of the Mechanized Forces, Gen Sundarji went on to raise the Mechanized Infantry Regiment.
- With emphasis on speed, technology and mobile weaponry, the youngest arm of the Indian Army is now an integral part of the strike forces.



Link:

<http://www.pib.nic.in/PressReleaseDetail.aspx?PRID=1571233>

4th Meeting of India- Ukraine working group

Question: Recently which edition of meeting of India- Ukraine working group on Trade and Economic Cooperation held in New Delhi?

(a) 4th (b) 3rd (c) 5th (d) 2nd

Answer :(a)

Related Facts:

- On 2 April 2019; the 4th Meeting of India- Ukraine working group on Trade and Economic Cooperation held in New Delhi.
- This meeting held under aegis of the India- Ukraine Inter-Governmental Commission on Trade, Economic, Scientific, Technical, Industrial and Cultural Cooperation.
- Indian delegation was led by Bidyut Behari Swain, Additional Secretary, Foreign Trade (CIS), Department of Commerce, Ministry of Commerce and Industry, Government of India.
- Ukrainian Side was led by Mr. Oleksiy Rozhkov, Director of Directorate for International Trade and Economic Cooperation and European Integration of the Ministry of Economic Development and Trade of Ukraine.
- A protocol was signed at the end of the meeting which will be beneficial in following ways:
- The protocol deals with review of trade, cooperation in the field of small and medium entrepreneurship.



- It also deals with cooperation in the field of technical regulation (standardization, metrology, certification, and conformity assessment), public-private partnership (PPP) and investment, agriculture.
- The protocol will facilitate the access of Ukrainian food products to the market of India, energy sector, finance.
- It will also grant Ukraine market economy status within the framework of anti-dumping investigations, and banking and cooperation in tourism.

Links:

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=189626>

First Workshop on India Energy Modelling Forum

Question: NITI Aayog organized the first workshop on development of India Energy Modeling Forum (IEMF) with which of the following international agency?

- (a) United States Agency for International Development (USAID)
 (b) African Development Bank (AfDB) (c) Asian Development Bank (ADB)
 (d) Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB)

Answer: (a)

Related facts:

- NITI Aayog and the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) organized the first workshop on development of the India Energy Modelling Forum (IEMF).
- The IEMF seeks to provide a platform for leading experts and policy makers to study important energy and environmental issues and ensure induction of modelling and analysis in informed decision making process.
- The two-day workshop, held with the support of the Pacific Northwest National Laboratory (PNNL) was organized under the Sustainable Growth Pillar of the India-U.S. Strategic Energy Partnership. The workshop was attended by various Central Ministries and Agencies.
- The inaugural session of the workshop was chaired by Dr Rajiv Kumar, Vice-Chairman, NITI Aayog and Mr Mark A. White, Mission Director, USAID India.
- The Forum aims to improve cooperation and coordination between modelling teams, the Government of India, knowledge partners and think-tanks, build capacity of Indian institutions, and identify issues for joint modelling activities and future areas of research.
- The panelists particularly laid focus on bridging the rural-urban divide and factoring in energy pressures from the informal economy within models.
- Deliberations included a spotlight on how the impact of the evolving character of India's cities, industries and especially the transport sector should be included in the any India-centric models.



Links:

<http://pib.nic.in/PressReleaseDetail.aspx?PRID=1568841>

3rd Indo-Japan Workshop on Disaster Risk Reduction

Question: 3rd Indo-Japan Workshop on Disaster Risk Reduction was organised in which of the following city?

- (a) Hyderabad (b) Tokyo (c) Osaka (d) New Delhi

Answer: (d)

Related facts:

- On 18th March 2019, the 3rd Indo-Japan Workshop on Disaster Risk Reduction was inaugurated by Dr. P.K. Mishra,



Additional Principal Secretary to Prime Minister held at Vigyan Bhawan, New Delhi.

- The 3rd workshop was organized with an objective of enhancing collaboration between research institutes, cities and the private sector in the field of Disaster Risk Reduction.
- The workshop was attended by about 140 delegates from Japan and India including experts from both the governments, top premium research institutes, city administrators, specialized Disaster Management agencies and private sector.
- Both the governments had signed a Memorandum of Cooperation (MoC) in the field of Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) in September 2017.
- The 3rd Indo-Japan Workshop is the follow-up of the deliberations held during the first and second edition of Indo-Japan Workshop on DRR in New Delhi and Tokyo respectively.

