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# NAVATRA

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**General Election to Lok Sabha and  
Vidhan Sabha Election Result, 2019**

## Preface

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 31 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 1<sup>st</sup> MAY to 31<sup>st</sup> MAY) will benefit our beloved readers.

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

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# National

## New Union Council of Ministers formed

**Question: Who has been assigned the portfolio of Coal Minister in the newly formed Union Council of Ministers?**

- (a) Sadanand Gowda
- (b) Dharmendra Pradhan
- (c) Prahlad Joshi
- (d) Udit Raj

**Answer: (c)**

**Related facts:**



- A new Union Council of Ministers was formed on 31st May, 2019 after the landslide victory for the BJP led NDA in the 17th General Election allowing them to form the 2nd consecutive NDA government.
- The swearing in ceremony took place on 30th May, 2019 in the Rashtrapati Bhawan where Narendra Modi took oath as the Prime Minister of India along with other ministers of the cabinet.
- A total of 57 people took oath as Ministers in which 24 people took oath as the Cabinet Minister, 24 as Minister of State and 9 as Minister of State (Independent Charge).
- It is worth to state that Article 75(1) in The Constitution of India 1949 provisions that the Prime Minister shall be appointed by the President and the other Ministers shall be appointed by the President on the advice of the Prime Minister.

**Key facts about Ministers:**

- The new Cabinet, which comprises of 58 ministers, has a total six (11%) women ministers in the Cabinet.
- First-time ministers Amit Shah and S. Jaishankar bagged the key Home and External Affairs portfolios respectively.
- Nirmala Sitharaman became the first woman full-time Finance Minister.
- A new Ministry called Jal Shakti has been created. It will be headed by Gajendra Singh Shekawat.

**Portfolio allocation:**

**Shri Narendra Modi** Prime Minister and also in-charge of: Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions; Department of Atomic Energy; Department of Space; and All important policy issues; and All other portfolios not allocated to any Minister.

**Cabinet Ministers**

1. Shri Raj Nath Singh Minister of Defence.
2. Shri Amit Shah Minister of Home Affairs.
3. Shri Nitin Jairam Gadkari Minister of Road Transport and Highways; and Minister of Micro, Small

and Medium Enterprises.

4. Shri D.V. Sadananda Gowda Minister of Chemicals and Fertilizers.
5. Smt. Nirmala Sitharaman Minister of Finance; and Minister of Corporate Affairs.
6. Shri Ramvilas Paswan Minister of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution.
7. Shri Narendra Singh Tomar Minister of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare; Minister of Rural Development; and Minister of Panchayati Raj.
8. Shri Ravi Shankar Prasad Minister of Law and Justice; Minister of Communications; and Minister of Electronics and Information Technology.
9. Smt. Harsimrat Kaur Badal Minister of Food Processing Industries.
10. Shri Thaawar Chand Gehlot Minister of Social Justice and Empowerment.
11. Dr. Subrahmanyam Jaishankar Minister of External Affairs.
12. Shri Ramesh Pokhriyal 'Nishank' Minister of Human Resource Development.
13. Shri Arjun Munda Minister of Tribal Affairs.
14. Smt. Smriti Zubin Irani Minister of Women and Child Development; and Minister of Textiles.
15. Dr. Harsh Vardhan Minister of Health and Family Welfare; Minister of Science and Technology; and Minister of Earth Sciences.
16. Shri Prakash Javadekar Minister of Environment, Forest and Climate Change; and Minister of Information and Broadcasting.
17. Shri Piyush Goyal Minister of Railways; and Minister of Commerce and Industry.
18. Shri Dharmendra Pradhan Minister of Petroleum and Natural Gas; and Minister of Steel.
19. Shri Mukhtar Abbas Naqvi Minister of Minority Affairs.
20. Shri Pralhad Joshi Minister of Parliamentary Affairs; Minister of Coal; and Minister of Mines.

21. Dr. Mahendra Nath Pandey Minister of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship.
22. Shri Arvind Ganpat Sawant Minister of Heavy Industries and Public Enterprise.
23. Shri Giriraj Singh Minister of Animal Husbandry, Dairying and Fisheries.
24. Shri Gajendra Singh Shekhawat Minister of Jal Shakti.

### **Ministers of State (Independent Charge)**

1. Shri Santosh Kumar Gangwar Minister of State (Independent Charge) of the Ministry of Labour and Employment.
2. Rao Inderjit Singh Minister of State (Independent Charge) of the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation; and Minister of State (Independent Charge) of the Ministry of Planning.
3. Shri Shripad Yesso Naik Minister of State (Independent Charge) of the Ministry of Ayurveda, Yoga and Naturopathy, Unani, Siddha and Homoeopathy (AYUSH); and Minister of State in the Ministry of Defence.
4. Dr. Jitendra Singh Minister of State (Independent Charge) of the Ministry of Development of North Eastern Region; Minister of State in the Prime Minister's Office; Minister of State in the Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions; Minister of State in the Department of Atomic Energy; and Minister of State in the Department of Space.
5. Shri Kiren Rijju Minister of State (Independent Charge) of the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports; and Minister of State in the Ministry of Minority Affairs.
6. Shri Prahalad Singh Patel Minister of State (Independent Charge) of the Ministry of Culture; and Minister of State (Independent Charge) of the Ministry of Tourism.
7. Shri Raj Kumar Singh Minister of State (Independent Charge) of the Ministry of Power; Minister of State (Independent Charge) of the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy; and Minister of State in the Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship.
8. Shri Hardeep Singh Puri Minister of State (Independent Charge) of the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs; Minister of State (Independent Charge) of the Ministry of Civil Aviation; and Minister of State in the Ministry of Commerce and Industry.
9. Shri Mansukh L. Mandaviya Minister of State (Independent Charge) of the Ministry of Shipping; and Minister of State in the Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers.

## Ministers of State

1. Shri Faggansingh Kulaste Minister of State in the Ministry of Steel.
2. Shri Ashwini Kumar Choubey Minister of State in the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare.
3. Shri Arjun Ram Meghwal Minister of State in the Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs; and Minister of State in the Ministry of Heavy Industries and Public Enterprises.
4. General (Retd.) V. K. Singh Minister of State in the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways.
5. Shri Krishan Pal Minister of State in the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment.
6. Shri Danve Raosaheb Dadarao Minister of State in the Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution.
7. Shri G. Kishan Reddy Minister of State in the Ministry of Home Affairs.
8. Shri Parshottam Rupala Minister of State in the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare.
9. Shri Ramdas Athawale Minister of State in the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment.
10. Sadhvi Niranjan Jyoti Minister of State in the Ministry of Rural Development.
11. Shri Babul Supriyo Minister of State in the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change.
12. Shri Sanjeev Kumar Balyan Minister of State in the Ministry of Animal Husbandry, Dairying and Fisheries.
13. Shri Dhotre Sanjay Shamrao Minister of State in the Ministry of Human Resource Development; Minister of State in the Ministry of Communications; and Minister of State in the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology.
14. Shri Anurag Singh Thakur Minister of State in the Ministry of Finance; and Minister of State in the Ministry of Corporate Affairs.
15. Shri Angadi Suresh Channabasappa Minister of State in the Ministry of Railways.

16. Shri Nityanand Rai Minister of State in the Ministry of Home Affairs.
17. Shri Rattan Lal Kataria Minister of State in the Ministry of Jal Shakti; and Minister of State in the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment.
18. Shri V. Muraleedharan Minister of State in the Ministry of External Affairs; and Minister of State in the Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs.
19. Smt. Renuka Singh Saruta Minister of State in the Ministry of Tribal Affairs.
20. Shri Som Parkash Minister of State in the Ministry of Commerce and Industry.
21. Shri Rameswar Teli Minister of State in the Ministry of Food Processing Industries.
22. Shri Pratap Chandra Sarangi Minister of State in the Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises; and Minister of State in the Ministry of Animal Husbandry, Dairying and Fisheries.
23. Shri Kailash Choudhary Minister of State in the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare.
24. Sushri Debasree Chaudhuri Minister of State in the Ministry of Women and Child Development.

**Links:**

<http://pib.nic.in/PressReleseDetail.aspx?PRID=1572883>  
<https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/list-of-ministers-in-narendra-modis-cabinet-and-their-portfolios/article27375526.ece>  
<https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/elections/lok-sabha/india/meet-the-key-members-of-modis-new-team/articleshow/69590229.cms>  
<https://www.businesstoday.in/current/economy-politics/modi-20-cabinet-new-govt-has-51-crorepati-ministers-16-with-serious-criminal-cases/story/352806.html>  
<https://indiankanoon.org/doc/1532170/>

## 17th Lok Sabha Election Results, 2019

**Question: Consider the following statements regarding 17th Lok Sabha:**

- (1) Bharatiya Janata Party got the most 303 seats
- (2) The 17th Lok Sabha will see representation of 74 women MPs
- (3) TMC's Nusrat Jahan became the youngest MP
- (4) Apart from Prime Minister Narendra Modi, other 57 MPs sworn in as Cabinet Ministers

**Of the above; correct statement/s is/are:**

- (a) Only (1) & (4)
- (b) Only (1) & (3)
- (c) Only (1), (3) & (4)
- (d) All of the above

**Answer: (a)**

**Related facts:**

- On 30<sup>th</sup> May, 2019, Narendra Modi, leader of National Democratic Alliance sworn in as the Prime Minister of India for the second consecutive term.
- President Ramnath Kovind administered the Oath of Office and Secrecy to Narendra Modi in the Rashtrapati Bhawan.
- Besides 24 Cabinet ministers, 9 were sworn in as Minister of State with Independent charge and another 24 as Minister of State.
- The function was attended by leaders from BIMSTEC countries (Bangladesh, Myanmar, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Bhutan and Nepal including India) and foreign envoys, Governors, Chief Ministers, Opposition leaders, corporate heads and film stars.
- In 2014, heads of SAARC countries were invited in the swearing-in ceremony.
- On 23<sup>rd</sup> May, 2019, the Election Commission of India declared election results of 542 Lok Sabha constituencies held in seven phases (one constituency Vellore, Tamil Nadu election was postponed) in the country.
- The number of seats won by seven **National Parties** are as follows:

(i) Bharatiya Janata Party- 303

(ii) Indian National Congress – 52

(iii) All India Trinamool Congress- 22

(iv) Bahujan Samaj Party – 10

(v) Nationalist Congress Party – 05

(vi) Communist Party of India- 02

(vii) Communist Party of India (Marxist) – 03

- While some of the major **Regional Parties** such as the Biju Janata Dal won 12 seats, Shiv Sena got 18 seats, Lok Jan Shakti Party secured 6 seats and Yuvajana Sramika Rythu Congress Party bagged 22 seats.



- In this election, the **National Democratic Alliance** (NDA) bagged 353 seats; **United Progressive Alliance** (UPA) got 92 while **Others** hold 97 seats.
- In Uttar Pradesh, out of total 80 seats, Bharatiya Janata Party with its ally Apna Dal bagged 64 seats, Bahujan Samaj Party got 10 seats, Samajwadi Party won 5 seats while Indian National Congress secured 1 seat.
- 17<sup>th</sup> Lok Sabha will see representation of highest ever 78 women MPs. Most 11 women MPs were elected each from Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal.
- **Chandrani Murmu** (25 years, 11 months and eight days old) became the youngest woman member in the Lok Sabha history. She was elected to the Lower House from the **Keonjhar** Lok Sabha constituency of Odisha.

**Links:**

<http://results.eci.gov.in/pc/en/partywise/index.htm>

<http://www.newsonair.com/Main-News-Details.aspx?id=364109>

<https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/17th-lok-sabha-first-time-women-mps-to-watch-out-for/article27378425.ece>

## Chief Minister of Arunachal Pradesh

**Question: Who took oath as the Chief Minister of Arunachal Pradesh on May 29 after a landslide victory in the legislative assembly election?**

**(a) Rodi Bui (b) Pema Khandu (c) Pawan Chamling (d) Manik Sarkar**

**Answer: (b)**

**Related facts:**

- The first BJP government in the state of Arunachal Pradesh with absolute majority took oath on May 29, 2019.
- BJP leader and former CM Pema Khandu took oath as the Chief Minister of Arunachal Pradesh at the Dorjee Khandu state convention hall in Itanagar.
- BJP had won an impressive 41 seats in the 60-seat house in the Assembly elections creating history. The council of Minister also took oath in the ceremony.
- Pema Khandu will now be having his second term as the Chief Minister of Arunachal Pradesh.
- The oath was administered by Governor Dr. BD Mishra.
- On May 27, Mr. Khandu was elected unanimously as the leader of the BJP legislature party at its meeting held in Itanagar.



**Arunachal Pradesh state election:**

- Assembly elections in Arunachal Pradesh were held for 57 seats of total 60 seats. This happened as three BJP candidates were declared elected unopposed prior of election.
- BJP won 41 seats out of 60, Janata Dal (United) won 7 seats, National People's Party (NPP) won 5, Congress 4, People's Party of Arunachal (PPA) 1 and Independents 2.

**Links:**

<https://www.thehindu.com/elections/arunachal-pradesh-assembly/bjp-wins-41-seats-in-60-member-arunachal-pradesh-assembly/article27244388.ece>

## Sikkim State Election 2019

**Question:** Which of the following party won the most number of seats in the recent held state legislative election in Sikkim?

- (a) Indian National Congress
- (b) Sikkim Krantikari Morcha
- (c) Sikkim Democratic Front
- (d) Bhartiya Janata Party

**Answer:** (b)

**Related facts:**

- Sikkim Assembly Election took place along with the 17th General Election.
- Voting for 1 Lok Sabha and all the 32 assembly seats took place on April 1 2019.
- Result of the election was declared on May 23, 2019.



**Highlights of the result:**

- The term of the Sikkim state assembly ended on May 27, 2019.
- Of the total 32 seats, Sikkim Krantikari Morcha won 17 seats, exactly the number required for majority.
- Chief Minister Pawan Chamling led Sikkim Democratic Front (SKF) won 15 seats.
- The SDF got a total of 47.63 % votes and ended up winning 15 seats, while the SKM, which won most 17 seats, secured only 47.03 % votes.
- Prem Singh Tamang alias P.S. Golay became the new Chief Minister of Sikkim.
- He took the oath for the Chief Minister on May 27, 2019 in Gangtok.
- He had earlier served as the Minister for Animal Husbandry, Ecclesiastical and Industry Department from 1994- 99 in Chamling government.
- He founded the SKF after breaking the ties with SDF in 2013.
- Pawan Kumar Chamling has been the country's longest-serving Chief Minister till date having five successive terms.
- He had ruled Sikkim for 24 years assuming the charge for the first time in 1993.

**Links:**

<https://www.thehindu.com/elections/sikkim-assembly/skm-all-set-to-take-power-in-sikkim/article27240186.ece>

<https://www.thehindu.com/elections/sikkim-assembly/who-is-ps-golay-the-new-chief-minister-of-sikkim/article27262867.ece>

<https://www.news18.com/news/politics/sikkim-election-dates-state-to-vote-simultaneously-in-state-assembly-and-lok-sabha-polls-on-april-11-2062397.html>

## Andhra Pradesh Legislative Assembly Election 2019

**Question:** Consider the following statements regarding Andhra Pradesh Legislative Assembly Election 2019:

- (1) YSR Congress won the most 151 seats.
- (2) After bifurcation, strength of the Andhra Pradesh Legislative Assembly is 175.
- (3) Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy became second Chief Minister after state bifurcation in 2012.

**of the above correct statements are:**

- (a) Only (1) & (2)
- (b) Only (2) & (3)
- (c) Only (1) & (3)



**(d) All of the above**

**Answer: (a)**

**Related facts:**

- On 11 April 2019, Andhra Pradesh Legislative Assembly Elections were held alongside the General Election for constituting the fifteenth Legislative Assembly in the state.
- Results were declared on May 23, 2019.
- Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy led Yuva Jana Sramika Rythu Congress Party (YSR Congress) won legislative assembly elections, with a massive mandate.
- YSR Congress Party swept the poll winning a record 151 seats out of 175 seats, securing almost 86% of the Andhra Pradesh Legislative Assembly.
- Whereas, former Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu led Telugu Desam Party maintained to secure only 23 seats in the legislative elections.
- Pawan Kalyan's Janasena Party got 1 seat.
- YSR Congress Party (YSRCP) also won 22 out of 25 Lok Sabha seats.
- On 30 May 2019, Yeduguri Sandinti Jaganmohan Reddy, founder of YSR Congress Party sworn in as the Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh at the Indira Gandhi Municipal Stadium in Vijayawada.
- He became the second Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh after state bifurcation in 2014.
- He has been elected as Member of Legislative Assembly from Pulivendla constituency.
- Jaganmohan Reddy is the son of the former Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh, Y. S. Rajasekhara Reddy.
- Prior to this, he was Leader of opposition in the Andhra Pradesh Legislative Assembly from 16 May 2014 until 23 May 2019.
- On 8 June 2019, Governor ESL Narasimhan administered the oath of office and secrecy to the 25 new ministers constituting the state cabinet at a ceremony held near State Secretariat at Velagapudi.
- Apart from Chief Minister, there will be five Deputy Chief Minister, one each from Scheduled Caste, Scheduled Tribe, backward, minority and Kapu communities as announced by incumbent CM Y S Jaganmohan Reddy.

**Links:**

<http://results.eci.gov.in/ac/en/partywise/partywiseresult-S01.htm>

<https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/andhra-pradesh/in-maps-andhra-pradesh-assembly-and-parliamentary-election-results-2019/article27224077.ece>

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/2019\\_Andhra\\_Pradesh\\_Legislative\\_Assembly\\_election](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/2019_Andhra_Pradesh_Legislative_Assembly_election)

<https://www.thehindu.com/elections/andhra-pradesh-assembly/jagan-mohan-reddy-swearing-in-ceremony-live-updates/article27312849.ece>

<https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/andhra-pradesh/five-deputy-cms-to-be-sworn-in-on-saturday-jagan-mohan-reddy/article27636053.ece>

## Chief Minister of Odisha

**Question: Navin Patnaik took oath as the Chief Minister of Odisha on May 29, 2019.**

**Which term will be this for him as the CM of Odisha?**

**(a) 2<sup>nd</sup> (b) 3<sup>rd</sup> (c) 4<sup>th</sup> (d) 5<sup>th</sup>**

**Answer: (d)**

**Related facts:**

- Biju Janta Dal (BJD) supremo Naveen Patnaik sworn in as Odisha Chief Minister for the fifth time in a row at the Exhibition Ground in Bhubaneswar on May 29, 2019.



- Odisha Governor Prof. Ganeshi Lal administered the oath of office and secrecy to Mr. Patnaik and his twenty councils of ministers.
- A huge gathering of dignitaries including captains of industries, women SHG leaders, and party workers attend the swearing-in ceremony.
- The Council of Minister included eleven cabinet ministers and nine ministers of state.

#### **Odisha state assembly election:**

- Odisha witnessed the legislative assembly election along with the 17th General elections. Results were declared on May 23 2019.
- Polling was held for 146 constituencies of the 147-member Odisha Legislative Assembly.
- Election to Patkura assembly constituency in Kendrapara district was countermanded and postponed after the death of the BJD candidate.
- Ruling Biju Janta Dal won a whopping 112 seats. BJP managed to win 23 seats becoming the major opposition party while Congress won just 9 seats. Others won 3 seats.

#### **Navin Patnaik:**

- Navin Patnaik is the supreme leader of BJD and son of former CM of Odisha Biju Patnaik.
- Patnaik was sworn in as the Chief Minister for the first time on March 5, 2000. BJD came to power in alliance with the Bharatiya Janata Party.
- He continued his second term from 2004 to 2009 when the BJD fighting the polls in alliance with the Communist Party of India, the Communist Party of India (Marxist) and the Nationalist Congress Party.
- BJD won the 2009 and 2014 assembly elections without any alliance and he again became the Chief Minister.

#### **Links:**

<http://www.newsonair.com/News?title=Naveen-Patnaik-takes-oath-as-Odisha-CM-for-5th-term&id=364059>

### **Invitee in the swearing in ceremony of PM Modi**

**Question: Leaders of which regional organization are invited in the swearing in ceremony of Prime Minister Narendra Modi scheduled on May 30, 2019?**

**(a) ASEAN (b) SAARC (c) NAFTA (d) BIMSTEC**

**Answer: (d)**

**Related facts:**

- India has invited leaders of BIMSTEC member countries to attend the swearing-in of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and his council of ministers on May 30, 2019.
- In 2014, India invited leaders of SAARC member countries, including Pakistan, to the swearing-in ceremony of the PM. This time however, India did not send any invitation to the Pakistani counterpart.
- The oath taking ceremony will take place at Rashtrapati Bhawan from 7 pm.
- A record 6,500 guests are likely to attend the swearing-in ceremony.
- India has also invited the president of Kyrgyzstan and prime minister of Mauritius for the ceremony.
- The invitees are recognized with the focus on its 'Neighbourhood First' policy.
- The President of the Kyrgyz Republic currently chairs of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization, and the Prime Minister of Mauritius has earlier been the chief guest at this year's Pravasi Bhartiya Divas.



- PM Modi will visit Bishkek, the capital of Kyrgyzstan to attend the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation Summit in June.

#### **BIMSTEC & its relevance:**

- BIMSTEC, or Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation, is a grouping comprising Bangladesh, India, Myanmar, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Nepal and Bhutan.
- SAARC has nearly been defunct in the last few years after India, and several other members, pulled out of the SAARC Summit that was to be held in Islamabad in 2016.
- No SAARC Summit since the one in Kathmandu in November 2014 took place. This has increased the relevance of BIMSTEC in the recent times for the neighborhood relation of India.
- India has sought to strengthen the BIMSTEC grouping since then as a substitute to SAARC.
- When India hosted the BRICS Summit in Goa in September 2016, it also invited BIMSTEC leaders for the BRICS regional outreach.
- **Foreign Leaders Who Will Attend PM Modi's Swearing-In Ceremony On May 30:**

1. Abdul Hamid, President of Bangladesh
2. Maithripala Sirisena, President of Sri Lanka
3. Sooronbay Jeenbekov, President of the Kyrgyz Republic
4. U Win Myint, President of Myanmar
5. Pravin Kumar Jugnauth, Prime Minister of Mauritius
6. KP Sharma Oli, Prime Minister of Nepal
7. Dr Lotay Tshering, Prime Minister of Bhutan
8. Grisada Boonrach, Special Envoy of Thailand

#### **Links:**

<https://www.ndtv.com/india-news/prime-minister-narendra-modi-swearing-in-oath-ceremony-foreign-leaders-who-will-attend-on-may-30-2044643>

## 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>

## ADB to fund India's metro projects

**Question: Which international bank has planned to fund the metro rail projects in India for the first time?**

(a) International Monetary Fund (IMF) (b) World Bank (c) BRICS Bank (d) Asian Development Bank

**Answer: (d)**

**Related facts:**



- **The Asian Development Bank (ADB)** is moving into **financing metro rail projects** in the country in a big way.
- It has traditionally funded strongly in the social sector projects like **education, water and irrigation in India.**
- This move was planned at the **52nd Annual Meeting of the ADB.**
- This is taking place in **Fiji Islands.** It will take place between **1 and 5 May 2019.**
- **Projects:**
  - The bank is currently involved with the **1 billion dollar Mumbai metro** project. This is the largest funding extended to India by the ADB.
  - It is also talking to the respective state governments for **funding the Bhopal Metro and Bengaluru Metro.**
  - It also wished to extend the assistance to **Chennai Metro Phase II** and the new **Indore metro.**
  - **ADB** has financed the **Jaipur Metro as well.**
  - It is also working with the **Centre to finance the newly-announced Delhi-Meerut Rapid Rail project** cleared by the Cabinet in February.
  - ADB mentioned that it wished to be a **bank for logistics** referring to the **Vizag-Chennai and the Chennai-Kanyakumari industrial corridors.**
  - The bank here is involved in **financing the preparation of the master plan.**
  - South state **Tamil Nadu** is emerging as a major **'client'** of the bank. "
  - ADB will lend **500 million dollar** each for **energy projects, and urban projects,** apart from the **Chennai Metro Phase II.**

Links:

<https://www.adb.org/news/events/fiji-2019-52nd-annual-meeting-asian-development-bank>

## Vice President Vietnam visit

**Question: The Vice President of India is on an official visit to Vietnam on the invitation of Vice President of Vietnam. Who is the current Vice President of Vietnam?**

(a) Dang Thi Ngoc Thinh (b) Kim Jong Un (c) Loy Tshering (d) Nguyen Phu Throng

**Answer: (a)**

**Related facts:**

- **Vice President of India M. Venkaiah Naidu** is on an Official Visit to **Vietnam** from **9-12 May 2019** on the invitation of **Dang Thi Ngoc Thinh, Vice President of Vietnam.**
- **He arrived at Hanoi on May 9, 2019.**



- **India share a very close cultural and civilizational tie-up with Vietnam.** More than 2000 years ago, Indian monks and traders brought with them the message of peace and compassion of Lord Buddha to Vietnam”.

