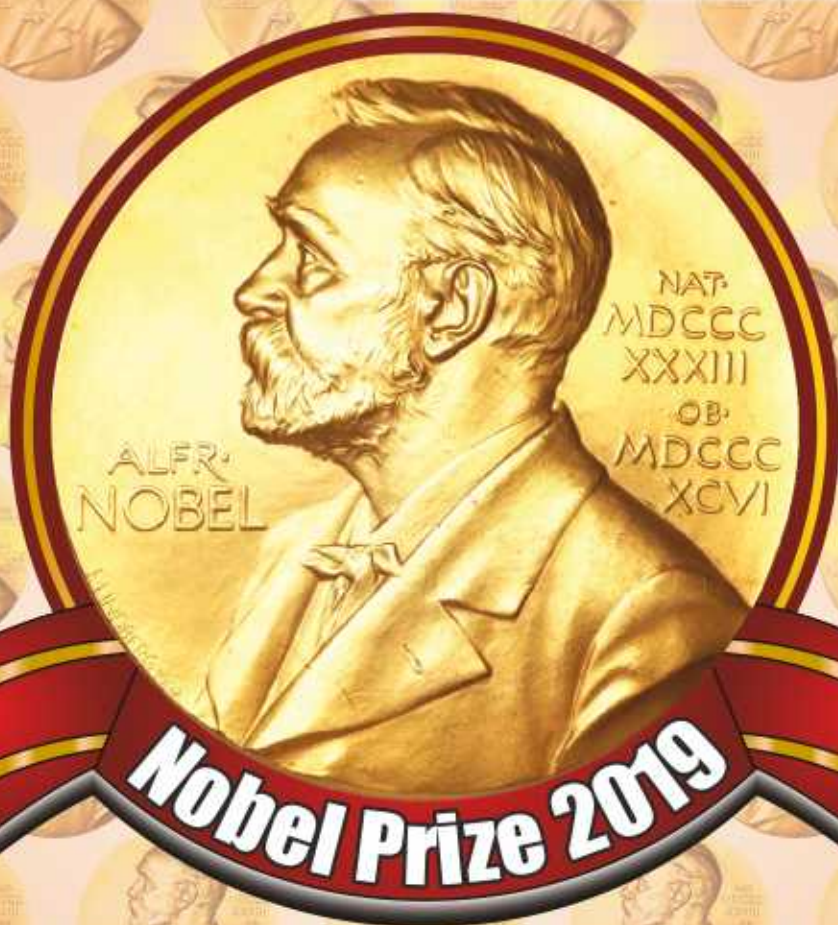


Website- dristi.in

NAVATRA

Monthly Magazine on Current Events

Vol. - 3 >>> Issue - 5 >>> November, 2019



Maharashtra & Haryana

General Election to Vidhansabha Result, 2019

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

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

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

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

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

We will warmly welcome your appreciation/criticism given to us. It will surely show us the right direction to improve the content quality. Hopefully the current affairs PDF (from 1st Oct to 31th Oct) will benefit our beloved readers.

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

National

Maharashtra Assembly Election 2019

Question: Consider the following statement regarding Maharashtra Election:

- (1) Maharashtra election results 2019 were declared on October 24, 2019
(2) BJP won 105 seats in the Maharashtra assembly elections 2019, while the Shiv Sena won 56

From the above correct statement/s is/are:

- (a) Only(1) Only (2)
(b) Both(1) and (2)
(c) None of the above



Answer :(c)

- To elect all 288 members of the state's Legislative Assembly, the 2019 Maharashtra Legislative Assembly election was held on 21 October.
- Results for Assembly constituencies of Maharashtra were declared on October 24, 2019.
- After a 61.3% turnout in the election, the ruling right-wing National Democratic Alliance (NDA) of the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) and Shiv Sena (SHS), won a majority.
- The BJP won 105 seats in the Maharashtra assembly elections 2019, while the Shiv Sena won 56. The opposition, especially the NCP fared better than predicted with 54 seats while the Indian National Congress won 44 seats. Among others, Bahujan Vikas Aaghadi got 3 seats, All India Majlis-E-Ittehadul Muslimeen, Prahar Janshakti Party and Samajwadi Party won 2 seats each.
- Communist Party of India (Marxist), Jan Surajya Shakti, Krantikari Shetkari Party, Maharashtra Navnirman sena, Peasants And Workers Party of India, Rashtriya Samaj Paksha and Swabhimani Paksha secured 1 seats each.
- A total of 13 independent candidates held victory in the assembly elections.

Major victory:

- Former Maharashtra deputy chief minister and NCP leader Ajit Pawar won from the Baramati assembly seat defeating BJP's Gopichand Padalkar by a huge margin of 1,65,265 votes - the highest victory margin recorded by a candidate in this election.
- Maharashtra CM Devendra Fadnavis won his Nagpur South West by 49,344 votes.

Road Ahead:

- The BJP-Shiv Sena combined will soon stake claim to form government in Maharashtra.
- The Shiv Sena has announced that it would be pushing for the 50:50 formula, which was decided between the two parties at the time of their pre-poll alliance.
- Shiv Sena Chief Uddhav Thackeray confirmed that the party would be laying claim to the Chief Minister's post. Though the BJP is still ahead in numbers, the party has lost seats in comparison to the 2014 state elections.
- The NCP is the main gainer in these elections, as the party has revived courtesy Sharad Pawar and posted a huge jump in comparison to the previous elections.

Links:

<http://results.eci.gov.in/ACOCT2019/partywiseresult-S13.htm?st=S13>

Haryana State Elections

Question: Who took oath as the Deputy Chief Minister of Haryana on October 28 2019?

(a) Manohar Lal Khattar (b) Bhupinder Singh Hodda (c) Ajay Chautala
(d) Dushyant Chautala

Answer: (d)

Related facts:

- Manohar Lal Khattar took oath as Chief Minister of Haryana for second consecutive term on October 28 2019. Governor Satyadev Narayan Arya administered him the oath of office and secrecy at a function at Raj Bhavan in Chandigarh.
- Jannayak Janta Party (JJP) leader Dushyant Chautala was sworn-in as Deputy Chief Minister. JJP had its first election since its formation.
- Haryana has a 90-member state assembly for which election took place and results were announced on October 24 2019.
- BJP has emerged as the single largest party with 40 seats. Congress won 31 seats while JJP won 10 seats and independent 10.



Links:

<http://www.newsonair.com/News?title=Manohar-Lal-sworn-in-as-CM-of-Haryana-for-a-second-term&id=373529>

The Noble prize in Literature-2018 &19

Question: Which one of the following has been given the Noble Prize of 2019 in Literature?

(a) Peter Handke (b) Olga Tokarczuk (c) Both (a) and (b) (d) None of the above

Answer: (a)

Related facts:

- On October 10, 2019, The Nobel Prize announcement was made at the Swedish Academy in Stockholm.
- This time, the winners were named for both 2019 and 2018, as the prize was not awarded in 2018. The Swedish academy had suspended the prize in 2018 following a sexual assault scandal.



Awardee 2019:

- The Nobel Prize in Literature 2019 has been awarded to **Peter Handke** for his influential work that explores the specificity of human experience.

Awardee 2018:

- The Nobel Prize in Literature 2018 was awarded to **Olga Tokarczuk** for her narrative imagination that represents the crossing of boundaries as a form of life.

Links:

<http://www.nobelprize.org/prizes/lists/all-nobel-prizes-in-literature>

Nobel Prize in Chemistry-2019

Question: For which of the following discovery, this year's noble prize in chemistry has been given?

- (a) for the development of lithium-ion batteries
- (b) for the directed evolution of enzymes
- (c) for developing cryo-electron microscopy
- (d) for the design and synthesis of molecular machines

Answer: (a)

Related facts:

- **This year's noble prize in chemistry has been given** for the development of lithium-ion batteries.

Following scientists have been jointly awarded:

- **John B. Goodenough**

The University of Texas at Austin, USA

- **M. Stanley Whittingham**

Binghamton University, State University of New York, USA

- **Akira Yoshino**

Asahi Kasei Corporation, Tokyo, Japan

Meijo University, Nagoya, Japan

Prize amount: 9 million Swedish krona, to be shared equally between the Laureates.

A rechargeable world:

- The Nobel Prize in Chemistry 2019 rewards the development of the lithium-ion battery.
- This lightweight, rechargeable and powerful battery is now used in everything from mobile phones to laptops and electric vehicles.
- It can also store significant amounts of energy from solar and wind power, making possible a fossil fuel-free society.
- Lithium-ion batteries are used globally to power the portable electronics that we use to communicate, work, study, listen to music and search for knowledge.
- Lithium ion batteries have also enabled the development of long-range electric cars and the storage of energy from renewable sources, such as solar and wind power.
- The foundation of the lithium-ion battery was laid during the oil crisis in the 1970s.

Links:

<https://www.nobelprize.org/prizes/chemistry/2019/prize-announcement/>



Noble Prize in Medicine-2019

Question: This year's noble prize in medicine and physiology has been declared in October, in which of the following area of medicine this year prize has been given?

- (a) Molecular mechanism controlling circadian rhythm**
- (b) How cells sense and adapt to oxygen**
- (c) Discovery of mechanism of autophagy**
- (d) Cancer therapy by inhibiting negative immune regulation**

Answer:(b)

Related facts:



- The **2019 Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine** is awarded jointly to **William G. Kaelin Jr.(USA)**, **Sir Peter J. Ratcliffe(UK)** and **Gregg L. Semenza(USA)** in October, 2019.
- They are recognized for their discoveries of how cells sense and adapt to oxygen availability.
- The need for oxygen to sustain life has been understood since the onset of modern biology; but the molecular mechanisms underlying how cells adapt to variations in oxygen supply were unknown until this groundbreaking research.
- Animal cells undergo fundamental shifts in gene expression when there are changes in the oxygen levels around them.
- These changes in gene expression alter cell metabolism, tissue re-modeling, and even organism responses such as increases in heart rate and ventilation.
- They identified molecular machinery that regulates the activity of genes in response to varying levels of oxygen.
- This year's Nobel Laureates revealed the mechanism for one of life's most essential adaptive processes.
- They established the basis for our understanding of how oxygen levels affect cellular metabolism and physiological function.
- Their discoveries have also paved the way for promising new strategies to fight anemia, cancer and many other diseases.

Links:

<https://www.nobelprize.org/prizes/medicine/>

Noble Peace Prize-2019

Question: Who has been awarded 2019 noble prize for peace?

- (a) Greta Thunberg (b) Abiy Ahmed Ali (c) Denis Mukwege (d) Angela Merkel**

Answer: (b)

Related facts:



- The **Nobel Peace Prize 2019** was awarded to **Abiy Ahmed Ali** "for his efforts to achieve peace and international cooperation, and in particular for his decisive initiative to resolve the border conflict with neighbouring Eritrea."
- He is the **Prime Minister** of **Ethiopia**.
- The prize is also meant to recognise all the stakeholders working for peace and reconciliation in Ethiopia and in the East and Northeast African regions.
- When Abiy Ahmed became Prime Minister in April 2018, he made it clear that he wished to resume peace talks with Eritrea.
- He spent his first 100 days as Prime Minister lifting the country's state of emergency, granting amnesty to thousands of political prisoners, discontinuing media censorship, legalising outlawed opposition groups, dismissing military and civilian leaders who were suspected of corruption, and significantly increasing the influence of women in Ethiopian political and community life.

- In September 2018 he and his government contributed actively to the normalisation of diplomatic relations between Eritrea and Djibouti after many years of political hostility.
- Additionally, Abiy Ahmed has sought to mediate between Kenya and Somalia in their protracted conflict over rights to a disputed marine area. There is now hope for a resolution to this conflict.
- Ethiopia is Africa's second most populous country and has East Africa's largest economy.

Link:

<https://www.nobelpeaceprize.org/Announcements/The-Nobel-Peace-Prize-2019>

Noble prize in Physics,2019

Question: In which of the following areas of Physics this year's Noble prize has been awarded?

- (a) Decisive contributions to the LIGO detector
- (b) Optical tweezers and their application to biological systems
- (c) Theoretical discoveries in physical cosmology
- (d) Invention of efficient blue light-emitting diodes

Answer: (c)

Related facts:



- The 2019 Nobel Prize in Physics are awarded for contributions to our understanding of the evolution of the universe and Earth's place in the cosmos.
- This year the **award** is shared between **James Peebles** for theoretical discoveries in physical cosmology and **Michel Mayor** and **Didier Queloz** for the discovery of an exoplanet orbiting a solar-type star.
- The Nobel Prize in Physics 2019 rewards new understanding of the universe's structure and history, and the first discovery of a planet orbiting a solar-type star outside our solar system.
- This year's Laureates have contributed to answering fundamental questions about our existence.
- What happened in the early infancy of the universe and what happened next?
- Could there be other planets out there, orbiting other suns?

Links:

<https://www.nobelprize.org/prizes/physics/>

Nobel Prize in Economic Sciences, 2019

Question: Which Indian-American economist has been conferred Nobel Prize in Economic Sciences for year 2019?

- (a) Abhijit Banerjee (b) Manisha Kulshrestha (c) P Sadasivam (d) Annie Zaidi

Answer: (a)

Related facts:

- Indian origin economist Abhijit Banerjee, has been awarded the Nobel Prize in Economics for the year 2019.
- The Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences has decided to confer the 2019 Nobel to Abhijit Banerjee and his wife Esther Duflo from MIT and Michael Kremer from Harvard.
- The trio has been awarded for their experimental approach to alleviating global poverty, one of humanities most pressing issues.
- The trio's experimental research methods have benefited over 5 million Indian children, who are part of remedial tutoring programmes in schools.

About Abhijit Banerjee:

- Born in Mumbai, Abhijit did his B.Sc.(H) in economics from University of Calcutta, completed his M.A. in economics at the Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU), Delhi in 1983. Further, he obtained a Ph.D. in Economics at Harvard University in 1988.
- He is an International Professor of Economics at Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Cambridge, USA.
- He is also a co-founder of the Abdul Latif Jameel Poverty Action Lab along with economists Sendhil Mullainathan and Esther Duflo.



About Nobel Prize for Economics:

- Formally known as Bank of Sweden Prize in Economic Sciences, it was established in 1968 by Sveriges Riksbank (Sweden's central bank) in memory of Alfred Nobel, founder of the Nobel Prize.
- The award carries a gold medal, a diploma and a 9 million-kronor (or \$918,000) cash award.
- The first Prize in Economic Sciences was awarded to Ragnar Frisch and Jan Tinbergen in 1969.

Links:

<https://www.nobelprize.org/prizes/economic-sciences/2019/press-release>

India Innovation Index 2019

Question: Consider the following statement in relation with the recent released India Innovation Index 2019.

- (1) India Innovation Index 2019 is released by NITI Aayog and Institute for Competitiveness.
- (2) Kerala is declared the most innovative state in the Index.
- (3) Tamil Nadu and Maharashtra are the second and third best performer states.
- (4) Delhi is the most innovative in the Union Territory list.

Choose the correct option:

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

Answer: (c)

Related facts:



- NITI Aayog with Institute for Competitiveness as the knowledge partner released the India Innovation Index (III) 2019 on October 17 2019.
- Karnataka is the most innovative major state in India.
- Tamil Nadu, Maharashtra, Telangana, Haryana, Kerala, Uttar Pradesh, West Bengal, Gujarat, and Andhra Pradesh form the remaining top ten major states respectively. The top ten major states are majorly concentrated in southern and western India.
- Sikkim and Delhi take the top spots among the north-eastern & hill states, and union territories/city states/small states respectively.
- Delhi, Karnataka, Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu, Telangana, and Uttar Pradesh are the most efficient states in translating inputs into output.
- The index was released in the presence of Dr. Rajiv Kumar, Vice Chairman, NITI Aayog and Amitabh Kant, CEO, NITI Aayog.
- The India Innovation Index would create synergies between different stakeholders in the innovation ecosystem and India would shift to competitive good governance.

- The index is a great beginning to improve the environment of innovation in the country as it focuses on both the input and output components of the idea and promote competitive federalism.

Background:

- Recognizing the role of innovation as a key driver of growth and prosperity for India, NITI Aayog with Institute for Competitiveness as the knowledge partner has released the India Innovation Index 2019.
- The study is an outcome of extensive research and analysis by examining the innovation capabilities and performance of Indian states and union territories.
- The aim is to create a holistic tool which can be used by policymakers across the country to identify the challenges to be addressed and strengths to build on when designing the economic growth policies for their regions.
- The India Innovation Index 2019 is calculated as the average of the scores of its two dimensions – Enablers and Performance. The Enablers are the factors that underpin innovative capacities, grouped in five pillars: (1) Human Capital, (2) Investment, (3) Knowledge Workers, (4) Business Environment, and (5) Safety and Legal Environment.
- The Performance dimension captures benefits that a nation derives from the inputs, divided in two pillars: (6) Knowledge Output and (7) Knowledge Diffusion.
- The states have been bifurcated into three categories: major states, north-east and hill states, and union territories / city states / small states.

Links:

<https://pib.gov.in/PressReleaseDetail.aspx?PRID=1588392>

India destroys several terror camps in POK

Question: A total of how many terror camps were destroyed operating in the Pakistan Occupied Kashmir (POK) on October 20 2019?

(a) Seven (b) Eight (c) Three (d) Five

Answer: (c)

Related facts:

- Indian Army has destroyed three terror camps in Pakistan Occupied Kashmir on October 20 2019.
- It also killed ten Pakistani soldiers. In a major counter-offensive after unprovoked firing by Pakistan, Indian Army carried out heavy artillery strikes targeting four terror camps and several Pakistani military positions in Neelum Valley.
- As per the reports, ten terrorists were also killed in the retaliatory action by the Army.
- The action by the Indian forces caused substantial harm to the terror infrastructure across the Line of Control (LoC).
- Army chief said the terror camps destroyed by the forces were located in Athmuqam, Kundal Shahi, Jura and one in Leepa Valley.
- There have been a series of infiltration attempts from Gurez, Tangdhar, Uri, and Macchil sectors and in areas south of Pir Panjal.
- This was a Pre-emptive strike and four launch pads were targeted by the Army.



Links:

<https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/other-states/indian-army-hits-terrorist-launch-pads-pakistan-posts-in-retaliatory-firing/article29749500.ece>

Girls to enter Sainik School

Question: Who gave nod to the proposal of the entry of girls in the Sainik School from the academic session 2021-22?