Links:

<http://pib.nic.in/PressReleaseDetail.aspx?PRID=1569025>

National Workshop on Management of Grey Water

Question: Ministry of Drinking Water and Sanitation organised two day National Workshop on Management of Grey Water with support of which of the following organisation?

(a) UNESCO (b) UNICEF India (c) Greenpeace (d) Natures Conservancy

Answer: (b)

Related facts:



- The two day (21 -22 March) National Workshop on Management of Grey Water in Rural Areas and Arsenic and Fluoride Remediation in collaboration with Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Madras with support from UNICEF India. This workshop also coincided with World Water Day on 22nd March.
- The workshop included discussions on the need for integration of policy, research, technology and skill development for effective grey water management in rural areas.
- An overview and policy aspects on water affected with arsenic and fluoride were presented, including policy level interventions to address the arsenic and fluoride contamination, health effects and communication strategies for creating awareness at community level about the adverse effects of these contaminations.
- Five States affected with arsenic/fluoride – West Bengal, Tamilnadu, Punjab, Andhra Pradesh and Rajasthan- made presentations on strategied to provide contaminant free potable water.
- The technologies to be adopted in rural areas need to be simple, require less skill level for construction, operation and maintenance. Emphasis was made on setting standards for grey water reuse for agriculture and groundwater recharge.

Link:

<http://pib.nic.in/PressReleaseDetail.aspx?PRID=1569303>

Law & Justice

Delhi High Court seeks CCS response on plea over Assam Rifles

Question: The administrative control of Assam Rifles lies with which of the following Ministry?

(a) Home Ministry (b) Defense Ministry (c) Both (a) and (b) (d) None of the above

Answer: (a)

Related facts:



- The Delhi High Court has recently sought the response of the Cabinet committee on Security (CCS) on a plea seeking directions to remove the dual control of Assam Rifles and bring it under the Defense Ministry.
- The CCS is chaired by the Prime Minister and comprises the Minister of External Affairs, the Home minister, the Finance minister and the Defence minister. It was decided by both MHA and MoD that they will abide by the decision of the CCS, the MHA told the high court in its affidavit.
- The court was hearing a petition filed by the Assam Rifles Ex-Servicemen Welfare Association on the difficulties faced by the retired personnel of the force with regard to the payment of pension due to the dual control of the force.
- The Assam Rifles came into being in 1835, as a militia called the Cachar Levy. With approximately 750 men, this force was formed to primarily protect British Tea Estates and their settlements against tribal raids. In 1917, the name of the Force was changed to Assam Rifles.
- At present, the administrative control of Assam Rifles lies with the Home Ministry, while the operational control is with the Defense Ministry leading to violation of the rights of the troopers of India's oldest Paramilitary Force.
- The Assam Rifles remains deployed in the remote areas of the Northeast and provide security to the locals and have grown from 17 battalions in 1960 to 46 battalions having 46,000 personnel at present.

Links:

https://www.business-standard.com/article/news-ians/hc-seeks-ccs-response-on-plea-over-assam-rifles-119041201225_1.html

Daman and Diu Civil Courts (Amendment) Regulation, 2019

Question: Recently, under which Article, the Union Cabinet has promulgated the Daman and Diu Civil Courts (Amendment) Regulation, 2019 and Dadra Nagar Haveli (Civil Courts and Miscellaneous Provisions) Amendment Regulation 2019?

(a) U/A 239 A (b) U/A 240 (c) U/A 243 (d) U/A 245

Answer : (b)

Related facts:



- On 13th March 2019, the Union Cabinet chaired by Prime Minister has approved Promulgation of the Daman and Diu Civil Courts (Amendment) Regulation, 2019 and the Dadra and Nagar Haveli (Civil Courts and Miscellaneous Provisions) Amendment Regulation, 2019 under Article 240 of the Constitution.
- This move will be helpful in bringing uniformity in Judicial Service; it will also help overcome the difficulties being faced by the litigants in travelling to Mumbai for filing appeals due to existing limited pecuniary jurisdiction.
- The enhanced pecuniary jurisdiction will accelerate the justice delivery system and will make it easier for litigants without having to travel outside the Union Territory.

- Under Article 240, President is empowered to make regulation for the peace, progress and good government of the Union Territory of (a) Andaman and Nicobar (b) Lakshadweep (c) Dadra and Nagar Haveli (d) Daman and Diu (e) Pondicherry.