### Visit schedule

- Vice President will have **meetings** with **Vice President of Vietnam** Dang Thi Ngoc Thinh, **Prime Minister Nguyen Xuan Phuc** and **Chairperson of National Assembly of Vietnam Nguyen Thi Kim Ngan.**
- Vice President will deliver the Keynote Address at the **16th United Nations Day of Vesak Celebration** at Tam Chuc Pagoda, Ha Nam Province.
- Vice President will also meet the **Indian community** and Vietnamese beneficiaries of the **Jaipur Foot Artificial Limb Fitment Camp** organized in Vietnam under the ‘**India for Humanity**’ initiative launched to commemorate the **150th Birth Anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi.**
- India-Vietnam relations have been built on a **firm foundation of close cultural, historical and civilisational links** and are marked by mutual trust and understanding as well as strong cooperation in regional and international fora.
- During the visit of Prime Minister to Vietnam in **September 2016**, the relationship between the two countries was **elevated to a Comprehensive Strategic Partnership.**
- Vice President’s visit to Vietnam follows a series of **high-level exchanges** that have taken place in 2018, including visits to India by Prime Minister of Vietnam (January 2018) and President of Vietnam (March 2018) as well as the State Visit to Vietnam of Rashtrapatiiji (November 2018).
- These exchanges have resulted in **robust cooperation** in several areas; have **expanded defence and security ties**, forged new economic and commercial linkages and deepened people-to-people engagement.
- The two sides share a common desire to promote peace, security and prosperity in the Indo-Pacific region.

### India-Vietnam Trade:

- India and Vietnam have **progressing trade relations.** They are important trade partners of each other in Asia.
- The trade between both the nations has **grown significantly** in the last years.
- The trade has got doubled between both the nations from **\$ 7.8 billion in 2016 to nearly \$ billion in 2018.**

### Links:

<http://www.pib.nic.in/PressReleseDetail.aspx?PRID=1571812>

## Mangaluru police gets an all women patrol unit

- **Rani Abbakka Force** was also launched by the Udupi district police Mangaluru on April 30, 2019.
- Commissioner of Police, Mangaluru, **Sandeep Patil**, flagged off Rani Abbakka Force giving utmost importance to the protection of women and children.
- It is an all **women patrol unit** launched by **Mangaluru police.**
- The locations mapped for patrolling will include **malls, beaches, educational institutions**, places of religious importance, and public transport system in the city. The



force will handle issues related to **eve-teasing and chain-snatching**, among others.

- **50 women policewomen** have been deployed in **Rani Abbakka Force** presently with each patrol team having five policewomen.
- All-women police patrol force has been named after the **16<sup>th</sup> century warrior of coastal Karnataka, Queen Abbakka** of Ullal near Mangaluru, who fought the Portuguese in the 16th century.

**Links:**

<https://www.thehindubusinessline.com/news/national/mangaluru-police-gets-all-women-patrol-unit/article26995202.ece>

## Indian Army Mountaineering Expedition claims discovery of footprints of snowman 'Yeti'

**Question: Name the mountain on which Indian Army Mountaineering Expedition claims discovery of footprints of snowman 'Yeti' recently.**

(a) Mt. Makalu (b) Mt. Alps (c) Mt. Kilimanjaro (d) Mt. Andes

**Answer: (a)**

**Related facts:**

- The **Indian army** informed that it has **discovered footprints in the Himalayas** that appear to belong to a **yeti**, known in the **United States** as **bigfoot** or the **abominable snowman**.
- Measuring **32 inches by 15 inches**, the footprints were found **near Mount Makalubase camp** on 9<sup>th</sup> April, 2019.
- Photographs taken by the army's mountaineering expedition team had been passed on for scientific verification.
- Research carried out by **Barnett** and fellow ancient-genetics expert **Ceiridwen Edwards earlier in 2014** had found that **DNA samples** taken from reported **yeti sightings** matched **brown bears local to the Himalayan region**.



**About Mount Makalu:**

- **Mount Makalu** is the world's **fifth highest mountain**.
- It is located on the **border between Nepal and China** and is about **12 miles south of Mount Everest**.

**Links:**

<https://www.nbcnews.com/news/world/indian-army-says-it-found-yeti-footprints-himalayas-n999951>

## Website of Lokpal inaugurated

**Question: Who inaugurated the website of Lokpal recently?**

(a) Venkaiah Naidu (b) Ram Nath Kovind (c) Pinaki Chandra Ghosh (d) Narendra Modi

**Answer: (c)**

**Related facts:**



- The Website of the Lokpal was inaugurated by the Chairperson, Justice Pinaki Chandra Ghosh in presence of all the Members of Lokpal on 16<sup>th</sup> May, 2019.
- The Website has been **developed by NIC** and provides the basic information with respect to the working and functioning of the Lokpal.
- The **Website** can be accessed at **<http://lokpals.gov.in>**.
- The Lokpal is the first institution of its kind in independent India, established under the **Lokpal and Lokayuktas Act, 2013** to inquire and investigate into allegations of the corruption against public functionaries who fall within the scope and ambit of the above Act.
- The Government appointed **Justice Pinaki Chandra Ghosh, as the first Chairperson of the Lokpal** who was administered the oath on 23<sup>rd</sup> March, 2019, by the President of India. The Government has also appointed four Judicial and four non-Judicial Members.
- The office of Lokpal is temporary functioning from the **Hotel Ashok, Chanakyapuri, New Delhi**.

**Links:**

<http://www.pib.nic.in/PressReleaseDetail.aspx?PRID=1572089>

## IIT-Bombay develops ‘Made in India’ microprocessor

**Question: Which of the following ‘Made in India’ Microprocessor has been developed by IIT-Bombay recently?**

**(a) Ajit (b) Sameer (c) Aviral (d) Ridam**

**Answer: (a)**

**Related facts:**

- Prof. Madhav Desai and his team of nine researchers from IIT Bombay has developed a microprocessor called AJIT which is conceptualized, designed, developed and manufactured in India.
- The project was funded by the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) and IIT Bombay. Powai Labs, a Mumbai-based company, has invested in the venture, and will own, market and support the product.
- AJIT is a medium-sized processor named after Prof. Desai’s friend and mentor late Ajit Shelar.
- Ajit can be used in WiFi routers, secure power metres or even electronic voting machines.
- A microprocessor is commonly known as the brain of an electronic device. It is an integrated circuit that contains a few million transistors (semiconductor-based electronic devices) fused on a semiconductor chip.
- The innovation would not only reduce the country’s imports but also make India self-reliant in electronics in order to sustain the India’s electronics market which is expected to reach \$400 billion by 2020.



**Links:**

<http://www.iitb.ac.in/en/research-highlight/welcome-ajit-%E2%80%99made-india%E2%80%99-microprocessor>

## Central government bans terrorist group of Bangladesh

**Question: Which of the following Bangladeshi terrorist group and its manifestations in India were banned by the Central Government on May 23 2019?**

(a) Jamaat ul Mujahideen (b) Jamaat al Mujahideen (c) Jamaat ud Mujahideen  
(d) Hizb ul Mujahideen

**Answer: (a)**

**Related facts:**

- The Central Government vide notification dated 23rd May, 2019 has banned the Jamaat-ul-Mujahideen Bangladesh or Jamaat-ul-Mujahideen India or Jamaat-ul-Mujahideen Hindustan and all its manifestations.
- It was banned under clause (a) of sub-section (1) of section 35 of the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act, 1967 with immediate effect.
- The notification states that the Jamaat-ul-Mujahideen Bangladesh and its formations like Jamaat-ul-Mujahideen India or Jamaat-ul-Mujahideen Hindustan and their manifestations have committed acts of terrorism, promoted acts of terrorism and have been engaged in radicalisation and recruitment of youth(s) for terrorist activities in India.



**Links:**

<http://www.pib.nic.in/PressReleaseDetail.aspx?PRID=1572568>

## India elected to Executive Board of first UN-Habitat Assembly

**Question: Which of the following country is elected in the executive boards of the first UN Habitat Assembly?**

(a) Bahrain (b) Laos (c) Guatemala (d) India

**Answer: (d)**

**Related facts:**

- India has been elected to the Executive Board of the first UN-Habitat Assembly on 27<sup>th</sup> May, 2019 at the Plenary Session of the Assembly in Nairobi, Kenya.
- The first session of the UN-Habitat Assembly will take place between 27<sup>th</sup> May and 30<sup>th</sup> May, 2019 at the headquarters of UN-Habitat in Nairobi.
- The special theme for the UN-Habitat Assembly is Innovation for Better Quality of Life in Cities and Communities.



**Links:**

<http://www.newsonair.com/News?title=India-elected-to-Executive-Board-of-first-UN-Habitat-Assembly&id=364010>

## Amicus Curiae report

**Question: An Amicus Curiae Committee which submitted its report recently was formed in relation to which of the following event?**

(a) Nipah Virus (b) Pulse Polio Program (c) Flood of Kerala (d) Krishna water dispute



**Answer: (c)**

**Related facts:**

- The Amicus Curiae Committee was setup by the High Court of Kerala to assist it in the large quantity of case related to Kerala flood.
- The 49-page report was submitted by the Amicus Curiae Advocate Jacob P Alex to the High Court.
- **Following are the recommendations and facts given in the report:**
- The excessive rainfall that had not been anticipated was the major cause of floods in Kerala.
- Above normal rainfall, more than 42%, during June-August 2018, and extremely heavy rainfall on August 15-17, 2018 caused unprecedented floods resulting in massive loss of life and property across Kerala.
- None of the 79 dams in Kerala were operated or used for the purpose of flood control/moderation. They are managed for irrigation and power generation purpose.
- No effective flood control zone is maintained; high reservoir storage even in the first week of August; sudden release of water from all dams; reduced reservoir storage capacity due to siltation.
- No integrated operation of dams based on scientifically identified Rule Curves, absence of proper Flood Warning etc is some of them.
- The report also recommended appointing an independent expert committee headed by a former judge of the Supreme Court and preferably consisting of a reputed hydrologist, experts in dam management, engineers and other experts for a more detailed study.
- Kerala flood took place in the month of August, 2018 which led to the death of around 480 people and property damage of around 5.6 billion USD.
- It was the worst flood of the century in the history of Kerala state.

**Links:**

<https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/kerala/set-up-expert-committee-to-probe-cause-of-kerala-flood-amicus-curiae/article26720778.ece>

## Earthquakes hit Andaman & Nicobar Islands

**Question: How many earthquakes hit Andaman & Nicobar Islands in recent times?**

**(a) 9 (b) 8 (c) 7 (d) 6**

**Answer: (a)**

**Related facts:**

- According to the National Centre for Seismology, 9 medium intensity earthquakes, with a magnitude ranging from 4.7 to 5.2, hit the Andaman and Nicobar Islands on 1 April 2019, all in a span of two hours.
- The Andaman and the Nicobar archipelago are prone to earthquakes. It is also not unusual for the islands to witness more than two-three quakes a day.
- The first jolt occurred with a magnitude of 4.9, followed by another jolt with a magnitude of 5, a couple of minutes later. Magnitude of last jolt was 5.2.



**Links:**

<https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/nine-quakes-hit-andaman-and-nicobar-islands-in-two-hours/article26700056.ece>

## ISRO launches Young Scientist Programme for Schoolkids

**Question: Name the programme which has been launched by Indian Space Research Organisation for schoolkids recently?**

**(a) Young Scientist Programme (b) Young Adept Dentist Programme  
(c) New Indian Scientist Programme (d) All Indian Scientist Programme**

**Answer :(a)**

**Related facts:**



- Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) 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.
- This will further help them to appreciate what they are being taught in the school and its real application in Space Science & Technology. ISRO has chalked out this programme to Catch them young.
- The programme will be of around two weeks duration during summer holidays 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 every year covering CBSE, ICSE and State syllabus. Those who have finished 8th standard and currently studying in 9th standard will be eligible for the programme.

**Links:**

<https://www.isro.gov.in/update/13-feb-2019/young-scientist-programme-launched>

## JLL India launches Home Purchase Affordability Index

**Question: Consider the following statement regarding the JLL India launching of Home Purchase Affordability Index:**

**(1) This Index signifies whether a household earning an average annual income is eligible for a housing loan to buy a 1,000 sq ft residential property in the city**

**(2) Most affordable residential market in 2018 was Hyderabad**

**Which of the following is /are correct?**

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

**Answer: (c)**

**Related facts:**

- JLL, India's premier and largest professional services firm specializing in real estate launched its annual Home Purchase Affordability Index (HPAI) on 4th April, 2019.
- Annual index analyzes affordability trends across key Indian cities. Affordability improved across India's key markets from 2014 to 2018 due to favorable home loan rates.
- Most affordable residential market in 2018 was Hyderabad, followed by Kolkata and Pune. Kolkata is likely to overtake Hyderabad to be the most affordable market in 2020.
- The Index signifies whether a household earning an average annual income (at an overall city level) is eligible for a housing loan to buy a 1,000 sq ft residential property in the city, at the prevailing market price and home loan interest rate.
- JLL HPAI analyses affordability across India's key seven cities (Mumbai, Delhi NCR, Bengaluru, Chennai, Pune, Hyderabad and Kolkata) for the period 2011 to 2018 and factors in home loan interest rates, average household income and price of a 1,000 sq ft apartment.



- It is interesting to note that only Hyderabad out of the seven cities covered as a part of our study was affordable in 2013 whereas the situation flipped positively by 2018.
- In 2018, all the cities except Mumbai crossed the affordability threshold as per JLL HPAI.

**Link:**

<http://jllapsites.com/real-estate-compass/2019/04/jll-india-launches-home-purchase-affordability-index/>

## Joint Statement on India-US Counterterrorism Joint Working Group and Designations Dialogue

**Question: The 16th meeting of the U.S.-India Counterterrorism Joint Working Group was held in?**

**(a) New York (b) Washington DC (c) Ohio (d) California**

**Answer: (b)**

**Related facts:**



- Indian and U.S. officials met in Washington, DC for the 16th meeting of the US-India Counterterrorism Joint Working Group and the 2nd session of the U.S-India Designation Dialogue.
- The counterterrorism Joint Working Group exchanged views on threats posed by international terrorist organization as well as ongoing concerns over cross-border terrorism in the South Asia region.
- Both sides marked the urgent need for Pakistan to take meaningful, irreversible and verifiable action against terrorists and terrorist groups.
- There was discussion of strengthening cooperation on information sharing and other steps to disrupt the ability of terrorists to travel, consistent with the important provisions and obligations outlined in United Nations Security Council Resolution 2396.

**Links:**

<https://www.state.gov/r/pa/prs/ps/2019/03/290770.htm>

## India-South Korea joint Stamps

**Question: India-South Korea joint stamps will be released by the end of?**

**(a) 2019 (b) 2020 (c) 2021 (d) 2022**

**Answer: (a)**

**Related facts:**

- Department of Posts, Ministry of Communications, Government of India and the Ministry of Science and ICT (Korea Post), Government of the Republic of Korea mutually agreed to jointly issue postage stamps on the theme 'Queen Hur Hwang-ok of Korea'.
- The joint stamps will be released on a mutually agreed date by the end of 2019.
- Hur Hwang-ok was a legendary queen mentioned in Samguk Yusa, a 13th –Century Korean Chronicle.
- According to Samguk Yusa she became the wife of king Suro of Geumgwang Gay at the age of 16, after having arrived by boat from a distant kingdom, making her a legendary first queen of Geumagwan Gaya.
- There is a tomb in Gimhae, South Korea that is believed by some to be hers, and a memorial in Ayodhya in India.
- The belief comes from several historical Korean stories, which tell the story of an Indian princess – Suriratna – who married a South Korean King and started the Karak dynasty.



- South Korea, officially the Republic of Korea, is a country in East Asia, constituting the southern part of the Korean Peninsula.

**Links:**

[https://www.pmindia.gov.in/en/news\\_updates/cabinet-apprired-about-mou-between-india-and-republic-of-korea-in-issuing-jointly-postage-stamp/](https://www.pmindia.gov.in/en/news_updates/cabinet-apprired-about-mou-between-india-and-republic-of-korea-in-issuing-jointly-postage-stamp/)

## Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas: Monthly Production Report

**Question: The Oil and Gas sector is among the \_\_\_ core industries in India.**

**(a) Eight (b) Nine (c) Seven (d) Six**

**Answer: (a)**

**Related facts:**



- Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas released 'Monthly production report for February, 2019' on 25 March, 2019.

**Crude Oil:**

- Crude Oil Production during February, 2019 was 2563.73 TMT which is 13.36% lower than target and 6.14% lower when compared with February, 2018.
- Cumulative Crude oil production during April-February, 2018-19 was 31348.98 TMT which is 7.06% and 3.96% lower than the cumulative target and production respectively during the corresponding period of last year.
- Company wise production during February, 2019:
- ONGC—1598.79 TMT; OIL—243.68 TMT; PSC Fields 721.25 TMT

**Natural Gas:**

- Natural Gas production during February, 2019 was 2565.75 MMSCM which is 3.29% higher when compared with February, 2018 although 8.71% lower than the target for the month.
- Cumulative natural gas production during April-February, 2018-19 was 30057.41 MMSCM which is marginally higher by 0.64% when compared with the production during corresponding period of last year, but is lower by 7.53% than target for the period.
- Company wise production of Natural Gas during February, 2019-
- ONGC—1953.74 TMT; OIL—203.70 TMT; PSC Fields 408.31 TMT

**Refinery Production:**

- Refinery production during February, 2019 was 20083.43 TMT which is marginally higher (0.01%) when compared with February, 2018 but 1.54% lower than the target for the month.
- Cumulative Production during April-February, 2018-19 was 234709.43 TMT which is 0.69% and 1.69% higher than the cumulative target and production respectively during the corresponding period of last year.
- Central Public sector Enterprise (CPSE) Refineries' production during February, 2019 was 11939.71 TMT.
- Production in joint venture refineries during February, 2019 was 1642.33 TMT.
- Production in private refineries during February, 2019 was 6501.38TMT.

**Link:**

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/erelcontent.aspx?relid=189524>

## Namami Gange awarded in Global Water Summit

**Question: Which award was conferred to Government of India's initiative Namami Gange at the recently held Global Water Summit?**

- (a) Best water agency of the decade (b) Public water agency of the year  
(c) Public water agency of the decade (d) Best water agency of Asia**

**Answer: (b)**

**Related facts:**

- India's flagship programme, National Mission for Clean Ganga or Namami Gange was felicitated with Public Water Agency of the Year award on 9th April, 2019 at the Global Water Summit.
- The Global Water Awards recognise excellence across the entire international water industry and reward those initiatives in the water, wastewater, and desalination sectors which bring remarkable improvements in the lives of people.
- These awards are presented by the Global Water Intelligence at the Global Water Summit. It is the major business conference for the water industry worldwide.



**Namami Gange Mission:**

- The Namami Gange programme is an integrated mission for cleaning the sacred river Ganga.
- This project adopts multi-sectoral intervention with multi-stakeholder involvement as well as a basin based approach which includes Ganga and its tributaries.
- It aims to provide comprehensive and sustainable solutions for major pollution hot spots along the stretch of 97 towns and 4,465 villages on the Ganga stem.
- This mission is constructing new infrastructures for sewage treatment alongwith rehabilitating the old and disfunctioning Sewage Treatment Plant (STPs) as well as ensuring Operation and Maintenance (O & M) of all assets hence created.

**Work done under the Mission:**

- Under the project, a total of 289 projects have so far been sanctioned at a cost of Rs 28,377 crore out of which 87 projects have been completed.
- 151 sewerage projects, 112 on the main stem of the Ganga and 39 projects on the tributaries, at a sanctioned cost of Rs 23,158.93 crore has been approved for the creation of 3,732 million liters per day (MLD), new Sewage Treatment Plant (STP) capacity, 1114 MLD rehabilitated STP capacity and laying approximately 4971.01 km sewerage networks.
- A total of 37 projects of pollution abatement have been completed till date which has resulted in laying 2,565 km sewer networks and of 575 MLD of STP capacities in the Ganga basin.
- 63 projects are under execution and 51 are under various stages of tendering. 35 projects are expected to be completed in 2019 and 65 by 2020.
- 10 cities including Haridwar, Kanpur, Varanasi, Prayagraj and Kolkata which contribute more than 64 per cent of the pollution in Ganga. They have been covered comprehensively in all aspects under the Mission.
- Kanpur has been the hotspot of major pollution on the Ganga stem. A 20 MLD Common Effluent Treatment Plant (CETP) at Jajmau with an estimated cost of Rs. 617 Cr. has been sanctioned to address the challenge of industrial pollution in Kanpur.
- One city One operator approach for Kanpur, Unnao and Shuklaganj, making a single operator responsible for the entire sewage infrastructure of a city to ensure single point accountability, desired performance, and long term sustenance, has been rolled out in major

cities such as Farukhabad, Kanpur, Prayagraj, Mathura, Agra, Bhagalpur, Kolkata, and Howrah.

- Also 162 ghats, 55 crematoria in addition to River Front Development in Patna and Haridwar have been sanctioned, while 87 Ghats and 24 Crematoria completed.

**Links:**

<https://www.aninews.in/news/world/europe/namami-gange-brings-laurels-to-india-at-global-water-summit-in-london20190410203150/>

## Cyber attacks attempted on Mumbai cloud server honeypot

**Question: The term Honeypot is related to which one of the following?**

- (a) It is a food material used in bread
- (b) It is a type of antivirus used in computer
- (c) It was used to trap attackers into thinking that they have penetrated a network
- (d) Cybercriminals attempted attacks on a Mumbai Cloud server honeypot more than 678,000 times in a month

**Answer: (c)**

**Related facts:**

- According to a report by Sophos (an IT security company) “Exposed: Cyber attacks on Cloud Honeypots”, over five million attacks were attempted on the global network of honeypots within 30 days.
- Cybercriminals attempted attacks on a Mumbai Cloud server honeypot more than 678,000 times in a month, which was second to Ohio in the US that recorded more than 950,000 login attempts.
- Honeypots are decoy systems providing hosts that have no authorized users other than the honeypot administrators, as they serve no business function.
- A honeypot is a system intended to mimic likely targets of cyber attackers for security researchers to monitor cybercriminal behavior.
- Honeypots are used to trap attackers into thinking that they have penetrated a network, allowing time for defenders to analyze their threat parameters and generate appropriate threat indicators to block an impending attack.



**Links:**

[https://www.business-standard.com/article/current-affairs/nearly-700-000-cyber-attacks-attempted-on-mumbai-cloud-server-honeypot-119041001041\\_1.html](https://www.business-standard.com/article/current-affairs/nearly-700-000-cyber-attacks-attempted-on-mumbai-cloud-server-honeypot-119041001041_1.html)

## NITI Aayog & RMI Release Technical Analysis of FAME II Scheme

**Question: Consider the following statement regarding Faster Adoption and Manufacturing of Electric Vehicles II (FAME II) scheme released by the NITI Aayog and the Rocky Mountain Institute (RMI):**

**(1) The technical report titled India’s Electric Mobility Transformation: Progress to Date and Future Opportunities, quantifies the direct oil and carbon savings that the vehicles incentivized under FAME II will deliver**

**(2) The FAME II scheme, aims to further accelerate the government of India’s commitment to a clean mobility future, sees the electrification of transportation as a primary focus area.**

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

**Answer: (d)**

**Related facts:**



- The NITI Aayog and the Rocky Mountain Institute (RMI) released a report titled India's Electric Mobility Transformation: Progress to Date and Future Opportunities on opportunities for the automobile sector and government under the Faster Adoption and Manufacturing of Electric Vehicles II (FAME II) scheme.
- The report titled, quantifies the direct oil and carbon savings that the vehicles incentivized under FAME II will deliver. RMI is an Indian and global nonprofit organization focused on driving the efficient and restorative use of resources.
- The report also quantifies the catalytic effect that FAME II and other measures could have on the overall Electric Vehicle (EV) market.
- If FAME II and other measures – in public and private space – are successful, India could realize EV sales penetration of 30% of private cars, 70% of commercial cars, 40% of buses and 80% of two and three-wheelers by 2030.
- Achieving these levels of market share by 2030 could generate cumulative savings of 846million tonnes of CO2 over the total deployed vehicles' lifetime.
- The FAME II scheme, which was notified by the Union Cabinet in February 2019, aims to further accelerate the government of India's commitment to a clean mobility future, sees the electrification of transportation as a primary focus area.
- FAME II intends to catalyze the market for faster adoption of EVs to ensure durable economic growth and global competitiveness for India's automotive industry.