(a) Narendra Modi (b) Amit Shah (c) Rajnath Singh (d) Prakash Javdekar

Answer: (c)

Related facts:

- Defence Minister Rajnath Singh has approved a proposal for admission of girl children in Sainik schools w.e.f. academic session 2021-22 in a phased manner.
- The decision has been taken following the success of the pilot project started by the Ministry of Defence for admission of girl children in Sainik School Chhingchhip in Mizoram two years ago.
- The decision is in line with the objective of the Government towards greater inclusiveness, gender equality, enabling greater participation of women in Armed Forces and strengthening the motto of 'Beti Bachao Beti Padhao'.



Links:

<https://pib.gov.in/PressReleaseDetail.aspx?PRID=1588466>

Free rides for women in buses

Question: Which state of India has recently allowed the women to travel free of cost in the state transport buses?

(a) Tamil Nadu (b) Goa (c) New Delhi (d) Sikkim

Answer: (c)

Related facts:

- The state of Delhi rolled out the scheme on October 29 2019 allowing the female passengers for free rides in the DTC (Delhi Transport Corporation) buses.
- A special ticket of pink color called Pink Ticket has been issued for these passengers. Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal has announced this scheme on Independence Day.
- The conductors of buses will distribute pink tickets having face value of ₹10 each to women passengers for free-travel which will then be reimburse by the government to the transporters based on the number of such tickets issued.
- Around 3,700 DTC buses and 1,800 buses under the cluster scheme of the Delhi Integrated Multi-Modal Transit System (DIMTS) are running on the roads of Delhi.
- The public buses in Delhi carry over 45 lakh passengers each day out of which 30 per cent of travelers are women.
- The facility will also be available in Noida-NCR service, airport and other special services operated by the DTC and cluster scheme operators.
- The Delhi assembly passed the government's supplementary demands for grants of Rs 290 crore for free travel for women passengers in buses and metro trains.
- A grant of ₹150 crore has been approved by the Delhi government for implementation of the scheme in metro.



Links:

<https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/politics-and-nation/with-the-pink-ticket-women-ride-dtc-cluster-buses-free-of-cost/who-is-not-eligible/slideshow/71802958.cms>

First National Protocol to Enumerate Snow Leopard Population in India

Question: Who inaugurated the first national protocol to enumerate Snow Leopard population in India?

(a) Prakash Javdekar (b) Ravishankar Prasad (c) Kiren Rijiju (d) Maenka Gandhi

Answer: (a)

Related facts:

- In a major boost towards protecting and conserving Snow Leopards, Union Minister for Environment, Forest and Climate Change Prakash Javadekar launched the First National Protocol on Snow Leopard Population Assessment in India.
- It was launched on the occasion of International Snow Leopard Day on October 23 2019.
- Snow Leopard enumeration of the nation is the first of its kind.
- It has been developed by scientific experts in association with the Snow Leopard States/UTs namely, Ladakh, Jammu & Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Sikkim and Arunachal Pradesh.



4th Steering Committee Meeting:

- There also was the 4th steering committee meeting of the Global Snow Leopard & Ecosystem Protection (GSLEP) Program, at New Delhi.
- The two day international meeting of GSLEP Program is being organized by the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change at New Delhi on 23-24 October 2019.
- The 4th Steering Committee meeting of the GSLEP is being attended by Ministers from Nepal, Russia, Kyrgyzstan and Mongolia along with senior officials from nine of the Snow Leopard countries.
- The Steering Committee meeting of GSLEP chaired by Nepal and Co-Chaired by Kyrgyzstan, who shared their experiences to intensify collaborative efforts towards conserving the Snow Leopards and its ecosystem.
- The Steering Committee also assessed efforts in combating poaching and illegal wildlife trade of Snow Leopards.

Tigers & Snow Leopard:

- It is noteworthy to mention that Snow Leopard is found in 12 countries. They are India, Nepal, Bhutan, China, Mongolia, Russia, Pakistan, Afghanistan, Kyrgyzstan, Kazakhstan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan.
- India has witnessed increase in tiger population with 2967 tigers i.e. 77 per cent of world's tiger population residing in the country, wherein 26000 cameras were used to enumerate the near exact number. India is also home to 500 plus lions, 30000 plus elephants, 2500 plus single-horned rhinos.

Links:

<https://pib.gov.in/PressReleaseDetail.aspx?PRID=1588843>

25 years of Pulse Polio Programme

Question: When was the Pulse Polio Programme was launched countrywide by the government of India?

(a) 1994 (b) 1995 (c) 1993 (d) 1996



Answer: (b)
Related facts:

- Silver Jubilee of the Pulse Polio Programme was celebrated on 22nd October 2019. Dr. Harsh Vardhan, Union Health Minister said that an event is scheduled to be held on 31st October, 2019 at Dr. Ambedkar International Center, Janpath with an expected gathering of around 800-900 delegates.
- India has been declared Polio free in 2014 after a long and momentous journey.
- The success of administering polio vaccination drops to 12 lakh children through 4000 'polio kendras' on 2nd October, 1994 in the city of Delhi, led to a countrywide movement and Pulse Polio Program was taken countrywide a year later in 1995.
- The best practices and the systems established by the Pulse Polio programme have benefitted other health programs, viz. the community mobilization, and logistics management, reaching the last mile or setting up a surveillance system.
- The learnings from Pulse Polio programme have helped implementation of other immunization programme i.e. the Mission Indradhanush (MI) and the Intensified Mission Indradhanush (IMI).
- The MI as a flagship programme and included it in the multi-ministerial programme like the Gram Swaraj Abhiyan (GSA) as well as the Extended Gram Swaraj Abhiyan (EGSA) and we were able to reach and immunize crores of children across the country.
- Since 2014, the Universal Immunization (UIP) basket of vaccines has expanded to cover 12 Vaccine Preventable Diseases (VPDs) from the earlier 7.
- Mission Indradhanush and related drives have successfully reached out to and vaccinated 3.39 crore children and 87.2 Lakh pregnant women in India.

Global Polio Eradication Initiative (GPEI):

- In 1988, the World Health Assembly (WHA) passed a resolution to launch the Global Polio Eradication Initiative (GPEI).
- The Government of Delhi piloted the first ever large scale supplementary immunization campaign with OPV in 1994 giving birth to the "Pulse Polio" immunization campaign with the iconic 'Do Boond Zindagi Ki' tagline, on 2nd October 1994, Mahatma Gandhi's birthday.
- The campaign in Delhi reached nearly one million children up to the age of three years with two doses of OPV being administered on 02 October and 04 December through exclusive booth-based strategy. This strategy was later adopted and implemented by Government of India as Pulse Polio Campaigns.

Links:

<https://pib.gov.in/PressReleaseDetail.aspx?PRID=1588770>

20th Livestock Census

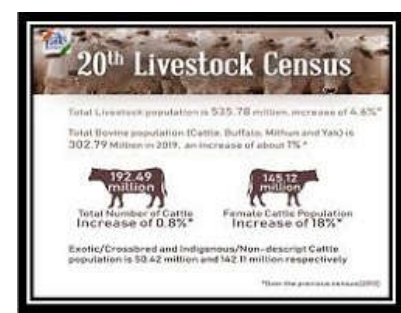
Question: As per the 20th Livestock Census done by the government, what is the total number of desi (native) breed of cows in India?

(a) 4.81 crores (b) 4.85 crores (c) 5 crores (d) 4.50 crores

Answer: (b)

Related facts:

- As per the 20th Livestock Census 2019 report released on October 16 2019, there are 4.85 crores desi breed of cows in India.
- The Department of Animal Husbandry & Dairying under Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry & Dairying attributes critical importance to livestock and to the



related to livestock, as they are the vital component of rural economy.

- The Livestock Census is the main source of livestock data in the country collecting up-to-date and accurate data.
- The livestock census is conducted across the country periodically since 1919. The census usually covers all domesticated animals and head counts of these animals are taken.
- So far, 19 Livestock Censuses were conducted in participation with State Governments and UT Administrations. The 20th Livestock Census was launched during the month of October, 2018.
- The 20th Livestock Census was carried out in about 6.6 lakhs villages and 89 thousand urban wards across the country covering more than 27 Crores of Households and Non Household.

Some of the key outcomes of the 20th Livestock Census:

- The total Livestock population is 535.78 million in the country showing an increase of 4.6% over Livestock Census 2012.
- Total Bovine population (Cattle, Buffalo, Mithun and Yak) is 302.79 Million in 2019 which shows an increase of 1.0% over the previous census.
- The total number of cattle in the country is 192.49 million in 2019 showing an increase of 0.8 % over previous Census.
- The Female Cattle (Cows population) is 145.12 million, increased by 18.0% over the previous census (2012).
- There is a decline of 6 % in the total Indigenous (both descript and non-descript) Cattle population over the previous census. However, the pace of decline of Indigenous Cattle population during 2012-2019 is much lesser as compared to 2007-12 which was about 9%.
- The total buffaloes in the country are 109.85 Million showing an increase of about 1.0% over previous Census.
- The total milch animals (in-milk and dry) in cows and buffaloes are 125.34 Million, an increase of 6.0 % over the previous census.
- The collection and availability of up-to-date and accurate data in the country is 74.26 Million in 2019, increased by 14.1% over previous Census.
- The Goat population in the country in 2019 is 148.88 Million showing an increase of 10.1% over the previous census.
- The total Pigs in the country are 9.06 Million in the current Census, declined by 12.03% over the previous Census.
- The total Horses and Ponies in the country are 3.4 Lakhs in 2019, decreased by 45.6% over previous Census.
- The total Poultry in the country is 851.81 Million in 2019, increased by 16.8% over previous Census.

Links:

<https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/foreign-milch-cows-grow-32-while-no-growth-in-desi-milk-producers-livestock-census-2019/article29715020.ece>

Waste Management Accelerator for Aspiring Women Entrepreneurs (WAVE Summit 2019)

Question: Who inaugurated the Waste Management Accelerator for Aspiring Women Entrepreneur (WAVE Summit 2019) on 18 September 2019?

(a) Narendra Modi (b) Amitabh Kant (c)



- Union Human Resource Development Minister Ramesh Pokhariyal 'Nishank' launched several initiatives of All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE) in New Delhi on September 18 2019.
- It includes Facilitation through Margadarshan and Margadarshak, Model Curriculum for Diploma Courses, Waste Management Accelerator for Aspiring Women Entrepreneurs (WAVE Summit 2019) and 360-degree Feedback of Faculty.

WAVE Summit 2019:

- 'WAVE Summit 2019' is a great initiative because women have skills in their hands and it will further empower and motivate them. The Minister informed that the WAVE Summit will be held in November-December 2019.
- It will be jointly organized by All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE) and Institute of Waste Management (IIWM) at Jaipur.
- He further said that Facilitation through Margadarshan and Margadarshak is also a very good initiative in which the topmost institutions will mentor other institutions, so that they can improve their rankings and follow best practices of the mentor institute.

Facilitation through Margadarshan and Margadarshak

- Margadarshan: Under this scheme, institutions having good accreditation record / highly performing institutions are supposed to mentor relatively newer 10 – 12 potential institutions. These institutions are also provided funding upto Rs. 50 lakhs per institution over a period of three years in installments for carrying out various activities like trainings, workshops, conferences and travel.
- Margadarshak: Under this scheme, mentor teachers or Margadarshaks who are either serving or superannuated but willing and motivated with good knowledge of accreditation and who can devote adequate time to make required visits to these Institutions are identified.

Salient features of Model Curriculum for Diploma Courses in Engineering & Technology are as follows:

- Reduced number of credits.
- Two-week mandatory Induction Program for students has been designed and has to be given at the beginning of the course.
- Introduction of credit course on Sports & Yoga in first semester to inculcate the habit of physical and mental fitness right at the start.
- Inclusion of courses on socially relevant topics. Course on Indian Constitution, Environmental Science & Essence of Indian Knowledge and Tradition have been embedded in the curriculum as audit course.
- Provision of organizing at least one expert lecture per semester for each branch by inviting resource persons from domain specific industry.

'Wave Summit 2019'

- It will be the largest gathering of young women students to promote entrepreneurship in waste management and providing alternatives to single use plastic carry bags.
- Indian Institute of Waste Management (IIWM) & All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE) will be registering the interested participation and guiding them to connect from "Start Up India to Stand Up India".

- Theme: Make your own bag – empowering women to take up income generation activity and entrepreneurship in waste management through making a business out of this record creating concept.

Links:

<https://pib.gov.in/PressReleaseDetailm.aspx?PRID=1585478>

Statewide data on Malnutrition

Question: Which of the following is the reason for 2 out of 3 child death in India as per the recent study of Statewide data on Malnutrition?

(a) Infant Mortality Rate (b) Malnutrition (c) Vaccination (d) Polluted water

Answer: (b)

Related facts:

- A state-wide data on malnutrition presented by the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR), Public Health Foundation of India (PHFI) and National Institute of Nutrition (NIN) was released citing Malnutrition as the predominant risk factor for death in children younger than five in every state of India in 2017.
- This accounts for 68.2 per cent of the total under-5 deaths amounting to 706,000 deaths (due to malnutrition). This is also the leading risk factor of loss of health among all age groups.



The report:

- The prevalence of low birth weight in India in 2017 was 21.4 per cent, child stunting 39.3 per cent, child wasting 15.7 per cent, child underweight 32.7 per cent, anaemia in children 59.7 per cent, anaemia in women 15–49 years of age 54.4 per cent, exclusive breastfeeding 53.3 per cent and overweight child 11.5 per cent.
- There would be 8.9 per cent excess prevalence for low birthweight, 9.6 per cent for stunting, 4.8 per cent for child underweight, 11.7 per cent for anaemia in children, and 13.8 per cent for anaemia in women relative to the 2022 targets if the trends estimated up to 2017 for the indicators continue till National Nutrition Mission 2022.
- Statewise, the DALY (disability adjusted life years) rate due to malnutrition was found to be highest in Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Assam, and Rajasthan, mostly of Central India.
- The worst effect of child and maternal malnutrition is reflected in neonatal disorders, followed by lower respiratory infections and diarrhoeal diseases in children below 5 years.
- The under-5 death rate in India decreased proportionately from 70.4 percent in 1990 to 68.2 per cent in 2017.
- The largest contributor to the malnutrition DALYs in India, having a prevalence of 21 per cent in 2017 is Low birth weight, which showed a modest declining trend.
- Anaemia, as per the report has been extremely high in India at 60 per cent in children and 54 per cent in women in 2017, with only moderate decline during 2010–17.
- The prevalence of overweight children has increased in India in the past decade with a prevalence of 12 per cent in 2017.
- These findings also raise concern about a host of policies in India which have been in practice since 1990 to tackle malnutrition, the key ones being Integrated Child Development Scheme launched in 1975, the National Nutrition Policy 1993, the Mid Day Meal Scheme for school children 1995, and the National Food Security Act 2013, as the prevalence of stunting, wasting and underweight remains high.

Suggestions of the report:

- The report suggests for an integrated nutrition policy is needed to effectively address the broader determinants of undernutrition across the life cycle for improving malnutrition indicators in the states of India.
- The improvement suggested include providing clean drinking water, reducing rates of open defecation, improving women's status, enhancing agricultural productivity and food security, promoting nutrition sensitive agriculture, coupled with harmonisation of efforts across ministries and sectors, political will and good governance, and strategic investments in a multi-sectoral approach.

Links:

https://phfi.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/02/progress_report_07_2011.pdf

Ministry of HRD announces National Educational Alliance for Technology (NEAT) Scheme

Question: The newly announced National Educational Alliance for Technology (NEAT) Scheme by Ministry of HRD is for which type of Education?

- (a) Elementary education (b) Higher education (c) Vocational education
(d) None of the above

Answer: (b)

Related facts:

- Ministry of Human Resource Development has announced a new PPP Scheme, National Educational Alliance for Technology (NEAT) for using technology for better learning outcomes in Higher Education.



National Educational Alliance for Technology (NEAT) Scheme:

- The objective is to use Artificial Intelligence to make learning more personalised and customised as per the requirements of the learner.
- This requires development of technologies in Adaptive Learning to address the diversity of learners.
- Educating the youth is a National effort and MHRD proposes to create a National Alliance with such technology developing EdTech Companies through a PPP model.
- MHRD would act as a facilitator to ensure that the solutions are freely available to a large number of economically backward students. MHRD would create and maintain a National NEAT platform that would provide one-stop access to these technological solutions.
- EdTech companies would be responsible for developing solutions and manage registration of learners through the NEAT portal. They would be free to charge fees as per their policy.
- As their contribution towards the National cause, they would have to offer free coupons to the extent of 25% of the total registrations for their solution through NEAT portal. MHRD would distribute the free coupons for learning to the most socially/economically backward students.
- AICTE would be the implementing agency for NEAT programme. The scheme shall be administered under the guidance of an Apex Committee constituted by MHRD.
- Independent Expert Committees would be constituted for evaluating and selecting the EdTech solutions. MoUs will be signed with the shortlisted EdTech companies.

Awareness programs would be taken up by MHRD to create awareness of the NEAT solutions to teachers and students.

- MHRD proposes to launch and operationalise NEAT in early November 2019.

Links:

<https://pib.gov.in/PressReleaseDetail.aspx?PRID=1585558>

Foundation Stone of NERAMAC Marketing Complex in Guwahati

Question: Which Union Minister laid the foundation stone of North Eastern Regional Agricultural Marketing Corporation Limited (NERAMAC) marketing complex in Guwahati, Assam on September 4, 2019?

(a) Amit Shah (b) Kiren Rijiju (c) Dr. Jitendra Singh (d) Hemanta Biswa Saran

Answer: (c)

Related facts:

- The Union Minister of State for Development of North Eastern Region (IC) Dr Jitendra Singh laid the foundation stone of North Eastern Regional Agricultural Marketing Corporation Limited (NERAMAC) marketing complex in Guwahati, Assam on September 4, 2019. The Secretary, North Eastern Council (NEC), Ram Muivah was also present on the occasion.
- The marketing complex will be a destination to showcase the products of the North Eastern region.
- This initiative will be a new landmark in the field of Agri-Horti Sector where all farmers and entrepreneurs of North East will get a common platform to showcase and market their produce.



NERAMAC Building:

- NERAMAC is coming up with “Construction of its Marketing Complex at Six Mile, Guwahati” in a land measuring 2007 sq. mt. (1.5 bigha) with the support of North Eastern Council (NEC).
- The construction of this building of Office cum marketing complex is funded by North Eastern Council under its scheme for ‘Marketing support Agri-horti produce in NE region’.
- This Building will be developed as a ‘Green Building’ and one of the State of Art land mark buildings in the region. The building will have the provisions for an Agri-Horti Retails Hub wherein all the farmers & entrepreneurs of North East will get a common platform to showcase and sell their products and produces.
- The proposed NERAMAC’s Office cum Marketing Complex shall also have the provisions for accommodating Agri – Horti related Government Departments under a single roof for better coordination and to provide single window facilitation centre to the farmers groups/ Entrepreneurs to avail Schemes of Government.