Links:

<https://www.scconline.com/blog/post/2019/03/13/promulgation-of-i-daman-and-diu-civil-courts-amendment-regulation-2019-ii-the-dadra-and-nagar-haveli-civil-courts-and-miscellaneous-provisions-amendment-regulation-2019/>

Centre allowed State governments to put enemy properties to Public Use

Question: Centre allowed State governments to put enemy properties to Public Use under which of the following act?

- (a) The guidelines for disposal of the Enemy Property Order, 2018
- (b) Enemy Property Order, 2016 (c) Disposal of the Enemy Property Order, 2017
- (d) None of the above

Answer: (a)

Related facts:



- The Centre has allowed State Governments to take some enemy properties for public use.
- The guidelines for disposal of the Enemy Property Order, 2018 have been amended to facilitate usages of enemy property by the State Government exclusively for public use.
- These Acts defined an enemy as a country that committed an act of aggression against India, and its citizens and the properties of enemies in India were classified as enemy property.
- The properties included land, buildings, shares held in companies, gold and jewellery of the citizens of enemy countries.
- The responsibility of the administration of enemy properties was handed over to the Custodian of Enemy Property, an office under the central government.
- The Enemy Property Act was enacted in 1968 and which regulates such properties and lists the custodian's powers.
- The act was amended in 2017 to ensure that the successors of those who migrated to Pakistan and China will have no claim over the properties left behind in India.
- When wars broke out between India and China in 1962, and India and Pakistan in 1965 and 1971, the Central Government took over properties of citizens of China and Pakistan in India under the Defence of India Acts.
- Of the total properties left behind by those who took Pakistani citizenship, 4,991 are located in Uttar Pradesh; West Bengal has 2,735 such estates and Delhi 487.
- The highest number of properties left by Chinese nationals is in Meghalaya (57). West Bengal has 29 such properties and Assam 7.

- The estimated value of all enemy properties is approximately Rs 1 lakh crore.

Links:

<https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/india/centre-allows-state-governments-to-put-enemy-properties-to-public-use/articleshow/68355838.cms>

Year, Day & Week

Earth Day 2019

Question: Consider the following statements regarding Earth Day, 2019:

- (1) It was celebrated on 22nd April, 2019
- (2) Earth Day Network's Mission is to diversify, educate and activate the environmental movement worldwide
- (3) The theme of Earth Day is Protect our Species

Choose the correct statement/s from the above

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

Answer: (d)

Related facts:



- The Theme of Earth Day, 2019, is **Protect Our Species**. In the year 2020, the 50th anniversary of the Earth Day will be celebrated.
- Earth Day Network works year round to solve climate change, to end plastic pollution, to protect endangered species, and to broaden, educate, and activate the environmental movement across the globe.
- Earth Day Network's mission is to diversify, educate and activate the environmental movement worldwide.
- Earth Day Network is the world's largest recruiter to the environmental movement, working with more than 75,000 partners in nearly 192 countries to build environmental democracy. More than 1 billion people now participate in Earth Day activities each year, making it the largest civic observance in the world.
- The first Earth Day was celebrated on 22nd April, 1970, and it is regarded as the launching of modern environmental movement. Clean Air Act, Clean Water Act, Endangered Species Act and many other are groundbreaking environmental laws.
- Twenty years later, Earth Day went global, mobilizing 200 million people in more than 190 countries and lifting environmental issues onto the world stage.

Links:

[http:// https://www.earthday.org/earthday/](http://https://www.earthday.org/earthday/)

World Health Day 2019

Question: What is the theme of World Health Day 2019?

- (a) Universal Health Coverage: Everyone, Everywhere
- (b) Universal Health Building: Everyone, Everywhere
- (c) Universal Fitness Coverage: Everyone, Everything
- (d) Universal Sports Coverage: Everyone, Everywhere

Answer: (a)

Related facts:



- World Health Day is observed on 7 April every year. The celebration has aimed to create awareness of a specific health theme to highlight a priority area of concern for the World Health Organization.
- The theme of World Health Day 2019 was '**Universal Health Coverage: Everyone, Everywhere**'.
- Ministry of Health and Family Welfare along with World Health Organization (WHO) formed a **Solidarity Human Chain** as part of the World Health Day celebrations.
- This is to reaffirm their commitment to bridging gaps and working collaboratively towards Universal Health Coverage (UHC).
- This year's World Health Day focused on equity and solidarity.

Link:

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=189638>

International Forest Day

Question: International Forest Day was celebrated all over the world on March 21, 2019. What was the theme of day in 2019?