#### Key highlights from the report:

- Effects of FAME II will go beyond the vehicles that are eligible under the FAME II.
- There is considerable energy and CO2 savings associated with the two, three, and four-wheeled vehicles and buses covered by FAME II over their lifetime, as well as the potential savings associated with greater adoption levels by 2030.
- The electric buses covered under FAME II will account for 3.8 billion vehicle kilometers travelled over their lifetime.
- In order to capture the potential opportunity in 2030, batteries must remain a key focal point as they will continue to be the key cost driver of EVs.
- Vehicles eligible under FAME II scheme can cumulatively save 5.4 million tonnes of oil equivalent over their lifetime worth Rs 17.2 thousand crores.
- EVs sold through 2030 could cumulatively save 474 million tonnes of oil equivalent (Mtoe) worth INR 15 lakh crore and generate net CO2 savings of 846 million tonnes over their operational lifetime.
- The auto and battery industries could collaborate to enhance customer awareness, promote domestic manufacturing, promote new business models, conduct R&D for EVs and components, and consider new business models to promote EVs.
- Government should focus on a phased manufacturing plan to promote EVs, provide fiscal and non-fiscal incentives for phased manufacturing of EVs and batteries.
- Different government departments can consider a bouquet of potential policies, such as congestion pricing, ZEV credits, low emission/exclusion zones, parking policies, etc. to drive adoption of EVs.

#### Link:

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=189644>

## Project Kannamma

**Question: Project Kannamma is related to which initiative?**

- (a) Sanitary napkins to the student (b) Fellowship to the student  
(c) Inspire research to the student (d) Technical education to the student



**Answer: (a)**

**Related facts:**

- Project Kannamma is the started by the Rotary Club of Madras North to provide sanitary napkins to the students.
- It was started in August, 2018. It provided free, biodegradable sanitary napkins to 82 students at the Government High School in Uthandi of Tamil Nadu.
- Under the Project Kannamma, sanitary napkins are provided to over 300 students from across Government Schools in and around Chennai.
- The sanitary napkins are provided by the Irula Tribal Women's Welfare Society (ITWWS).
- The sanitary napkin, under the brand Avaram, is prepared with natural raw materials such as cotton and wood pulp, and a pack of six costs just Rs. 22.
- The project is also supporting the livelihood of the Irula Tribal Women. If the group sells 15,000 pads per month, it can sustain the families of 12 tribal women.

**Link:**

<https://www.thehindu.com/sci-tech/health/project-kannamma-provides-sanitary-napkins-to-government-school-students-in-chennai/article26633733.ece>

## First All Women Crew to fly a medium lift Helicopter

**Question: Which medium lift helicopter was flew by the first all women crew of Air Force?**

**(a) Apache (b) Chinook (c) Mi-17 (d) Sukhoi**

**Answer: (c)**

**Related facts:**

- Flight Lieutenant Parul Bhardwaj (Captain), Flying Officer Aman Nidhi (Co-pilot) and Flight Lieutenant Hina Jaiswal (Flight Engineer) have become country's first 'All Women Crew' to fly a Medium Lift Helicopter.
- The 'All women crew' flew a Mi-17 V5 helicopter for a Battle Inoculation Training mission taking off and landing from restricted areas at a forward air base in South Western Air Command.
- Flt Lt Parul Bhardwaj hails from Mukerian in Punjab and is incidentally also the first woman pilot to fly the Mi-17 V5. Fg Offr Aman Nidhi hails from Ranchi and is also the first woman IAF pilot from Jharkhand. Flt Lt Hina Jaiswal hails from Chandigarh and is the first woman Flight Engineer of the Indian Air Force.
- The Pilots had undergone their basic Flying training at the 'Helicopter Training School' at Air Force Station Hakimpet followed by advanced training at Air Force Station Yelahanka.
- The helicopter was certified airworthy by Squadron Leader Richa Adhikari the unit Engineering officer. This is yet another achievement of women officers in the IAF.



**Links:**

<http://ddnews.gov.in/people/meet-indias-first-%E2%80%98all-women-crew%E2%80%99-fly-medium-lift-helicopter>

## High level committee on crude oil imports

**Question: To which ministry did the high level committee on crude oil imports submitted its report on May 21, 2019?**

**(a) Ministry of External Affairs (b) Ministry of Trade and Commerce**

**(c) Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas (d) None of the**



above

**Answer: (c)**

**Related facts:**

- A High-Level Committee constituted by the Centre has submitted its recommendations to bring down India's dependence on crude oil imports.
- The Committee submitted its report to the Minister of Petroleum and Natural Gas Dharmendra Pradhan in New Delhi on May 21, 2019.

**Report of the committee:**

- The High-Level Committee consisted of Dr Anil Kakodkar, eminent Scientist and Sidharth Pradhan, an expert on financial and tax issues.
- It has recommended short term, medium term and long term strategies in the report, clearly bringing out the strategy to reduce the import dependency of the nation.
- It has also recommended a higher natural gas price for producers from existing discoveries among measures to decrease India's dependence on crude oil imports.
- The High-Level Committee was constituted to examine the issues relating to the preparation of action plan to create synergy among Research and Development Centres of Oil and Gas Public Sector Undertakings, tax issues and ways to benefit from GST by the Oil and Gas PSUs.
- The committee has also recommended increasing the use of bio mass, essentially surplus agricultural residue, in the production of bio fuels.
- It also looked into merger, acquisition and consolidation of Oil and Gas Public Sector Undertakings and the Joint Ventures.
- It explored the need and possibility of formation of new entity dealing with oil services and supply of qualified manpower to the Oil and Gas sector around the world.
- The Committee, in the process, visited, different Research and Development and training institutes of different oil and gas PSUs.
- Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas will consider the recommendations submitted by the Committee while formulating policies.

**Links:**

<https://www.thehindubusinessline.com/economy/high-level-committee-submits-recommendations-to-reduce-crude-oil-import/article27196130.ece>

## Hindi version of Digital Dilemma

**Question: Who launched the Hindi version of Digital Dilemma website on May 28, 2019?**

**(a) Gajendra Chauhan (b) Danny Bowel (c) Prasoon Joshi (d) John Bailey**

**Answer: (d)**

**Related facts:**

- In a special event on May 28, 2019, John Bailey, President of Academy of Motion Picture Arts & Sciences (popularly known as Oscar Academy), e-launched the Hindi translation of an Academy Publication, "Digital Dilemma", in Delhi.
- John Bailey said that the translation of the Academy publication into Hindi is important in order to reach out to film fraternity in India.
- Written by Milt Shelton and Andy Maltz, this publication has been translated in many languages the world over.
- National Film Archive of India, the premier organization of Ministry of Information and Broadcasting which is involved in film conservation, preservation and restoration, had



signed an MoU with the Academy to translate the publication into Hindi so that it can benefit various stakeholders in the country.

- The Academy works towards the goal of advancing the arts and sciences of motion pictures.
- In its landmark report, the Academy's Science and Technology Council examined ways in which key players in the movie business currently store and access important digital data.
- With a vision to explore possibilities of collaboration, Ministry of Information & Broadcasting also organized a Special Interactive Session with Mr. John Bailey at Siri Fort, New Delhi on May 29, 2019.
- Mr. John Bailey talked about the need to increase the membership of Indians in the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences.
- He highlighted the initiative of the Academy to double the diversity of membership in the Academy and added that India truly represents the opportunities, challenges and the unifying power of diversity.
- Through the interaction, budding filmmakers and students from several Mass Media Institutes got the opportunity to interact with Mr. John Bailey which threw light not only on the nuances behind the craft of cutting edge filming techniques but also helped develop an understanding about creating world class content.
- John Bailey also attended the 56th Maharashtra State Film Awards here as chief guest.

**Links:**

[https://www.timesnownews.com/entertainment/news/international-news/article/oscar-academy-head-john-bailey-attends-maharashtra-state-film-awards-ceremony-praises-indias-cinema-culture/426349?utm\\_campaign=fullarticle&utm\\_medium=referral&utm\\_source=inshorts](https://www.timesnownews.com/entertainment/news/international-news/article/oscar-academy-head-john-bailey-attends-maharashtra-state-film-awards-ceremony-praises-indias-cinema-culture/426349?utm_campaign=fullarticle&utm_medium=referral&utm_source=inshorts)

## UNESCO includes Kailash Mansarovar in the list of World Heritage Site

**Question: Kailash Mansarovar is expanded in India across an area of?**

**(a) 6836 km (b) 6386 km (c) 6863 km (d) None of the above**

**Answer: (a)**

**Related facts:**

- The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), has included Kailash Mansarovar in its tentative list of world heritage sites.
- The Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) along with Ministry of Environment and Forests sent a proposal to UNESCO to list Kailash Mansarovar into its world heritage sites in April 2019.
- Kailash Mansarovar was classified under both as a natural as well as a cultural heritage.



**Kailash Mansarovar:**

- Also known as Mount Kailash, Kailash Mansarovar is the highest peak in Kailash range.
- It is located in Lake Mansarovar in the remote south-western portion of the Tibet Autonomous Region of China and adjacent districts in the far-western region of Nepal.
- The Kailash Mansarovar is expanded across an area of 6,836 sq km within India which is part of the larger landscape of 31,000 sq km.
- Both China and Nepal have proposed the landscape as a world heritage site to UNESCO.

- Uttarakhand will be benefited if Kailash Mansarovar becomes a permanent part of heritage list being a major transit point of the annual Kailash Mansarovar pilgrimage
- The Indian part of the landscape in the State of Uttarakhand comprises four major watersheds viz. the Panar-Saryu, the Saryu-Ramganga, the Gori-Kali and the Dhauli-Kali.
- UNESCO's current list includes a total of 845 cultural Heritage sites across the world having 29 from India.

**Links:**

<https://www.businesstoday.in/current/economy-politics/unesco-includes-kailash-mansarovar-in-tentative-list-of-world-heritage-sites/story/348216.html>

## US Currency Monitoring List

**Question: Which of the following country is recently removed from the US currency monitoring list?**

**(a) China (b) Saudi Arabia (c) India (d) Turkey**

**Answer: (c)**

**Related facts:**

- The Trump Administration in US has removed India from its currency monitoring list of major trading partners on May 28, 2019.
- The Treasury Department in the latest semi-annual list does not mention India in it.
- India was enlisted in the bi-annual currency watch list in October last year along with China, Japan, Germany, Switzerland and South Korea.



**The list:**

- The new list does not mention India and Switzerland.
- Ireland, Italy, Malaysia, Singapore and Vietnam are the latest additions while China continuing to figure in it along with Japan, South Korea, Germany, Ireland, Italy, Malaysia, Vietnam and Singapore.
- While the designation of a country as a currency manipulator does not immediately attract any penalties, it tends to decrease the confidence about a country in the global financial markets.

**Criteria of listing:**

- Countries with a current-account surplus equivalent to 2 per cent of gross-domestic product are eligible for the list which was 3 per cent earlier.

- Other thresholds include repeated intervention in the currency markets and a trade surplus with the US of at least \$20 billion.
- These policies are used by Trump administration to discourage countries hurting American businesses and consumers.
- US is currently facing a trade war with China and has also imposed severe tariffs over Mexico too.
- China's goods trade surplus with US stands at \$419 billion over the four quarters through December 2018.

**Links:**

<https://www.indiatoday.in/business/story/india-removed-from-us-currency-watchlist-what-it-means-1537434-2019-05-29>

## **International** Earthquake in Peru

**Question:** What is the name of the capital city of Peru around which earthquake hit recently?

(a) Lima (b) Minsk (c) Luxemburg (d) Suva

**Answer:** (a)

**Related facts:**

- An earthquake with a magnitude as high as 8.0 struck northern Peru in the early hours of May 26, 2019.
- The quake, at an "intermediate depth" of around 110 kilometres, was felt around the country and even hundreds of miles away in the capital city of Lima.
- There were no initial reports of casualties or of significant damage. Intermediate depth quakes typically cause less surface damage than shallower tremors.
- Peru sits on the so-called Pacific "Ring of Fire" where the majority of the world's seismic activity occurs.
- The earthquake was around 75km SSE (south-southeast) of Lagunas and 180 km east of the town of Moyobamba.



**Links:**

<http://ddnews.gov.in/international/strong-earthquake-strikes-northern-peru>

## Austrian Chancellor removed amid no confidence motion

**Question:** What is the name of the Austrian Chancellor ousted on May 28, 2019 after no confidence motion?

(a) Norbert Hofer (b) Alexander Van Der Bellen (c) Sebastian Kurz (d) Herbert Kickl

**Answer:** (c)

**Related facts:**

- Austrian Parliament has removed Chancellor Sebastian Kurz from office as he lost the no confidence in a special Parliamentary session on May 28, 2019.
- His previous coalition ally, the far-right Freedom Party (FPÖ)



and the opposition Social Democrats (SPÖ) backed the no-confidence motions. The FPÖ had become involved in a political scandal caused by a secret video, which ended the coalition.

- Two no-confidence votes was brought forward by the oppositions – one against Kurz and the other against his government.
- Austria's President Alexander Van der Bellen named Vice Chancellor Hartwig Löger as the interim leader. He will serve until the appointment of a new transitional government.
- Kurz was the head of the conservative Austrian People's Party, is the first Chancellor in post-war Austrian history to lose a confidence vote.
- He was the world's youngest state leader, just 31 when elected in 2017.
- While the SPÖ control only 52 of the 183-seat lower house, the FPÖ – which holds 51 seats – also backed the motions, which needed only a simple majority to pass.

#### Video scandal:

- The video sting has widely been labelled "Ibiza-gate", after the Spanish island where the footage was recorded.
- It was secretly filmed in July 2017 in which Kurz was seen promising niece of a Russian oligarch for tenders and public contracts in return of donations and political support to his party. It was released by German media.

#### Links:

<http://ddnews.gov.in/international/austrian-chancellor-sebastian-kurz-ousted-no-confidence-vote>

## Ottawa hosted Canada-India Joint Working Group on Counter-Terrorism

**Question: The 16th meeting of Canada-India Joint Working Group on Counter-Terrorism was held in?**

**(a) Toronto (b) Ottawa (c) Vancouver (d) Montreal**

**Answer: (b)**

#### Related Facts:

- India and Canada have concluded an agreement on a Joint Action Plan outlining activities to further strengthen counter-terrorism collaboration, including through joint capacity building, information and technology sharing.
- This Joint Action Plan was decided at the 16th meeting of the Canada-India Joint Working Group on Counter-Terrorism and its Expert Sub-group which was held in Ottawa from 26th March to 27th March, 2019.
- Global Affairs Canada's Director General for the Counter-Terrorism, Crime and Intelligence Bureau, Martin Benjamin, and India's Joint Secretary for Counter-Terrorism from the Ministry of External Affairs, Mahaveer Singhvi, led their delegations.
- The delegations discussed the reference for the first time to the threat from Khalistani extremism in Public Safety Canada's 2018 Annual Report on Terrorism Threats in Canada.
- The Joint Working Group also discussed multilateral counter-terrorism cooperation, in the context of the United Nations, the Financial Action Task Force, and the Global Counterterrorism Forum.
- India offered to host the 17th meeting of the Joint Working Group and the third Expert Sub-group in 2020.



**Link:**

<https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/defence/india-canada-conclude-comprehensive-counter-terror-joint-action-plan/articleshow/68618815.cms>

## Reaction force

**Question: A Joint Reaction Force is being set up between which countries?**

**(a) Iran and Pakistan (b) India and Pakistan (c) Russia and Afghanistan  
(d) Afghan and Iran**

**Answer: (a)**

**Related facts:**

- On 22nd April Iran's President Hassan Rouhani announced that he and Pakistani Prime Minister Imran Khan agreed to set up a joint border reaction force to counter terrorism.
- This is a fall out of increased tensions over attacks on both sides of the two countries' frontier.
- The border skirts the volatile southeastern Iranian province of Sistan-Baluchistan which has been the scene of frequent attacks on Iran's security forces.
- Pakistan also alleged that gunmen based in Iran killed 14 members of Pakistan's security forces last week in its own Baluchistan province.



**Links:**

<https://www.oneindia.com/international/iran-pakistan-to-set-up-border-reaction-force-2881669.html>

## Early deaths in India due to air pollution: Report of State of Global Air 2019

**Question: The State of Global Air- 2019 Report was published by?**

**(a) WHO (b) WTO (c) IBRD (d) HEI**

**Answer: (d)**

**Related facts:**

- As per the global study report dated 3rd April, the current level (high) of the air pollution has shortened the average lifespan of a South Asian child by two-and-a-half years while globally the reduction stands at 20 months.
- The report of State of Global Air, 2019 was published by Health Effect Institute (HEI).
- Exposure to outdoor and indoor air pollution contributed to over 1.2 million deaths in India in 2017.
- The report added that worldwide air pollution was responsible for more deaths than many better-known risk factors such as malnutrition, alcohol abuse and physical activity.
- Air pollution in India is the third-highest cause of death among all health risks, ranking just above smoking.
- Each year, more people globally die from air pollution related disease as compared to road traffic injuries or malaria.



**Link:**

<https://www.thehindu.com/sci-tech/energy-and-environment/over-12m-early-deaths-in-india-in-2017-due-to-air-pollution-report/article26719117.ece>

## New WHO guidelines for children under 5 years of age on screen use

**Question: For which age group childrens, WHO has released new guidelines refraining them from watching screens?**

**(a) below 5 years (b) above 3 years (c) Between 5-10 years (d) None of the above**

**Answer: (a)**

**Related facts:**

- On 24th April, 2019; World Health Organization has issued new guide lines for Children under five that they must spend less time sitting watching screens or restrained in prams and seats.
- According to WHO Director-General Dr Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus; early childhood is a period of rapid development and a time when family lifestyle patterns can be adapted to boost health gains.
- The new guidelines on physical activity, sedentary behaviour and sleep for children under 5 years of age were developed by a WHO panel of experts.
- Experts assessed the effects on young children of inadequate sleep, and time spent sitting watching screens or restrained in chairs and prams. They also reviewed evidence around the benefits of increased activity levels.
- WHO experts emphasized that Improving physical activity, reducing sedentary time and ensuring quality sleep in young children will improve their physical, mental health and well being.



**Link:**

**<https://www.who.int/news-room/detail/24-04-2019-to-grow-up-healthy-children-need-to-sit-less-and-play-more>**

## Nepal's Plastic Problem

**Question: ICIMOD stands for?**

**(a) International Center for Integrated Mountain Development**

**(b) International Center for Indian Mountain Development**

**(c) Indian Center for Integrated Mountain Development (d) None of the above**

**Answer: (a)**

**Related Facts**

- As per report of ICIMOD (Nepal), Kathmandu, with a population of over 2.5 million, alone uses around 4,700,000 to 4,800,000 plastic bags daily.
- ICIMOD stands for- International Center for Integrated Mountain Development.
- In Nepal, at least 16% of urban waste is comprised of plastic, which translates to 2.7 tons of daily plastic garbage production.
- For decades, low awareness and a near dysfunctional waste management system has resulted in litter either thrown into or dumped on the river banks throughout the valley, which ultimately flows down to the Bagmati River.
- As per an ADB report, solid waste management in Nepal has been given low priority because the demand for other public services is higher in many municipalities.
- The Nepal government's Solid Waste Management Rules 2070 (2013) clearly state that the urban local bodies (ULBs) will conduct programmes to increase people's awareness about segregation of waste at source to reduce the quantum of solid waste.



**Link:**

<https://indianexpress.com/article/world/nepal-waste-management-challenges-plastic-pollution-doko-recylers-pledge-to-plog-5678520/>

## Mount Agung

**Question: Mount Agung is located at which place?**

**(a) Bali Island (b) Hawaii Island (c) Solomon Island (d) Papua New Guinea**

**Answer: (a)**

**Related facts:**

- On 21 April 2019, Mount Agung, a currently active volcano in Bali, Indonesia erupted.
- It spewed volcanic ash into the sky to a height of 2km.
- A thick ash column was blown to the south-west, causing a drizzle of volcanic ash in Karangasem, Bangli and Klunglung districts.
- The volcano's status remains on level three of four possible levels and the authorities continue to impose a 4km exclusion zone.
- Two other volcanoes on Java Island also continue to erupt.
- Mount Bromo in East Java and Mount Merapi in Yogyakarta remain on stand-by, with exclusion zones in place.



**Link:**

<https://www.straitstimes.com/asia/mt-agung-volcano-erupts-on-bali-island>

## Jallianwala Bagh Centenary

**Question: The Centenary of Jallianwala Bagh massacre is observed on 13th April, 2019.**

**Which British official opened fire over the people leading to this massacre?**

**(a) General Clive (b) Simon (c) General Sondaurrs (d) General Dyer**

**Answer: (d)**

**Related facts:**

- The 100th anniversary of Jallianwala Bagh massacre is being observed nationwide. This is one of the bloodiest incidents which took place during British rule in India.
- On 13th April 2019, Prime Minister Narendra Modi and President Ram Nath Kovind paid their homage to the martyrs who lost their life in this massacre. Vice President M. Venkaiah Naidu also visited the memorial.
- General Dyer led a troop opening unwarned fire over the gathered people on 13 April, 1919.
- British High Commissioner to India Dominic Asquith also paid homage and visited the memorial in Amritsar and on the visitor's diary he quoted by saying, years ago today reflects a shameful act in British-Indian history and deeply regretted.
- Earlier UK Prime Minister Theresa May deeply regretted about the incident and proclaimed it a shameful scar on British Indian history. She however refused to seek apology over this incident.



**Jallianwala Bagh Incident:**

- Jallianwala Bagh is a garden located in Amritsar close to Golden Temple.
- British administration passed various repressive acts including Rowlatt Act, 1919 which allowed arresting any person for two year on the basis of suspicion without any trial. A protest took place nationwide led by Mahatma Gandhi.
- In Amritsar the news that prominent Indian leaders had been arrested and banished from that city sparked violent protests on 10th April, 1919.

- The task of restoring order was given to Brig. Gen. Reginald Edward Harry Dyer . Among the measures taken was a ban on public gatherings.
- On 13th April, 1919, the day of Baishakhi, around 10,000 unarmed people gathered at Jallianwala Bagh to condemn the arrest and deportation of two national leaders from Punjab, Satya Pal and Saifuddin Kitchlew and to celebrate Baishakhi.
- Dyer and his soldiers arrived and sealed off the exit and opened fire on the crowd without warning.
- Hundreds rounds of shooting took place until they ran out of ammunition.
- Official British record mentions death of 379 people whereas Indian officials claimed the death to be around 1,000 people and more than hundreds of people were injured.
- The shooting was followed by the proclamation of martial law in the Punjab that included public floggings and other humiliations.

**Links:**

<https://indianexpress.com/article/india/jallianwala-bagh-massacre-100th-anniversary-live-updates-5673567/>

## Global Report on Food Crises 2019

**Question: Consider the following statement regarding Global Report on Food Crises 2019:**

**(1) It is a report released jointly by the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), World Food Programme (WFP) and EU**

**(2) The number going chronically-hungry has remained well over 100 million over the past three years**

**(3) These crises are primarily driven by conflict and climate-related disasters**

**(4) Afghanistan, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Ethiopia, Nigeria follows maximum crisis**

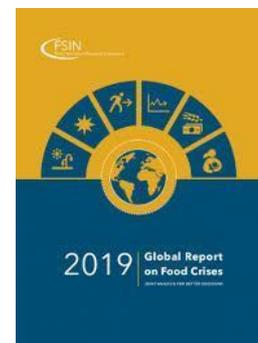
**Which one of the following is/are correct?**

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

**Answer: (d)**

**Related facts:**

- Global Report on Food Crises 2019 was released jointly by the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), World Food Programme (WFP) and EU.
- Approximately 113 million people in 53 countries experienced high levels of food insecurity in 2018 as compared to 124 million in the year 2017. These crises are primarily driven by conflict and climate-related disasters.
- The number going chronically-hungry has remained well over 100 million over the past three years, with the number of countries affected, rising.
- According to the report, nearly two-thirds of those facing acute hunger come from just eight countries: Afghanistan, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Ethiopia, Nigeria, South Sudan, Sudan, Syria and Yemen.
- Climate and natural disasters pushed another 29 million people into acute food insecurity in 2018 and that number excludes 13 countries – including North Korea and Venezuela – because of data gaps.