Links:

<https://pib.gov.in/PressReleaseDetail.aspx?PRID=1584142>

Integrated Online Junction for School Education: Shagun

Question: Consider the following statement regarding Shagun:

- (1) It is an initiative to improve school education system
- (2) Shagun is combination of two words Shala

16

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



meaning Schools and Gunvatta meaning Quality.

(3) It was launched by Ministry Human Resource Development.

From the above correct statement/s is/are:

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

Answer: (d)

Related facts:

- On 28th August, 2019, The Union Human Resource Development Minister launched one of the world's largest Integrated Online Junction for School Education, Shagun.
- It is an online junction of different websites and portals into a single platform to enhance the accessibility of information relating to schools.
- It will ensure a holistic approach to transforming the education sector.

Shagun

- It is an initiative to improve school education system by creating a junction for all online portals and websites relating to various activities of the Department of School Education and Literacy in the Government of India and all States and Union Territories.
- The term Shagun is coined from two different words- Shala meaning Schools and Gunvatta meaning Quality.
- The portal seeks to provide a very robust feedback mechanism which will increase public participation and will ensure accountability and transparency.
- It also provides vital information relating to the availability of nearby schools, navigable distance vis-a-vis aerial distance between schools.

Focus areas:

- Reinforcing and cleaning the data of the Integrated Online Junction through feedback from Stakeholders.
- Ensuring full inter-operability among the websites, portals and applications which are already hosted in the junction.
- Creating high-quality e-contents, including quizzes and puzzles to enhance learning and also for teachers in aiding classroom transactions.
- Using artificial intelligence and deep machine learning in a variety of ways to enhance the quality of school education including for designing evidence-based inventions

Links:

<https://pib.gov.in/PressReleaseDetailm.aspx?PRID=1583276>

Gandhi Solar Park at UN headquarter

Question: Who inaugurated the Gandhi Solar Park at UN head quarter?

(a) Narendra Modi (b) Donald trump (c) Angela Markel (d) Emanuel Macron

Answer: (a)

Related facts:

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi along with other world leaders inaugurated the Gandhi Solar Park at the UN headquarters in New York on 24th September, 2019.
- The 50 kilowatt hour (kWh) roof-top solar park has 193 solar panels—each



representing a member of the 193 UN Member State.

- The \$1 million gift to the UN comes at a time when India has emerged as a clean energy champion.
- To be held in the General Assembly Hall at UN Headquarters, PM Modi will be joining other global leaders at the Summit in the backdrop of US withdrawal from the Paris climate deal.
- India, the biggest emitter of greenhouse gases after the US and China, has been pushing for a clean energy fuelled economy.
- India plans to reduce its carbon emissions by 33-35% from its 2005 levels by 2030, as part of its commitments to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change adopted by 195 countries in Paris in 2015.
- The UN Climate Action Summit is being held before the second general assembly of the International Solar Alliance (ISA) scheduled in New Delhi from 30th October to 2nd November, 2019.
- ISA was jointly launched by the PM Modi and the President of France on 30th November, 2015 in Paris, on the sidelines of COP-21, the UN Climate Conference.
- United Nations secretary-general Antonio Guterres had also attended the first general assembly of the International Solar Alliance in October in New Delhi.
- This also comes at a time of even as countries such as India have been trying to rejig its energy mix in favor of green energy sources.
- At present, India has an installed power-generation capacity of 357,875 megawatts (MW), of which around 22% or 80,000 MW is generated through clean energy projects such as solar and wind.
- With addition of large hydro projects to clean energy segment, India is poised to have 225 GW of renewable energy by 2022.

Links:

<https://www.thehindubusinessline.com/news/modi-to-inaugurate-gandhi-solar-park-at-un-headquarters/article29466958.ece>

President of India Addressed the Federal Council of Switzerland

Question: Consider the following statements regarding President of India visit to Switzerland.

1) Berne is the capital of Switzerland

2) Federal Council of Switzerland is the highest executive authority of the Swiss Confederation.

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

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

Answer: (c)

Related facts:

- President Mr. Ramnath Kovind addressed the Federal Council of Switzerland in Berne on 13th September, 2019.

Highlights of the President's Address:

- The partnership between India and Switzerland has made significant progress.
- Switzerland's support to enhance global efforts to defeat and destroy all forms of terrorism.
- In the coming weeks, both countries would have their first automatic exchange of information on tax matters.
- A positive development since tax evasion and money laundering had links with terrorism.



- He also thanked Switzerland for its consistent support for India's membership of the Nuclear Suppliers Group.
- India will work with Switzerland in fighting climate change and that she was looking forward to Switzerland joining the International Solar Alliance.

About the Federal Council of Switzerland:

- It is the highest executive authority of the Swiss Confederation (the official name of Switzerland).
- Its members represent Switzerland's main political parties.
- It is a seven-member council which constitutes the federal government of the Swiss Confederation.
- The Council serves as the collective head of state and of the government of Switzerland.
- It is appointed by the Federal Assembly, which is the federal legislature of Switzerland

Links:

<https://pib.gov.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=193185>

PM Modi, Mongolian President jointly unveil statue of Lord Buddha

Question: Recently PM Modi and which country President jointly unveil statue of Lord Buddha at Gandan Monastery?

(a) Mongolia (b) Bhutan (c) Nepal (d) Fiji

Answer: (a)

Related facts:

- On 20th September, 2019, Prime Minister Narendra Modi and visiting Mongolian President Khaltmaagiin Battulga jointly unveiled a statue of Lord Buddha at Gandan Monastery in Ulaanbaatar through video-conferencing in New Delhi.
- Mr Modi had offered prayers at the Gandan Tegchenling Monastery during his visit to Mongolia in 2015 and had announced to gift a statue of Lord Buddha to the monastery, underlining the common Buddhist heritage and civilization links between the two countries and peoples.
- Gandan Tegchenling Monastery is a prominent centre of Mongolian Buddhists and a treasure house of valuable Buddhist heritage.
- The Statue unveiled by Prime Minister and Mongolian President symbolizes the shared respect of the two countries for the universal message of Lord Buddha.



Links:

<http://www.newsonair.com/Main-News-Details.aspx?id=371812>

NIRVIK scheme

Question: Consider the following statement:

- (1) Export Credit Guarantee Corporation of India (ECGC) has introduced 'NIRVIK' scheme
- (2) Its aim is to ease the lending process and enhance loan availability for exporters.
- (3) It will help make Indian exports competitive.

From the above correct statement/s is/are:

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

Answer :(d)

Related facts:



- On 16th September 2019, Export Credit Guarantee Corporation of India (ECGC) has introduced 'NIRVIK' scheme to ease the lending process and enhance loan availability for exporters.

Key features of the scheme:

1. Insurance cover guaranteed will cover up to 90 percent of the principal and interest.
2. The increased cover will ensure that foreign and rupee export credit interest rates are below 4 percent and 8 percent respectively for the exporters.
3. The insurance cover will include both pre and post-shipment credit.
4. The gems, jewellery and diamond (GJD) sector borrowers with limit of over Rs 80 crore will have a higher premium rate in comparison to the non-GJD sector borrowers of this category due to the higher loss ratio.
5. For accounts with limits below Rs 80 crore, the premium rates will be moderated to 0.60 per annum and for those exceeding Rs80 crore, the rates will be 0.72 per annum for the same enhanced cover.
6. It mandates inspection of bank documents and records by ECGC officials for losses exceeding Rs.10 crore as against the present Rs 1crore.
7. The banks shall pay a premium to ECGC monthly on the principal and interest as the cover is offered for both outstandings.

Benefits of the scheme:

- It will enhance accessibility and affordability of credit for exporters.
- It will help make Indian exports competitive.
- It will make ECGC procedures exporter friendly.
- The insurance cover is expected to bring down the cost of credit due to capital relief, less provision requirement and liquidity due to quick settlement of claims.
- It will ensure timely and adequate working capital to the export sector.

About ECGC:

- The Export Credit Guarantee Corporation of India (ECGC) is a fully government-owned company that was established in 1957 to promote exports by providing credit insurance services.
- The ECGC provides Export Credit Insurance to Banks (ECIB) to protect the banks from losses on account of export credit at the Pre and Post-Shipment stage given to exporters due to the risks of insolvency or protracted default of the exporter borrower.

Links:

<https://www.livemint.com/videos/-dream-girl-chhichhore-m-o-m-up-for-grabs-business-of-entertainment-1568687531408.html>

National Police University (NPU)

Question: National Police University (NPU) will be set-up in which city?

(a) Bangalore (b) Hyderabad (c) Allahabad (d) Greater Noida

Answer :(d)

- A world-class National Police University (NPU) will be set-up in Greater Noida with a dynamic, state-of-the-art learning and working environment for the advancement and



dissemination of education and research in policing science and related areas.

- The proposed multi-disciplinary university will be established at a prime location in the NCR region on a plot of 100 acres located at IT Park, Tech zone in Greater Noida.
- The Greater Noida Industrial Development Authority (GNIDA) has offered land on a 90-year lease at a concessional rate at the cost of Rs 371 crore.
- One of the priority agenda of the government is to establish a world-class NPU having a dynamic, state-of-the-art learning and working environment dedicated to the advancement and dissemination of education, research and scholarships of the highest quality in the domain of policing science, forensic science, cyber forensics, criminology, criminal justice, risk management and related areas.
- It will offer to the students formal education programmes leading to the award of the bachelor's, masters' and doctoral degrees as well as PG Diploma in specialised niche areas in police sciences, cyber forensics, criminology, criminal justice, forensic science, risk management and allied subjects with special papers in specified areas using classroom teachings initially and later also through distance learning mode.

Links:

<http://www.uniindia.com/centre-decides-to-establish-national-police-university-in-greater-noida/india/news/1734494.html>

Mary Kom recommended for the Padma Vibhushan Award

Question: Who is the first female athlete to be recommended for the Padma Vibhushan?

(a) Mary Kom (b) PV Sindhu (c) Sania Mirza (d) Saina Nehwal

Answer: (a)

Related facts:

- Mary Kom has been recommended for the Padma Vibhushan Award, India's second-highest civilian award.
- She is the first female athlete to be recommended for the Padma Vibhushan.
- PV Sindhu's name has been suggested for the Padma Bhushan Award.
- The Sports Ministry has also named seven other female athletes for the Padma awards, making the awards women-dominated this time.
- The Sports Ministry has recommended the name of wrestler Vinesh Phogat, India's T20I skipper Harmanpreet Kaur, Hockey captain Rani Rampal, ace TT player Manika Batra, shooter Suma Shirur and mountaineer twin sisters, Tashi and Nungshi Malik for the Padma Shri awards.
- Besides the names of the women sportspersons, the sports ministry has recommended the names of archer Tarundeep Rai and hockey Olympian MP Ganesh for the Padma Shri award.
- Mary Kom is a six-time World Champion and 2012 Olympic bronze medalist.
- She is also the first Indian female boxer to win gold at the Asian Games (2014) and Commonwealth Games (2018).
- Mary Kom was honoured with the Padma Shree in 2006 and Padma Bhushan in 2013.
- Mary Kom has also been conferred with the Arjuna award in 2003 and the Rajiv Gandhi Khel Ratna award in 2009.
- Only three sportspersons have received the Padma Vibhushan award till now and they include Vishwanathan Anand (2007), Sir Edmund Hillary (2008) and former Indian batting maestro Sachin Tendulkar, who received the honour in 2008.



Links:

<https://sportstar.thehindu.com/other-sports/mc-mary-kom-padma-vibhushan-nomination->

Ladakhi Shondol dance

Question: Naropa Festival is related to which state?

(a) Sikkim (b) Nagaland (c) Ladakh (d) Arunachal Pradesh

Answer: (c)

Related facts:

- Ladakhi Shondol the royal dance of Ladakh creates history by entering into the Guinness book of world records as the largest Ladakhi dance.
- Shondol dance, which is best known as the royal dance used to be performed by artists for King of Ladakh.
- This time Shondol performed on the occasion of annual Naropa Festival 2019 celebrated during September 16- 20, 2019.
- This year the dance has been performed with the theme 'Environmental sustainability of Ladakh and the Himalayan region'.
- As many as 408 women attired in traditional dresses and beautiful headgears performed the dance, which broke the previous record of 299 artists dance of Shondol in the 2018 festival. The event was held on the concluding day of the ongoing Buddhist carnival Naropa festival near the Hemis Monastery in Ladakh.
- It was organized by the Live to Love India, Drukpa Charitable Trust and Young Drukpa Association.
- The festival focuses on end use of plastics also sensitise the leaders of religious community on plastic waste management and recycling process.
- In Ladakh Naropa Festival Celebrated every 12th year of the Tibetan calendar, this is also known as the 'Kumbh Mela of the Himalayas'.
- The festival celebrates the life of Buddhist philosopher and scholar Naropa and people from across the Himalayas give their participation in traditional ways with singing and cultural events.



Links:

<http://www.newsonair.com/News?title=Ladakhi-Shondol-dance-created-history&id=371868>

Handbook on Fisheries Statistics – 2018

Question: Consider the following statements regarding Handbook on Fisheries Statistics – 2018

(1) India is currently the world's second largest producers of fish.

(2) Andhra Pradesh has recorded the highest production of inland fish.

Of the above correct statement/s is/are:

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

Answer: (c)

Related facts:

- The Union Minister of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry & Dairying has released the "Handbook on Fisheries Statistics – 2018".



Key findings of the handbook:

- India is currently the world's second largest producers of fish. It is also world number two in aquaculture production as well as in inland capture fisheries.
- The total fish production of 12.59 million metric tonnes was registered during 2017-18 with a contribution of 8.90 million metric tonnes from inland sector and 3.69 million metric tonnes from marine sector.
- The average growth in fish production during 2017-18 stands at 10.14% when compared to 2016-17 (11.43 million metric tonnes).
- The percentage contribution of inland fish production in the total fish production of 29% during the year 1950-51 has increased to 71% in the year 2017-18.
- Andhra Pradesh has recorded the highest production of inland fish whereas Gujarat is the leading state in Marine fish in the country.
- The Fisheries sector is also the major source of livelihood for over 1.60 Crore people along with double the number in down and upstream.

Links:

<https://pib.gov.in/PressReleaseDetailm.aspx?PRID=1585615>

Gully Boy India's official entry for the Oscars 2020

Question: Which Indian film has hot official entry for Oscar?

(a) Gully boy (b) Raazi (c) Super 30 (d) Batla House

Answer: (a)

Related facts:

- Ranveer Singh and Alia Bhatt starred Gully Boy has been nominated as India's official entry for the 92nd Oscars 2020.
- It was directed by Zoya Akhtar.
- Gully Boy features its main character Ranveer Singh as an aspiring rapper who struggles a lot to become successful.
- If nominated, the film will compete in the Best Foreign Language Film category at the 92nd Academy Awards.
- Earlier, in 23rd Bucheon International Fantastic Film Festival (BIFAN), Gully Boy had received the Promotion of Asian Cinema (NETPAC) Award held at South Korea.



Links:

<https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/videos/entertainment/hindi/ranveer-singh-and-alia-bhatt-gully-boy-becomes-indias-official-entry-for-oscars-2020/videoshow/71242166.cms>

Fortune India Most Powerful Women list-2019

Question: Who is the youngest woman to be featured in the Fortune India Most Powerful Women list-2019?

(a) Anushka Sharma (b) Deepika Padukone (c) Alia Bhatt (d) Hima Das

Answer: (a)

Related facts:

- On 20 September 2019, Fortune India released its Most Powerful Women list-2019 in business featuring women that are making an impact by virtue of their business acumen and social and cultural influence.



- In the published list, Anushka Sharma (Age 31) is the youngest woman to be featured in the list with a rank of 39.
- She ventured into bollywood in 2008 with the film Rab Ne Bana Di Jodi.
- She is also co-founder of Clean Slate Films, which she established at 25(age), has produced three small-budget Hindi films—NH10, Phillauri, and Pari.
- Zia Mody (Age 63) Co-founder of AZB & Partners is ranked first. Whereas, Kiran Mazumdar-Shaw (Chairperson and MD, Biocon) and Suneeta Reddy (Managing director, Apollo Hospitals Enterprise) were ranked second and third respectively.

Links:

<https://www.fortuneindia.com/mpw?year=2019>

The Jammu & Kashmir Public Safety Act

Question: Consider the following statements regarding the Jammu & Kashmir Public Safety Act:

(1) Public Safety Act accounts in the Jammu Kashmir government.

(2) Under this act individual person can detained for two years.

Choose the correct:

(a) Only(1) (b) Only(2) (c) Both (1)&(2) (d) None of the above

Answer: (C)

Context:

- Former Jammu & Kashmir Chief Minister Dr. Farooq Abdullah was detained under the State's Public Safety Act on September 16, for 12 days.
- This was hours before the Supreme Court was due to hear Rajya Sabha Member Vaiko's habeus corpus petition, seeking the J&K government to produce him in court and release him from detention.



Public Safety Act:

- Ironically, the law was introduced by Sheikh Abdullah (Farooq Abdullah's father) in 1978.
- But its purpose was different.
- It was brought in to prevent timber smuggling, and keep the smugglers in prison. This is a preventive detention law that allows the State government to detain a person up to two years without a trial.
- It is similar to the National Security Act, but this was enacted two years before the NSA came into being.
- Even before Dr. Abdullah was detained under the PSA, he claimed to be under house arrest following the abrogation of certain provisions of Article 370, like other politicians in the State.

Why has he been detained under PSA now?

- In police custody, a person has to be produced before a magistrate within 24 hours of detention.
- But the PSA allows the State to hold a person without producing them in court.
- While the J&K government has not given details as to why Dr. Abdullah has been detained under the PSA, senior Congress leader Kapil Sibal on September 17 hit out at the BJP over the detention and questioned if this action was precipitated by Mr. Vaiko's habeus corpus plea.

What happens after PSA is used?

- Within four weeks of passing the detention order, the government has to refer the case to an Advisory Board.
- This Advisory Board will have to give its recommendations within eight weeks of the order.
- If the Board thinks that there is cause for preventive detention, the government can hold the person up to two years.
- The person detained has limited rights.
- Usually when a person is arrested, they have the right to legal representation and can challenge the arrest.
- But, when a person is arrested under the PSA, they do not have these rights before the Advisory Board unless sufficient grounds can be established that the detention is illegal.
- There have been cases where the High Court has interfered and quashed the detention.
- According to Section 13(2), the detaining authority need not even inform the detained individual as to the reason for the action, if it decides that it goes against public interest.