(a) Forest and employment (b) Forest and education (c) Forest and climate change (d) Forest and energy

Answer : (b)

Related facts:

- On March 21, 2019, International Day of Forest was celebrated all over the world.
- The theme of 2019 was "Forest and Education".
- The United Nations General Assembly adopted resolution on 21 December 2012, which declared that 21 March of each year is to be observed as the International Day of Forests.
- Forests cover one third of the Earth's land mass, performing vital functions around the world.
- Around 1.6 billion people – including more than 2,000 indigenous cultures – depend on forests for their livelihoods, medicines, fuel, food and shelter.



Links:

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

World Autism Awareness Day

Question: World Autism Awareness Day is celebrated on which date?

(a) 2nd March (b) 2nd April (c) 22nd March (d) 22 April

Answer: (b)

Related facts:

- World Autism Awareness Day is observed on 2 April every year since its formal inception in 2008.
- The theme of this year's Autism Awareness Day is 'Assistive Technologies, Active Participation'.
- Autism can be defined as a complex neurobehavioral condition which causes problems with language and communication skills. It also causes a person to have repetitive and rigid behavior.
- It is a complex brain development disability which makes itself visible during the first 3 years of a person's life.



- It is not mental retardation as people with autism may show excellent skills in spheres like art, music, writing etc.
- It is characterized by a range of symptoms and is thus also known as Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD).

Links:

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

Earth Hour 2019

Question: Earth Hour, a global light-off initiative is observed between-

- (a) 7:30 pm to 8:30 pm (b) 8:30 pm to 9:30 pm (c) 9:30 pm to 10:30 pm
(d) 10:30 pm to 11:30 pm

Answer: (b)

Related facts:

- On 30th March 2019, Earth Hour 2019 was observed globally between 8:30 pm to 9:30 pm local time.
- World Wide Fund for Nature's (WWF) Earth Hour is an annual global celebration in which people switch off their lights for one hour to show they care about the future of our planet.
- Earth Hour 2019 with its campaign '#Connect2Earth' aims to build mass awareness on why nature is important and create an unstoppable movement for nature similar to when the world came together to tackle climate change.
- It began in Sydney, Australia in 2007; the number of countries taking part in Earth Hour has grown to over 180 countries and territories.
- Individuals pledged their support for the planet, challenging world leaders to push the preservation of nature up the global agenda.



Links:

<https://www.earthhour.org/>

World Tuberculosis Day

Question: What is the theme of World Tuberculosis Day 2019?

- (a) It's Time (b) Eradicate TB (c) TB free World by 2030 (d) Light up the world for TB

Answer: (a)

Related facts:

- World Tuberculosis Day is observed every year on 24th March. It is observed to commemorate the anniversary of Dr. Robert Koch's discovery of the Tuberculosis (TB) bacteria in 1882. The theme of World Tuberculosis Day this year is It's Time.
- India has committed to end TB by 2025. India shares the highest burden of TB in the world.
- Tuberculosis (TB) is a communicable disease caused by infection with Mycobacterium tuberculosis (Mtb). TB typically affects the lungs, but it can also affect other parts of the body, including the kidney, spine and brain.
- Tuberculosis is the leading infectious cause of death worldwide. As per WHO report in 2017, 10 million people became ill with TB, and 1.6 million people died of TB disease including 230,000 children.
- Heinrich Hermann Robert Koch was a German physician and microbiologist who identified and described the bacillus causing tuberculosis. For his research, Koch



received the Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine in 1905. The Robert Koch Institute is named in his honor.

Link:

<http://pib.nic.in/PressReleaseDetail.aspx?PRID=1569297>

Miscellaneous

Cyclone Kenneth

Question: Which country recently faced the devastating cyclone Kenneth?

(a) Mozambique (b) Ecuador (c) El Salvador (d) Tunisia

Answer: (a)

Related facts:

- African country Mozambique got hit by massive flood after devastating cyclone Kenneth hit the country.
- Cyclone Kenneth dumped more rain on the region. Rescuers moved in to help people trapped by rapidly rising floodwater in the northern Mozambique city of Pemba on 28th April, 2019. It is home to 2,00,000 people.
- The storm slammed in to the province of Cabo Delgado on 25th April, 2019, killing five people, and has since then pounded an area prone to floods and landslides with rain; danger of rivers breaching its banks and leaving vast areas under water is a possibility.
- Cyclone Kenneth, with winds of up to 280 km per hour, struck Mozambique just six weeks after Cyclone Idai, which flattened the port city of Beira and left entire villages under water and killing more than 1000 people.