### **The Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO):**

- The Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) is a specialized agency of the United Nations that leads international efforts to defeat hunger.
- FAO was founded on 16th October, 1945, and its headquarter is in Rome, Italy.
- Its goal is to achieve food security for all and make sure that people have regular access to enough high-quality food to lead active, healthy lives.

**Links:**

<http://www.fao.org/news/story/en/item/1187744/icode/>

## Israel Parliamentary Elections 2019

**Question: Which of the following is the unicameral national legislature of Israel?**

**(a) Knesset (b) Chamber of Deputies (c) Assembly of Deputies (d) Mazhilis**

**Answer: (a)**

**Related facts:**

- Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu won the backing of a majority of parliament members on 16th April, 2019 to form a new government, after the 9th April, 2019 election.
- Elections had been due in November 2019, but were brought forward following a dispute between members of the current government over a bill on national service for the ultra-orthodox population, as well as impending corruption charges against incumbent Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu.
- No single party has ever won an outright majority in the Knesset.
- Netanyahu's Likud Party tied with Blue and White alliance of Benny Gants, both winning 35 seats and thus clearing the 65 seat majority cap.
- The balance of power is held by smaller parties, with right-wing and religious parties that have previously set in coalition with Likud, Potentially Knesset.
- The Knesset is the unicameral National legislature of Israel.
- As the legislative branch of the Israeli government, the Knesset passes all laws, elects the President and Prime Minister (although the latter is ceremonially appointed by the President), approves the cabinet, and supervises the work of the government.



**Links:**

<https://in.reuters.com/article/israel-politics/israeli-president-tasks-netanyahu-with-forming-new-government-idINKCN1RT2BU>

## Iran Parliament Labels US troops to Middle East as Terrorist

**Question: Which country's Parliament has labelled US troops to Middle-East as terrorist?**

**(a) Israel Parliament (b) Iraq Parliament (c) Pakistan Parliament (d) Iran Parliament**

**Answer: (d)**

**Related facts:**

- Iran's Parliament has approved a bill labelling US forces in the Middle East as terrorist. Bill authorizes Iran to respond to terrorist actions by US forces.
- It came a day after Washington's terrorism label for Iran's Revolutionary Guard formally took effect.
- The Revolutionary Guard has forces and wields influence in Iraq, Syria, Lebanon and Yemen, and is in charge of Iranian missiles that have US bases in their range.



**Link:**

<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2019/apr/16/iran-parliament-terrorist-us-troops-middle-east>

## IIM Bangalore in QS EMBA Rankings 2019

**Question: What is the rank of Indian Institute of Management-Bangalore (IIM-B) in recently released QS**

<http://www.edrستي.in/>



**EMBA Rankings 2019?**  
**(a) 50 (b) 61 (c) 41 (d) 12**  
**Answer: (b)**  
**Related facts:**

- According to the recently announced rankings, the Indian Institute of Management-Bangalore's (IIM-B) got another achievement as now it featured in QS EMBA Rankings, 2019.
- Institute's Post-graduate Programme in Enterprise Management (PGPEM) has secured the 12th rank in APAC (Asia Pacific) listing and came 61st globally in the QS Executive MBA Rankings 2019.

**Some important points:**

- IIM-B, with this achievement became the only Indian B-school to secure a place among the top 100 B-Schools across the world.
- This Ranking uses parameters such as leadership, executive profile, diversity, career outcomes, etc to mark the world's best universities.
- IIM-B was also ranked first under the Management category in the National Institutional Ranking Framework (NIRF) Rankings, 2019.

**Link:**

<https://www.iimb.ac.in/iimb-ranked-12-apac-61-globally-qs-executive-mba-rankings-2019>

## Algeria's President Abdelaziz Bouteflika resigns

**Question: Abdelaziz Bouteflika who resigned recently was the President of which country?**

**(a) Algeria (b) Norway (c) Libya (d) Egypt**

**Answer: (a)**

**Related facts:**

- Abdelaziz Bouteflika resigned as the President of Algeria.
- He has been in power for 20 years, has resigned after weeks of massive street protests.
- The protestors were demanding the political system currently influenced by the military to be replaced by new political machinery.
- According to the constitution, the Senate Speaker should take over as interim head of state until fresh elections are held.
- Mr. Bouteflika, 82 years old has been declared incapable of carrying out his duties by the powerful Algerian army.
- He has been ill since he suffered a stroke six years ago and has avoided public events ever since.
- Mr. Bouteflika is a veteran of Algeria's war of independence who served as foreign minister for more than a decade before becoming President in 1999.



**Link:**

<https://www.bbc.com/news/world-africa-47795108>

## Statue of Alexander the Great

**Question: Recently, a statue of Alexander the Great has been unveiled at which place?**

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



**(a) Greece (b) Iran (c) Iraq (d) None of the above**

**Answer :(a)**

**Related facts:**

- On 19th March 2019, bronze statue of Alexander the Great has been unveiled by Mayor of Athens in central Athens, Greece.
- The equestrian statue of Alexander was created by the sculptor Yannis Pappas in 1993, but it was never positioned in a central place within the Greek capital, for many, mainly political reasons.
- Yannis Pappas the greatest Greek sculptors of the 20th century died in 2015.
- The statue is 3.45 metres in height and 3.8 metres in length. Alexander bears no arms and is depicted at a very young age.
- In the past, statues of the Alexander have been erected in other parts of Greece, but not in Athens.

**Links:**

<https://www.tanea.gr/2019/04/17/english-edition/famed-sculptor-yannis-pappas-alexander-the-great-statue-finally-finds-its-place-in-athens/>

## 21st ASEAN-India Senior Officials Meeting

**Question: Where did the 21st ASEAN-India Senior Officials meeting took place?**

**(a) Shanghai (b) Bali (c) New Delhi (d) Bangkok**

**Answer: (c)**

**Related facts:**

- The 21st ASEAN-India Senior Officials' Meeting (SOM) was held from 11th -12th April, 2019, at New Delhi.
- India congratulated Thailand on assuming the Chairmanship of ASEAN for 2019 and welcomed its role as Country Coordinator of the ASEAN-India dialogue partnership for the period 2018-2021.



**Key Highlights:**

- The ASEAN-India SOM reviewed the ASEAN-India strategic partnership and its future direction. They made their assessment on the progress of cooperation under all three pillars – political-security, economic and socio-cultural.
- The SOM Leaders also exchanged views on regional and international issues of interest to ASEAN and India. They agreed to deepen Maritime Cooperation as decided at the ASEAN-India Commemorative Summit 2018.
- In this context, they proposed to undertake a variety of measures, including enhanced cooperation in the sub-sector of Blue Economy.
- The Meeting desired to impart impetus to ASEAN-India Connectivity, in all its forms. It also welcomed the commissioning of the ERIA Study on the Trilateral Highway and its extension to Lao PDR, Cambodia and Vietnam as well as the proposal on formation of Digital Villages in the ASEAN countries, under digital connectivity.
- The Meeting decided to impart urgency to Cooperation in Renewable Energy and hold an ASEAN-India Conference on Renewable Energy in 2019. The Energy and Resources Institute (TERI) and ASEAN Centre for Energy (ACE) would be the co-partners for this project.
- The ASEAN-India partnership is being implemented through the Plan of Action (2016-20) to implement the ASEAN-India Partnership for Peace, Progress and Shared Prosperity.

**Links:**

[https://www.mea.gov.in/press-releases.htm?dtl/31216/21st\\_ASEANIndia\\_Senior\\_Officials\\_Meeting](https://www.mea.gov.in/press-releases.htm?dtl/31216/21st_ASEANIndia_Senior_Officials_Meeting)

## Golden Card scheme launched by UAE

**Question: Consider the following statements regarding the Golden Card Scheme launched by UAE and choose the correct option:**

- (1) It is launched to attract investment by the US citizens
- (2) This will give permanent residence to investors and talented individuals
- (3) It was launched by UAE Prime Minister Sheikh Mohammed Bin Rashid
- (4) This could attract more Indian businessmen to Gulf country

**Choose the correct option:**

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

**Answer: (c)**

**Related facts:**

- The United Arab Emirates launched a permanent residency scheme for attracting wealthy individuals and great talents on May 21 2019. The scheme is named as Golden Card scheme.
- This move will draw more Indian professionals and businessmen to the Gulf nation.

### Golden Card Scheme:

- The “Golden Card” programme was inaugurated by UAE Prime Minister Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al-Maktoum.
- This scheme is valid for investors and “exceptional talents” such as doctors, engineers, scientists, students and artists.
- Under this scheme, the first group of 6,800 investors hailing from over 70 countries with investments totalling 100 billion dirhams (USD 27 billion) was being given permanent residency.
- The Golden Card offers great benefits to the cardholders and their families as well as creating an attractive environment for business and growth.
- The new initiative will bring large amount of foreign investment and fuel the local economy making it more efficient and attractive for investors furthering the competitiveness of the market.
- The permanent residency benefits also include the spouse and children of the cardholder.
- Expatriates in the UAE are usually given limited duration residence permits under a sponsorship system.
- The “Golden Card” visa categories include general investors who will be granted a 10-year visa, real estate investors, who can get a visa for five years, along with entrepreneurs and talented professionals such as doctors, researchers and innovators 10 years.
- The fifth category; outstanding students will also be permitted residency visas for five years. All categories of visas can be renewed upon expiry.
- The Indian emigrant community is the largest ethnic community in the UAE. It contributes to roughly about 30 per cent of the country’s population of around nine million.
- Though most of the Indians living in the UAE are employed, about 10 per cent of the Indian population constitutes dependent family members.



**Links:**

<https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/nri/visa-and-immigration/uae-launches-golden-card-scheme-to-woo-wealthy-investors-exceptional-talents/articleshow/69433510.cms>

## Paris celebrates 130 yrs of Eiffel Tower

**Question: When was the Eiffel tower in Paris opened for public for the first time?**

(a) 1930 (b) 1932 (c) 1928 (d) 1929

**Answer: (d)**

**Related facts:**

- Opened for the public view in the year 1929, the Eiffel Tower celebrated its 130<sup>th</sup> anniversary with a 12 minutes laser light show retracing the monument's history.
- The tower was **built for the 1889 World's Fair. Rising 324 meters (1,063 feet) above Paris**, the famed "Iron Lady" was designed by **Parisian engineer Gustave Eiffel** and built for the **1889 Universal Exhibition**.
- For construction of the tower it **took two years, two months and five days**, and it was considered a feat of technical prowess at the time, mobilizing between 300 and 450 workers.
- **Seven million tourists** visit the Eiffel Tower each year, with a total of **300 million visitors** from across the world **since 1889**.



**Link:**

<http://ddnews.gov.in/people/eiffel-tower-celebrates-130-years-light-show>

## Record for raising most number of national flags in 24 hours

**Question: Which city recently made the Guinness World Record for the number of national flags raised in a city for 24 hours?**

(a) Malta (b) Beirut (c) Lima (d) Suva

**Answer: (b)**

**Related facts:**

- Lebanon's capital **Beirut** made a new **Guinness World Record for the number of national flags raised in a city for 24 hours**.
- The **Beirut Alive Association** in the national capital raised a total of **26,852 Lebanese flags on April 28, 2019**.
- This broke the previous record of **New York's Waterloo of 25,599 flags**.
- The event was organized under the patronage of Prime Minister **Sa'ad Hariri**.



**Links:**

<https://www.thequint.com/news/hot-news/lebanon-sets-new-guinness-world-record>

## Environment and Climate Emergency

**Question: Which of the following country became the first in the world to declare an environment and climate emergency?**

(a) Laos (b) Peru (c) United Kingdom (d) Marshall Islands

**Answer: (c)**

**Related facts:**

- The UK Parliament on 1<sup>st</sup> May, 2019, became the first national legislative body in the world to declare a climate change emergency when the Parliament passed an extraordinary measure; a national declaration of an Environment and Climate Emergency.
- The emergency declaration was proposed by Labour Party leader Jeremy Corbyn.



- This step taken after Extinction Rebellion protests that blocked traffic in key parts of central London for a week in April 2019.
- The protesters held three key demands: UK government to tell the truth about climate change, to achieve carbon neutrality by 2025 and that it create a citizens' assembly to help with that process.
- Ministers should draft proposals within the next six months to restore the country's environment and create a zero waste economy.
- The motion asks the government to work towards carbon neutrality before 2050.
- Regional and Municipal UK governments have already declared climate emergencies, among them Wales, Scotland, Manchester and London.

**Links:**

<http://theconversation.com/uk-becomes-first-country-to-declare-a-climate-emergency-116428>

## Belt and Road Initiative drop economic corridor project

**Question: Which of the following project is recently dropped by China under its Belt and Road initiative (BRI)?**

- (a) China Myanmar Economic Corridor
- (b) China Pakistan Economic Corridor
- (c) Bangladesh China India Myanmar Economic Corridor
- (d) Nepal China cross border Railway



**Answer: (c)**

**Related facts:**

- **China** has announced to drop the **Bangladesh-China-India-Myanmar Economic Corridor (BCIM)** from the list of projects covered under its **Belt and Road Initiative (BRI)**.
- This decision is speculated to have been taken after **India's repetitive boycott** of OBOR and its decision to **skip the Belt and Road Forum (BRF)** may have led to the exclusion of the Bangladesh- China- India- Myanmar (BCIM) Economic corridor from the list of projects covered by the China-led Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) umbrella.
- **Bangladesh China India Myanmar Economic Corridor** was not listed in the projects mentioned in the annex of the Joint Communique of the Leaders' Roundtable of the second edition of the Belt and Road summit that concluded between 25-27 April 2019.

**India's stand:**

- **India** has continuously boycotted the **One Belt One Road** initiative of China since it has been showcased to the world.

- India did not attend the event in protest against the project of **China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC)**.
- CPEC is the most **important project** aimed by OBOR which goes for **developing infrastructure and routes via Pakistan**.
- India`s opposition comes due to the project blueprint **covering the Pakistan occupied Kashmir in its route of development**.
- India has accused Pakistan for disturbing its **sovereignty**.

#### South Asia project:

- **South Asia** is covered by three major undertakings – **the China-Myanmar Economic Corridor (CMEC), the Nepal-China Trans-Himalayan Multi-dimensional Connectivity Network, including Nepal-China cross-border railway, as well as the China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC)**.

#### BCIM:

- **BCIM** corridor has total route coverage of **2800 km**.
- It proposes to link **Kunming in China`s Yunnan province with Kolkata** and passing further through nodes such as **Mandalay in Myanmar and Dhaka in Bangladesh** before heading to Kolkata.

### 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 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 19<sup>th</sup> 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>

## Economics

### NRI-Insta-Online account

**Question: Which bank has launched 'NRI-Insta-Online' account opening process for the Non-Resident Indians (NRIs) residing in the Financial Action Task Force (FATF) member countries?**

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

**Answer: (a)**

**Related facts:**

- IDBI Bank has recently launched NRI-Insta-Online account opening process for the Non-Resident Indians (NRIs) residing in the Financial Action Task Force (FATF) member countries.
- NRIs will be able to open an account in IDBI Bank without submitting the paper documents.
- FATF:
- The Financial Action Task Force (FATF) is an intergovernmental body established in 1989 on the initiative of the G7 to develop policies to combat money laundering.



- In 2001 its mandate expanded to include terrorism financing.
- There are 38 member of FATF including India, representing most financial centers around the world.
- IDBI Bank:
- The IDBI Bank is a private sector lender.
- IDBI Bank Ltd. has inherited a rich legacy from its predecessor entity-Industrial Development Bank of India-which was an apex Development Financial Institution (DFI) in the realm of industry from 1st July, 1964 to September 30, 2004.
- On October 1, 2004, the erstwhile IDBI was converted into a banking company – IDBI Ltd. to undertake the entire gamut of banking activities while continuing to play its secular DFI role.

**Links:**

<https://www.businesstoday.in/current/corporate/idbi-bank-brings-paperless-account-facility-for-nris-living-in-nearly-40-countries/story/337818.html>

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/FATF\\_blacklist](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/FATF_blacklist)

<https://www.fatf-gafi.org/about/whoweare/>

<https://www.idbi.com/idbi-bank-profile.asp>

## NMDC production and Sales performance 2018-19

**Question: What was the production of National Mineral Development Corporation(NMDC) during 2018-19?**

**(a) 32.44 MT (b) 25.60 MT (c) 18.30 MT (d) None of the Above**

**Answer: (a)**

**Related facts:**

- The country's top iron ore producer NMDC(National Mineral Development Corporation) on 1st April, 2019, notified that it has surpassed 30 million tonne (MT) mark in production as well as sales in 2018-19, for third year in a row.
- NMDC has produced 32.44 MT and recorded sales of 32.38 MT iron ore during 2018-19.



**Hurdles and Success:**

- Good production and sales figures were recorded despite suspension of Donimalai mine operations for five months, no exports up till August 2018, high rainfall in Bailadila sector and poor off take in Karnataka in the first quarter.
- The company figured that it recorded highest ever monthly dispatches-37.95 LT (lakh tone) in March 2019 against previous best of 37.20 LT in January 2017 besides recording highest ever single day production of 1.91 LT (31st March, 2019) against previous best of 1.63 LT (28th March, 2019).
- NMDC asserted that the highest ever single day dispatches of 0.14 MT was recorded on 16th March, 2019, while the highest ever exploratory drilling of 16,071 meters was recorded in 2018-19.
- National Mineral Development Corporation (NMDC) is a Navratna CPSEs.
- Incorporated in 1958 as a Government of India fully owned public enterprises. NMDC is under the administrative control of the Ministry of steel, Government of India.
- NMDC is India's single largest iron ore producer.

- Since inception involved in the exploration of wide range of minerals including iron ore, copper, rocks phosphate, Lime stone, dolomite, Gypsum, betonies, magnetite, diamond, tin, tungsten, graphite, beach sands etc.

**Links:**

[https://www.business-standard.com/article/pti-stories/nmdc-surpasses-30-mt-output-sales-in-fy-19-119040101030\\_1.html](https://www.business-standard.com/article/pti-stories/nmdc-surpasses-30-mt-output-sales-in-fy-19-119040101030_1.html)

## Necessity of Exports

**Question: Which country economic growth is primarily driven by domestic demand?**

**(a) Hong Kong's (b) Singapore's (c) Luxembourg's (d) India's**

**Answer: (d)**

**Related facts :**

- According to Hans Timmer, World Bank's Chief Economist for South Asia Region, India's economic growth in recent years has been too much driven by domestic demand and its exports were about one third of its potential.
- High domestic demand resulted in double digit growth of imports, and four to five percent growths in exports.
- Recommendations were made that government should focus on export-led growth.
- As per report of the World Bank on South Asia, economic under performance of South Asian countries is mainly because they are locked on fundamental issues within the domestic economies that have prevented the countries to become much more export-led.
- Trade liberalization, flexible labour markets skills, trying to address the big problem of the difference between the formal economy and the informal economy, are some of his recommendations for the South Asian countries.



**Link:**

<https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/company/corporate-trends>

## MOIL: Highest ever turnover in FY 2018-19

**Question: Manganese Ore India Limited (MOIL) is a?**

**(a) Miniratna Category – I Company (b) Miniratna Category –**

**II Company**

**(c) Maharatna Company (d) Navratna Company**

**Answer: (a)**

**Related facts:**

- On 1st April, 2019, the State-run MOIL notified that it has achieved a record turnover to the tune of Rs. 1440 crore for the just concluded fiscal, up 9% over the previous year.



**MOIL:**

- Manganese Ore India Limited (MOIL) is a Miniratna Category – 1 CPSE under the Ministry of Steel, Govt. of India.
- MOIL is the largest producer of manganese ore in the country.

- At present, the Government of India holds 56.01% share in the company, Maharashtra Government has 4.71%, and MP Government holds 4.97%.

#### Production of MOIL

- Core production (non-fines) jumped 15% during the year (2018-19).
- Total production crossed 13 lakh MT in FY 19, which is the highest achievement in last ten years.
- Non-fines sales are also at a record-high of 11 lakh MT (up by 13% y-o-y).
- The total production growth in last three years is around 30%.
- Currently, MOIL holds 34% of manganese ore reserves of the country and is contributing 50% of the domestic production.
- Indian Manganese Reserves:
  - State wise, Odisha tops the total reserves/resources with 44% share followed by Karnataka 22%, Madhya Pradesh 12%, Maharashtra and Goa 7% each, Andhra Pradesh 4% and Jharkhand 2%.
  - Rajasthan, Gujarat, Telangana and West Bengal together shared the remaining about 2% resources.

#### Links:

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=189624>

### Learning Coin: A private block chain and Quasi-Crypto currency

**Question: Which among the following have launched a private block chain and quasi-crypto currency called Learning Coin?**

**(a) IMF and World Bank (b) ADB and WEF (c) RBI and ADB (d) None of the above**

**Answer: (a)**

#### Related facts:

- IMF and the World Bank have jointly launched a private block chain and a so-dubbed quasi-crypto currency called Learning Coin.
- Learning Coin will be accessible only within the World Bank and the IMF and will have no monetary value whatsoever, and is therefore not a real crypto currency, like bit coin.
- However its development has helped its staff become more familiar with principles like the distributed ledgers that underlie crypto assets, possible use cases like smart contracts and enhanced transparency, and challenges like facilitating money laundering.
- The Learning Coin App would serve as a hub for knowledge helping host their content like blogs, research, videos and presentations.
- Achieving certain educational milestones will allow World Bank and IMF staff to earn Learning Coins.
- They will have no real value, but the developers are testing how staff can redeem the coins for some kind of rewards.



**Links:**

<https://www.ft.com/content/1cfb6d46-5d5a-11e9-939a-341f5ada9d40>

## India: A net importer of Steel

**Question: The New Steel Policy 2017 aspires to achieve how much of steel making capacity by 2030?**

**(a) 300 MT (b) 250 MT (c) 150 MT (d) 200 MT**

**Answer: (a)**

**Related facts:**

- India was a net importer of steel during 2018/19 fiscal year, the first time in three years, as the country lost market share among its traditional steel buyers and imports jumped on demand for higher-quality steel domestically.
- The country's finished steel exports fell by 34 percent in the fiscal year that ended in March to 6.36 million tones.
- During the same period, finished steel imports rose 4.7 percent to 7.84 million tones.
- India's exports during the fiscal year declined after rival steelmakers in China, Japan, South Korea and Indonesia, blocked from markets in the United States and Europe by tariffs and other protectionist's measures, ate away at the country's markets in the Middle East and Africa.
- Imports from the four Asian countries also climbed as they diverted supply into India.
- Imports of value-added steel, primarily for the auto sector and high-end electrical steel were the biggest source of imports.



**Links:**

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=161491>

## Hong Kong became home to worlds third largest stock market

**Question: Hong Kongs stock market overtook stock exchange of which country to become the third largest stock market?**

**(a) China (b) UK (c) France (d) Japan**

**Answer: (d)**

**Related facts:**

- The Hong Kongs equity stock market overtook Japan to become the world's third largest stock market in value.
- It is now behind only the U.S. and mainland China.
- Hong Kong was hit hard since 2011 recession in their stock market but rebounded later and overtook Japans market.
- As per data compiled by Bloomberg, Hong Kong's market cap was \$5.78 trillion as on 9th April, 2019 compared with \$5.76 trillion for Japan.