Links:

<https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/explained-the-jammu-kashmir-public-safety-act/article29438694.ece>

First integrated battle group to be deployed along India-Pakistan border

Question: At which border India's integrated battle group is to be deployed?

- (a) India – Pakistan Border (b) India – China border (c) India – Nepal Border
(d) India – Afghanistan Border

Answer: (a)

Related facts:

- On September 2, 2019, the Indian Army is set to deploy its first Integrated Battle Group (IBG) along the India-Pakistan border by the end of 2019.
- The Indian Army plans to form and deploy 11 -13 IBGs to protect its western and eastern borders.
- The announcement comes as tensions rise across the border on Kashmir issue.
- The Defence Ministry has cleared the reorganization of IX Corps, based in Yol in Himachal Pradesh, to form the Integrated Battle Group to be deployed along the western border.
- This is one of the biggest reorganizations of the Army.
- The first Integrated Battle Groups are smaller in comparison to the regular fighting units of the Army Corps. The groups are also self-contained fighting units, including elements of air power, artillery and armour.



Links:

<https://www.hindustantimes.com/india-news/first-integrated-battle-group-to-be-deployed-along-india-pakistan-border/story-wrvlDDdkQHqcBwxwFI2wpN.html>

Union Government to oversee the bifurcation of Jammu and Kashmir (J&K)

Question: Which Committee has been constituted by the Union Government to oversee the bifurcation of Jammu and Kashmir (J&K) into Union Territories?

- (a) Sanjay Mitra Committee (b) Rajnath Singh Committee (c) Amit Shah Committee



(d) Ajay Kumar Committee

Answer: (a)

Related Facts:

- The Union government recently constituted a 3-member committee chaired by former defence secretary Sanjay Mitra to oversee the bifurcation of Jammu and Kashmir (J&K) into two Union Territories.
- The other Members of the Committee are Arun Goyal, retired IAS officer and Giriraj Prasad Gupta, retired Indian Civil Accounts Service officer.
- The Committee will look into distribution of assets and liabilities of J&K between two UTs.

Links:

<https://www.news18.com/news/india/govt-sets-up-three-member-committee-to-look-into-assets-liabilities-of-jk-2302681.html>

Champions Boat League (CBL)

Question: Champions Boat League (CBL) took place in which of the following state?

(a) Andhra Pradesh (b) Kerala (c) Karnataka (d) Telangana

Answer: (a)

Related facts:

- 'Nadubhagam Chundan', the snake boat of Pallathuruthy Boat Club, lifted the 67th Nehru Trophy at Punnamada Lake in Alappuzha in Kerala.
- The Pallathuruthy Boat Club has thus emerged winner in the maiden race of the inaugural edition of the Champions Boat League (CBL).
- Champakulam Chundan rowed by the United Boat Club, Kainakary, finished second.
- Karichal Chundan (Police Boat Club) and Devas Chundan (NCDC Boat Club, Kumarakom) came third and fourth.
- Although the snakeboat which ferried Nehru was retired a few years ago, the Nadubhagam Boat Club, owner of the snakeboat, built a new chundan with the same name and is competing in boat races.
- Earlier, the 67th edition of the Nehru Trophy Boat Race was inaugurated by Tourism Minister Kadakampally Surendran.
- Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan opened the inaugural edition of the CBL in the presence of cricketer Sachin Tendulkar.
- A total of 79 boats, including 23 snakeboats, participated in the Nehru trophy.
- Hosted by Kerala Tourism, CBL is the country's first-ever boat race on the lines of the IPL.
- There will be 12 races in the CBL beginning with the Nehru trophy and concluding with President's Trophy Boat Race in Kollam on November 23.



Links:

<https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/kerala/nadubhagam-repeats-history-after-67-years/article29311211.ece>

Bank of Baroda launches agri digital platform

Question: Bank of Baroda launched its agri digital platform, the name of the platform is:

(a) Baroda Kisan (b) Baroda Majdoor (c) Kisan (d) BOB krishak

Answer: (a)

Related facts:



- Bank of Baroda launched its agri digital platform “Baroda Kisan” on September 21, 2019.

About Baroda Kisan

- The platform can also be accessed on mobiles by farmers.
- The web-based portal will cater to all the needs of farmers, including weather forecasts, crop conditions, the moisture levels of the soil, information on crop worms, market prices, special crop-related consultation
- Further, it will also help farmers with inputs related to the purchase of different products, (For example – seeds, fertilizers, pesticides), agricultural equipment on rent, consultancy services and innovative financing options for the sale of agricultural products.

Further information:

Loan schemes

- The Bank also launched centralised processing hubs at Gandhinagar and Hyderabad of agriculture proposals.
- It also introduced two loan schemes.
- One of the schemes was meant for the construction and renovation of toilets as well as domestic drinking water facilities under Swachh Bharat Abhiyan, while the would help the people with the construction of houses in rural areas.

Links:

<https://www.thehindubusinessline.com/money-and-banking/bank-of-baroda-launched-agri-digital-platform/article29477135.ece>

Bamboonomics

Question: Which ministry has launched Bamboonomics?

- (a) Ministry of Tribal Affairs (b) Ministry of Science and Technology
(c) Ministry of Finance (d) Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions

Answer : (a)

Related facts:

- Arjun Munda, Minister of Tribal Affairs has launched biggest Tribal Movement to promote tribal enterprise through Bamboonomics at ‘COP 14 UNCCD.
- He launched the movement for combating desertification and the climate change at “The Indian Perspective through Bamboonomics” session at ‘COP 14 UNCCD: TRIFED-GIZ’ organized at Greater Noida Expo on 13th September 2019.
- He informed that how TRIFED will involve the tribal community of India for rehabilitating the degraded land without compromising the income of the poor in the garb of environmentally friendly development.
- Bamboonomics has been designed in such a way that while doing the environmental services, the tribals will earn.
- He also launched two International Committees.
- The Side Event participants also deliberated and finalized TRIFED DELHI Declaration on 4P1000 Initiative: A Tribal Perspective through Bamboonomics.
- The Minister signed and announced the Delhi Declaration of TRIFED.
- TRIFED is striving to integrate its Pradhan Mantri Van Dhan Yojna (PMVDY) with this new global environmental intervention termed as TICD (TRIFED’s Initiative to Combat Desertification).



- TRIFED proposed a business model to supplement the income of tribal community and put it on the world scale by partnering with the German Cooperation (GIZ).
- It called for globalization of this movement by further international cooperation.
- TRIFED's message to UNCCD is that the 4P1000 Initiative with the tribal perspective through Bamboonomics is the best answer for combating desertification and rehabilitation of degraded wastelands.

Links:

<https://pib.gov.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=193175>

Approval to Sugar export policy -season 2019-20

Question: How much, a lump sum export subsidy per Metric Tonne (MT) to sugar mills for the sugar season 2019-20 is being provided by the central Government under the recently approved Sugar export policy?

(a) Rs. 10,448 (b) Rs. 6,600 (c) Rs. 8,800 (d) Rs. 9,400

Answer: (a)

Related facts:

- Approval was given to sugar export policy for evacuation of surplus stocks during sugar season 2019-20.
- This has been done for providing a lump sum export subsidy at Rs. 10,448 per Metric Tonne (MT) to sugar mills for the sugar season 2019-20.
- The total estimated expenditure of about Rs.6,268 crore will be incurred for this purpose.
- The lump sum export subsidy will be provided for the following expenses:-
- On marketing costs including handling, upgrading and other processing costs.
- Costs of international and internal transport.
- Freight charges on export of up to 60 Lakh Metric Tonne (LMT) of sugar limited to Maximum Admissible Export Quantity (MAEQ) allocated to sugar mills for the sugar season 2019-20.
- The subsidy would be directly credited into farmers' account on behalf of mills against cane price dues and subsequent balance, if any, would be credited to mill's account.
- The subsidy shall be in conformity with the provisions of Article 9.1 (d) & (e) of Agreement on Agriculture (AoA) and thus WTO compatible.



Links:-

https://www.business-standard.com/article/news-cm/cabinet-oks-sugar-export-policy-for-evacuation-of-surplus-stocks-during-sugar-season-2019-20-119082801401_1.html

Amit Shah launches Emergency Response Support System 'E-Beat Book' System and 'E-Saathi' App

Question: Consider the following statements:

- (1) ERSS provides a single emergency number 112 to help the people in distress
- (2) ERSS is one of the key projects of the Union Ministry of Home Affairs under Nirbhaya Fund
- (3) E-Beat Book is a web and mobile based application which will ease the collection, updation and analysis of the information related to crime and criminals in a real time

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

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

Answer: (d)

Related facts:



- On 20 September 2019, Union Minister for Home Affairs, Amit Shah launched three citizen centric services of the Chandigarh Police namely Emergency Response Support System (ERSS – Dial 112), 'E-Beat Book' System and the 'E-Saathi App' in Chandigarh.
- These citizen centric services will enhance Indian policing System by building a Smart Police Force.

Emergency Response Support System (ERSS):

- ERSS is one of the key projects of the Union Ministry of Home Affairs under Nirbhaya Fund.
- Under this, a single emergency number (112) has been developed which will help the public in various emergency situations.
- The emergency number 112 will connect to Police, Fire, Health and other helplines through an Emergency Response Centre.
- In future, the Emergency Number for Road Accidents (1073), Women Helpline (1091, 181), Child Help Line (1098), including other Helpline services would be added under the 112 unified emergency response number.

E-Beat Book:

- E-Beat Book is a web and mobile based application which will ease the collection, updation and analysis of the information related to crime and criminals in a real time.
- The E-Beat Book would be linked with Crime and Criminal Tracking Network & Systems (CCTNS), which would help in a real time updation of crime/criminal data.
- With this type of services, citizens' grievances can be effectively redressed in quick manner.

E-Saathi App:

- The 'E-Saathi' App would help the general public, including senior citizens, to remain in touch with the police and also give suggestions to facilitate participative community policing ('Your Police at Your Doorstep' initiative).
- Through the app, the beat officer can do passport verification, tenant verification, servant verification, character certification etc. at a click of a button.

Links:

<https://pib.gov.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=193315>

All-India Survey on Higher Education (AISHE) report

Question: Consider the following statement regarding All-India Survey on Higher Education (AISHE) report:

- 1) It was published by HRD ministry.
- 2) In Uttar Pradesh more number of female in higher education than the male.
- 3) Gross enrollment ratio increased from last year in higher education.

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

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

Answer: (c)

Related facts:

- On September 22, 2019, latest All-India Survey on Higher Education (AISHE) was released by HRD ministry.
- The survey, undertaken as an annual, web-based, pan-India exercise on the status of



Higher Education since 2010-11, covers all the Higher Educational Institutions in the country.

- The survey collects data on several parameters like teachers, student enrolment, programmes, examination results, education finance, infrastructure, etc.

Important facts of the report:

- Gender gap narrowing.
- More Girls in two states: In Uttar Pradesh and Karnataka, there are now more females in the age group of 18-23 enrolling for higher education than male students.
- Female enrolment improved from 47.6% in 2017-18 to 48.6% in 2018-19.
- The gross enrolment ratio (GER) increased marginally – from 25.8 in 2017-18 to 26.3 in 2018-19.
- In absolute terms, enrolment increased from 3.66 crore to 3.74 crore students in the same period. GER for SCs has also shown a growth from 21.8 to 23.0 and STs from 15.9 to 17.2.
- Number of universities has grown from 903 in 2017-18 to 993 in 2018-19 and total HEIs (higher educational institutions) from 49,964 to 51,649 in the same period.
- Number of faculty has also increased from 13.88 lakh to 14.16 lakh.
- Preferred stream at PG level: While one-third of undergraduate students are enrolled in humanities, management seems to be a preferred stream at the postgraduate (PG) level. Science and engineering technology registered relatively more enrolment in M. Phil and Ph.D programmes.
- Preferred stream at the UG level, 35.9% of the total enrolment was in arts/ humanities/social science, just 16.5% students are pursuing science, followed by commerce with 14.1%. Engineering is the fourth choice.

Links:

<https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/lucknow/in-uttar-pradesh-and-karnataka-more-girls-than-boys-in-higher-education/articleshow/71240592.cms>

Integrated Online Junction for School Education: Shagun

Question: Consider the following statement regarding Shagun:

- (1) It is an initiative to improve school education system
 - (2) Shagun combination of two words Shala meaning Schools and Gunvatta meaning Quality
 - (3) It was launched by Ministry Human Resource Development
- of the above correct statement/s is/are:**

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

Answer: (d)

Related facts:

- On 28th August, 2019, Union Human Resource Development Minister launched one of the world's largest Integrated Online Junction for School Education, Shagun.
- It is an online junction of different websites and portals into a single platform to enhance the accessibility of information relating to schools.
- It will ensure a holistic approach to transforming the education sector.



Shagun

- It is an initiative to improve school education system by creating a junction for all online portals and websites relating to various activities of the Department of School Education and Literacy in the Government of India and all States and Union Territories.
- The term Shagun is coined from two different words- Shala meaning Schools and Gunvatta meaning Quality.
- The portal seeks to provide a very robust feedback mechanism which will increase public participation and will ensure accountability and transparency.
- It also provides vital information relating to the availability of nearby schools, navigable distance vis-a-vis aerial distance between schools.

Focus areas:

- Reinforcing and cleaning the data of the Integrated Online Junction through feedback from Stakeholders.
- Ensuring full inter-operability among the websites, portals and applications which are already hosted in the junction.
- Creating high-quality e-content, including quizzes and puzzles to enhance learning and also for teachers in aiding classroom transactions.
- Using artificial intelligence and deep machine learning in a variety of ways to enhance the quality of school education including for designing evidence-based inventions

Links:

<https://pib.gov.in/PressReleaseDetailm.aspx?PRID=1583276>

Sabka Vishwas – Legacy Dispute Resolution Scheme

Question: Ministry of Finance has launched a scheme Sabka Vishwas-Legacy Dispute Resolution Scheme, 2019 aimed at Resolving disputes related to?

(a) Legacy Service Tax and Central Excise (b) Custom duty (c) Income Tax (d) Goods and Services Tax (GST)

Answer: (a)

Related facts:

- In the union Budget 2019-20, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman announced the Sabka Vishwas- Legacy Disputes Resolution Scheme, 2019.
- The scheme has now been notified and is in operation from 1st September 2019. This scheme would continue till 31st December 2019.
- This scheme has been brought to address the issue of a large number of taxpayers for closing their pending disputes relating to legacy Service Tax and Central Excise cases that are now subsumed under GST so they can focus on GST.
- The two main components of the scheme are dispute resolution and amnesty.
- The scheme offers a relief in the tax dues for all categories of cases as well as full waiver of interest, fine, penalty and complete amnesty from prosecution.
- The scheme provides a substantial relief of 70% from the duty demand if it is less than 50 lakh or less and 50 % if it is more than 50 lakh for all cases pending adjudication or appeal in any forum.
- The scheme aims at reducing tax litigation and improving case of doing business, needed at this time where businesses are facing an economic downturn.



Link:

<https://pib.gov.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=192777>

Rajasthan Assembly passes Anti Lynching Bill

Question: Consider the following statements regarding Rajasthan Assembly on the Anti Lynching Bill?

- (1) The Bill has provided for the life imprisonment and penalty of Rs. 1 lakh to 5 lakh.
(2) After 2014, 86% cases of mob lynching reported in the country happened in Rajasthan.

Of the above, choose the correct option/s:

- a) 1 only b) 2 only c) 1 and 2 both d) None of the above

Answer: (c)

Related facts:

- On 5th August, 2019; Rajasthan Legislative Assembly passed a Bill providing for life imprisonment and a fine from Rs. 1 lakh to 5 lakh in those cases where the victim dies due to mob lynching.
- The Rajasthan Protection from Lynching Bill, 2019 was passed by the Vidhan Sabha by a voice vote amid vociferous protest by the opposition, which wanted the Bill to be referred to a Select Committee.
- The Bill was introduced by Parliamentary Affairs Minister Shanti Dhariwal in the State Assembly.
- The Bill is proposed to nip the evil in the bud and to prevent spreading of hatred or incitement to mob lynching by creating special offences against such acts.
- After 2014, 86% cases of mob lynching reported in the country happened in Rajasthan. The State is considered a peace full State and such incidents have put a blot on it.



Definition of the Bill:

- The Bill defines as a group two or more individuals.
- It also defines lynching as an act or series of acts of violence or those of aiding abetting or attempting an act of violence, whether spontaneous or preplanned, by a mob on the grounds of religion, race, caste, sex, place of birth, language, dietary practice, sexual orientation, political affiliation or ethnicity.

Links:

<https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/rajasthan-assembly-passes-anti-mob-lynching-bill/article28823205.ece>

PM visit to Bhutan

Question: Among the following mentioned countries; Bhutan, Singapore, UAE, Thailand and Sri Lanka, in which countries Rupay card is in operation?

- (a) 1,2 and 3 only (b) 1,2, and 4 only (c) 1,3 and 5 only (d) All of the above

Answer: (a)

Related facts:

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi was on State Visit to Bhutan on 17-18 August 2019.
- During the visit, Prime Minister Modi and the Bhutanese leadership resolved to take the bilateral cooperation beyond hydroelectric power sector.



- The two countries signs various MoU to diversity the friendship. The sectors include space, education, science, technology and legal education.
- PM also addressed the students of Royal Bhutan University in Thimpu.
- He also launched Rupay card in Bhutan by making a purchase at Simtokha Dzong, built in 1629 by Shabdrung Namgyal.
- Singapore and UAE are others countries which allowed Rupay card in their country.
- Currency swap limit has also been raised and added \$100 million in the limit.
- The two leaders also unveiled e-plaque of the interconnection India's National Knowledge Network and Bhutan's Druk Research and Education Network.
- Ground Earth Station and SARCOM network, developed with assistance from the ISRO for utilization of South Asia Satellite in Bhutan.

Links:

<https://www.thehindubusinessline.com/news/pm-modi-holds-talks-with-bhutans-pm-signs-10-mous/article29119928.ece>

India's first plant to produce diesel from plastic waste

Question: In which city, India's first plastic to diesel conversion plant has been established?

(a) Mathura (b) Agra (c) Lucknow (d) Ahmedabad

Answer: (a)

Related facts:

- In order to get rid of the growing menace of plastic waste, India's first plastic to diesel conversion plant was inaugurated in Mathura by MP Hema Malini at the Mathura Municipal Corporation's (MMC) trenching grounds. It is likely to be operational by 11th October, 2019.
- The plant will work on a public-private partnership (PPP) model for which the MMC (Mathura Municipal Corporation) has signed a contract with Paterson Energy.
- The plant will eliminate five metric tonnes of plastic everyday from the city, including non-valuable plastic of less than 50 micron thickness such as carry bags or packing material.
- The plant has a capacity to convert one tonne of plastic waste into 150-200 liters of diesel, which will sell at a cost of Rs 45-50 per litre.
- The converted diesel cannot be used in vehicles but can be used as an alternative fuel for diesel generators and factory set up. Instead of using furnace oil, factories can use this oil as it is cheaper.