Link:

<http://ddnews.gov.in/international/mozambique-hit-floods-aftermath-cyclone-kenneth>

54th Valour Day of CRPF

Question: Which of the following date is celebrated as Valour Day of CRPF?

(a) April 5 (b) April 9 (c) July 10 (d) April 11

Answer: (b)

Related facts:

- On 9th April 2019; Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) celebrated its 54th Valour Day (Shaurya Diwas).
- President Ram Nath Kovind paid homage to the martyrs at National Police Memorial in New Delhi on this occasion.
- He also presented gallantry medals to six Jawans posthumously.
- It should be known that on 9th April, 1965, a small contingent of 2nd Battalion of CRPF successfully fought and repulsed an attack by a Pakistani Brigade at Sardar Post in the Rann of Kutch in Gujarat.
- The President also launched Veer Parivar App for assistance to the next of kin of the CRPF martyrs.



Link:

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

India's first indigenous 4G-5G semiconductor chips unveiled

Question: Which company launched India's first semiconductor chips for 4G/LTE and 5G NR modems?

(a) Signalchip (b) Navika Electronics (c) Semtronics Micro Systems (d) Terminus Circuits

Answer: (a)

Related facts:

- Bengaluru-based fab-less semiconductor company, Signalchip unveiled India's first semiconductor chips for 4G/LTE and 5G NR modems in the presence of Telecom Secretary Aruna Sundararajan.
 - The SCBM34XX and SCRF34XX/45XX series of chips, code-named Agumbe, are the result of over eight years of relentless and deep R&D by Signalchip engineers.
 - At the event, Signal chip unveiled 4 chips:
- SCBM3412: a single chip 4G/LTE modem including the baseband and transceiver sections in a single device.
 - SCBM3404: a single chip 4X4 LTE baseband modem.
 - SCRF3402: a 2X2 transceiver for LTE.
 - SCRF4502: a 2X2 transceiver for 5G NR standards.
- The RF sections cover all LTE/5G-NR bands up to 6GHz. These chips also support positioning using India's own satellite navigation system, NAVIC.
 - The Agumbe series builds up on SCRF1401: India's first RF transceiver chip for high performance wireless standards like 3G/4G and Wi-Fi, created by Signal chip, earlier in 2015.
 - With India having more than 1.1 billion mobile phones in use, one of the highest in the world, Signal chip has created high performance and cost-efficient systems to enable densification of the network.



Links:

<https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/tech/hardware/signalchip-launches-indias-first-indigenous-semiconductor-chips-for-4g-lte-5g-nr-modems/articleshow/68185877.cms>

Navroz

Question: Navroz is a New Year celebration on March 21 for which one of the following community?

(a) Hindu (b) Parsi (c) Sikh (d) Christian

Answer : (b)

Related facts:

- Navroz is New Year celebrations on March 21 every year for Parsis, followers of Zoroastrianism and various sects of Muslim, both Shias and Sunnis.
- In 1079 AD, a Persian (Iranian) king named Jalaluddin Malekshah introduced the Navroz (New Year) festival to generate revenue and collect taxes from people.
- It was observed on March 21 to mark the beginning of spring and the day of equinox.
- It is inscribed in the list of UNESCO Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity of India. In India it is known as Jamshed Navroz.



Links:

<http://www.newsonair.com/News?title=Prez%2C-PM-greets-people-on-occasion-of-Parsi-New-Year%2C-Navroz&id=361256>

Tipu Sultan's silver-mounted gun

Question: At how much cost Tipu Sultan's Silver mounted gun recently sold at an auction in UK?

(a) £ 40,000 (b) £ 30,000 (c) £ 20,000 (d) £ 60,000

Answer: (d)

Related facts:

- On 27 March, 2019; at UK auction Tipu Sultan's silver-mounted gun fetched 60,000 pounds.
- It is a silver-mounted 20-bore flintlock gun and bayonet from the personal armoury of the last ruler of Mysore Tipu Sultan
- In this auction, this gun and other items from Tipu Sultan's armoury was auctioned for around in total of 107,000 pounds.
- The other highlight lot, a gold-encrusted sword and suspension belt ensemble believed to be one of Tipu Sultan's personal swords.
- This attracted as many as 58 bids before being sold to the winning bidder for 18,500 pounds.
- These two centre pieces brought to Britain by Major Thomas Hart of the East India Company after the Tipu's defeat at Seringapatam in 1799.