**Links:**

[https://www.business-standard.com/article/international/hong-kong-s-stock-market-overtakes-japan-to-be-world-s-third-largest-119041000776\\_1.html](https://www.business-standard.com/article/international/hong-kong-s-stock-market-overtakes-japan-to-be-world-s-third-largest-119041000776_1.html)

## GST revenue collection for April 2019

**Question: The highest GST revenue collection since its implementation is done in which of the following months?**

**(a) April 2019 (b) March 2019 (c) September 2018 (d)**

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



October 2018

**Answer: (a)**

**Related facts:**

- The GST revenue collection of **April 2019** recorded **highest collection** since its implementation.
- The total gross GST revenue collected in the month of April, 2019 is **Rs 1, 13,865 crore**.
- This includes **CGST of Rs 21,163 crore, SGST of Rs 28,801 crore and IGST of Rs 54,733 crore** (including Rs 23,289 crore collected on imports).
- **Cess of Rs 9,168 crore** (including Rs 1,053 crore collected on imports) was also collected in April 2019.
- The total number of **GSTR 3B Returns filed** for the month of March up to 30<sup>th</sup> April, 2019 is **72.13 lakh**.
- The total revenue earned by Central Government and the State Governments after regular and provisional settlement in the month of April, 2019 is **Rs 47,533 crore** for CGST and **Rs 50,776 crore** for the SGST.
- The revenue in **April, 2018** was **Rs 1, 03,459 crore** and the revenue during **April, 2019** is a **growth of 10.05%** over the revenue in the same month last year.
- The revenue in **April, 2019** is **16.05% higher** than the monthly average of GST revenue in FY 2018-19 (**Rs 98,114 crore**).

**Links:**

<https://www.moneycontrol.com/news/business/economy/government-records-10-year-on-year-revenue-growth-in-gst-collection-for-april-3918621.html>

## 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 10<sup>th</sup> 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 **24<sup>th</sup> 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:**

<https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/economy/indicators/business-sentiments-down-by-7-7-in-second-quarter-compared-to-last-year-db-report/articleshow/68956126.cms?from=mdr>

## Scientific

### Defense/Science Short Notes

#### AKASH – MK -1S successful test fire

**Question: Which of the following research centre has developed the AKASH MK 1S missile which was successfully test fired on May 27,2019?**

**(a) ISRO (b) HAL (c) DRDO (d) BARC**

**Answer: (c)**

**Related facts:**

- Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) has successfully test fired AKASH-MK-1S missile from ITR , Chandipur, Odhisa on 25 and 27 May, 2019.
- Akash Mk1S is an upgrade of existing AKASH missile with indigenous Seeker. AKASH Mk1S is a surface to air missile which can neutralize advanced aerial targets.
- The Akash weapon system has combination of both command guidance and active terminal seeker guidance.
- Seeker and guidance performance have been consistently established in both the missions. All the mission objectives have been met.



**Links:**

<http://www.pib.nic.in/PressReleaseDetail.aspx?PRID=1572701>

#### JF-17 Fighter jet delivered to Pakistan

**Question: Which of the following country delivered the JF-17 Fighter jet to Pakistan?**

**(a) Turkey (b) China (c) US (d) Russia**

**Answer: (b)**

**Related facts:**

- China had delivered first repaired JF-17 Fighter jets to Pakistan. This will boost the capacity of Pakistan air Force.
- The delivery came over a project undertaken by the two countries over a decade ago for the development and manufacture of the aircraft. The first batch of the jets was delivered by Beijing in 2007.
- Changsha 5712 Aircraft Industry Co Ltd under the state-owned Aviation Industry Corporation of China (AVIC) reassembled the overhauled JF-17 and delivered it to its Pakistani client in March 2019.
- This is also the first time AVIC has overhauled a made-for-export third generation fighter, or fourth generation according to another widely used standard



**JF-17 fighter jets:**

- These jets are jointly developed and manufactured by China and Pakistan.
- It is a single-engine multi-role light fighter jet which made its maiden flight in 2003.
- After a decade of service in the Pakistan Air Force, it was time for the first JF-17s to undergo overhauls.
- A contract was signed in 2016 and the first overhaul started in November 2017. The overhauled aircraft made its first test flight in October 2018.

**Links:**

<https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/defence/china-delivers-first-overhauled-jf-17-fighter-jet-to-pakistan/articleshow/69440035.cms>

## Second Edition of Indian Navy & Vietnam Peoples' Navy Bilateral Exercise

**Question: Second edition of the bilateral maritime exercise between Indian Navy and Vietnam Peoples' Navy was conducted in?**

**(a) Cam Ranh Bay, Vietnam (b) Bay of Bengal (c) Wheeler Island (d) Arabian Sea**

**Answer: (a)**

**Related facts:**

- In the growing maritime engagement between India and Vietnam, the Indian Navy undertook the second edition of the bilateral maritime exercise between Indian Navy and Vietnam Peoples' Navy at/ off Cam Ranh Bay, Vietnam from 13th April to 16th April, 2019.
- The first edition was conducted from 21st to 26th May, 2018 at Da Nang, Vietnam.
- The exercise was undertaken as a part of the ongoing Overseas Deployment of Eastern Fleet ships to South East Asian countries.
- IN Ships Kolkata under the command of Capt Aditya Hara and Shakti under the command of Capt Sriram Amur participated in the exercise.
- The Navy to Navy cooperation involves a Composite Training Programme in the fields of Submarine, Aviation and Dockyard training.
- The two countries have also signed an agreement to exchange White Shipping Information and have a running Information Sharing programme.



**Link:**

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=189794>

## Commissioning of Indian Coast Guard Vessel C-441

**Question: Consider the following statements regarding Indian Coast Guard Vessel C-441:**

**(1) It was commissioned by PM Narendra Modi**

**(2) Indian Coast Guard Ship C-441 is capable to undertake close coast surveillance, interdiction, search and rescue and rendering assistance to boats and crafts in distress at sea**

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

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

**Answer: (b)**

**Related facts:**

- On 24th April, 2019, a new Coast Guard vessel C-441 was commissioned by Chief Secretary, Government of Kerala, Sri Tom Jose at Vizhinjam Harbour.
- Indian Coast Guard Ship C-441 is capable to undertake multifarious tasks such as close coast surveillance, interdiction, search and rescue and rendering assistance to boats and crafts in distress at sea and will enhance the search and rescue capacity of Kerala seas.



**Links:**

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=189839>

## China develops world's first armed amphibious drone boat Marine Lizard

**Question: Marine lizard is developed by which country?**

**(a) China (b) North Korea (c) Japan (d) USA**

**Answer: (a)**

**Related facts:**



- China has successfully tested the world's first armed amphibious drone boat which could be used in land assault operations and it is capable of forming a combat triad with aerial drones and other drone ships.
- It is built by Wuchang Shipbuilding Industry Group under China Shipbuilding Industry Corporation (CSIC), the drone ship, named Marine Lizard, successfully passed delivery checks and left factory on 8th April, 2019.

**Marine Lizard:**

- It has maximum operation range of 1,200 kms, and can be remotely controlled via satellites.
- The 12-meter-long Marine Lizard is a trimaran propelled by a diesel-powered hydrojet and can reach a maximum speed of 50 knots while maintaining stealth.
- On approaching land, the amphibious drone ship can release four continuous track units hidden under its belly, and travel at 20 kms an hour on land.
- With about USD 178 billion defence budget, the two million strong Chinese military, the world's largest, has been focusing on developing a range of new weapons in recent years.
- The Marine Lizard's payloads include an electro-optical system and a radar system. In the weapon department, it is equipped with two machine guns and a vertical launching system for anti-ship and anti-aircraft missiles.
- It can autonomously sail, avoid obstacles and plan routes.
- This amphibious drone is suitable for island assault operations as a swarm of such drone ships could lead an attack following a first wave of artillery and air strikes. The drone boat is also a great choice for coastal defence. The boat can remain dormant on an uninhabited island for up to eight months.
- Guided by China's BeiDou Navigation Satellite System, the Marine Lizard can cooperate with other battle units in an integrated command system.

**Links:**

<https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/defence/china-develops-worlds-first-armed-amphibious-drone-boat-report/articleshow/68886661.cms>

## 8th Indo – Myanmar Coordinated Patrol

**Question: Where did the 8th Indo Myanmar Coordinated patrol took place recently?**

**(a) Visakhapatnam (b) Kolkata (c) Rakhine (d) Andaman &**

**Nicobar Islands**

**Answer: (d)**

**Related facts:**



- Myanmar Navy Ship UMS King TabinShweHtee (773) and UMS Inlay (OPV-54) arrived at Port Blair on 20th May, 2019, for the Opening Ceremony of the 8th Indo-Myanmar coordinated patrol (IMCOR), at Andaman and Nicobar Command.

- The Myanmar delegation led by Commodore Htein Win, Commander, Ayeyarwady Naval Command, called on Ashutosh Ridhorkar, VSM, Naval Component Commander on 20th May, 2019.

#### **CORPAT initiative:**

- The CORPAT initiative (which started on March 2013) between the two navies is meant to address issues of terrorism, illegal fishing, drug trafficking, human trafficking, poaching and other illegal activities inimical to interest of both nations.
- Myanmar ships would undertake a coordinated patrol with Indian Naval Ship from 20th May to 28th May, 2019. The patrolling effort will be augmented by Maritime Patrol Aircraft from both the navies.
- The ships would patrol along the International Maritime Boundary Line (IMBL) between the two countries covering a distance of approximately 725 Kms over a period of four days.
- The ships will also undertake joint manoeuvres and drills during the sea phase of coordinated patrol prior to Closing Ceremony which will be onboard of Myanmar Naval Ship.

#### **Links:**

<http://www.pib.nic.in/PressReleaseDetail.aspx?PRID=1572293>

### Two satellites launched by China

**Question: Name the satellites which are recently launched by China:**

(a) Tianhui II-01 (b) Tansat (c) Tianqin (d) Ziyuan III-01

**Answer: (a)**

**Related facts:**

- China successfully sent two Tianhui II-01 satellites into orbit on 30<sup>th</sup> April, 2019, from the Taiyuan Satellite Launch Center in North China's Shanxi province.
- The satellites were launched by a Long March 4B carrier rocket, which was the 303rd mission of the Long March series carrier rockets.
- The satellites will be used for scientific experiments, land resource survey, geographic survey and mapping.



#### **Links:**

<https://www.aninews.in/news/world/asia/china-launches-2-satellites-for-scientific-pursuits20190430123517/>

### Army invokes emergency powers for missile deals

**Question: Which Missile system will be procured by the Indian Army by using the financial power given to them for emergency procurement?**

(a) S400 (b) Spike LR Anti Tank Missile (c) F-35 jet deal (d) Agni 7

**Answer: (b)**

**Related facts:**



- The Army is in the process of procuring Spike-LR Anti-Tank Missiles from Israel and Igla-S Very Short Range Air Defence Systems (VSHORAD) from Russia.
- It will be procured by using its new financial power for emergency procurements sanctioned by the Defence Ministry earlier this month.
- Under this emergency financial powers, the armed forces have been set free for the procurement of equipments worth up to ₹300 crore on a priority basis.
- The Request for Proposal (RFP) for the two deals has been issued and negotiations are going on.
- Tenders for both deals had gone through regular procurement process.
- The Spike tender was cancelled during the cost negotiation phase, the deal for Igla, is in the cost negotiation phase, after repeated delays.
- The Army is working on to procure about 12 launchers and around 250 missiles for each system with the emergency route. Deliveries have to be completed in three months being extendable to six months.
- The Spike-LR (Long Range) being procured is a different variant from the one tested and shortlisted as part of the earlier procurement for over 8,000 missiles and 300 launchers along with technology transfer.
- The Spike-LR (Long Range) has a range of 4 km. It is yet unclear if additional trials would be performed as part of the emergency procurement.
- The deal for VSHORAD began in 2010 to replace the legacy Igla systems in service. It has since then seen several trials and re-trials.
- Officials said the emergency procurements were one of critical procurement and not related to the acquisitions through the regular route, in a bid to assure that these would not impact the regular deals.

#### Links:

<https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/army-invokes-emergency-powers-for-missiles-deal/article26984091.ece>

## Space rock hit Moon

**Question: What is the spatial event on which Space rock hit Moon during recent times?**

**(a) Solar eclipse (b) Lunar eclipse (c) Total lunar eclipse (d) Blue Moon**

**Answer: (c)**

**Related facts:**

- A space rock collided with the Moon at a speed of 61,000 km/hr during the total lunar eclipse in January, 2019, excavating a crater 10 to 15 metres.
- Observers watching the total eclipse of the Moon on 21<sup>st</sup> January, 2019, witnessed a short-lived flash as a meteorite hit the lunar surface.
- Researchers from the University of Huelva and Institute of Astrophysics of Andalusia in Spain used 8 telescopes to monitor the lunar surface during the event.
- The impact flash lasted 0.28 seconds and is the first ever filmed during a lunar eclipse, despite a number of earlier attempts.
- The incoming rock had a mass of 45 kilogrammes, measured 30 to 60 centimeters across, and hit the surface at 61,000 km/hr. The impact site is close to the crater Lagrange H, near the west-south-west portion of the lunar limb.
- The impact energy is estimated to have been an equivalent to 1.5 tonnes of TNT. The debris ejected is estimated to have reached a peak temperature of 5,400 degrees Celsius, roughly the same as the surface of the Sun.



#### Links:

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

<https://indianexpress.com/article/technology/science/space-rock-hit-moon-during-januarys-total-eclipse-5708931/>

## Pangolins are under threat of extinction

**Question: Name the place where illegal hunting incidents for Pangolins have been reported recently due to which the species is under threat for extinction.**

(a) Pakistan (b) Bhutan (c) Sri Lanka (d) Iraq

**Answer: (a)**

**Related facts:**

- As per report dated **2<sup>nd</sup> May, 2019**, Indian Pangolin is currently under threat in Pakistan because of extensive illegal hunting for its scales, which are illegally exported to China to be used for traditional medicine.
- The scaly anteater, or Indian Pangolin, is a rare secretive mammal that lives on a diet of ants and termites, thus playing a vital role in the ecosystem.
- Pangolins are highly trafficked creatures. There are eight species of pangolins, and they are all protected by national and international laws. They are facing the threat of extinction.
- Pangolins look like reptiles, but they are mammals with a unique feature. They are the only known mammals to have large, keratin scales covering their skin used by them for protection.
- Eight species of Pangolins are as follows:
- **Asian Pangolin Species:** Chinese or Formosan pangolin – Critically Endangered; Malayan or Sunda pangolin – Critically Endangered; Indian or thick-tailed pangolin – Endangered; Palawan or Philippine pangolin – Endangered:
- **African Pangolin Species:** Tree or African white-bellied pangolin – Vulnerable; Giant ground pangolin – Vulnerable; Cape or Temminck's ground pangolin – Vulnerable; Long-tailed or black-bellied pangolin – Vulnerable:
- Pangolin scales have been used for endless applications, in particular as an ingredient in traditional Asian medicine to purportedly treat a variety of ailments.
- In 2016 CITES listed all eight species of pangolin in Appendix I, granting pangolins the strictest form of protection and banning all international commercial trade.
- Following the publication of **Scaling up Pangolin Conservation** (the first ever global conservation strategy for pangolins) in 2014, a number of pangolin range states have demonstrated leadership by developing national strategies for the species, and through the **IUCN SSC Pangolin Specialist Group**.
- Examples include Singapore, Taiwan (P.R China) and the Philippines among others.



**Links:**

<https://www.fresherslive.com/current-affairs/articles/pangolins-are-under-threat-of-extinction-19466>

## 8 anti submarine warfare shallow watercrafts

**Question: The Ministry of Defence has signed a contract to build 8 anti submarine warfare shallow water crafts to which of the following company?**

(a) Garden Reach Shipbuilders & Engineers Limited (GRSE)  
(b) Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) (c) Rosatom  
(Russia) (d) Larsen & Tubro (L&T)

**Answer: (a)**

**Related facts:**



- The **Ministry of Defence** has given the contract to **Garden Reach Shipbuilders & Engineers Limited (GRSE)** for building **8 anti-submarine warfare shallow watercraft (ASW SWC)** for the **Indian Navy**.
- This contract was signed on **29<sup>th</sup> April, 2019** by Joint Secretary and Acquisition Manager (Maritime Systems) Ravi Kant on behalf of Ministry of Defence and S S Dogra, Director (Finance), on behalf of GRSE, in New Delhi.
- The cost of the contract is **Rs 6,311.32 crores**.
- The **first ship** as per the agreement is to be delivered within **42 months** from the date of signing of the contract and subsequently, **two ships** are required to be delivered **per year**. The project completion time is **84 months**.
- The submarines will be equipped with **highly advanced state-of-the-art integrated platform management systems** including propulsion machinery, auxiliary machinery, power generation, and distribution machinery and damage control machinery, etc.
- **GRSE is a Kolkata based pioneer warship builder** of the nation.
- It is credited for having delivered the highest number of warships till date since its inception as a DPSU in 1960.
- **100 warships have been built by GRSE so far**. It ranges from Advanced Frigates to Anti-Submarine Warfare Corvettes to Fleet Tankers, Fast Attack Crafts, etc., with the Shipyard having many firsts to its credit in terms of Innovation and Design.

#### Links:

[https://www.business-standard.com/article/news-ani/grse-to-build-8-anti-submarine-warfare-shallow-watercraft-for-indian-navy-119042901223\\_1.html](https://www.business-standard.com/article/news-ani/grse-to-build-8-anti-submarine-warfare-shallow-watercraft-for-indian-navy-119042901223_1.html)

## Asteroid Impact Mock Drill

**Question: Which space agency is set to conduct Asteroid Impact Mock Drill along with its international partners?**

(a) ISRO (b) NASA (c) CNSA (d) None of the above

**Answer: (b)**

**Related facts:**



- US Space agency NASA, along with its international partners, is set to conduct a mock exercise that will play out a realistic — but fictional — scenario for an asteroid on an impact trajectory with Earth.
- The exercise will help the planetary defense community understand the important aspects of a possible disaster and identify issues for accomplishing a successful response.
- The real work of preparing for the possibility of an impact of near-Earth objects (NEOs) such as asteroids or comets goes on mostly out of the public eye.
- In the spirit of better communication, at the 2019 Planetary Defense Conference, NASA's Planetary Defense Coordination Office (PDCO), and space science institutions, along with international partners, will participate in a tabletop exercise. This exercise will cover five days of the conference.
- Attendees at the conference will play out a fictional NEO impact scenario developed by the NASA Jet Propulsion Laboratory's Center for NEO Studies (CNEOS).
- Exercise leaders will brief participants on the status of the scenario at the end of each day and soliciting response ideas and feedback, based on the latest fictional data.
- NASA has participated in six NEO impact exercises so far – three at Planetary Defense Conferences (2013, 2015, and 2017) and three jointly with the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA).

#### Links:

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

## Group sail of Indian Navy Ships with naval ships of US, Japan and Philippines

**Question: Where did the group sail of IN Ships Kolkata and Shakti took place along with the ships of US, Japan and Philippines?**

(a) Ohio (b) Bay of Bengal (c) South China Sea (d) Arabian Sea

**Answer: (c)**

**Related facts:**



- **IN Ships Kolkata and Shakti** carried out **Group Sail** with naval ships of **Japan, Philippines and the United States of America** in the **South China Sea**.
- This group sail took place from **03 May to 09 May 2019**.
- The **six-day long Group Sail** had participation of **six combatants from the four participating countries** and included the **Guided Missile Destroyer INS Kolkata** and **Fleet Support Ship INS Shakti** of India, **Helicopter Carrier JMSDF Izumo** and **Guided Missile Destroyer JMSDF Murasame** of Japan; **Frigate BRP Andres Bonifacio** of Philippines and **Arleigh Burke Class Destroyer USS Williams P Lawrence** of USA.
- The Group Sail was **aimed to deepen the existing partnership** and foster mutual understanding among participating navies.
- The ships undertook various exercises en route which included **formation manoeuvring, underway replenishment runs**, cross-deck flying and exchange of Sea Riders.
- The Group Sail exercise with naval ships of Japan, Philippines and United States showcased **India's commitment to operating with like-minded nations** to ensure safe maritime environment through enhanced interoperability.

### IN Ships Journey:

- **IN Ships** are on **return passage** from their successful deployment to South and East China Seas as part of the annual **Eastern Fleet Over Seas Deployment** during which they **visited Cam Ranh Bay, Vietnam, Qingdao, China and Busan, South Korea**.
- Whilst at Qingdao, both the ships had participated in the **International Fleet Review (IFR)** as part of the **70th Anniversary Celebration of PLA (Navy)**. During the ships' stay in Busan, the IN Ships took part in the Opening Ceremony of **Maritime Security (MS) Field Training Exercise (FTX)** under the aegis of ADMM-PLUS.
- On departing Busan, both the ships participated in **ADMM-PLUS MS FTX Phase I exercises** from 01 May to 03 May 19 off **South Korea** with Navies of Brunei, China, Malaysia, Philippines, Singapore, South Korea and the USA.
- Group Sail progressed from 03 May to 09 May. **The Phase II of ADMM-PLUS MS FTX** is scheduled from **09 May to 12 May 19 in the South China Sea**. On completion of Phase II, all participating ships including **IN Ships Kolkata and Shakti** are scheduled to attend the **closing ceremony of ADMM-PLUS MS** and participate in the **International Maritime Defence Expo (IMDEX) 2019 in Singapore**.

**Links:**

<http://www.pib.nic.in/PressReleseDetail.aspx?PRID=1571780>

## Chandrayaan 2

**Question: A revised launch window of Chandrayaan 2 was updated recently. What is the time period as set in the window for its launch?**

(a) June 5 to July 15 (b) June 5 to July 16 (c) June 5 to July 5 (d) June 5 to June 30

**Answer: (b)**

**Related facts:**



- India's much awaited lunar mission **Chandrayaan-2** has got yet **another launch window**.
- The mission is now set to be launched at any time between **July 5 and July 16 2019**.
- The moon landing is likely to be around **September 6, 2019 after two months of its launch**.
- The Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO) planned to launch the mission **last year in April** but the launch got late.
- The mission would land on the **southern pole of the moon**, which has not been explored much before by any of the countries.
- This landing would be historically significant giving ISRO the **opportunity to name that site** on the moon.

**Chandrayaan 2 Mission:**

- The Chandrayaan 2 weighs around **3290 kgs**. It is a fully **indigenous project**.
- It would be launched from **Satish Dhawan Space Centre in Sriharikota** in Andhra Pradesh.
- The mission will **orbit around the moon** and carry out **remote sensing of the moon**.
- **Chandrayaan-2**, India's **second lunar mission**, has **three modules namely Orbiter, Lander (Vikram) & Rover (Pragyan)**.
- The **Orbiter and Lander modules will be interfaced mechanically** and stacked together as an integrated module and accommodated inside the **GSLV MK-III launch vehicle**.
- The **Rover** is housed inside the **Lander**.
- After launch into earth bound orbit by GSLV MK-III, the integrated module will **reach Moon orbit** using **Orbiter propulsion module**.
- Subsequently, Lander will separate from the Orbiter and soft land at the **predetermined site close to lunar South Pole**. Further, the Rover will roll out for carrying out scientific experiments on the lunar surface.
- **Instruments are also mounted** on Lander and Orbiter for carrying out scientific experiments.

**Global plans:**

- The lunar South Pole is supposed to **contain ice and other minerals**, and international space expedition plans are tying up with **NASA** planning to land **astronauts there by 2024**.
- **Neighbour China** has reportedly planned to build a **scientific research station** on the lunar South Pole within the next decade.

**Links:**

<https://www.livemint.com/science/news/india-set-to-launch-second-mission-to-the-moon-chandrayaan-2-in-july-says-isro-1556727487403.html>

## 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/>

## Sports

### Tennis

#### Christian Garin got his first ATP title

**Question: Christian Garin, who recently won his first ATP title, belongs to which of the following country?**

**(a) Brazil (b) Chile (c) Argentina (d) Bolivia**

**Answer: (b)**

**Related facts:**

- On 14th April, 2019; Christian Garin won the US Men's Clay Court Championship, his first ATP title at Houston, USA.
- The 22-year-old Garin beat Ruud 7-6 (7/4), 4-6, 6-3 of Norway and became the first Chilean to win an ATP Tour title since Fernando Gonzalez in 2009.
- This was Garin's second over Ruud the Norwegian player within a month. He also defeated Ruud in the Brasil Open semi-finals.