Methodology:

- Plastic is derived from crude oil through a process called polymerization and at the plant thermo-chemical depolymerisation process is done to reconvert plastic to crude oil.
- In this process plastic waste is heated in a reactor at a very high temperature of between 350-600 degree Celsius in the absence of oxygen, and three components from it – hydrocarbon gases, toxic mix of gases called syngas and carbon black – are derived.
- Afterwards pyrolysis oil is derived, which is a high grade diesel variant after the hydrocarbon gases are condensed.
- Instead of letting the toxic gases out into the atmosphere, these are captured in a balloon and reintroduced as heating agents into a process.
- The entire process is not only energy efficient but also completely green. Also, the process is zero effluent and zero emission.

Links:

<https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/agra/indias-first-plastic-to-diesel-conversion-plant-to-be-operational-from-oct-11/articleshow/71494428.cms>

Mo Sarkar initiative launched

Question: Which Indian state has launched the Mo Sarkar governance initiative?

(a) Madhya Pradesh (b) Odisha (c) Sikkim (d) Bihar

Answer: (b)

Related facts:

- The Mo Sarkar programme, aimed at making governance people-centric, was launched on 2nd October 2019 by Odisha Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik. It is based on 5T Model of Governance.
- The 5Ts model of governance includes technology, transparency, teamwork, transformation and time-laid.
- The program, in its first phase, will be implemented for all police stations and district headquarters hospitals and will later take up all other departments by 5th March, 2020.
- Under Mo Sarkar programme Mr. Patnaik called eight persons in seven districts over phone from his residence to collect their feedback about treatment at government hospitals and service at police stations.
- He had announced this new programme on the occasion of Independence Day this year.
- The Mo Sarkar was launched at all police stations across the State along with 21 district headquarters hospitals and three government-run medical college hospitals at Cuttack, Berhampur and Sambalpur.
- The programme will be effective at all the 30 district headquarters hospitals of the State by 30th October, 2019.



Objective of Mo Sarkar Initiative

- The objective of the Mo Sarkar programme is to provide service with dignity to people who are coming to government offices for different purposes.
- The phone numbers of people who are coming to government offices will be collected randomly with the purpose to improve the governance system by collecting feedback on behaviour and professionalism of government officers.

Feedback collection

- The Chief Minister, Departmental Minister, Director General of Police (in case of police stations) and Departmental Minister, Secretary and Director (in case of hospitals) will call on random numbers to collect feedback.
- The employees will be ranked as good or bad on the basis of the feedback and those with good rank will get out-of-turn promotion and action will be taken against employees with bad rank.

Links:

<https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/bhubaneswar/odisha-naveen-patnaik-launches-mo-sarkar-to-make-governance-people-centric/articleshow/71411146.cms>

Indus Valley settlers had a distinct genetic lineage

Question: Rakhigarhi, the place of the Harappan cemetery, is located in-

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

Answer: (a)

Related facts:

- Researchers recently have studied DNA from skeletal remains excavated from the Harappan cemetery at Rakhigarhi in Haryana.
- According to the new genetic research on Harappan settlers it has been found that they have independent origin and not descended from Eurasian farmers.
- The research has thus thrown fresh light on the Indus Valley Civilization.
- The researchers had successfully sequenced the first genome of an individual from Harappa and combining it with archaeological data.
- This new DNA study about the origin of ancient Harappan settlers has been published, titled as An Ancient Harappan Genome Lacks Ancestry from Steppe Pastoralists or Iranian farmers in the journal Cell



Findings of the study:

- Hunter-gatherers of South Asia had an independent origin.
- The same hunter-gatherer communities developed into agricultural communities and formed the Harappan civilisation.
- The genome of an individual from Harappa does not contain genome from either the Steppe region or ancient Iranian farmers.
- The genetic continuity from hunter gatherer to modern times is visible in the DNA results.
- In this way the new study rejected the theory that the Harappans having Steppe pastoral or ancient Iranian farmer ancestry.
- The finding also negates the hypothesis about mass migration during Harappan times from outside South Asia.
- Professor Vasant Shinde, affiliated to the Department of Archaeology, Deccan College Post-Graduate and Research Institute, Pune, headed the Rakhigarhi Project.
- The study, finds that the same hunter-gatherer communities developed into agricultural communities and formed the Harappan civilization.

Links:

<https://www.thehindu.com/sci-tech/science/indus-valley-settlers-had-a-distinct-genetic-lineage/article29355941.ece>

Pashmina Products gets BIS Certification

Question: Which of the following statements regarding Pashmina wool is not correct?

- (a) Pashmina wool is obtained from a special breed of sheep, Changthangi.
- (b) BIS certification will help curb the adulteration and also protect the real producers.
- (c) Pashmina wool has a thickness of 100-120 micron.
- (d) Ladakh produces 50 MT of the finest grade of Pashmina in the world.

Answer: (c)

Related facts:

- Bureau of Indian Standard has published an Indian Standard for identification, marketing and labelling of Pashmina products.



- Ms. Smriti Irani, Minister of Textile and Women and Child Development said that the certification will help curb the adulteration of Pashmina and also protect the interests of local artisans and nomads who are the producers of Pashmina raw material.
- It will also discourage counterfeit or substandard products presently mislabeled and sold as genuine Pashmina in the market and also assure the purity of Pashmina for customers.
- It will also assure better prices for the goat herding community in Ladakh as well as for the local handloom artisans producing genuine Pashmina products, currently a disadvantaged lot due to rampant marketing malpractices.
- Ladakh produces 50 MT of the finest grade of Pashmina in the world (12-15 microns).
- The Changthangi or Pashmina goat is a special breed of goat indigenous to the high altitude regions of Ladakh and Kashmir.
- Presently 2400 families are rearing 2.5 lakh goats; they are raised for ultra-fine cashmere wool, known as Pashmina after weaving.

Link:

<http://pib.nic.in/PressReleaseDetail.aspx?PRID=1581152>

Lemru Elephant Reserve

Question: On 15th August, 2019 Chief Minister of which state announced the formation of Lemru Elephant Reserve?

(a) Maharashtra (b) Chattisgarh (c) Karnataka (d) Assam

Answer: (b)

Related facts:

- On 15th August, 2019; Chattisgarh Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel announced the formation of Lemru Elephant Reserve in the State.
- As per press release of Chattisgarh Government, Lemru Elephant Reserve (LER) is being set up over an area spanning 450 square kilometers.
- This reserve is aimed at minimizing human-elephant conflict and destruction of property in addition to providing a permanent habitat for the wild tuskers.
- The reserve will be set-up as per the report and recommendations of Special High-Power Technical Committee (SHPTC) which was constituted by the Government of India.



SHPTC report: Advantages of the Reserve:

- The Reserve would provide a huge protected area for the conservation of wild elephants and will provide abundant amount of water, food and other facilities to the tuskers.
- This reserve would also help in protecting the populated areas as wild elephants will venture less towards human population and reducing the number of man-elephant conflicts.
- Lesser damage of crops, property and human lives as well

Central Government's Consent:

- It should be noted that in October 2007, the Union Government had given its consent to form two elephant reserves in the State.
- These were to be formed in Chattisgarh in the areas of Bandalkhol and Tamor Pingla forests and the second one as Lemru Elephant Reserve.
- Chhattisgarh government had also formed Sarguja-Jashpur Elephant Reserve in 2011.

Links:

<https://www.aninews.in/news/national/general-news/chhattisgarh-cm-announces-formation-of-lemru-elephant-reserve20190817222554/>

Institute of Eminence

Question: Which of the following institution has not been included in the Institute of Eminence category by Ministry of Human Resource Development?

- (a) Banaras Hindu University (b) IIT Delhi (c) Jadhavpur university
(d) Presidency university

Answer: (d)

Related facts:

- The UGC, in its 542nd meeting held on 2nd August, 2019 considered the reports of the Empowerment Expert Committee appointed by Government under the Chairmanship of Shri N Gopalswami recommending (15) public institutions and (15) private institutions for considering to give status of Institution of Eminence.
- The following were the principles used for identifying the (10) Public and (10) Private Institutions, from the list of (15) Public and (15) Private Institutions recommended by the EEC:



a) Since the thrust of the scheme is to prepare institutions for the global rankings, no existing institution which has NOT figured in any of the global/national ranks shall be recommended for the Institution of Eminence (IoE) status.

b) Only after exhausting the above criterion, if any slot remains vacant, consideration shall be given to yet to be established (Greenfield) proposals.

List of Institutions of Eminence:**Public:**

IIT Bombay; IIT Delhi; IISC Bangalore; IIT Madras; IIT Kharagpur; Delhi University; Jadhavpur University; Anna University; BHU, Varanasi; Savitri Bai Phule Pune University; University of Hyderabad; AMU, Aligarh; Tezpur University; Punjab University, Chandigarh and Andhra University

Private:

BITS Pilani, Rajasthan; Manipal Academy Of Higher Education; Jio Institute (Reliance Foundation, Maharashtra); Amrita Vishva Vidyapeetham; VIT Vellore, Tamil Nadu; Jamia Hamdard, New Delhi; Kalinga Institute of Industrial Technology, Bhubaneswar; O.P. JINDAL University; Shiv Nadar University, Uttar Pradesh; Bharti (Satya Bharati Foundation), Delhi; Azim Premji University, Bangalore; Ashoka University, Sonapat, Haryana; IIHS (Indian Institute for Human Settlement), Bangalore; Indian Institute of Public Health, Gandhinagar and KREA University (IFMR), Chennai, Tamil Nadu.

Link:

<https://pib.gov.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=192458>

First case of arrest in Triple Talaq in Kerala

Question: In which of the following State first case of arrest in Triple Talaq was reported?

- (a) Karnataka (b) Madhya Pradesh (c) Kerala (d) Tamilnadu



Answer: (c)

Related facts:

- On 16th August, 2019, a 32 year old man from Kozhikode's Mukkom village was arrested for allegedly divorcing his wife through Triple Talaq.
- The suspect was arrested by police following a warrant issued by the Judicial First Class Magistrate Court.
- It was the first such arrest recorded in Kerala after Parliament passed a bill banning the practice of Triple Talaq.
- The suspect was arrested under Section 3 and 4 of the Act.
- Section 3 provides that any pronouncement of talaq by a Muslim husband upon his wife, by words, either spoken or written or in electronic form or in any other manner whatsoever, shall be void and illegal.
- Section 4 says that any Muslim husband who pronounces talaq referred to in section 3 upon his wife shall be punished with imprisonment for a term which may extend to three years, and shall also be liable to fine.

Links:

<https://www.indiatoday.in/india/story/kerala-records-first-arrest-in-triple-talaq-case-1581515-2019-08-16>

Railway's commando unit CORAS

Question: The first deployment of the Railway's commando unit CORAS will be at which of the following States?

(a) Chattisgarh (b) Maharashtra (c) Odisha (d) West Bengal

Answer: (a)

Related facts:

- On August 14, 2019, Minister of Railways and Commerce & Industry, Piyush Goyal launched CORAS (Commando for Railway Security) of Indian Railways and new establishment manual for Railway Protection Force.
- The first deployment of the Railway's commando unit CORAS will be in the Naxal-hit areas of Chhattisgarh.
- A new state-of-the-art facility will be built in Haryana's Jagadhari city to train CORAS commandos.
- At the launch of the Commandos for Railway Safety (CORAS), Railway Minister Piyush Goyal approved the setting up of the institute and instructed the Railway Protection Force (RPF) to provide them with training of international standards.
- They will also be deployed in areas where railway has major ongoing projects which need security like northeastern States and Jammu and Kashmir.
- The unit is being envisaged as a responder for any situation pertaining to damage, disturbance, disruption of train operations, attack/hostage/hijack and disaster situations in railway areas.
- Comprising RPF and Railway Protection Special Force (RPSF) personnel, the CORAS is headed by the RPF DG and is armed with special uniforms with bullet-proof jackets, helmets and sophisticated weapons.
- There are 14 battalions of the RPSF and one of its battalion had been converted into CORAS. The men of CORAS have been trained in the NSG academy and Greyhounds.
- Greyhounds specializes in anti-insurgency operations against Naxalites.
- CORAS commandos will be undergoing training programmes, including basic and advanced commando courses with specialization in handling landmines and improvised explosive devices, hostage rescue, sniping and breaching.



Links:

<https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/coras-indian-railways-commando-unit/article29093383.ece>

Bihar's First Community Reserve

Question: Which of the following wetland has been declared, Bihar's First Community Reserve?

(a) Gogabeel lake (b) Kanwar Lake (c) Baraila Bird Sanctuary (d) Asthan Bird Sanctuary

Answer: (a)

Related facts:

- Gogabeel is an ox-bow lake in Bihar's Katihar district. It has been declared as the State's first Community Reserve. It is the fifteenth Protected Area in Bihar.
- The water body was notified as 57 hectare Community Reserve and a 30 hectare Conservation Reserve on 2nd August, 2019.
- Gogabeel is formed from the flow of the rivers namely Mahananda and Kankhar in the north and the Ganga in the south and east.
- Gogabeel was initially notified as a Closed Area by the State Government in the year 1990 for 5 years.
- It is a permanent water-body, although it shrinks to some extent in the summer but never dries completely.
- It is a shelter place to more than 90 bird species of which 30 are migratory.
- Community reserve is a special protected area declared by the government and protected and conserved by the efforts of the local people and community.



Link:

<https://www.downtoearth.org.in/news/wildlife-biodiversity/gogabeel-is-bihar-s-first-community-reserve-66089>

Bharat Ratna

Question: Who among the following imminent personalities has been conferred Bharat Ratna this year?

(a) Nanaji Deshmukh (b) Pranab Mukherjee (c) Bhupen Hazarika (d) All of the above

Answer: (d)

Related facts:

- On 8 August 2019, President of India, Ram Nath Kovind, presented Bharat Ratna Awards to Nanaji Deshmukh (posthumously), Dr Bhupendra Kumar Hazarika (posthumously) and Pranab Mukherjee at an Investiture Ceremony held at Rashtrapati Bhavan.
- PM praised Nanaji Deshmukh for his contribution towards rural development which showed the way for new paradigm of empowering those living in the villages.
- He personifies humility, compassion and service to the downtrodden.



- The songs and music of Bhupen Hazarika are admired by people.
- Pranab Mukherjee was awarded for his selfless service to the nation by decorated almost all the key constitutional posts.

Bharat Ratna:

- The medallion is cast in Bronze. The medallion is designed like the leaf of Pipal Tree with sunburst in the center and Bharat Ratna is engraved underneath it.
- It is given for exceptional service towards advancement of Art, Literature and Science, and in recognition of Public Service of the highest order. It is also not mandatory that Bharat Ratna be awarded every year.
- The provision of Bharat Ratna was introduced in 1954. The first ever Indian to receive this award was the famous scientist, Chandrasekhar Venkata Raman. Since then, many dignitaries, each a which in varied aspects of their career has received this coveted award.
- Notable awardees of the Bharat Ratna included the likes of Singer Lata Mangeshkar, Sardar Vallabh Bhai Patel, Indira Gandhi, Sachin Tendulkar, Dr. Abdul Kalam and Pro. C.N.R. Rao etc.

Links:

<https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/bharat-ratna-for-pranab-mukherjee-fitting-recognition-for-his-service-to-nation-pm-modi/article28922094.ece>

Delhi CM Arvind Kejriwal launched: Champions Campaign

Question: Recently the slogan Champions Campaign came into the news from Delhi, it is associated with?

- (a) Promotion of football (b) Promotion of Hockey (c) Fight against Dengue
(d) Fitness

Answer: (c)

Related facts:

- On 19th September, 2019, the Chief Minister of Delhi, Arvind Kejriwal launched Champions Campaign to fight against dengue in the State.
- According to an official statement, the campaign envisages that citizens should promptly reach out to 10 of their friends or peers and asked them to clean the stagnant water in their premises to prevent the spreading of dengue bearing mosquitoes.
- Earlier on 8th September, 2019 he had also launched 10Hafta 10Baje 10Minute campaign.
- In this campaign Kejriwal had urged the Delhi residents to give 10 minutes every Sunday from 1st September to 15th November, 2019, to check the surroundings to prevent the breeding of dengue-carrier mosquitoes.



Links:

<http://www.uniindia.com/kejriwal-launches-champions-campaign-in-fight-against-dengue/india/news/1734432.html>

2020 as Year of Artificial Intelligence (AI)

Question: Which of the following Indian State has declared 2020 as Year of Artificial Intelligence (AI)?

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



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

Answer: (b)
Related facts:

- Telangana State Government will declare the year 2020 as Year of Artificial Intelligence (AI). In this regard Telangana government has signed up with NITI Aayog (National Institution for Transforming India) to run pilot projects in the State.
- To promote Artificial Intelligence (AI) in everyday life Telangana will organize multiple programs and activities related to the new age technology throughout the year.
- The State has taken right decision in the backdrop of the emerging talent workforce and renewed focus by industry and other ecosystem players on this space in the past four to five years
- Telangana was the 1st State to sign up with NITI Aayog when they prepared AI for All document.
- Year of Artificial Intelligence will be celebrated by organizing various programmes, meetings and activities. Government organizations will give challenges and make available data sets to the companies to run algorithms based on AI
- A Centre of Excellence in Data Sciences and AI will be set up by NASSCOM (National Association of Software and Services Companies). It should be known that NASSCOM is trade association of Indian Information Technology and Business Process Outsourcing industry.
- IIT (Indian Institutes of Technology), Kharagpur is also coming up with its regional centre in Hyderabad to initiate first program in AI in Telangana.

Link:

https://www.business-standard.com/article/pti-stories/2020-year-of-ai-for-telangana-official-119091801001_1.html

Telangana becomes fully electrified state

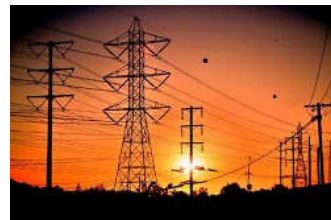
Question: Recently, which state has achieved the feat of 100 percent electrification?

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

Answer: (a)

Related facts:

- Telangana has become one the fully electrified states in the country after providing electricity to over 5 lakh 15 thousand households under the **Saubhagya Yojana**.
- Among the newly electrified households, maximum are in the erstwhile **Mahabubnagar District** in which one lakh 60 thousand households got electrified.
- After fully covering the state by the end of January this year, a special drive has also been conducted in which another over 63 thousand households have been covered making the state fully electrified under the Saubhagya Yojana.