Links:

<https://www.thehindu.com/society/history-and-culture/tipu-sultans-silver-mounted-gun-fetches-60000-at-uk-auction/article26651076.ece>

Thakurani Jatra festival 2019

Question: Consider the following statements regarding Thakurani Jatra festival?

1) Thakurani Jatra festival started in Berhampur, Odisha

2) This is biennial festival

Which one of the following is incorrect?

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

Answer: (c)

Related facts:

- On 27 March 2019, Thakurani Jatra festival started in Berhampur, Odisha.
- It is a biennial festival celebrated in Berhampur, Ganjam district, Odisha.
- This month-long festival had started with transportation of Sahasrakshi ghatam representing reigning deity of the city, goddess Budhi Thakurani, to her temporary abode during the festival.
- The first Thakurani Yatra was celebrated in April 1779. The goddess is considered to be a family member of Desibehera. The hereditary head of the festival is Desibhera, the head of Dera community.
- Berhampur is famous for its silk sarees and handloom cloth. The Berhampur patta sari and joda (dhoti) has been accorded with GI tag.



Links:

<https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/other-states/thakurani-jatra-festival-comes-to-an-end/article7152115.ece>

The Delhi Horse Show

Question: Which city hosted the prestigious The Delhi Horse Show that started on 29th March, 2019?

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

Answer: (d)

Related facts:

- The ten day prestigious **Delhi Horse Show started on March 29, 2019** at the Army Equestrian Centre, New Delhi. **This show will conclude on 7th April, 2019.**
- Over **400 horses and 500 competitors** will be participating in the Show. The participants range from **3 years age to India's top senior riders.**
- Participating teams and contingents include those from the Army, Paramilitary, police forces, riding clubs, institutes, schools & colleges to compete and witness the events.
- The **Delhi Horse Show** is the largest, most prestigious and popular Horse Show in the Country.
- The show is conducted by the Army Polo & Riding Centre at the Army Equestrian Centre, New Delhi.



Links:

<http://pib.nic.in/PressReleaseDetail.aspx?PRID=1569872>

Water Storage level of 91 major reservoirs

Question: By what percent does the water storage level of 91 major reservoirs went down as per the latest survey of Ministry of Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation?

(a) 3% (b) 4% (c) 7% (d) 2%

Answer: (d)

Related facts:

- The water storage level of 91 major reservoirs of the country for the week ending on March 20, 2019 went down by 2%. The water available is 54.002 BCM, which is 33% of total storage capacity of these reservoirs.
- The total storage capacity of these 91 reservoirs is 161.993 BCM which is about 63% of the total storage capacity of 257.812 BCM.
- The level of water storage in the week ending on March 20, 2019 was 109% of the storage of corresponding period of last year and 98% of storage of average of last ten years.



NORTHERN REGION

- The northern region includes States of Himachal Pradesh, Punjab and Rajasthan.
- There are 6 reservoirs under CWC monitoring having total live storage capacity of 18.01 BCM. The total live storage available in these reservoirs is 8.87 BCM which is 49% of total live storage capacity of these reservoirs.

EASTERN REGION

- The Eastern region includes States of Jharkhand, Odisha, West Bengal and Tripura.
- There are 15 reservoirs under CWC monitoring having total live storage capacity of 18.83 BCM. The total live storage available in these reservoirs is 8.79 BCM which is 47% of total live storage capacity of these reservoirs.

WESTERN REGION

- The Western region includes States of Gujarat and Maharashtra.
- There are 27 reservoirs under CWC monitoring having total live storage capacity of 31.26 BCM. The total live storage available in these reservoirs is 7.08 BCM which is 23% of total live storage capacity of these reservoirs.

CENTRAL REGION

- The Central region includes States of Uttar Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Madhya Pradesh and Chhattisgarh.
- There are 12 reservoirs under CWC monitoring having total live storage capacity of 42.30 BCM. The total live storage available in these reservoirs is 16.11 BCM which is 38% of total live storage capacity of these reservoirs

SOUTHERN REGION

- The Southern region includes States of Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, (Two combined projects in both states), Karnataka, Kerala and Tamil Nadu.
- There are 31 reservoirs under CWC monitoring having total live storage capacity of 51.59 BCM. The total live storage available in these reservoirs is 13.15 BCM which is 25% of total live storage capacity of these reservoirs.

Link:

<http://pib.nic.in/PressReleaseDetail.aspx?PRID=1569233>