**Links:**

<https://www.atptour.com/en/news/christian-garin-first-time-winner-spotlight-houston-2019/>

#### Fognini wins Monte Carlo Masters title

**Question: Who is the winner of Monte Carlo Masters title 2019?**

**(a) Fabio Fognini (b) Dusan Lajovic (c) Alexander Zverev (d) Rafael Nadal**

**Answer: (a)**

**Related facts:**

- On 21<sup>st</sup> April, 2019; Italy's 31 year old Fabio Fognini became Italian to win the Monte Carlo Masterstitle defeating Dusan Lajovic by 6-3,6-4. It was his first ATP Masters 1000 title at the Rolex Monte-Carlo Masters.



- Fognini became the lowest seeded player to lift the trophy since fellow No. 13 seed Gustavo Kuerten's title run in 1999. Fognini will rise to a career-high No. 12.
- Fognini earns 1000 ATP Rankings points and receives €958,055 in prize money.
- The 2019 Monte-Carlo Masters was the 113<sup>th</sup> edition of the annual Monte Carlo Masters Tournament. This tennis tournament is only for male professional players and is played on outdoor clay courts.

**Links:**

<https://www.thehindu.com/sport/tennis/monte-carlo-tennis-fognini-wins-maiden-masters-title/article26904669.ece>

## Barcelona Open, 2019

**Question: Name the player who recently won Barcelona Open 2019.**

(a) Dominic Thiem (b) Daniil Medvedev (c) Rafael Nadal (d) Novak Djokovic

**Answer: (a)**

**Related facts:**

- On 28<sup>th</sup> April, 2019, the fifth-ranked Austrian (Dominic Thiem) beat Daniil Medvedev 6-4, 6-0 to win the **Barcelona Open**. It took the fifth-seeded Austrian just over an hour to beat Medvedev on clay.
- Earlier he was dominant against Rafael Nadal in the semi-finals to become the first player other than Novak Djokovic to defeat the Spaniard on clay four times.
- Thiem sealed his second title of the year after winning in Indian Wells last month
- It was the 13<sup>th</sup> career singles title for the 25-year-old Thiem, the ninth on clay.



**Links:**

<https://www.dailymail.co.uk/sport/tennis/article-6970269/Dominic-Thiem-beats-Daniil-Medvedev-win-Barcelona-Open.html>

## Wheelchair T20 Asia Cup 2019

**Question: Which of the following country won Wheelchair T20 Asia Cup 2019?**

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

**Answer: (b)**

**Related facts:**

- The Wheelchair Asia Cup T-20 cricket tournament was organised at Tribhuvan University Stadium in Kathmandu from 15-18 May 2019.
- Four Asian countries Nepal, Bangladesh, Pakistan and India participated in the tournament.



**Competition Results:**

- Winner – Pakistan (by 5 wickets)
- Runners-up -India
- Muhammad Latif of Pakistan bagged 'Player of the Series' and 'Best Batsman' Award.
- Whereas, Saurabh Malik of India was named 'Best Bowler' of the tournament.

**Links:**

<https://defence.pk/pdf/threads/pakistan-defeat-india-claim-wheelchair-asia-cup.619691/>

## Dhoni became the first Indian to hit 200 sixes in the IPL

**Question: Which of the following male cricketer became the first Indian to hit 200 sixes in the Indian Premier League?**

(a) Suresh Raina (b) M S Dhoni (c) Virat Kohli (d) Hardik Pandya

**Answer: (b)**

**Related facts:**

- On 21<sup>st</sup> April, 2019; Mahendra Singh Dhoni, the captain of Chennai Super Kings, became the first Indian to hit 200 sixes in the Indian Premier League.
- Dhoni achieved this recognition during his sensational 84 run knock against Royal Challengers Bangalore. In the match Dhoni hit fours and seven sixes. Till date Dhoni has hit a total of 203 sixes in the IPL.
- Dhoni is now third in the list which includes Chris Gayle at the top with 323 sixes and AB de Villiers with 204 sixes is at the second place.
- Among the Indians, Rohit Sharma and Suresh are at joint 2<sup>nd</sup> position with 190 sixes and is closely followed by Virat Kohli with 186 sixes to his name in the Indian Premier League.



**Link:**

<https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/sports/cricket/ipl/top-stories/ms-dhoni-becomes-first-indian-to-hit-200-ipl-sixes/articleshow/68986400.cms>

## 2nd Marshal Arjan Singh Memorial International Hockey Tournament

**Question: Who organized 2nd Marshal Arjan Singh Memorial International Hockey Tournament?**

(a) Air Force Sports Control Board (b) Indian Air Force (c) Indian Hockey Federation

(d) None of the above

**Answer: (a)**

**Related facts:**

- 2nd Marshal Arjan Singh Memorial International Hockey Tournament was organized by Air Force Sports Control Board. The tournament was held in Chandigarh from 16th April to 25th April 2019.
- The conduct of this Hockey Tournament is a befitting tribute to the legend Marshal Arjan Singh and way to express our gratitude towards his contribution to the nation.
- The inaugural match was played between Indian Air Force and Sri Lankan Air Force. IAF won the match by 3 -1.



**Link:**

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=189788>

## Hero Indian Women's League 2018-19

**Question: Which football club won the Hero Indian Women's League 2018-2019?**

(a) Hans Womens FC (b) Sethu FC (c) Panjim Footballers  
(d) Manipur Police Sports Club



**Answer: (b)**

**Related facts:**

- The third edition of the football trophy Indian Women's League held in Guru Nanak Stadium, Ludhiana between 5th May to 22nd May, 2019.
- 12 women football clubs participated in the tournament.

**Competition Results:**

- Winner- Sethu FC (Tamil Nadu)
- Runners- Manipur Police Sports Club
- Most goals scorer- Ngangbom Bala Devi (Manipur Police Sports Club), 26 goals
- While the Sethu Football Club defeated Central SSB Women's in the semi-final, Manipur Police defeated Gokulam Kerala FC in the semi-final and made it to the final.

**Links:**

<https://www.outlookindia.com/website/story/sports-news-iwl-2018-19-sethu-fc-beat-manipur-police-to-lift-maiden-indian-womens-league-trophy/330771>

## Football

### FA Cup 2018-19

**Question: Which of the following football club won the FA Cup 2018-19, one of the world's oldest football tournaments?**

**(a) Bradford City (b) Crystal Palace (c) Manchester City (d) Millwall**

**Answer: (c)**

**Related facts:**

- The 2018–19 FA Cup (also known as the Football Association Challenge Cup) was the 138th edition of the oldest football tournament in the world played between 11 August 2018-18 May 2019.
- For sponsorship purposes, it is also known as The Emirates FA Cup.
- The final match was played at Wembley Stadium, London, between Manchester City and Watford Football Club.
- This edition's victory marks the sixth FA Cup title won by Manchester City and their first since year 2011.



**Competition Results:**

- Winner-Manchester City (6-0)
- Runners-up –Watford

**Links:** [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/2018%E2%80%9319\\_FA\\_Cup#Fourth\\_Round\\_Proper](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/2018%E2%80%9319_FA_Cup#Fourth_Round_Proper)

### 2019 FWA Footballer of the Year

**Question: Which football personality is declared as the FWA Footballer of the year 2019?**

**(a) David Hardy (b) Lionel Messi (c) Raheem Sterling (d) Kylian Mbappe**



**Answer: (c)**

**Related facts:**

- **Raheem Sterling** has been named the 2019 footballer of the year by the **Football Writers' Association (FWA)** on April 30, 2019.
- He was also voted as the **PFA young player of the year**.
- The Manchester City and England forward topped the poll of the 400-strong FWA membership as a clear winner, with 62 percent of the votes.
- Sterling lost out to **Van Dijk** in the race for the **Professional Footballers' Association (PFA)** award, but was announced PFA young player of the year.
- **FWA Women's Footballer of the Year** award was given to Manchester City's England forward **Nikita Parris**.
- Sterling and Parris will be presented with their trophies on **May 9, 2019**.

**Links:**

<http://www.newsonair.com/News?title=Raheem-Sterling-named-2019-FWA-footballer-of-the-year&id=362819>

## **Badminton**

### **Sudirman Cup 2019**

**Question: Which of the following country won the Sudirman Cup 2019 recently?**

**(a) Thailand (b) Spain (c) China (d) Japan**

**Answer: (c)**

**Related facts:**

- China won the badminton world mixed-team championship, Sudirman Cup 2019 in Nanning, China on May 26, 2019.
- They beat Japan in men's doubles, women's singles and men's singles to clinch the title for an 11th time.
- In the latest Men' singles match Shi Yuqi stunned world champion Kento Momota 15-21, 21-5, 21-11.
- Japan has never won the Sudirman Cup.



**Links:**

<https://www.news18.com/news/badminton/sudirman-cup-2019-shi-yuqi-stuns-kento-momota-to-help-china-whitewash-japan-for-11th-title-2160225.html>

### **Lin Dan clinched the Malaysian Open**

**Question: Who won the Men's single title of Malaysia Open badminton tournament-2019 held in Kuala Lumpur recently?**

**(a) Chen Long (b) Shi Yuqi (c) Lin Dan (d) Kenta Nishimoto**

**Answer: (c)**

**Related facts:**

- On 7th April, 2019, badminton ace from China, Lin Dan won the Malaysia Open in Kuala Lumpur.
- Displaying strong and tactful performance, he defeated his own countryman Chen Long by 9-21, 21-7, 21-11.



- This title is a first win for him in year 2019 and before this; his only major success was the men's single title of Malaysia Open in 2017.
- Officially the CELCOM AXIATA Malaysia Open 2019, is a badminton tournament which was organised from 2nd to 7th April, 2019 at Axiata Arena in Malaysia.
- The total prize money for this tournament is US \$ 700,000

#### Tournament Results:

- Women's Singles: Tai Tzu-ying (Taiwan)
- Men's Doubles: Li Junhui & Liu Yuchen
- Women's Doubles: Chen Qingchen & Jia Yifan (China)
- Mixed Doubles: Zheng Siwei and Huang Yaqiong (China)

#### Links:

<https://sportstar.thehindu.com/badminton/lin-dan-wins-malaysia-open-title-chen-long-lee-chong-wei/article26761819.ece>

## Dani emerged as the winner of 20th Victor Dutch International Badminton title

**Question: Who won the title of recently held 20th Victor Dutch International Badminton Competition?**

**(a) Mads Christophersen (b) Harsheel Dani (c) Kidambi Srikanth (d) Nikhil Kanetkar**

**Answer: (b)**

**Related facts:**

- On 14 April 2019, India's Harsheel Dani clinched the 20th Victor Dutch International Badminton title.
- Dani, a former junior national champion, defeated world no. 149 Mads Christophersen of Denmark.
- Dani got this victory in a 47 minute clash with 15-21, 21-12, 21-13 in the final held at Wateringen, The Netherlands.
- Dani ranked 111th in the world will play Danish International Challenge and Slovenia series in the coming months.



#### Links:

<https://sportstar.thehindu.com/badminton/badminton-harsheel-dani-wins-dutch-international-open-2019/article26842124.ece>

## Billiards, Snooker & Squash

### Sekisui Open

**Question: Who won the Sekisui Open 2019 title recently?**

**(a) Deepika Pallikal (b) Jwala Gutta (c) Mahesh Mangaonkar (d) Ashwini Ponappa**

**Answer: (c)**

**Related facts:**

- In squash, India's Mahesh Mangaonkar triumphed for the second time in the Sekisui Open in Kriens, Switzerland.
- Top-seeded Mahesh beat third seed Bernat Jaume of Spain in four games 11-9, 3-11, 11-5, 11-5 yesterday to win his 8th PSA title.



- Three years back he had won it the first time.
- Sekisui Open is a Challenger tour event of the Professional Squash Association (PSA), the world body which governs the sports.

**Links:**

<http://www.newsonair.com/News?title=India%26%2339%3bs-Mahesh-Mangaonkar-wins-Sekisui-Open&id=363932>

## Pankaj Advani wins inaugural Asian Snooker Tour Title

**Question: Pankaj Advani won the inaugural Asian Snooker Tour Title by defeating?**

(a) Ehsan Heydari Nezhad (b) Abu Bashar (c) Ishan Talwar (d) Pulela Gopichand

**Answer: (a)**

**Related facts:**

- Pankaj Advani won the inaugural Asian Snooker Tour Title by defeating Ehsan Heydari Nezhad of Iran. The final score was 6-4.
- Pankaj Advani has won the world snooker and billiards title 21 times.
- Advani had earlier won the second leg of the Tour in China. He was leading the ranking before the final leg of the Tour in Bengaluru.
- The final leg was to determine the overall Asian Tour Champion. The champion did not disappoint in the final and won the final leg in his home town.



**Link:**

<http://ddnews.gov.in/sports/pankaj-advani-wins-inaugural-asian-snooker-tour-title>

## Formula One

### Lewis Hamilton wins Formula One's 1,000th race

**Question: Who has won the Formula One's 1000th race Chinese Grand Prix recently held in Shanghai, China?**

(a) Lewis Hamilton (b) Valtteri Bottas (c) Max Verstappen (d) Sebastian Vettel

**Answer: (a)**

**Related facts:**

- On 14th April, 2019; Lewis Hamilton won the Formula One's 1,000th race at the Chinese Grand Prix held at the Shanghai International Circuit in Shanghai, China.
- Hamilton won this competition for a record sixth time.
- This was the 75th win of Hamilton's career and second in a row after his lucky victory in Bahrain Grand Prix held on 31st March, 2019.
- Valtteri Bottas was second and Ferrari's Sebastian Vettel remained at third place.
- He is now just 16 victories short of Michael Schumacher's all-time record tally of 91wins.



**Link:**

<https://www.thehindu.com/sport/motorsport/chinese-grand-prix-lewis-hamilton-wins-formula-ones-1000th-race/article26834638.ece>

## Athletics

### 3rd ISSF World Cup of Rifle/Pistol shooting

**Question:** Where the 3rd ISSF World Cup of Rifle/Pistol shooting kick-started on May 26, 2019?

(a) Venice (b) Vladivostok (c) Seoul (d) Munich

**Answer:** (d)

**Related facts:**

- Five- day long third International Shooting Sport Federation World Cup started in Munich, Germany on May 26, 2019.
- Indian shooters Apurvi Chandela, Anjum Moudgil and Elavenil Valarivan will be vying for top honours in this event.
- A total of 919 athletes from 98 countries will be competing for the 17 Tokyo Olympics quota places available, besides a coveted ISSF World Cup medal.
- India has entered a 35-member squad, 23 of them competing for medals in the 10 events lined up over the next five days.
- India already has five quota places in Rifle and Pistol competitions.



**Links:**

<http://ddnews.gov.in/sports/3rd-issf-world-cup-riflepistol-begins-munich-today%C2%A0>

### Divyansh Singh Secures Olympic quota place

**Question:** Upcoming Summer Olympic Games 2020 will be held in?

(a) Tokyo (b) Beijing (c) Paris (d) London

**Answer:** (a)

**Related facts:**

- On 26th April, 2019 Divyansh Singh Panwar secured Olympic quota place in the shooting World Cup in China.
- Divyansh Singh Panwar missed the gold by 0.4 point in men's air rifle shooting competition. The event was won by Hui Zicheng of China.
- A day earlier he had won the mixed air rifle gold in partnership with Anjum Moudgil.
- Anjum Moudgil, Apurvi Chandela had won the air rifle Olympic quota in the World Championship last year.
- Saurabh Chaudhary had won the air pistol Olympic quota at the Dr. Karni Singh Range, Delhi, in February.



### The International Shooting Sport Federation (ISSF):

- The International Shooting Sport Federation or ISSF, is an international body which governs the Olympic Shooting events in Rifle, Pistol and Shotgun disciplines, and of several non-Olympic Shooting sport events.
- It works for the regulation of the shooting sport, Olympic qualifications and organization of international competitions such as the ISSF World Cup Series, the ISSF World Cup Finals the ISSF Separate World Championship in Shotgun events and the ISSF World Championship in all events.

**Links:**

<https://www.thehindu.com/sport/other-sports/with-silver-divyansh-secures-indias-fourth-olympic-quota-in-shooting/article26953297.ece>

## Breakdancing makes next move to Olympic status at Paris 2024

**Question: Which medal event will be added to 2024 Paris Olympics?**

(a) Breakdancing (b) Stakeboarding (c) Sport Climbing (d) All of these

**Answer: (d)**

**Related facts:**

- Breakdancing will be the medal event at the 2024 Paris Olympics.
- The International Olympic Committee's executive board recommended adding breakdancing, stakeboarding, sport climbing and surfing to Paris Olympics.
- Though breakdancing would be new in the Summer Games, the other three are already confirmed for the 2020 Tokyo Olympics lineup.
- All four sports will be assessed for how they are managed, and the integrity of competitions and judging, before being finalized for Paris.



**Link:**

<https://www.thehindubusinessline.com/news/sports/breakdancing-makes-next-move-to-olympic-status-at-paris-2024/article26661305.ece>

## Indian Para-Athletes clinch medals at Asian Road Para-cycling Championship

**Question: How many medals Indian Para Athletes won at Asian Road Para Cycling Championship 2019?**

(a) 1 Silver and 2 Bronze (b) 2 Silver and 2 Bronze (c) 1 Silver and 3 Bronze

(d) 2 Silver and 2 Bronze

**Answer: (a)**

**Related facts:**

- Asian Road Para Cycling Championship, 2019, took place in Tashkent, Uzbekistan.
- Indian Para Athletes won one silver and 2 bronze medals.
- 28 countries have participated in this Championship.
- Divij Shah has won the silver medal in the C5 category, Gurlal Singh in the C4 category and Sudhakar Marathe have won silver medal in the H5 category each.



**Links:**

<https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/sports/more-sports/cycling/indians-win-1-silver-2-bronze-at-asian-road-para-cycling-championships/articleshow/69099777.cms>

## World number one in 10 m air rifle

**Question: Name the player who is recently recognised as World number one in 10 m air rifle.**

(a) Apurvi Chandela (b) Anjum Moudgil (c) Manu Bhaker (d) Anish Bhanwala

**Answer: (a)**

**Related facts:**



- Apurvi Chandela on 01<sup>st</sup> May, 2019, attained the world number 1 position in the women's 10m air rifle event while compatriot Anjum Moudgil rose to number two position.
- The rifle ace from Jaipur is among the five Indian shooters to have already secured 2020 Olympics quotas for the country.
- Chandela shot a world record score of 252.9 to clinch gold at the International Shooting Sport Federation (ISSF) World Cup in February, 2019.
- She is also a gold medalist earlier at the 2014 Glasgow Commonwealth Game and a bronze winner in the next edition at Gold Coast.
- Earlier In the 2018 Asian Games, Chandela had won a bronze medal in the 10m mixed rifle event.
- Anjum Moudgil attained the world number two rank in 10m Air Rifle after her mixed team gold at the ISSF World Cup in Beijing.

**Links:**

<https://www.thehindu.com/sport/other-sports/apurvi-chandela-is-world-number-one-in-10m-air-rifle-anjum-claims-second-position/article27000950.ece>

## Mirabai Chanu to spearhead India's campaign in Asian Weightlifting Championship

**Question: At the Asian Weightlifting Championship 2019, former World Champion, Mirabai Chanu will compete in which of the following weight category?**

(a) 48kg category (b) 49kg category (c) 52kg category (d) 58kg category

**Answer: (b)**

**Related facts:**

- On 20<sup>th</sup> April, 2019; at Asian Weightlifting Championship, 2019, Mirabai Chanu will spearhead India's challenge, which started at Ningbo, China.
- Chanu will be competing in the 49kg category from 48kg following the International Weightlifting Federations's rejig of weight categories.
- Among male weightlifters, India's hopes will be on Jeremy Lalrinnunga, the gold medallist at the Youth Olympic Games. Other Indians are participating include Vikas Thakur and Ajay Singh.
- Nine days of competition will be played out at Ningbo Youngor Gymnasium. Medals will be won in 10 disciplines in men's category and 10 disciplines in women's category.



**Link:**

<http://www.newsonair.com/Main-News-Details.aspx?id=362457>

## 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>

## Sports Miscellaneous

### Saurabh Chaudhary wins gold at ISSF World Cup

**Question:** Indian shooter Saurabh Chaudhary won gold medal in which of the following category at the ongoing ISSF World Cup 2019?

(a) 10m Air Pistol (b) 10m Air Rifle (c) 25m Rapid Fire Pistol (d) None of these

**Answer: (a)**

**Related facts:**

- Indian shooter Saurabh Chaudhary won 10m Air Pistol Gold at the ongoing ISSF World Cup in Munich, Germany 24<sup>th</sup> May and 31<sup>st</sup> May, 2019.
- Achieving the feat, he shattered his own World Record of 245 set in New Delhi World Cup Shooting in February this year to the new score of 246.3.
- The 17-year old Chaudhary has already secured a berth for the Tokyo Olympics scheduled in 2020.



**Links:**

<http://www.newsonair.com/News?title=ISSF-World-Cup%3a-Saurabh-Chaudhary-wins-10m-Air-Pistol-gold%3b-beats-own-World-record&id=363901>

## Short Notes

### Personalities

#### Indian Navy Chief

**Question:** Who took charge as the 24th Chief of Indian Navy on May 31, 2019?

(a) BS Dhanoa (b) Sunil Lanba (c) Karambir Singh (d) Deepak Kapoor

**Answer: (c)**

**Related facts:**

- Admiral Karambir Singh assumed command of the Indian Navy on 31 May 2019 as the 24th Chief of the Naval Staff.



- He took the charge from Admiral Sunil Lanba who got retired on May 31 after four decades of distinguished service.
- Admiral Karambir Singh is an alumnus of the National Defence Academy, Khadakwasla. Commissioned into the Indian Navy in July 1980, he earned his wings as a helicopter pilot in 1981 and has flown extensively on the Chetak (Alouette) and Kamov helicopters.
- He is a graduate of the Defence Services Staff College, Wellington; College of Naval Warfare, Mumbai and has served as Directing Staff in both these institutions.
- He has also served as member of the Aircrew Instrument Rating and Categorisation Board (AIRCATS).

**Links:**

<https://www.ndtv.com/india-news/karambir-singh-is-the-new-navy-chief-know-all-about-him-2045822>

## Indias only orangutan dead

**Question: What was the name of the India's only orangutan which passed away on May 29 2019?**

**(a) Jimmy (b) Binny (c) Tommy (d) Jacob**

**Answer: (b)**

**Related facts:**



- India's only orangutan, Binny, passed away at the age of 41 due to respiratory complications at the Nandan Kanan Zoological Park on the outskirts of Bhubaneswar.
- The orangutan was undergoing treatment for old-age related complications.
- He was treated by the Veterinary doctors from the College of Veterinary Science and Animal Husbandry under the advice of the orangutan experts from England and Singapore.
- Binny was brought to the zoo in November 2003 from the Rajiv Gandhi Zoological Park, Pune at the age of 25. She was brought here from Singapore.

**Orangutan:**

- Orangutans are one of the world's three extant species of great apes. They have distinctive red fur and is the largest arboreal mammal spending most of their time in trees.
- According to the World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF), there are three species of orangutans — Bornean, Sumatran and Tapanuli.
- The condition of orangutans in their distribution area, Borneo and Sumatra, is unsafe and has severe habitat loss due to deforestation as they are not migratory animals.
- All three kinds of orangutans are listed as "Critically Endangered" by the United Nations-affiliated International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN).
- They are one of the most intelligent primates, they have been extensively studied for their learning abilities. Orangutans are not native to India.

**Links:**

<https://indianexpress.com/article/india/indias-only-orangutan-dies-in-odisha-zoo-of-respiratory-issues-5757380/>

## Shah Rukh Khan felicitated

**Question: Who was felicitated with an Honorary Doctorate by London's University of Law?**

**(a) Shah Rukh Khan (b) Amir Khan (c) Salman Khan (d) None of**



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

the above

Answer: (a)

Related facts:

- Shah Rukh Khan received an honorary doctorate from The University of Law in London for philanthropist work.
- The actor has supported various government campaigns, including Pulse Polio and the National AIDS control Organization (NACO).
- He was honored with the Crystal Award at the World Economic Forum 2018 in Davos.
- Mr. Khan has also felicitated with honorary doctorates from the University of Bedfordshire and The University of Edinburgh.

Link:

<https://www.firstpost.com/entertainment/shah-rukh-khan-receives-honorary-doctorate-from-university-of-law-london-for-philanthropist-work-6393851.html>

## Rohit Shekhar Tiwari

Question: Renowned politician N.D. Tiwari was Chief Minister of which of the following state?