About Saubhagya:

- Pradhan Mantri Sahaj Bijli Har Ghar Yojana – ‘Saubhagya’ a new scheme was launched by the Prime Minister Narendra Modi **on 25th September, 2017**.
- Under Saubhagya free electricity connections to all households (both APL and poor families) in rural areas and poor families in urban areas will be provided.

- The scheme aims to achieve the goal of universal household electrification in the country by March 31, 2019.
- However, the Yojana lapsed on March 31, 2019, but its target of 100% electrification nationwide is yet to be achieved.
- As per scheme, Electricity connections will be given to APL families for Rs 500, which will be payable in 10 equal monthly instalments. The BPL cardholders will get free electricity connections.
- Rural Electrification Corporation (REC) has been **designated as nodal agency for the Saubhagya scheme.**
- The total outlay of scheme is Rs. 16,320 crore while Gross Budgetary Support (GBS) is Rs. 12,320 crore.
- Since the Saubhagya Scheme has no allocation in the latest Budget, these connections will be funded through the Integrated Power Development Scheme (IPDS) and Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Gram Jyoti Yojana (DDUGJY).

Indian Power Sector:

- India ranks third globally in terms of electricity production.
- Also, the country has the **fifth largest power generation capacity in the world.**

Links:

<http://www.newsonair.com/Main-News-Details.aspx?id=372347>

Swachh Survekshan Grameen 2019

Question: Which district emerged as the top performer in the Swachh Survekshan Grameen 2019 ranking?

(a) Peddapalli (b) Faridabad (c) Rewari (d) Rapuru

Answer: (a)

Related facts:

- To provide national ranking of all districts and States of India on the basis of quantitative and qualitative sanitation (Swachhata) parameters, annual sanitation survey Swachh Survekshan Grameen 2019 was announced.
- The Department of Drinking Water and Sanitation had commissioned “Swachh Survekshan Grameen-2019” (SSG 2019) through an independent survey agency.
- The Swachhta Survey was **carried out in 683 districts and 17,209 villages** which included feedback from people, direct observation by third party assessors and service level progress by local administration.



Top Performers:

- Amongst the Larger States (**population more than or equal to 30 lakh**), **Tamil Nadu** has been ranked first in the cleanliness survey. Whereas, Haryana and Gujarat were spotted second and third respectively.
- Amongst the Smaller States (population less than 30 lakh), **Mizoram** has been adjudged number one followed by Daman & Diu and Sikkim consecutively.
- In the domain of Overall Best District, **Peddapalli district of Telangana emerged as the top performer.** While Faridabad and Rewari districts of Haryana are at second and third spot respectively.

Top States by Zones and UT:

- State of Haryana is ranked topmost state in North.
- State of Tamil Nadu is ranked topmost state in South.
- State of Jharkhand is ranked topmost state in East.
- State of Gujarat is ranked topmost state in West.
- State of Mizoram is ranked topmost state in North East.
- Daman & Diu is the top ranked Union Territory.

Links:

<https://jalshakti-ddws.gov.in/sites/default/files/SSG2019FlyerRevised-converted.pdf>

School Education Quality Index

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

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

Answer: b

Related facts:

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

The rankings:

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

Links:

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

Facial biometric data

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

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

Answer: (a)

Related facts:

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

Link:

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

International

Global Tuberculosis Report 2019

Question: Which of the following statement is/are correct in reference to the Global Tuberculosis Report 2019 published by WHO recently?

(1) The report was released by World Health Organisation (WHO) on October 17 2019.

(2) The TB incident rates in India have been decreased by 50,000 patients in 2018.

(3) WHO has published a global TB report every year since 1997.

(4) Most TB cases diagnosed in 2018 were in the WHO regions of South-East Asia.

Correct options are:

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

Answer: (d)

Related facts:



- The World Health Organisation (WHO) has released its Global Tuberculosis Report 2019 on October 17 2019.
- WHO has published a global TB report every year since 1997 to provide a comprehensive and up-to-date assessment of the TB epidemic.

2019 report:

- The data are collected by 202 countries and territories that account for more than 99% of the world's population and estimated number of TB cases.
- SDG Target 3.3 includes ending the TB epidemic by 2030.
- Globally, an estimated 10.0 million (range, 9.0–11.1 million) people fell ill with TB in 2018.
- The burden of disease varies enormously among countries, from fewer than five to more than 500 new cases per 100 000 population per year, with the global average being around 130.
- There were an estimated 1.2million (range, 1.1–1.3 million) TB deaths among HIV-negative people in 2018 (a 27% reduction from 1.7 million in 2000), and an additional 251 000 deaths (range, 223 000–281 000) among HIV-positive people (a 60% reduction from 620 000 in 2000).
- TB affects people of both sexes in all age groups but the highest burden is in men (aged ≥15 years), who accounted for 57% of all TB cases in 2018. By comparison, women accounted for 32% of cases.
- Geographically, most TB cases in 2018 were in the WHO regions of South-East Asia (44%), Africa (24%) and the Western Pacific (18%), with smaller percentages in the Eastern Mediterranean (8%), the Americas (3%) and Europe (3%).
- Eight countries accounted for two thirds of the global total: India (27%), China (9%), Indonesia (8%), the Philippines (6%), Pakistan (6%), Nigeria (4%), Bangladesh (4%) and South Africa (3%). These and 22 other countries in WHO's list of 30 high TB burden countries accounted for 87% of the world's cases.
- It was reported that most WHO regions and many high TB burden countries are not on track to reach the 2020 milestones of the End TB Strategy.
- Globally, the average rate of decline in the TB incidence rate was 1.6% per year in the period 2000–2018, and 2.0% between 2017 and 2018.
- Globally, 7.0 million new cases of TB were notified in 2018; an increase from 6.4 million in 2017 and a large increase from the 5.7–5.8 million notified annually in the period 2009–2012.
- In India, notifications of new cases rose from 1.2 million to 2.0 million between 2013 and 2018 (+60%).
- Ten countries accounted for about 80% of the gap, with India (25%), Nigeria (12%), Indonesia (10%) and the Philippines (8%) accounting for more than half of the total.
- In 2019, the 119 low- and middle-income countries, which accounts for 97 per cent of reported TB cases, received a global funding of \$6.8 billion. In 2018, it was \$6.4 billion in 2018 and \$3.5 billion in 2006.

Links: https://www.who.int/tb/publications/global_report/tb19_Exec_Sum_15October2019.pdf?ua=1

G20 Health Ministers' Meeting

Question: Where did the G20 Health Ministers Meeting take place on October 19- 20 2019?

(a) Osaka (b) Jakarta (c) Okayama (d) Seoul

Answer: (c)

Related facts:



- The G20 Health Minister Meeting take place in Okayama, Japan on October 19-20 2019.
- Dr. Harsh Vardhan represented India in this meeting.
- The deliberations of the G 20 Health Ministers focused on four major global health issues, namely

- I. Achievement of Universal Health Coverage
- II. Response to population aging
- III. Management of health risks and health security management including Anti-Microbial Resistance (AMR) and its containment.

India`s vision for the inclusive health:

- Intervening on Universal Health coverage (UHC), India highlighted programmes like Ayushman Bharat, FIT India Movement and Eat Right Campaign. Union Health minister confided that India is on the path to UHC and will contribute effectively in sustaining UHC at the global level.
- On “Response to Population Aging” Union Minister for Health and Family Welfare, during his intervention, shared India’s vision for its projected 20% elderly population by 2050.
- Efforts done so far under National Programme for Health Care of Elderly to provide accessible, affordable, and high-quality long-term, comprehensive health care services to an ageing population were conveyed to G20 countries.
- Deliberating on Health risk and health security, Union Health Minister made intervention on Anti-Microbial Resistance (AMR), seen as a serious emerging threat to global public health.
- He conveyed G20 Health Ministers that in a short span of time India has made commendable progress by implementing a national action plan, establishing a national antimicrobial resistance surveillance system, and its decision to contribute to global AMR R&D efforts.
- The G20 Health Ministers meeting concluded by adopting the “Okayama Declaration of the G 20 Health Ministers”. The declaration, having 52 articles endorses the Commitment of G20 countries to address the major global health issues, as highlighted above and to pave the way towards an inclusive and sustainable world, as envisioned in the 2030 agenda for sustainable development.
- This opportunity was also utilized to have bi-lateral meetings with Italy, Singapore, United Kingdom and United States of America.

G20 Health Minister Meeting:

- The first G20 Health Ministers’ Meeting was held in Berlin, Germany, in May 2017, followed by the second meeting in Mar del Plata, Argentina, in October 2018.
- Health ministers of the G20 member states have discussed various topics on global health. Under the Japanese presidency, the third G20 Health Ministers’ Meeting will be held this year in Okayama City, Okayama Prefecture.
- G20 countries participated in the event along with invited guest countries; Chile, Egypt, Netherlands, Senegal, Singapore, Spain, Thailand, Vietnam.

Links:

<https://g20-meeting2019.mhlw.go.jp/health/overview.html>

First graduate-level research-based AI University in world

Question: Which of the following country has announced recently to establish the first graduate level, research based university in the world?

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



(a) China (b) Japan (c) UAE (d) Germany

Answer: (c)

Related facts:

- UAE has announced the establishment of the Mohamed bin Zayed University of Artificial Intelligence(MBZUAI), the first graduate-level, research-based AI university in the world.
- MBZUAI will enable graduate students, businesses and governments to advance the artificial intelligence field.
- The University is named after Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Crown Prince of Abu Dhabi and Deputy Supreme Commander of the UAE Armed Forces.
- MBZUAI will introduce a new model of academia and research to the field of AI, providing students and faculty access to some of the world's most advanced AI systems to unleash its potential for economic and societal development.
- MBZUAI will provide all admitted students with a full scholarship, plus benefits such as a monthly allowance, health insurance, and accommodation.
- The University will work with leading local and global companies to secure internships, and will also assist students in finding employment opportunities.

Links:

<http://newsonair.com/News?title=UAE-announces-establishment-of-1st-graduate-level%2C-research-based-AI-university-in-world&id=373066>

Argentina Presidential Election

Question: Who has been recently elected as the President of Argentina in the recently held elections?

(a) Alberto Fernandez (b) Mauricio Marci (c) Cristina Kirchner (d) Loku Widodo

Answer: (a)

Related facts:

- Argentina's left-leaning candidate Alberto Fernandez won the presidential election in the recent held Presidential election.
- Fernández got 47.3% vote needed to win, beating the conservative incumbent Mauricio Macri.
- Fernandez, a 60-year-old law professor. His win also caps a remarkable political comeback for ex-president Cristina Kirchner, who will be the vice-president.
- The election has taken place amid an economic crisis leaving a third of Argentina's population in poverty.
- Fernandez vowed to end sharp divisions between his Peronist movement and supporters of the business-friendly incumbent.
- The return to power of protectionist Peronists comes amid a lengthy recession and a debt crunch, raising market fears of a possible default on a \$ 57 billion IMF loan.
- Fernández is expected to assume the presidency on 10 December 2019.

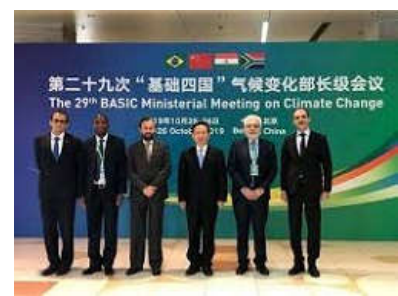


Links:

<https://www.bbc.com/news/world-latin-america-50203727>

29th BASIC Ministerial Meet

Question: Where did the 29th BASIC Ministerial Meet take place on October 25-26 2019?



(a) New Delhi (b) Tokyo (c) Rio De Janeiro (d) Beijing

Answer: (d)

Related facts:

- The 29th BASIC (Brazil, South Africa, India, China) Ministerial Meeting on Climate Change was held in Beijing, China, on 25th-26th October 2019. The meeting was chaired by Li Ganjie, Minister of Ecology and Environment of the People's Republic of China.
- The Union Minister for Environment, Forest and Climate Change Prakash Javadekar represented India in the meeting. Roberto Castelo Branco, National Secretary for International Relations, Ministry of the Environment of Brazil, and Maesela Kekana, Chief Director of International Climate Change Relations and Negotiations of South Africa.

Following is the Joint Statement issued at the Conclusion of 29th BASIC Ministerial Meeting on Climate Change:

- BASIC Ministers expressed their concern for the global challenge of climate change and its adverse effects, and confirmed their commitments to multilateralism in order to address the issue and to foster climate resilience and promote greenhouse gas emissions reduction, low-carbon and sustainable development, with a view to collectively working towards preparedness of international community for the wellbeing of all.
- Ministers emphasized the faithful and comprehensive implementation of the Paris Agreement, in particular of its goals and principles, and underlined the importance of a full, effective and sustained implementation of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), its Kyoto Protocol and its Paris Agreement, in accordance with the principles of equity, common but differentiated responsibilities and respective capabilities (CBDR-RC), in the light of different national circumstances, as well as the nationally-determined nature of the Paris Agreement.
- The BASIC Ministers reaffirmed and emphasized the need for people's participation and climate friendly lifestyles for addressing the challenge of climate change acknowledging that Paris Agreement embodies and calls for sustainable lifestyles and consumption patterns.
- Ministers highlighted that developing countries, including BASIC countries, notwithstanding the multiple challenges including food security, poverty eradication, and insufficient and uneven progress of domestic development, have been implementing ambitious climate action based on their national circumstances in the context of sustainable development, and have achieved great progress with significant contribution to global efforts in combating climate change.
- In 2018, China has reduced carbon dioxide emissions per unit of GDP by 45.8% from the 2005 level, increased the share of non-fossil fuels in primary energy consumption to 14.3%. South Africa has recently implemented carbon tax, and announced massive renewable energy program in its latest electricity plan. India has already achieved 21% reduction in emission intensity of GDP in 2014 compared to 2005 levels, thereby achieving its pre-2020 voluntary target. In 2015, Brazil had already achieved a 58% emission reduction in the business as usual scenario set for its NAMAs, thereby overachieving its target of 36%- 39% reductions set for 2020.
- Ministers noted UN Climate Action Summit and its strong political signal of upholding multilateralism, implementing the Paris Agreement, and enhancing ambitions of action and support. BASIC countries actively engaged and contributed, and are ready to further strengthen international cooperation to explore solutions which are cost-effective and with lower risks, such as nature-based solutions, and technology innovation in industry transition.
- Ministers expressed their appreciation to the Polish Presidency's contribution to the conclusion of the bulk of the Paris Agreement Work Programme (PAWP). They appreciated Costa Rica for hosting Pre-COP25 to promote political dialogue on specific issues.
- Ministers underlined their commitment to taking ambitious actions to implement their NDCs. They stressed that action and support are integral in terms of ambition, and the ambition of support by developed countries should match the ambition of action by developing countries

- Ministers expressed their deep concern on the insufficiency and inadequacy of the support provided by developed countries to date, and underlined that the climate finance should be new, additional, and with significant public funded component.
- Ministers hailed the 10th anniversary of the BASIC Group and agreed to further strengthen the solidarity and cooperation among the four countries.
- Ministers welcomed the offer of India to host the 30th BASIC Ministerial Meeting.

Links:

<https://pib.gov.in/PressReleaseDetail.aspx?PRID=1589318>

International Migrant Stock 2019

Question: Which of the following organization has released the International Migrant Stock 2019 on September 17, 2019?

- (a) Amnesty International (b) Economic Intelligence Unit
(c) UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs (d) World Bank

Answer: (c)

Related facts:

- The International Migrant Stock 2019, a dataset released by the Population Division of the UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs (DESA) on September 17 2019 provides the latest estimates of the number of international migrants by age, sex and origin for all countries and areas of the world.
- The estimates are based on official national statistics on the foreign-born or the foreign population obtained from population censuses, population registers or nationally representative surveys.

Major highlights of the report:

- The number of international migrants globally reached an estimated 272 million in 2019, an increase of 51 million since 2010.
- Currently, international migrants comprise 3.5 per cent of the global population, compared to 2.8 per cent in the year 2000.
- These data are critical for understanding the important role of migrants and migration in the development of both countries of origin and destination.
- In 2019, regionally, Europe hosts the largest number of international migrants (82 million), followed by Northern America (59 million) and Northern Africa and Western Asia (49 million).
- Around half of all international migrants reside in just 10 countries, with US having the largest number of international migrants (51 million) followed by Germany and Saudi Arabia (13 million each), Russian Federation (12 million), the United Kingdom (10 million), the United Arab Emirates (9 million), France, Canada and Australia (around 8 million each) and Italy (6 million).
- Concerning their place of birth, one-third of all international migrants originate from only ten countries, with India as the lead country of origin, accounting for about 18 million persons living abroad.
- Forced displacements across international borders continue to rise. Between 2010 and 2017, the global number of refugees and asylum seekers increased by about 13 million, accounting for close to a quarter of the increase in the number of all international migrants.
- Northern Africa and Western Asia hosted around 46 per cent of the global number of refugees and asylum seekers, followed by sub-Saharan Africa (21%).
- Turning to the gender composition, the share of women and girls in the global number of international migrants fell slightly, from 49 per cent in 2000 to 48 per cent in 2019.
- In terms of age, one out of every seven international migrants is below the age of 20 years.



India in the report:

- The number of Indians living abroad has risen from 66 lakh in 1990 to 175 lakh in 2019.
- There has been a consistent decline in the share of international migrants in India. International migrants make up just about 0.4% of India's population, a decline from 0.9% in 1990 and almost all from neighbouring countries.

Links:

<https://indianexpress.com/article/explained/international-migrant-count-slopes-downward-in-india-6011407/>

Three animal species in India are on the verge of extinction

Question: At which of the following place, 14th meeting of United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD COP 14) was organised?

(a) Gurugram (b) Greater Noida (c) New Delhi (d) Shimla

Answer: (b)

Related facts:

- 14th meeting of United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD COP 14) held in Greater Noida during 2nd to 13th September, 2019.
- In this conference, researchers warned that Indian cheetah, pink-headed Duck and Great Indian Bustard can become extinct in India due to desertification.
- Many other animals and birds have come under the category of critically endangered species.
- The Zoological Survey of India has a database for more than 5.6 million samples, which were collected from all over India and from neighboring countries before independence.
- Looking at their distribution in geo-special platforms shows the impact of deforestation and desertification.
- According to researchers, desertification affects not only animals but also the entire biodiversity.
- More than 30 percent of its land is degraded through deforestation, excessive cultivation, soil erosion and wetland decay.