(a) Himachal Pradesh (b) Haryana (c) Uttarakhand  
(d) Both Uttarakhand and Uttar Pradesh

Answer: (d)

Related facts:



- On 16th April, 2019; Rohit Shekhar Tiwari, son of former of Uttar Pradesh and Uttarakhand Chief Minister N.D. Tiwari, passed away.
- Rohit Tiwari, a resident of Defence Colony in South Delhi, was murdered by his wife citing personal reasons.
- Though his father was a Congressman, Rohit had joined the Bhartiya Janata Party (BJP).
- Rohit had fought a six-year-long battle in court to prove that he was the son of ND Tiwari.
- Later, in 2014, the Delhi High Court declared that ND Tiwari was Rohit Shekhar's biological father.

Link:

<https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/nd-tiwaris-son-passes-away/article26856620.ece>

## Odisha's Dr. BK Nayak

Question: Who among the following is the first Indian to be appointed as the head of FIH's Health and Safety Committee?

(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.

- Mr. 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 term.
- Nayak also served as a medical officer for the 2018 Men's World Cup.
- He was commissioned in the Army Medical Corps of the Indian Army in 1995 and has worked in the Army Sports Institute, Pune for six years.

**Link:**

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

## Kirstjen Nielsen

**Question: What is the name of US Homeland Security Secretary, who recently resigned from her office?**

**(a) Dina Powel (b) Reagan Thompson (c) Katie Walsh (d) Kirstjen Nielsen**

**Answer: (d)**

**Related facts:**

- On 7th April, 2019, Kirstjen Nielsen, US Homeland Security Secretary, resigned her position. Kevin McAleenan the current U.S. Customs and Border Protection Commissioner took charge as Acting Homeland Security Secretary on until April 10, 2019.
- 46 years old Ms Nielsen was appointed on this post in December, 2017.
- It should be known that US administration is facing difficulties in handling the swelling numbers of emigrants from Mexico.
- Ms Nielsen gained prominence during her tenure for her role in overseeing the zero tolerance policy towards migrants crossing the US-Mexico border.
- Ms Nielsen in past resisted the tough policy followed by the US President Donald Trump over the emigrant issue with Mexico.
- In 2018, she finally made her mind to follow the will of administration and signed the memo, which brought the policy that was seen widely as inhumane.
- Ms. Nielson handed in her resignation at a time when there were growing signs of division within the administration over how to handle the swelling numbers at the U.S.-Mexico border.



**Link:**

<https://www.thehindu.com/news/international/homeland-security-secretary-nielsen-resigns-amid-border-turmoil/article26767138.ece>

## Folk singer Amar Paul passed away

**Question: Amar Paul who passed away recently was?**

**(a) Bharatanatyam dancer (b) Actor (c) Social Worker (d) Folk Singer**

**Answer: (d)**

**Related facts:**

- Eminent Bengali folk singer Amar Paul passed away on 22nd April, 2019 following a cardiac arrest at the age of 97.



- Born on 19th May, 1922, at Brahmanbaria in present day Bangladesh, Paul had started taking music lessons from his mother Durgasundari Paul.
- He learnt classical music from Ayat Ali Khan and folk music from Mani Chakraborty and Suren Chakraborty.
- He surfaced as a folk singer for the All India Radio in the early 1950s.
- Paul lent his voice in a number of films including Satyajit Ray's 'Hirak Rajar Deshe'.
- He has penned several books on folk songs of Bengal and received accolades from various academies around the world.

**Links:**

[https://www.business-standard.com/article/pti-stories/eminant-bengali-folk-singer-amar-paul-dead-119042000743\\_1.html](https://www.business-standard.com/article/pti-stories/eminant-bengali-folk-singer-amar-paul-dead-119042000743_1.html)

## TOD D. WOLTERS

**Question: General Tod D. Wolters who took the oath as NATO's new Commander, belongs to which of the following country?**

(a) America (b) France (c) Japan (d) Italy

**Answer: (a)**

**Related facts:**



- On 2 May 2019, the US Air Force General Tod D. Wolters took oath as the Supreme Allied Commander, Europe (SACEUR) of NATO (North Atlantic Treaty Organization).
- He replaces U.S. Army Gen. Curtis M. Scaparrotti for a term likely to run two to three years, will also be commander of U.S. forces in Europe.
- NATO is a 29 countries military alliance. It was founded on 4 April 1949 in Brussels (Belgium).
- NATO is an intergovernmental military alliance between 29 North American and European countries which constitutes a system of collective defence whereby its independent member states agree to mutual defence in response to an attack by any external party.

## Chief Justice of Meghalaya High Court

**Question: Recently, who was sworn in as the Chief Justice of Meghalaya High Court?**

(a) Justice Ajay Kumar Mittal (b) Justices Talwant Singh (c)

Justice Rajnish Bhatnagar

(d) Justice Brijesh Sethi

**Answer: (a)**

**Related facts:**



- On 28<sup>th</sup> May, 2019, Justice Ajay Kumar Mittal has been sworn in as the Chief Justice of Meghalaya High Court.
- Governor Tathagata Roy administered him the oath of office in a ceremony at Raj Bhavan, Shillong.
- His appointment to the post came after the retirement of Justice Mohammad Yaqoob Mir.
- Prior to this appointment, Justice AK Mittal was the judge of the Punjab and Haryana High Court.

- The Chief Justice of a High Court is appointed as per provision of Article 217 of Indian constitution by President with consultation of Chief Justice of India (CJI).

**Links:**

<http://www.newsonair.com/News?title=Justice-Ajay-Kumar-Mittal-sworn-in-as-Chief-Justice-of-Meghalaya-HC&id=364037>

## New President of Indonesia

**Question: Who has been re-elected as the President of Indonesia on 21st May 2019?**

- (a) Joko Widodo (b) Prabowo Subianto (c) Qaboos bin Said al Said (d) Alzarri Shaheim Joseph**

**Answer: (a)**

**Related facts:**

- On 21 May 2019, Joko Widodo was re-elected as president of Indonesia.
- Prior to this, he was elected President of the country in 2014.
- Joko Widodo, member of Indonesian Democratic Party of Struggle got 55.5 percent of the vote and defeated his rival former general Prabowo Subianto.
- It is worth to note that 'Jakarta' is capital of Indonesia and its currency is 'Indonesian rupiah'.



**Links:**

<https://www.bbc.com/news/world-asia-48331879>

## Bhojpuri singer Hiralal Yadav passed away

**Question: Famous Bhojpuri singer Hiralal Yadav who passed away recently belonged to which of the following city?**

- (a) Kanpur (b) Mirzapur (c) Varanasi (d) Patna**

**Answer: (c)**

**Related facts:**

- Padma Shri awardee Bhojpuri vocal artist Hiralal Yadav passed away on 19th May, 2019, in his hometown Varanasi at the age of 93.
- He was a famous Bhojpuri folk singer popular from the Birha genre.
- Birha genre consists of songs having emotion of separation from the beloved.
- Yadav was awarded Padma Shri in January, 2019; he also received Yash Bharti in 2015 for his contribution in the field of music.



**Link:**

<https://www.aninews.in/news/national/general-news/padma-shri-awardee-bhojpuri-singer-hiralal-yadav-passes-away-at-9320190512125639/>

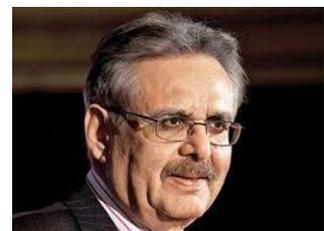
## ITC Chairman passed away

**Question: What was the name of the Chairman of ITC who passed way recently?**

- (a) Vinod Dey (b) Yogi Deveshwar (c) Pawan Munjal (d) Girish Sahoo**

**Answer: (b)**

**Related facts:**



- **ITC's** longest serving corporate chief and legendary corporate leader **YC Deveshwar** passed away at a private hospital in Gurugram on 11<sup>th</sup> May 2019 at the age of 72.
- Deveshwar (one of the longest-serving corporate chief) stepped down from executive role in 2017 but remained as a chairman in **non-executive capacity**, spearheaded the diversification of ITC to an FMCG company.
- To mentor the senior management, in **June 2018**, **YC Deveshwar** was made the non executive chairman of conglomerate ITC for two years from 2020 to 2022.
- He joined **ITC in 1968** and became the executive chairman of the company in **1996**.
- ITC was successful in **warding a takeover threat** from its largest shareholder BAT (British American Tobacco) and it made a successful diversification in the FMCG category under him.
- ITC's revenues grew from Rs 5,200 Crore to over Rs 51,500 Crore and generated shareholder returns of 23.3% compounded annually during his tenure.
- He received the Padma Bhushan in the year 2011 and CII Presidential award for lifetime achievement in 2018.
- He worked as a Chairman and Managing Director of Air India between 1991 and 1994. He also became a Director on the Central Board of the RBI.

**Links:**

<https://www.aninews.in/news/business/itc-chairman-yogi-deveshwar-passes-away-at-72-condolences-pour-in20190511153420/>

## Kannada theatre personality Master Hirannaiah passes away

**Question: Kannada personality Master Hirannaiah passes away. He is related to?**

(a) Theatre (b) Sports (c) Journalism (d) Literature

**Answer: (a)**

**Related facts:**

- Noted Kannada theater personality, **Narasimha Murthy alias Master Hirannaiah** died on 2<sup>nd</sup> May, 2019. He was 85.
- He was a theatre personality and has done many plays.
- **Lanchavatara** was his most famous play staged in 1959; it was based on the corruption in the politics. This play performed more than 11,000 stage shows.
- Master Hirannaiah was also known for his plays **Anaachara, Bhrashtachara, Makmal Topi and Devdasi**.



**Link:**

<https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/karnataka/kannada-theatre-personality-master-hirannaiah-passes-away/article27009127.ece>

## Kumara Sangakara becomes the first non-British MCC president

**Question: Kumara Sangakara becomes the first non-British MCC president. He belongs to which country?**

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

**Answer: (d)**

**Related facts:**

- Kumar Sangakara has been appointed as the president of Marylebone Cricket Club (MCC).



- He becomes the first non-British MCC president. His tenure of one year will start from October, 2019. He will succeed Anthony Wreford.
- Sangakara is already an honorary life member of MCC and he is an influential figure in the world cricket committee for the past seven years.
- Sangakara was the former Sri Lankan captain, batsman and wicketkeeper. He retired playing cricket in 2017. 12,400 runs have been scored by Kumara Sangakara in 134 test matches.

### About MCC

- MCC, which owns Lord's and acts as the guardian of the laws of the game, was founded in 1787.
- MCC lists 168 presidents in its history and this number includes one member of the royal family, 13 knights and six baronets but, until now, no one from overseas.

### Link:

<https://www.hindustantimes.com/cricket/kumar-sangakkara-to-become-first-non-british-president-of-mcc/story-1EHReeg0VRAfWIMIXJcagJ.html>

## US Deputy Attorney General quits

**Question: Who was the Deputy Attorney General of US who quitted his office on April 30,2019?**

(a) John Bolton (b) Jim Mattis (c) Rod Rosenstein (d) Dick Cheney

**Answer: (c)**

**Related facts:**



- **US Deputy Attorney General Rod Rosenstein**, who looked over the special counsel inquiry into President Donald Trump's campaign and Russia, **resigned** from his post on **April 30 2019**.
- He had a **burdened working relationship** with US President Donald Trump.
- He will step down **on 11 May** in a departure that had been expected for months.
- Rosenstein announced his departure with a **six-paragraph mini-lecture** on the importance of respect for the rule of law, and of a justice department free from political influence.
- Rosenstein was appointed by **Republican President George W Bush**.

### Mueller Report:

- It was **Rod** who chose **Special Counsel Robert Mueller** to lead the **Russia interference probe and protected him from political intrusion**.
- Then attorney general **Jeff Sessions** rescued himself from overseeing the investigation and left Rosenstein in charge.
- This led to make Rosenstein effectively the **only buffer between Mueller and the White House**.
- This was an even more crucial position to be held when the investigation started while examining whether Trump himself had obstructed justice by **firing Comey** and then trying to have Mueller sacked from the job.

- He remained in the job for a longer time to help **Barr in managing a redacted public release** of special counsel Robert Mueller's investigation.
- He had been **expected to resign** in March following the appointment of **William Barr** as attorney general.
- The report **cleared the Trump campaign of conspiring with Russia** to sway the **2016 election**, but did not exonerate the president of obstruction of justice.

**Links:**

<https://www.bbc.com/news/world-us-canada-48100665>

## Professor Sree Sreenath

**Question: How many peoples were inducted into the Class of 2019 of the prestigious Cleveland International Hall of Fame?**

(a) 4 (b) 5 (c) 6 (d) 7

**Answer: (c)**

**Related facts:**



- Prof Sree Sreenath, an Indian-American scientist and social activist, has been inducted into the prestigious Cleveland International Hall of Fame for his contribution in applications in systems biology, global issues and sustainable development.
- Five other inductees are Dr Akram Boutros, Ingrida Bublys, Paul Burik, Richard Fleischman, and Marilyn Madigan.
- The inductees for the Class of 2019 were selected from among 150 plus nominees through an anonymous process; the prestigious Cleveland International Hall of Fame was started ten years ago and since has inducted more than 50 people.
- Since 2009, Sreenath has been President of Sewa International which is a charitable organization specializing in disaster recovery, education, volunteering and development.
- Prof Sree Sreenath teaches in the Electrical Engineering and Computer Science Department at Case Western Reserve University.

**Link:**

<http://www.newindianexpress.com/world/2019/apr/19/indian-american-professor-sree-sreenath-inducted-into-cleveland-international-hall-of-fame-1966421.html>

## Jerrie Cobb

**Question: Name the NASA's first female astronaut candidate?**

(a) Jerrie Cobb (b) Shannon Lucid (c) Judith Resnik (d) Anna Lee Fisher

**Answer: (a)**

**Related facts:**



- NASA's first female astronaut candidate, pilot Jerrie Cobb, has died in Florida last month. She was 88.
- In 1961, Cobb became the first woman to pass astronaut testing.
- Altogether, 13 women passed the arduous physical testing and became known as the Mercury 13.
- None of the Mercury 13 candidate ever reached space.

- Cobb served for decades as a humanitarian aid pilot in the Amazon jungle.

**Link:**

<https://www.asianage.com/science/190419/nasas-1st-female-astronaut-candidate-jerrie-cobb-dies-at-88.html>

## 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\\_RAKEZ\\_Corporate\\_Ambassador\\_to\\_the\\_Indian\\_business\\_community-ZAWYA20190417102957/](https://www.zawya.com/mena/en/companies/story/Ravi_Shastri_appointed_as_RAKEZ_Corporate_Ambassador_to_the_Indian_business_community-ZAWYA20190417102957/)**

## Awards & Honors

### Dag Hammarskjold medal

**Question: Who won the prestigious Dag Hammarskjold medal for 2019 recently?**

**(a) Michel Punto (b) Manish Kumar (c) Jitendra Kumar (d) Jagdish Kumar**

**Answer: (c)**

**Related facts:**

- Indian Policemen Jitendra Kumar won the prestigious Dag Hammarskjold medal posthumously for giving his life during the peacekeeping mission in the war affected Democratic Republic of the Congo.
- He was honoured by UN Secretary General Antonio Guterres on May 24, 2019.
- The medal was awarded at the UN headquarters during a special tea reception hosted by India's Permanent Mission to the UN.



### Awardees:

- Jitendra was among the 119 other men and women to be awarded the medal for their courage and sacrifice in the line of duty, laid down his life while serving in the UN Organization Stabilization Mission in the Central African country.
- The award was received by India's envoy to the UN, Syed Akbaruddin on his behalf.
- The recipients for this year's award included military and police personnel, international civil servants, national staff and UN Volunteers from 38 countries who served in 12 different UN peace operations around the world.
- Since 1948, more than 3,800 peacekeepers have lost their lives in the 72 peacekeeping missions.
- The missions in Mali, South Sudan, the Central African Republic, Lebanon and the Democratic Republic of the Congo are among the most dangerous that we have ever undertaken.
- A total of 98 military, police and civilian peacekeepers from 36 countries lost their life last year in the peacekeeping mission.

### Dag Hammarskjold Medal:

- This medal is named after the UN's second Secretary-General who died in a plane crash in the Congo in 1961.
- He was there trying for a peace agreement to end the conflict in the country.
- India is the fourth largest contributor of uniformed personnel to UN peacekeeping contributing to more than 6,400 military and police personnel to the UN peace operations currently in areas like Abyei, Cyprus, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Haiti, etc.

### Links:

<https://www.thehindu.com/news/international/indian-police-officer-honoured-posthumously-for-contribution-to-un-peacekeeping/article27246813.ece>

## Claims Excellence Awards

**Question: Who among the following is MD and CEO of Bharti AXA Life Insurance Company?**

**(a) Dinesh Bhati (b) Vikas Sethi (c) Pradyumna Verma (d)**

**Ritesh Motwani**

**Answer: (b)**

**Related facts:**



- Bharti AXA Life Insurance, a joint venture between Bharti Enterprises and AXA, one of the world's largest insurance companies, has been conferred with the 'Claims Excellence Award' by the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI).
- Vikash Sethi is the MD & CEO of Bharti Axa Life Insurance.
- Bharti AXA Life Insurance was honoured for its customer-friendly claims services, including dedicated claims handler and one of the best claim settlement ratios, in the life insurance sector during its 20th Annual Insurance Conference FINCON 2019 recently here.
- The individual claim settlement ratio, the number of claims paid to the number of claims received, to 96.85 per cent in financial year 2017-18.

Links:

<http://ficci.in/ficci-in-news-page.asp?nid=17378>

## Maharshi Badrayan Vyas Samman Award

**Question: Who has been given Maharshi Badrayan Vyas Samman by Vice -President of India?**

**(a) Gyanaditya Shakya (b) Bindeshwar Pathak (c) Amitav Ghosh (d) Chitra Mudgal**

**Answer: (a)**

**Related facts:**

- Vice-President of India gave the Presidential Award of Maharshi Badrayan Vyas Samman to Dr. Gyanaditya Shakya in New Delhi.
- Dr. Shakya was conferred the award for his outstanding contribution in the field of Pali language and literature.
- He was selected for the award by the Department of Higher Education, Ministry of Human Resource Development, Government of India for his five books i.e. Bauddha Dharma Darshan Mein Brahmavihara Bhavana, Anagatavasa, Chakesadhatuvasa, Pañcatagatidipani and Gandhavasa.
- He also had been awarded with Vividh (Shraman) Puruskar by the Governor and the Chief Minister of Uttar Pradesh on 7th February, 2018.
- This distinction is conferred on persons in recognition of their substantial contribution in the field of Sanskrit, Persian, Arabic and Pali/Prakrit.
- The award carries a certificate and a cash prize of Rs. 1 lakh.
- It is given to the selected young scholars in the age group of 30 to 45 years.



Links:

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Maharshi\\_Badrayan\\_Vyas\\_Samman](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Maharshi_Badrayan_Vyas_Samman)

## 2019 Dr LEE Jong-wook Memorial Prize for Public Health

**Question: Who among the following won 2019 Dr LEE Jong-wook Memorial Prize for Public Health?**

**(a) Dr Balram Bhargava (b) Dr An Dong (c) Dr Vinod Paul (d) Dr Alireza Mesdaghinia**

**Answer: (a)**

**Related facts:**

- On 24<sup>th</sup> May, 2019, Professor Balram Bhargava, Director General of the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) has been conferred the Dr Lee Jong-wook Memorial Prize for Public Health, 2019.
- He has been recognised for his achievements as a clinician, innovator, researcher and trainer at the 72<sup>nd</sup> World Health Assembly in Geneva, Switzerland.
- Prior to his appointment at ICMR, he was a Professor of cardiology at the All India Institute of Medical Sciences, New Delhi (AIIMS).
- The Dr LEE Jong-wook Memorial Prize for Public Health is awarded to individuals, institutions, and governmental or non-governmental organizations that have made an outstanding contribution to public health. It was established in 2008.
- The prize consists of a plaque from the Founder and a sum of money which will not exceed US\$ 100 000.



## Links:

<https://www.who.int/news-room/feature-stories/detail/a-practitioner-a-scientist-an-innovator-a-thought-leader>

## Man Booker International Prize 2019

**Question: Who has been conferred the prestigious Man Booker International Prize for the year 2019?**

**(a) Jokha Alharthi (b) Olga Tokarczuk (c) Marion Poschmann (d) David Grossman**

**Answer: (a)**

**Related facts:**

- On 21 May 2019, Omani author Jokha Alharthi has been conferred 2019 Man Booker International Prize for her novel 'Celestial Bodies'.
- She is the first Arabic author to win the Man Booker International Prize and also the first female writer from Oman to be translated into English.
- Celestial Bodies follows the story of three sisters witnessing Oman evolution from a traditional, slave-owning society slowly redefining itself after the colonial era, to the crossroads of its complex present. The book recounts Oman's coming-of-age through the prism of one family's losses and loves.
- He will share the 50,000 pounds financial award with her translator Marilyn Booth.
- Sponsored by the Man Group, from 2005, the Man Booker International Prize is an international literary award hosted in the United Kingdom.
- For the year 2018, Polish author Olga Tokarczuk was awarded the Man Booker International Prize for her novel 'Flights'.



## Links:

<https://thewire.in/books/omani-author-jokha-alharthi-man-booker-international-prize>

## A. S. Kiran Kumar

**Question: Recently, A.S. Kiran Kumar has been conferred with?**

**(a) France's highest civilian award (b) Britain's highest civilian award**

**(c) America's highest civilian award (d) None of the above**

**Answer: (a)**

**Related facts:**

- On 2nd May, 2019, former ISRO chairman Alur Seelin Kiran Kumar was honoured with France's highest civilian award — Chevalier de l'Ordre national de la Lgion d'Honneur – for his contribution to India-France space co-operation.
- On behalf of the President of France, Ambassador of France to India, Alexandre Ziegler conferred Kumar with the highest civilian honour of France.
- Throughout his career at the Indian Space Research Organization, Kumar has fostered the historic and ambitious space cooperation between the two nations.



- Created in 1802 by Napoleon Bonaparte, the Ordre national de la Lgion d'Honneur (National Order of the Legion of Honour) is the highest Civilian award given by the French for outstanding service to France, regardless of the nationality of the recipient.

**Links:**

<https://www.news18.com/news/india/ex-isro-chairman-as-kiran-kumar-awarded-frances-highest-civilian-honour-2126127.html>

## Sasakawa Award 2019

**Question: Who has been awarded the prestigious Sasakawa Award 2019 recently?**

(a) PK Mishra (b) Kailash Satyarthi (c) Arundhati Roy (d) Teesta Sitalwad

**Answer: (a)**

**Related facts:**

- United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNDRR) conferred Sasakawa Award 2019 for Disaster Risk Reduction to Dr. Pramod Kumar Mishra, Additional Principal Secretary to Prime Minister of India on 16<sup>th</sup> May, 2019.
- The award was announced at the Award Ceremony during the ongoing 6<sup>th</sup> Session of Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction (GPDRR) 2019 at Geneva. A high-level Indian delegation led by Dr. P K Mishra attended the function (from 13<sup>th</sup> May to 17<sup>th</sup> May, 2019) in Geneva, Switzerland.
- Dr. P. K. Mishra received the 2019 Sasakawa award in recognition of his long-term dedication to improve the resilience of communities most exposed to disasters that included enhancing the safety net of the socially and economically marginalized.



**Sasakawa Award:**

- The United Nation’s Sasakawa Award is the *most prestigious international award in the area of Disaster Risk Management*.
- It was instituted more than 30 years ago and is jointly organized by the UNDRR and the Nippon Foundation. A total grant of USD 50,000 is distributed among the winners which can be either organizations or individuals.
- The theme of the 2019 Sasakawa award was *“Building Inclusive and Resilient Societies”*. UNDRR received more than 61 nominations from 31 countries for the 2019 award.
- GPDRR is a biennial multi-stakeholder forum established by the UN General Assembly to review progress, share knowledge and discuss the latest developments and trends in reducing disaster risk.