Cause of desertification

- There may be various causes of desertification geographical as well as manmade.
- Under the manmade causes; desertification may occur due to extensive use of insecticides, pesticides and other industrial chemicals.
- The chemical mentioned above degrades the top soil and makes it fragile and unfit for cultivation ultimately and permanently.
- Desertification also occurs due to Conversion to agricultural land, industries and indiscriminate development.

- To save our land from desertification everything has to be regulated so that it could be minimised and we can reverse this process back.
- The researcher also said that desertification not only impacts animals but the entire biodiversity, which includes microscopic animals to human beings.
- Desertification also affects the entire food chain in the biosphere of the related area.

Links:

<https://www.unccd.int/conventionconference-parties-cop/cop14-2-13-september-new-delhi-india>

84th Edition of Thessaloniki International Fair TIF 2019

Question: Thessaloniki is a port city of which of the following country?

(a) Italy (b) Greece (c) Spain (d) Germany

Answer: (b)

Related facts:

- On 7-15 September 2019; 84th Edition of Thessaloniki International Fair (TIF) for the year 2019 held in Greece.
- India participated in the Thessaloniki International Fair (TIF) as the Indian delegation was led by Minister of State (MoS) for Commerce and Industry, Hardeep Singh Puri.
- The Fair was also attended by officials of Indian Government from the Ministries of Commerce and Industry, Electronics & Information Technology, and Tourism etc.
- Officers of Embassy of India in Greece, International Trade Promotion Organisation (ITPO), India Brand Equity Foundation (IBEF) and Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) & other prominent Indian entrepreneurs also made their presence at the TIF.
- In the fair New India Pavilion was inaugurated by the Prime Minister of the Hellenic Republic, Mr. Kyriakos Mitsotakis and the Minister of State for Commerce and Industry, Hardeep Singh Puri.
- Mr. Puri on this occasion stated that India welcomed investments in different sectors.
- He said that India is playing a leading role now in the global developments of technology, innovation and science.
- **Following are the Exhibitors from India in TIF-2019:**
- Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO)
- National Thermal Power Corporation (NTPC)
- Agricultural Produce Export Development Authority (APEDA)
- Companies from the Micro Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME) sector and tiles and ceramics industry and handicrafts from Rajasthan, Moradabad and Jammu & Kashmir also participated in this trade fair.
- It should be known that the rank of India in the Global Innovation Index (GII) 2019 is 52 amongst 129 countries in the listed in the Index.



Links:

<https://pib.gov.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=193085>

South Africa temporarily closed its diplomatic missions in Nigeria

Question: Recently South Africa has shut its embassy in which of the following country?

(a) Nigeria (b) Guatemala (c) Latvia (d) Estonia

Answer: (a)

Related facts:



- As per report dated 6th September, 2019, South Africa has temporarily closed its diplomatic missions in Nigeria following reprisal attacks by Nigerians triggered by xenophobic violence in South Africa.
- South Africa's Foreign Minister, Naledi Pandor, called the violence an embarrassment for her country.
- She ordered the closure of the country's high commission in the Nigerian capital, Abuja, and its mission in Lagos, following threats made to the diplomatic staff.
- Mobs looted and destroyed shops, many of them foreign-owned, in South Africa's commercial hub, Johannesburg. The unrest subsided after arrest of more than 420 rioters.
- South African-owned businesses were targeted by protesters in several Nigerian cities, and the looters said the attacks were reprisals for the killing of Nigerians in South Africa.

Links:

<https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2019/09/south-africa-shuts-embassy-nigeria-reprisal-attacks-190905064418164.html>

QS World University ranking

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

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

Answer: (c)

Related facts:

- The Indian Institute of Bombay (IIT-B) leads India's representation in the latest QS Graduate Employability Rankings 2020 with a 111-120 band ranking, up from 141-150 band 2019.
- At 151-160 band and 171-180 band, IIT Delhi and IIT Madras formed the three best ranked Indian institutes in the latest rankings.
- The rankings covers world's top 500 universities and explores how employable a university is.



Parameter used in this ranking:

- To explore the university-employability relationship, QS uses a unique five-metric method that captures each institution's regard among 44,000 employers worldwide, alma mater data from 29,000 highly successful individuals, institutional industry partnerships, employer presence on campus, and location-adjusted graduate employment rate.
- While employer reputation carries the highest weightage of 30 per cent, other metrics include alumni outcomes with a weightage of 25 per cent, partnerships with employers per faculty (25 per cent), employer/student connections (10 per cent), and graduate employment rate (10 per cent).
- It is in the last metric of graduate employment rate that IIT Madras was ranked at number three globally, though its overall ranking came to be 171-180 band.
- Fifteen Indian universities participated in the 2020 edition of the QS Graduate Employability Rankings, and ten made it into the published range, one more than last year.
- In other metrics, the University of Delhi has achieved the next best score of being ranked 20th globally for alumni outcomes, while The University of Mumbai has been ranked 41st globally in the same metric.
- The Birla Institute of Science and Technology (BITS) has debuted in the QS Graduate Employability Rankings 2020 in the 201-250 band and achieved the best rank for the

Employer-Student Connection indicator among all the featured Indian universities of 72nd rank globally.

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

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

Links:

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

Indonesia chooses new capital

Question: At which of the following island, Indonesia recently announced to shift its new capital?

(a) Komodo (b) Sulawesi (c) Sumatra (d) Borneo

Answer: (d)

Related facts:

- On August 26, 2019, the President of Indonesia, Joko Widodo announced that the government has decided to pick up new capital for the country in Borneo.
- The new capital now will be established at sparsely populated East Kalimantan province on forested Borneo Island.
- With more than 10 million people, the current capital of Jakarta became overcrowded.
- The old capital city also sits on watery land and parts of the city are sinking by as much as 25cm a year and almost half now sits below sea level.
- The proposed location, not named yet, is close to the regional cities Balikpapan and Samarinda.
- This area is located in the geographical center of the South East Asian Islands and there is a 'minimum' risk of natural disaster.
- The new location is less populated with only 3.5 million people and has 180,000 hectares (444,780-acre) of land.
- This area is surrounded by Kutai National Park, known for orangutans and other primates and mammals.
- Orangutans:



- Orangutans are great apes mostly found in Indonesia and Malaysia.
- Orangutans, as opposed to monkeys, and are closely related to humans, having 97% of DNA in common.
- Orangutans are extremely patient and intelligent mammals. They are very observant and inquisitive.

Links:

<https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/international/world-news/indonesia-picks-borneo-island-for-new-capital/articleshow/70848708.cms?from=mdr>

18th meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the CITES

Question: Where did the 18th meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the CITES (CoP18) take place?

(a) Geneva (b) London (c) Paris (d) Washington

Answer: (a)

Related facts:

- The 18th meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES CoP18), held in Geneva, Palexpo, from 17 to 28 August 2019.
- 183 CITES member nations participated in the latest meeting held in Geneva.
- A key highlight was the 57 proposals that governments have submitted for changing the levels of protection afforded to over 500 species of mammals, birds, reptiles, amphibians and plants.
- The 71st and 72nd meetings of the Standing Committee held at the same venue on 16 August and 28 August respectively.
- Objective: The meet aimed at the discussion over the future of the ivory trade, illegal killings of rhinos and the rhino horn trade, management of African elephant populations, and the booming exotic pet business.



About CITES:

- It is a multilateral treaty to protect endangered plants and animals.
- It came into force in 1975 with the goal of ensuring that international trade does not threaten the survival of wild plants and animals.
- It is administered through the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP).
- Its secretariat is located in Geneva, Switzerland.

CITES Appendix:

- It classifies plants and animals according to three categories, or appendices, based on the level of threats faced by them.
- Appendix I: It includes species threatened with extinction. CITES completely bans commercial trade in specimens of these species. But is permitted only in exceptional circumstances.

- Appendix II: It provides a lower level of protection.
- Appendix III: It contains species that are protected in at least one country, which has asked other CITES Parties for assistance in controlling the trade.

Links:

<https://www.genevaenvironmentnetwork.org/10jul2019.html>

Women Entrepreneur Cities Index 2019

Question: Which of the following city ranked first among the Asian cities in the recently released Women Entrepreneur Cities Index 2019?

(a) Mumbai (b) New Delhi (c) Singapore (d) Bengaluru

Answer: (c)

Related facts:

- Women Entrepreneur Cities Index 2019 released sponsored by Dell and conducted by London-based global information provider, IHS Markit has been released.
- Singapore topped the index among Asian cities and in ranked at 21st position at the world level.
- Indian cities Bangalore (Karnataka) and Delhi ranked 43rd (7th in Asia) and 50th (10th in Asia).
- The index was formed on the basis of five pillars which include market, talent, capital, culture and technology.
- It should be known that at the world level, US city San Francisco has topped the list with 63.7 points followed by New York (62.9 points) and London got the third place.
- A total of 71 indicators were taken into consideration based on two broad environments – operating and enabling.
- It also looked at local policies, national laws and customs conducive for the growth of women entrepreneurs.



Links:

https://www.business-standard.com/article/news-ani/singapore-tops-asia-in-women-entrepreneur-cities-index-is-india-doing-enough-for-women-119072900622_1.html

4th South Asian Speakers' Summit on Achieving SDG

Question: The 4th South Asian Speakers' Summit on Achieving Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), took place in which country?

(a) Maldives (b) Indonesia (c) Malaysia (d) Thailand

Answer: (a)

Related facts:

- The 4th South Asian Speakers' Summit on Achieving Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), jointly organized by the Inter-Parliamentary Union and the People's Majlis, took place in Male' (Maldives), on 1st and 2nd September, 2019.
- It was followed by a half-day field visit on 2nd September.
- This is the fourth event in a series of Speakers' Summits for the region on SDGs, the previous three having been hosted by the Jatiya Sangsad of Bangladesh (in 2016), the Sansad of India (in 2017) and the Parliament of Sri Lanka (2018).
- This high-level Summit was built on the conclusions of the previous summits and allowed Speakers of Parliament to continue to develop dialogue and parliamentary cooperation on achieving the SDGs.



- Given their legislative, oversight, representative and budgetary functions, parliaments play a key role in ensuring a sustainable future for current and future generations.
- The Summit is intended for Speakers of the Parliaments of Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Myanmar, Nepal, Pakistan, Sri Lanka and Maldives.

Links:

<https://maldivesindependent.com/politics/south-asian-speakers-summit-begins-in-maldives-147668>

Special Data Dissemination Standard

Question: Special Data Dissemination Standard is related to which of the following international organization?

(a) WEF (b) IMF (c) World Bank (d) UNCTAD

Answer: (b)

Related facts:

- In 2018, India failed to comply with multiple requirements prescribed in the Special Data Dissemination Standard mandatory for all IMF members.
- Under the Special Data Dissemination Standards (SDDS) of the International Monetary Fund (IMF), central banks undertake the responsibility of disseminating information under certain data categories, such as, analytical accounts of the banking sector, analytical accounts of the central bank, balance of payments, international reserves and exchange rates.
- As per the IMF requirements these data should be available at regular intervals in public domain.
- The Reserve Bank of India is one of the earliest central bank signatories of SDDS. This section provides the data released by the Reserve Bank of India under SDDS requirements.
- The IMF has taken steps to enhance member country transparency and openness, including setting voluntary standards for dissemination of economic and financial data.
- The Special Data Dissemination Standards was established in 1996 to guide members that have, or might seek, access to international capital markets in providing the economic and financial data to the public.
- The General Data Dissemination System was established in 1997 for member countries with less developed statistical systems as a framework for evaluating their needs for data improvement and setting priorities.
- In 2012, the SDDS Plus was created as an upper tier of the IMF's Data Standards Initiatives to help address data gaps identified during the global financial crisis. In 2015 the enhanced GDDS (e-GDDS) replaced the GDDS.
- More than 97 percent of IMF member countries participate in the e-GDDS, SDDS, SDDS Plus.



Links: <https://www.imf.org/en/About/Factsheets/Sheets/2016/07/27/15/45/Standards-for-Data-Dissemination>

South Africa temporarily closed its diplomatic missions in Nigeria

Question: Recently South Africa shifts embassy in which of the following country?

(a) Nigeria



(b) Guatemala (c) Latvia (d) Estonia

Answer: (a)

Related facts:

- As per report dated 6th September, 2019, South Africa has temporarily closed its diplomatic missions in Nigeria following reprisal attacks by Nigerians triggered by xenophobic violence in South Africa.
- South Africa's Foreign Minister, Naledi Pandor, called the violence an embarrassment for her country.
- She ordered the closure of the country's high commission in the Nigerian capital, Abuja, and its mission in Lagos, following threats made to the diplomatic staff.
- Mobs looted and destroyed shops, many of them foreign-owned, in South Africa's commercial hub, Johannesburg. The unrest subsided after arrest of more than 420 rioters.
- South African-owned businesses were targeted by protesters in several Nigerian cities, and the looters said the attacks were reprisals for the killing of Nigerians in South Africa.

Links:

<https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2019/09/south-africa-shuts-embassy-nigeria-reprisal-attacks-190905064418164.html>

The Wealthiest Cities Worldwide in 2019 report

Question: Which city of India has been adjudged the wealthiest in country as per the Wealthiest Cities Worldwide in 2019 report by New World Health?

(a) Mumbai (b) Delhi (c) Bangalore (d) Chandigarh

Answer: (a)

Related facts:

- In order to assess the cities by the total wealth held, The Wealthiest Cities Worldwide in 2019 report was released by a global market research group New World Health.
- Total wealth refers to the private wealth held by all the individuals living in each city(excluding government funds).It includes all their assets(property,cash,equities,business interests)less any liabilities.
- Mumbai topped the Indian cities having ranked the 12th richest city in the world with a total wealth of \$960 billion.
- Delhi is on 22nd position and second Indian city after Mumbai. Bangalore is on 26th spot while Hyderabad came last at 28.
- The report outlines that Delhi, Bengaluru and Hyderabad were "expected to grow strongly over the next 10 years". The three cities have been named under the 'cities to watch' category in the report.



The Global 3 Richest:

- New York City (NYC) topped the list with a total wealth of \$3.0 trillion.
- Tokyo came a close second with a total wealth amounting to \$2.5 trillion. The city is home to the 3rd largest stock exchange in the world.
- San Francisco Bay Area is ranked third with the total wealth amounting to \$2.4 trillion.

Link:

https://e.issuu.com/embed.html?u=newworldwealth&d=world_cities_2019

London named the world's Best City for Students

Question: Which city has been named the world's Best City for Students in the 'QS Best Student Cities ranking'?

(a) Tokyo (b) London (c) New York (d) Melbourne

Answer: (b)

Related Facts:

- UK's capital London has been named as the world's best city for students for the second consecutive year in the 'QS Best Student Cities ranking'.
- In the sixth edition of the QS Best Student Cities Ranking, Japan's capital Tokyo and Melbourne secured 2nd and 3rd place respectively.
- According to the rankings, India's best student city is Bangalore (81st), followed by Mumbai (85th), Delhi at 113 and Chennai at 115 out of a total of 120 cities ranked in the list.
- The ranking has been compiled by global education consultancy QS Quacquarelli Symonds.
- The ranking highlighted each city's performance across six categories – the number of top-ranked universities; the proportion of a city's population made up of students; quality of life on offer; job opportunities available after graduation; affordability; and the feedback of the students themselves.
- Both US and UK have 14 cities ranked, led by Boston (12th) and London (1st) respectively.
- Asia's top city remains Tokyo (2nd) followed by Seoul (10th) and Hong Kong (14th).



Links:

<https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/international/world-news/london-named-worlds-best-student-city-in-new-rankings/articleshow/70464180.cms>

Singapore tops new 'citizen-centric' global smart city index

Question: In the released IMD Smart City Index, 2019, which city was ranked top among the following cities?

(a) Hyderabad (b) New Delhi (c) Mumbai (d) Bengaluru

Answer: (a)

Related facts:

- On 3rd October, 2019, International Institute for Management Development's (IMD's) has released the very-first edition of the Smart City Index 2019 (SCI).
- The SCI is presented by the IMD World Competitiveness Center's Smart City Observatory, in partnership with Singapore University of Technology and Design (SUTD).
- SCI is the only global index of its kind which focuses on ranking urban areas based on the perception of citizens, outlines the necessity of aligning policy with the lives and needs of citizens.
- In the published list, Singapore has been ranked as the smartest city in 2019, out of 102 cities in the world.
- Among Indian cities, Hyderabad has topped the ranking holding the 67th place.
- Other Indian cities featured in the index are New Delhi (68), Mumbai (78) and Bengaluru (79).
- The top 10 smartest cities in 2019 are: Singapore (1st), Zurich (2nd), Oslo (3rd), Geneva (4th), Copenhagen (5th), Auckland (6th), Taipei City (7th), Helsinki (8th), Bilbao (9th) and Dusseldorf (10th).



Link:

<https://www.imd.org/news/updates/singapore-tops-new-citizen-centric-global-smart-city-index/>

Global Firepower Index 2019

Question: What is the rank of India in the 2019 Global Firepower Index?

(a) 4th (b) 5th (c) 3rd (d) 2nd

Answer: (a)

Related facts:

- India's has retained its fourth position (no. 1 in South Asia) with Pwrlndex rating of 0.1065 in the Global Firepower Index for 2019.
- United States has been ranked 1st in the annual GFP review. It holds a Pwrlndex rating of 0.0615(0.0000 being perfect).
- Russia and China has been ranked to second and third positions with 0.0639 and 0.0673.
- India's western neighbor Pakistan ranks 15 on the Global Firepower (GFP) list 2019.
- For 2019, a total of 137 countries have been included in the GFP database. New to the 2019 list is Moldova.

1 United States Pwrlndex: 0.0615	11 Italy Pwrlndex: 0.2277
2 Russia Pwrlndex: 0.0639	12 Egypt Pwrlndex: 0.2283
3 China Pwrlndex: 0.0673	13 Brazil Pwrlndex: 0.2487
4 India Pwrlndex: 0.1065	14 Iran Pwrlndex: 0.2606
5 France Pwrlndex: 0.1584	15 Pakistan Pwrlndex: 0.2798
6 Japan Pwrlndex: 0.1707	16 Indonesia Pwrlndex: 0.2804
7 South Korea Pwrlndex: 0.1761	17 Israel Pwrlndex: 0.2964
8 United Kingdom Pwrlndex: 0.1797	18 North Korea Pwrlndex: 0.3274
9 Turkey Pwrlndex: 0.2089	19 Australia Pwrlndex: 0.3277
10 Germany Pwrlndex: 0.2097	20 Spain Pwrlndex: 0.3921

Methodology:

- The GFP ranking is based on each nation's potential war-making capability across land, sea and air fought with conventional weapons.
- Total available manpower is the key consideration as it directly affects many other categories. Total Military personnel of India is 3,462,500(0.3% of total population).
- Weapon diversity, geographical factors, logistical flexibility, natural resources, and local industry are other factors influential to final rankings.