**Link:**

<http://www.pib.nic.in/PressReleaseDetail.aspx?PRID=1572143>

## Seoul North Korea Tests Short Range Projectiles

**Question: Name the player who received the Presidential Medal of Freedom?**

(a) Tiger Woods (b) Justin Thomas (c) Dustin Johnson (d) Tyson Gay

**Answer: (a)**

**Related facts:**



- Tiger Woods was awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom by President Donald Trump on 6<sup>th</sup> May, 2019.
- The Medal of Freedom was awarded for the first time in 1963; it recognizes individuals who have made an especially meritorious contribution to the security or national interests of the United States, world peace, cultural or other significant public or private endeavors.
- Earlier Trump has presented this award to numerous athletes, including Alan Page, Roger Staubach, and a posthumous award to Babe Ruth and Elvis Presley.
- Mr. Woods, 43, won his first Masters in 14 years. This is his 15th major win.

**Links:**

<https://edition.cnn.com/2019/05/02/politics/tiger-woods-presidential-medal-of-freedom-trump-white-house/index.html>

## **Planning & Project**

### Joint Program for Smart City, Clean Technology

**Question: India signed a pact with which country for joint program on Smart City and Clean technologies recently?**

**(a) Sweden (b) China (c) Netherland (d) Italy**

**Answer: (a)**

**Related facts:**



- India and Sweden will collaborate on a Joint Industrial Research & Development programme for addressing a range of challenges around smart cities and clean technologies as per a pact signed on 11th April, 2019.
- This Indo-Swedish pact was signed in the AI for All Summit.

**The Pact:**

- The programme was co-funded by Indian Department of Science and Technology (DST) and Swedish agency Vinnova.
- As a grant, Vinnova will provide funding to Swedish participants up to 2,500,000 Swedish Krona (around Rs 1.87 crore) while a conditional grant of up to 50 per cent (with a limit of Rs 1.5 crore) per project will be provided to the Indian partners.
- The India-Sweden Collaborative Industrial Research and Development Programme will see Swedish and Indian innovators work together and develop solutions that benefit both sides.
- Triple Helix model of innovation involves participation of government, industry and academia. This would be useful as these partners can work together towards using new technologies like artificial intelligence to develop solutions that help meet goals of sustainable development.
- Swedish companies like Volvo and Ericsson that have been present in the Indian market from a long time and newcomers like IKEA also have aggressive expansion plans for Indian market.

- Sweden has also stressed on the need for a Free Trade Agreement (FTA) between India and the European Union for ease of doing business for companies.

Links: <https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/economy/infrastructure/india-sweden-ink-pact-to-collaborate-on-solutions-for-smart-cities-clean-tech/articleshow/68831612.cms>

## WHO to eliminate Tran Fat from food supply

Question: What is the deadline year set by the World Health Organisation for elimination of Trans fat from the industrially produced global food supply?

(a) 2025 (b) 2030 (c) 2020 (d) 2024

Answer: (d)

Related facts:

- Twelve of the largest global food and beverage companies committed to the World Health Organization's (WHO) goal of phasing out industrially produced trans fat (iTFA) from the global food supply by 2023.
- They are the member of International Food and Beverage Alliance (IFBA) members.
- The new IFBA commitment includes burger chain McDonald's which was not included in the last list of 2016.
- They expressed their commitment to eliminate industrial trans fats, and reduce salt, sugar and saturated fats in processed foods.
- WHO welcomes the commitment by the International Food and Beverage Alliance (IFBA) for its alignment with WHO.
- IFBA members decided to ensure the amount of industrial trans fat in their products not exceeding to 2 gram per 100 g fat/oil globally by 2023.
- In around 98.5 percent of their products worldwide, IFBA members had met the target of their 2016 commitment to reduce iTFAs to nutritionally inconsequential levels (less than one gram of fat per 100 grams of product) in their products.
- Trans fat is known to be the worst form of fat in food. It is responsible for over 5,00,000 deaths globally due to severe heart disease each year.



Links:

<https://www.who.int/news-room/detail/07-05-2019-who-welcomes-industry-asaction-to-align-with-global-trans-fat-elimination-targets>

## Treaty & Agreements

### NSIC signs MOU with Ministry of MSME

Question: What is the full- form of NSIC?

- (a) National Small Institute Corporation. (b) National Small Industries Corporation.  
 (c) National Small Industries Corporations Limited.  
 (d) National Small Scale Industries Corporation Limited.

Answer: (c)

Related facts:



- The National Small Industries Corporation Limited (NSIC) signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME) for the year 2019-20.
- The MOU was signed by Ram Mohan Mishra, AS & DC(MSME) and CMD (NSIC) with Dr. Arun Kumar Panda, Secretary, MSME.
- The MOU envisages provision of enhanced services by NSIC under its marketing, financial, technology and other support services schemes for MSMEs in the country.
- The Corporation projects to increase Revenue from Operation by 22% from Rs. 2540 crore in the year 2018-19 to 3100 crore in the year 2019-20. NSIC also projects growth of 32% in Profitability during the year 2019-20.
- The Corporation also plans to enhance its activities in the areas of imparting entrepreneurship and skill development training by targeting 45% growth in the number of trainees.
- Under the scheme of National SC-ST Hub being implemented by NSIC on behalf of the Ministry of MSME, it will be a continued endeavour to provide assistance to SC/ST entrepreneurs through different interventions and various outreach activities with the overall objectives to increase their participation in public procurement.

**Links:**

<http://pib.nic.in/PressReleaseDetail.aspx?PRID=1572748>

## Pact inked to empower handloom

**Question: With which company Microsoft India has signed a Memorandum of Understanding to empower handloom weavers?**

**(a) Tata trusts (b) Infosys technologies (c) MMTC (d) None of the above**

**Answer: (a)**

**Related facts:**

- Tata Trusts and Microsoft India on 10th April, 2019 signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to jointly rejuvenate handloom clusters in the eastern and north-eastern parts of the country.
- As a part of the collaboration, Tata trusts and Microsoft will leverage each other's strengths to provide business and communication skills, design education and digital literacy to handloom weavers so that they may build a sustainable future.



**Project Reweave:**

- Microsoft's Project Reweave will help preserve traditional weaving forms by up skilling workers, designing and marketing merchandise, and creating sustainable livelihood options.
- The project has implemented a new e-commerce platform by setting up digital empowerment centers and design curriculum in Telangana's weaving clusters of Rajouli, Chottuppall, Pochampally, Narayanpet and Gadwal, and will shortly extend it to Warangal and Siddipet.

**Project Sangam:**

- Microsoft will also enable digital training through Project Sangam, a Microsoft Azure-based learning Management System, which provides necessary training and tools to weaving communities to help them realise their full potential.

### Antaran initiative :

- Tata Trusts initiative, Antaran, aims at rejuvenating ailing handloom clusters through an end-to-end programme, which would nurture artisans as designers and entrepreneurs.
- The trusts have initiated intensive work in Odisha, Assam and Nagaland.
- The Programme will benefit 3,000 artisans directly involved in pre-loom, on-loom and post loom processes, impacting the livelihood of weavers in six weaving clusters in these three states.

### Craft Sector

- Employing over seven million families in India, the craft sector is the country's largest source of employment after agriculture. The sector also has great economic importance in terms of foreign exchange earnings.

### Links:

[https://www.business-standard.com/article/pti-stories/tata-trusts-microsoft-join-hands-to-support-handloom-weaving-community-119041000859\\_1.html](https://www.business-standard.com/article/pti-stories/tata-trusts-microsoft-join-hands-to-support-handloom-weaving-community-119041000859_1.html)

## Indian Navy signs MoU with CSIR

**Question: An MoU between Indian Navy and Council for Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) for joint research and development of advanced technologies was signed on?**

**(a) 31st March, 2019 (b) 05th April, 2019 (c) 04th April, 2019 (d) 02nd April, 2019**

**Answer: (b)**

**Related facts:**

- The Indian Navy and Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on 5th April, 2019 to undertake joint research and development of advanced technologies for the Indian Navy.
- This will be a collaborative arrangement between labs of CSIR, the Indian Navy and Indian industry.
- The MoU was signed by Vice Admiral GS Pabby PVSM, AVSM, VSM Chief of Materiel of Indian Navy and Shekhar C Mande, Secretary DSIR and Director General, CSIR.
- The futuristic technologies which are being developed could be used for enhancing operational availability and combat capabilities of naval platforms.
- Some of the immediate projects to be progressed under this MoU include development of alternative desalination technologies, installation of wireless MEMS based sensors for remote operation, Residual Life Assessment studies of Gas Turbine Generator blades to improve reliability.



### Links:

<https://www.indiannavy.nic.in/content/indian-navy-signs-mou-council-scientific-and-industrial-research-csir>

## India Post collaborates with TCS

**Question: India Post has collaborated with which of the following IT Company to deploy an integrated solution for its services?**

**(a) Tech Mahindra (b) Wipro (c) TCS (d) Infosys**



**Answer: (c)**

**Related facts:**

- On 22 April 2019, Tata Consultancy has partnered with Department of Post (DOP) to modernize a network more than 1.5 lakh post offices across the country, making it largest e-distributed postal network in the world.
- Modernization is being done by deploying an integrated solution that has helped India Post in equipping it with modern technologies and systems.
- This modernization with use of IT will enable India Post to offer more services to the customers in an effective manner.
- In 2013, TCS, the Mumbai-based company had announced receiving an over Rs 1,100-crore multi-year contract from the Department of Posts (DoP) for an end-to-end IT modernization programme.
- The central point of this transformation is the Core System Integration (CSI) program designed and implemented by TCS which involved deploying an integrated ERP solution that caters to mail operations, finance and accounting and HR functions.
- CSI connects vast network of more than 1.5 lakh post offices under India Post making this the largest distributed e-postal network in the world.
- It has the capacity for the processes over three million postal transactions a day, making this one of the largest SAP implementations globally.

**Links:**

<https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/tech/ites/tcs-modernises-1-5-lakh-post-offices-under-multi-year-deal-with-india-post/articleshow/68975703.cms>

## Conference

### Taiwan Expo 2019

**Question: In which of the following city did the Taiwan Expo 2019 took place?**

**(a) Jaipur (b) Jamshedpur (c) Jodhpur (d) New Delhi**

**Answer: (d)**

**Related facts:**

- Taiwan Expo 2019 took place in New Delhi on May 16-18, 2019.
- Representative of Taipei Economic and Cultural Centre Tien Chung-Kwang and Chairman of Taiwan External Trade Development Council, TAITRA James CF Huang inaugurated the three-day.
- There are 10 theme pavilions at the expo focusing on green products, health care, agriculture, tourism, biotechnology and electrical equipments.
- 150 exhibitors showcased their products in 230 stalls.
- Around 30 thousand people are expected to visit the expo this year and potential business is likely to touch 150 million dollars.



**Links:**

<http://www.newsonair.com/News?title=Taiwan-Expo-2019-begins-in-Delhi&id=363496>

### 6th International Exhibition and Conference GRIDTECH-2019

**Question: 6th International Exhibition and Conference GRIDTECH-2019 was organized by which Ministry?**

**(a) Ministry of Power**

(b) Ministry of Water Resource and River Development & Ganga Rejuvenation  
(c) Ministry of Information and Broadcasting (d) Ministry of Defence

Answer: (a)

Related facts:

- The 6th International Exhibition and Conference GRIDTECH-2019 on new technologies in Transmission, Distribution, Renewable Integration, Smart Grid and Communication was held between 3 to 5 April, 2019, in Pragati Maidan, New Delhi.
- The conference was inaugurated by Vice President Shri Venkaiah Naidu.
- It was organised by POWERGRID, with the support of Ministry of Power and in association with Central Board of Irrigation & Power (CBIP) and Indian Electrical and Electronics Manufacturers Association (IEEMA).
- The exhibition and the concurrent summit was an excellent global networking opportunity for exhibitors, visitors and delegates.
- It provided an opportunity for all companies to showcase their expertise in various domains of power sector & technology knowhow for their awareness, appreciation and benefit of overall public sector as well as help them to identify business opportunities in the electricity market in India and abroad.



6<sup>th</sup> INTERNATIONAL EXHIBITION  
& CONFERENCE



Links:

<https://apps.powergridindia.com/gridtech/>

## National Cardiology Conference 2019

Question: Where did the National Cardiology Conference 2019 took place?

(a) New Delhi (b) Jaipur (c) Bangalore (d) Lucknow

Answer: (d)

Related facts:



- National Cardiology Conference 2019 was organised at Sanjay Gandhi Post Graduate Institute of Medical Sciences, Lucknow between 5th April and 7th April, 2019. Vice President M. Venkaiah Naidu was the chief guest of the event.
- National Interventional Council (NIC) is the Interventional faction of the Cardiological Society of India (CSI), representing more than 3000 interventional cardiologists
- NIC 2019 aims to provide a strong teaching platform by promoting interactive discussions, sharing knowledge and clinical expertise with the sole aim of advancing cardiology care to the highest level.
- The meeting also showcased novel interventional technologies and devices by the industry as part of the scientific exhibition so as to bring the participants up to date with the recent advances in interventional cardiology.
- The conference being held for the first time in Uttar Pradesh offers an opportunity to showcase newer innovations in Cardiology that can help deliver cost-effective cardiology care to patients.

Links:

<http://www.newsonair.com/News?title=Vice-President-to-inaugurate-3-day-National-Cardiology-Conference-in-Lucknow&id=361847>

## Army Commanders Conference

Question: Army Commanders Conference which took place between 8 -13 April 2019, was held in?

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

(a) Pune (b) Mumbai (c) New Delhi (d) Visakhapatnam

Answer: (c)

Related facts:

- The Army Commanders' Conference, an apex level biannual event, which formulates important policy decisions, was held in New Delhi from 8th April to 13th April 2019.
- The Conference:
  - Army Commanders' Conference is an important event in planning & execution process of Indian Army. To ensure due diligence, decisions are taken through collegiate system comprising Army Commanders & Senior Officers.
  - The Army Commanders' Conference has comprehensively deliberated all aspects of extant security dynamics, emerging security scenarios, enhancing operational capability in near and long term and enhancement of combat edge over potential adversaries.
  - Reviews during the Conference included readiness, tri-services synergy, military diplomacy, joint exercises that have created capacity & environment and supporting operational plans that have evolved.
  - An exhibition of emerging and future defence technological innovations was held to promote indigenization through Make in India. A total of 53 domestic companies participated in this event.
  - Year 2019 has been declared as the year of Next of Kin with a focus on the welfare of the families of brave soldiers who made supreme sacrifice in the services of the Nation.



The key highlights of the conference are as given below:

- Optimum force readiness to be ensured.
- Re-prioritizing the existing requirements to ensure that the resources allocated for force modernization and capacity building be ensured by optimizing allotted budget.
- Increase the content of indigenization in force modernization.
- The state of existing infrastructure along Northern Borders and it has been decided to pursue these projects on higher priority. Ensure speedy move and all weather connectivity to Northern Borders are the focus areas.
- As the Indian Army was becoming a more networked and digitized force, the COAS emphasized on the need to enhance technological threshold of all ranks so as to imbibe state of art technology and exploit the same.
- The need to appreciate role of women officers in view of their permanent commission and align their employment gainfully with organizational requirements has been concurred by all.
- Avenues for making the lady officers experts in foreign languages, artificial intelligence, data management, cyber and space domains are being examined.

Link:

<http://pib.nic.in/PressReleaseDetail.aspx?PRID=1570478>

## India US bilateral trade meeting

Question: Where did the recent India US Trade meeting took place?

(a) New York (b) New Delhi (c) California (d) Washington DC

Answer: (b)

Related facts:

- India and the United States held the **India-U.S. Bilateral Trade** meeting in **New Delhi on May 6, 2019.**



- **Suresh Prabhu**, Minister of Commerce & Industry and Civil Aviation, Government of India and **Wilbur Ross**, **Secretary of Commerce, United States of America** co-chaired the bilateral meeting.
- Both the co-chairs **appreciated the strong, robust and growing bilateral ties between India and the U.S.** across the entire spectrum of trade and commerce.
- Both sides expressed satisfaction over the progress during the year 2018, with **bilateral trade in Goods and Services registering a growth of 12.6% from \$ 126 billion in 2017 to \$142 billion in 2018.**
- **The US** will make a decision on the **preferential tariffs on \$5.6 billion of Indian exports** after May 23, when India gets a new government.
- India's benefit under the **US' Generalized System of Preferences (GSP)** were scheduled to end on the second week of May.
- India appreciated the **US Trade Winds Indo-Pacific Business Forum and Mission initiative 2019**, being held at **New Delhi**. The forum will bring together distributors, representatives and partners and enable them to increase sales by taking part in **business-to-business meetings from 8-10<sup>th</sup> May, 2019**, across India.

#### US-India SME Forum:

- Both co-chairs also complimented the new bilateral private sector led Small Business Interaction initiative, the **US – India SME Forum**, held today in the forenoon in New Delhi.
- This is the **first event of its kind** and would pave the way for **collaboration and partnership** between the U.S. and Indian small and medium enterprises (SMEs) in the areas of manufacturing and services.
- Both sides also discussed various **outstanding trade issues**. Both sides agreed to engage regularly at various levels to resolve outstanding trade issues by exploring suitable solutions, which are mutually beneficial and promote economic development and prosperity in both countries.
- Both sides agreed to **deepen economic cooperation** and bilateral trade by ensuring greater cooperation amongst stakeholders, including Government, businesses and entrepreneurs.

#### Links:

<https://commerce.gov.in/PressRelease.aspx>

## General K Sundarji Memorial Lecture

**Question: Who was the Chief Guest at the second General K Sundarji Memorial Lecture organised on 27th April, 2019?**

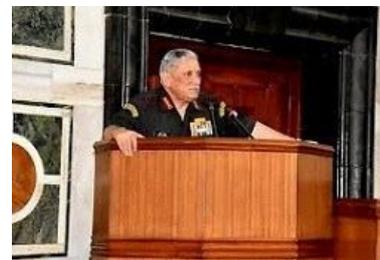
**(a) Gen. G D Bakshi (b) Gen. Bipin Rawat (c) Gen. Deepak Kapoor**

**(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 Sama 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>

## Year, Day & Week

### World Thyroid Day

**Question: When is 'World Thyroid Day' celebrated?**

**(a) 26 May (b) 25 May (c) 20 May (d) 17 May**

**Answer: (b)**

**Related facts:**

- World Thyroid Day is observed globally on May 25 every year.
- Thyroid gland is a butterfly shaped found in the lower neck part. This gland produces T4 (Thyroxine) and T3 (Triiodothyronine) hormones which instruct the cells in the body to use energy.
- Thyroid hormones regulate the body's metabolism—the rate at which the body produces energy from nutrients and oxygen—and affects critical body functions, such as energy level and heart rate.
- There are millions of people in the world suffering from this thyroid problem.



**Links:**

<https://www.thyroid.org/world-thyroid-day-2019/>

### Panchayati Raj Day

**Question: Consider the following statements regarding Panchayati Raj Day:**

**(1) It was introduced by the 73rd Constitutional Amendment in 1992.**

**(2) It is observed in India on 24th April every year.**

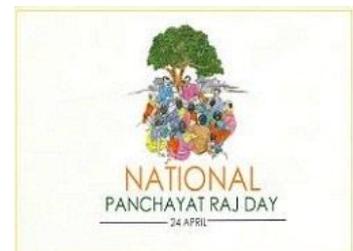
**Choose the correct option:**

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

**Answer: (c)**

**Related facts:**

- On 24th April 2019; recognized as National Panchayati Raj Day, Prime Minister Narendra Modi visited Madhya Pradesh's Mandla district to meet and address panchayat bodies as well as independent communities.
- The Prime Minister launched a scheme that seeks to strengthen the country's Panchayati Raj System and address critical gaps that hinder its success.
- Prime Minister Modi, who arrived in Mandla, inaugurated the National Panchayati Raj day program in Ramnagar, after which he addressed a rally on Adivasi Diwas.
- PM Modi unveiled a roadmap for development of tribal areas of Madhya Pradesh over the next five years. Under the plan, Rs 2 lakh crore will be spent for development of areas under tribal panchayats.



## About Panchayati Raj:

- In India, the Panchayati Raj generally refers to the system of local self-government in India introduced by 73rd Constitutional Amendment in 1992, although it is based upon the traditional panchayat system of the Indian sub-continent.
- This Panchayati Raj System was formalized in 1992, following a study conducted by a number of Indian committees on various ways of implementing more decentralized administration.
- The Panchayati Raj now functions as a system of governance in which gram panchayats are the basic units of local administration.
- The system has three levels: Gram Panchayat (village level), Mandal Parishad or Block Samiti or Panchayat Samiti (block level), and Zila Parishad (district level).
- Currently, the Panchayati Raj system exists in all states except Nagaland, Meghalaya, and Mizoram and in all Union Territories except Delhi.

### Links:

<https://www.ndtv.com/india-news/on-panchayati-raj-day-pm-narendra-modi-launches-rashtriya-gram-swaraj-abhiyan-in-madhya-pradesh-1842049>

## Miscellaneous

### Extension in RTGS timings by RBI

**Question: What is the new extended timing for the RTGS transactions approved by RBI?**

**(a) 4:30 pm (b) 5 pm (c) 5:30 pm (d) 6 pm**

**Answer: (d)**

**Related facts:**

- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has announced an extension of timings for customer transactions through Real Time Gross Settlement (RTGS) by one and half hours from 4:30 PM to 06 PM.
- The new timing will be effective from June 1, 2019.



### RTGS:

- The RTGS is an online fund transfer system, supported by the RBI, which enables high-value fund transfers on a real-time basis.
- The minimum amount for the transaction under this system is Rs 2 lakh. There is no upper limit on the value of funds that can be transferred via the RTGS system.

### Links:

<http://ddnews.gov.in/business/rbi-extends-rtgs-timings-430-pm-6-pm>

## General JJ Singh Air Weapon Championship

**Question: General JJ Singh Air Weapon Championship took place between 25th March and 3rd April, 2019. This championship marks which of the following edition?**

**(a) 12th edition (b) 15th edition (c) 16th edition (d) 10th edition**

**Answer: (b)**

**Related facts:**

- The 15th edition of General J J Singh Air Weapon Championship took place at Army Marksmanship Unit, Mhow between 25th March and 3rd April, 2019.
- Udhampur-based Northern Command won the championship for the fourth consecutive time.
- The event is aimed to identify, train and nurture talented young male and female officers of the Army for participation in various national and international shooting competitions.
- Over 100 male and female young shooters from across the Indian Army participated in the 10-metre air rifle and air pistol categories.
- The winning team competed against nine other teams for the coveted Burma Shell Trophy and won the overall Inter Command Championship.



**Links:**

[https://www.business-standard.com/article/pti-stories/northern-command-wins-air-weapon-championship-for-the-fourth-time-119040600695\\_1.html](https://www.business-standard.com/article/pti-stories/northern-command-wins-air-weapon-championship-for-the-fourth-time-119040600695_1.html)

## First Asian Country to legalise same sex marriage

**Question: Which country became the first in Asian continent to legalise same sex marriage?**

(a) Russia (b) Taiwan (c) Thailand (d) Indonesia

**Answer: (b)**

**Related facts:**



- **Taiwan** became the **first country in Asia to legalise same-sex marriage**.
- It was legalized on **May 17 2019** as thousands of demonstrators outside parliament cheered and waved rainbow flags after the parliament passed the law.
- With this, Taiwan`s parliament become the **first in Asia to legalise same-sex marriage**.
- The island`s constitutional court ruled in **2017** that **same-sex couples** had the right to **legally marry** and the Parliament was given a **two-year deadline** and was required to pass the changes by **24 May 2019**.
- **The bill:**
  - Lawmakers in the parliament debated over **three different bills** to legalise same-sex unions. The most progressive of the three; **the government`s bill** was passed.
  - The two other bills submitted by **conservative lawmaker** have referred partnerships as **“same-sex family relationships”** or **“same-sex unions”** rather than **“marriages”**.
  - Lawmakers from the majority **Democratic Progressive Party (DPP)** backed the bill, which passed **66 to 27**.
  - The bill offers **similar legal protections for marriage to same-sex couples** as heterosexuals. It will take effect after **Tsai** signs it into law.
  - Taipei`s **colourful gay pride parade** is one of **Asia`s largest parades**. It puts on display every year the vitality of the island`s lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender **(LGBT) community**.
  - Taiwan **voters opposed same-sex marriage** last year in a series of referendums, defining marriage as being between a man and a woman.

**Links:**

<https://www.bbc.com/news/world-asia-48305708>