About Global Firepower:

- GlobalFirepower (GFP) has been providing a unique analytical display of data of 137 modern military powers since 2006.

Links:

<https://www.globalfirepower.com/countries-listing.asp#additionalNotes>

Global Competitiveness Index 2019

Question: Which position did India get in the Global Competitiveness Index 2019?

(a) 58th (b) 62nd (c) 64th (d) 68th

Answer: (d)

Related facts:

- In order to assess the ability of countries to provide high levels of prosperity to their citizens, the Global Competitiveness Index 2019 as a part of Global Competitiveness Report has been published by Geneva-based World Economic Forum (WEF).



- The Global Competitiveness Index ranks 141 nations on the basis of 98 indicators organised into 12 pillars including infrastructure, institution, ICT adoption, macroeconomic stability, health, skills, product market, labour market, financial system, market size, business dynamism, and innovation capability.
- The 2019 report states that ten years on from the global financial crisis, the world economy remains locked in a cycle of low or flat productivity growth despite the injection of more than \$10 trillion by central banks.
- Presence of many competitive countries like China, Japan, Korea, and India in Asia-Pacific makes this region the most competitive in the world, followed closely by Europe and North America.

The rankings:

- India has been ranked to 68th spot in the Index having score of 61.4. The country was ranked at the 58th position in the 2018 edition.
- Singapore with a score of 84.8 stood first in the Global Competitiveness Index 2019, pushing the United States to the second spot.
- Whereas, Hong Kong, Netherlands and Switzerland got third, fourth and fifth position respectively.
- The 5 lowest-rated countries are: Chad (141), Yemen (140), Congo Democratic Republic (139), Haiti (138), and Mozambique (137).

BRICS Nations:

- The ranking of BRICS nations are:
- Brazil 71st
- Russia 43rd
- India 68th
- China 28th
- South Africa 60th

India's Neighbors:

- The ranking of neighboring countries are:
- Pakistan 110 rank
- Bangladesh 105 rank
- Sri Lanka 84 rank
- Nepal 108 rank

Global Competitiveness Index 2019: India

- India ranks high in terms of macroeconomic stability and market size, while its financial sector is relatively deep and stable despite the high delinquency rate, which contributes to weakening the soundness of its banking system.
- India is ranked also high at 15th place in terms of corporate governance, while it is ranked second globally for shareholder governance.
- In terms of the market size, India is ranked third, while it has got the same rank for renewable energy regulation.
- However, India was performed poorly in pillars including Information, communication and technology adoption (120), health (110), skills (107), product market (101), labour market (103) and stability (103).
- The healthy life expectancy, where India has been ranked 109th out of total the 141 countries. In meritocracy and incentivization also, India was ranked at the 118th position, largely due to its low ratio of wage and salaried female workers to male workers, in which it was ranked 128th.

- With a ratio of female workers to male workers of 0.26, India has been ranked very low at 128th place.
- India is also ranked low at 118th in terms of meritocracy and incentivization and at 107th place for skills.

Links: http://www3.weforum.org/docs/WEF_TheGlobalCompetitivenessReport2019.pdf

Fifth meeting of the Eastern Economic Forum

Question: Which of the following countries is hosting the fifth meeting of the Eastern Economic Forum?

(a) India (b) Bhutan (c) Indonesia (d) Russia

Answer: (d)

Related facts:

- Prime Minister Narendra met a host of world leaders on 5th September, 2019 during his second day of his Russia visit.
- PM Modi was the chief guest of the Eastern Economic Forum that took place on September 5, 2019, at the Russian city of Vladivostok.
- PM Modi also appraised President Putin about India's position on Kashmir.



Eastern Economic Forum (EEF).

- The EEF was established by a decree of the President of the Russian Federation, Vladimir Putin, in 2015.
- The aim of this forum was to support the economic development of Russia's Far East, and to expand international cooperation in the Asia-Pacific region.
- The ongoing EEF Summit at the Far Eastern Federal University is the fifth in its history.
- The participants in the Summit were India, Malaysia, Japan, Australia, and South Korea.

Links:

<https://indianexpress.com/article/explained/explained-why-the-eastern-economic-forum-matters-for-india-5969748/>

18th meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the CITES

Question: The 18th meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the CITES (CoP18) was held in which place?

(a) Geneva (b) London (c) Paris (d) Washington

Answer: (a)

Related facts:

- The 18th meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES CoP18) was held in Geneva, from 17TH to 28TH August, 2019.
- 183 CITES member nations participated in the latest meeting held in Geneva.



- A key highlight was the 57 proposals that governments have submitted for changing the levels of protection afforded to over 500 species of mammals, birds, reptiles, amphibians and plants.
- The 71st and 72nd meetings of the Standing Committee was held at the same venue on 16th August and 28th August respectively.
- CoP18 was originally scheduled to take place in Colombo, Sri Lanka, from 23rd May to 3rd June 2019. Following the events in Sri Lanka on 21st April, 2019, the Secretariat announced the postponement and shift of the venue to Geneva.

Objective:

- The meet aimed at the discussion over the future of the ivory trade, illegal killings of rhinos and the rhino horn trade, management of African elephant populations, and the booming exotic pet business.

About CITES:

- It is a multilateral treaty to protect endangered plants and animals.
- It came into force in 1975 with the goal of ensuring that international trade does not threaten the survival of wild plants and animals.
- It is administered through the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP).
- Its secretariat is located in Geneva, Switzerland.
- CITES Appendix classifies plants and animals according to three categories, or appendices, based on the level of threats faced by them.
- Appendix I: It includes species threatened with extinction. CITES completely bans commercial trade in specimens of these species. But is permitted only in exceptional circumstances.
- Appendix II: It provides a lower level of protection.
- Appendix III: It contains species that are protected in at least one country, which has asked other CITES Parties for assistance in controlling the trade.

Links:

<https://www.genevaenvironmentnetwork.org/10jul2019.html>

<https://www.cites.org/>

The Travel and Tourism Competitiveness Index (TTCI) 2019

Question: Consider the following statement regarding The Travel and Tourism Competitiveness Index (TTCI) 2019:

- (1) India's ranking improved six places from 40th to 34th
 (2) Spain has topped in this index

From the above, correct statements is/are:

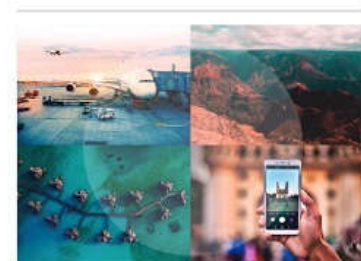
- (a) Only 1 (b) Only 2 (c) Both 1 and 2 (d) None of the above

Answer: (c)

Related facts:

- The Travel and Tourism Competitiveness Index (TTCI) for the year 2019 released by the World Economic Forum (WEF).
- The report is produced by the World Economic Forum (WEF) and measures the factors and policies that make a country a viable place to invest within the Travel and Tourism sector.

**The Travel & Tourism
Competitiveness
Report 2019**
 Travel and Tourism at a Tipping Point



- India has moved up six places to rank 34th in the Travel Tourism Competitiveness Index from 40th place in 2017.
- The index topped by Spain followed by France and Germany in the second and third places.
- Apart from India, Japan and China have been ranked 4th and 13th place respectively.
- Around 140 countries were ranked based on four sub-indexes.
- Together, these four sub-indexes include a total of 14 pillars, which are used to score a country's overall travel and tourism competitiveness.
- The rankings are given on the basis of Infrastructure; Travel and Tourism policy enabling conditions; Natural and cultural sources and Enabling environment.
- India needs to improve in the enabling environment, tourist service infrastructure and environmental sustainability as it ranks 98th, 109th and 128th respectively.

Links:

https://www.business-standard.com/article/current-affairs/travel-and-tourism-competitiveness-index-india-ranked-34th-check-top-10-119090500268_1.html

Economic Freedom of the World Report, 2019

Question: What is the rank of India in recently launched 'Economic Freedom of the World, 2019' report released by Indian think tank 'Centre for Civil Society' (CCS) in cooperation with Canada's Fraser Institute?

(a) 79th (b) 80th (c) 93rd (d) 97th

Answer: (a)

Related facts:

- On 12th September 2019, Economic Freedom of the World, 2019 annual report was released by the Indian think tank 'Centre for Civil Society' (CCS) in cooperation with Canada's Fraser Institute.
- Under this report, 162 countries have been ranked for year 2017, the most recent year for which comprehensive data are available.
- The index published in Economic Freedom of the World measures the degree to which the policies and institutions of countries are supportive of economic freedom.
- This index is prepared on the basis of data collected in five broad areas; the size of government, legal system and property rights, sound money, and freedom to trade internationally and regulation of credit labour & business.
- Top five performers are Hong Kong, Singapore, New Zealand, Switzerland and United States respectively.
- The 10 lowest-rated countries are: Iraq, Republic of Congo, Egypt, Syria, Democratic Republic of Congo, Angola, Algeria, Sudan, Libya, and, lastly, Venezuela.
- India is ranked 79 in this index with 6.91 points.
- Among the neighboring countries of India, China is ranked 113th, Bhutan at 87th, Sri Lanka at 104th, Nepal at 110th, Bangladesh at 123rd and Pakistan at 136th.



Links:

<https://www.fraserinstitute.org/sites/default/files/economic-freedom-of-the-world-2019.pdf>

Digital Economy Report 2019

Question: Recently, which of the following organization has released the Digital Economy Report, 2019?

- (a) UNCTAD (b) World Bank (c) International Monetary Fund
(d) United Nations Development Program

Answer :(a)

Related facts:

- On 4th September 2019, UNCTAD (United Nation Conference on Trade and Development) released the 'Digital Economy Report, 2019' for the first time.
- According to the report, wealth creation in the digital economy is highly concentrated in the United States and China.
- The United States and China accounts for 75% of all patents related to Blockchain technologies and as much as 90% per cent of the market capitalization value of the world's 70 largest digital platform companies.
- Also, the United States and China account for 50% of global spending on the Internet of Things (IoT) and over 75% of the cloud computing market.
- According to the report, India generated the ninth-highest e-commerce sales globally in 2017 by generating a total business of \$400 billion which share 15% of GDP.
- According to the report, Global Internet Protocol (IP) traffic was 100 gigabytes per day in 1992, which increased to 46,600 gigabytes per second in 2017.
- Global Internet Protocol traffic is estimated to be 150,700 gigabytes per second in the year 2022.
- 7 'Super Platforms' namely Microsoft, Apple, Amazon, Google, Facebook, Tencent and Alibaba account for two-thirds of the total market value of the top 70 platforms.
- Google owns 90% of the Internet search market, while Facebook represents two-thirds of the global social media market.



Links:

https://unctad.org/en/PublicationsLibrary/der2019_en.pdf

Typhoon 'Mitag' approaches Northern Taiwan

Question: Recently, the typhoon 'Mitag' hit which country?

- (a) South Korea (b) Taiwan (c) Singapore (d) Manila

Answer: (b)

Related facts:

- Typhoon Mitag, categorized by Taiwan's weather bureau as the second-strongest typhoon level, approached the coast of the northeastern county of Yilan with maximum winds of 162 kmh (100 mph) on 30th September 2019.
- Mitag was moving across the ocean in a north-northwesterly direction at 25 kmph (15 mph) and could gain strength as it approaches the island.
- The bureau issued wind and rain warnings for greater Taipei, the northern port city of Keelung, and other northern counties.
- After passing over Taiwan, the typhoon headed towards China's eastern city of Shanghai (on mainland China), then weakening as it moves toward South Korea and Japan.



- Typhoons regularly hit Taiwan, China, the Philippines and Japan in the second half of the year, gathering strength from the warm waters of the Pacific Ocean or South China Sea.
- Typhoon is the regional names for Tropical Cyclones that occurs in Western Pacific and South China Sea i.e. in Philippines islands, eastern China and Japan the tropical cyclones are called typhoons.
- A typhoon is a mature tropical cyclone that develops between 180° and 100°E in the Northern Hemisphere.
- This region is referred to as Northwestern Pacific Basin which is the most active tropical cyclone basin on Earth. This region accounts for almost one-third (33%) of the world's annual tropical cyclones.

Links:

<https://www.cnn.com/2019/09/30/taiwan-orders-markets-schools-closed-as-strong-typhoon-approaches.html>

64th Commonwealth Parliamentary Conference' 2019

Question: Recently, where did the 64th Commonwealth Parliamentary Conference' 2019 take place?

(a) Dhaka, Bangladesh (b) London, United Kingdom (c) Islamabad, Pakistan (d) Kampala, Uganda

Answer: (d)

Related facts:

- The 64th Commonwealth Parliamentary Conference (CPC) for 2019 was held in Kampala, Uganda from September 22- 29, 2019.
- The theme of this conference was 'Adaption, engagement, and evolution of parliaments in a rapidly changing Commonwealth'.
- The Commonwealth Parliamentary Conference is one of the largest gatherings of Commonwealth parliamentarians and is a unique and valuable opportunity to network with legislators for shared-learning and to build diplomatic relations.
- It was organized by the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association (CPA) Uganda Branch and the Parliament of Uganda and hosted by the CPA President Designate (2018-2019), Rebecca Kadaga, Speaker of the Parliament of Uganda.



Key Points:

(a) Indian Delegation

- An Indian parliamentary delegation led by Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla.
- The delegation includes Congress MP Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury, BJP MP Roopa Ganguly, Congress MP L Hanumanthaiah, BJP MP Aparajita Sarangi and Lok Sabha Secretary General Snehlata Shrivastava, the presiding officers and secretaries of state legislatures, who are members of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association.

(b) Workshops and Meetings

- During the conference, 10 workshops have been held on various subjects.
- Birla was the lead speaker in some of the workshops.
- He was holding bilateral meetings with the top leadership of Uganda and his counterparts from other commonwealth countries to discuss the matters of mutual interest and parliamentary cooperation.

(c) Pakistan's propaganda was strongly opposed by BJP MP Roopa Ganguly along with other members of the Indian parliamentary delegation.

Links:

<https://www.uk-cpa.org/programmes-activities/64th-commonwealth-parliamentary-conference-2019-kampala-uganda/>

Taiwan cuts ties with Kiribati amid China tension

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

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

Answer: (a)

Related facts:

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



Links:

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

QS Graduate Employability Rankings 2020

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

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

Answer: (c)

Related facts:

- QS Graduate Employability Rankings 2020 lists the top 500 universities according to their ability to provide their students with a successful career.
- Three Indian Institute of Technologies (IITs) and Delhi University have ranked among the top 200 in QS World Graduate Employability Rankings.
- The Indian Institute of Bombay (IIT-B) leads India's representation in the latest QS Graduate Employability Rankings 2020 for second time in a row with a 111-120 band ranking.



- IIT Delhi, IIT Madras and Delhi University are the other best Indian institutes ranked among top 200.
- Apart from this, IIT Kharagpur, BITS Pilani, University of Mumbai, IISc Bangalore, IIT Kanpur and the University of Calcutta have also been ranked among 201-500 range in the 2020 QS World Graduate Employability Rankings.

Methodology:

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

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

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

Links:

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

Economics

ECGC Introduces scheme of loan availability for Exporters

Question: What is the name of the scheme launched recently by Ministry of Commerce to enhance loan availability for Exporters?

(a) Nirvana (b) Nirvik (c) Nirmaan (d) Nishpadan

Answer: (b)

Related fact:

- Ministry of Commerce & Industry through Export Credit Guarantee Corporation (ECGC) has introduced a new Export Credit Insurance Scheme (ECIS) called NIRVIK Scheme to enhance loan availability and ease the lending process.
- The details of the scheme were shared by the Commerce & Industry and Railways Minister, Piyush Goyal in a press conference in New Delhi on September 16 2019. It was announced by the Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman to boost exports on 14th September 2019 in New Delhi.



The Scheme:

- The gems, and diamond (GJD) sector borrowers with limit of more than Rs. 80 crore will have a higher premium rate as compared to non-GJD sector borrowers of this category due to the higher loss ratio. The ECGC cover provides additional comfort to banks as the credit rating of the borrower is enhanced to AA rated account.
- Enhanced cover will ensure that Foreign and Rupee export credit interest rates will be below 4% and 8% respectively for exporters.
- Under ECIS, insurance cover percentage has also been enhanced to 90% from the present average of 60% for both Principal and Interest.

Links:

https://www.business-standard.com/article/news-cm/ecgc-introduces-nirvik-to-enhance-loan-availability-for-exporters-119091700145_1.html

Govt cuts corporate tax rate to 22%, relief on buyback tax

Question: The finance ministry lowered the corporate tax rate to how much percentage for firms that do not avail tax incentive?

(a) 22% (b) 23% (c) 24% (d) 26%

Answer : (a)

Related facts:

- On September 20th 2019, all domestic companies to be allowed to pay corporation tax at the rate of 22% (effective rate 25.17% including cess and surcharge).
- This would be subject to the condition that these companies do not avail of any tax incentives or exemptions. Moreover, no Minimum Alternative Tax (MAT) would be imposed on these companies.
- Any new domestic manufacturing company, incorporated on or after October 1, 2019, will be allowed to pay corporation tax at the rate of 15% (effective rate 17.01%).
- No MAT will be imposed on these companies either. This will be subject to the condition that the company does not avail of any tax incentives or exemptions and commences production by 31 March, 2023.
- Companies that are availing tax holidays at present can join the new regime once their tax holiday period ends, announced the minister.
- To provide relief to companies that continue to avail of exemptions and incentives, the rate of MAT has been reduced from 18.5% to 15%.
- Enhanced surcharge introduced by the Finance Act 2019 shall not apply to capital gains arising on sale of equity share in a company/unit of equity-oriented fund or unit of business trust liable for securities transaction tax, the FM announced.
- Enhanced surcharge shall not apply to capital gains on sale of any securities, including derivatives, in the hands of Foreign Portfolio Investors (FPIs).
- Relief to listed companies which have already made a public announcement of buyback before 5th July 2019.
- No tax on buyback of shares in case of such companies.
- The finance minister also announced an expansion in the scope of CSR activities.
- The companies can now spend 2% of the money on state or union government incubators, PSUs, state universities, IITs, public-funded entities.



Links:

<https://pib.gov.in/PressReleaseIframePage.aspx?PRID=1585641>

RBI has transferred 1.76 lakh crore to government

Question: RBI has transferred 1.76 lakh crore to government, by agreeing to which of the following high powered committee report?

(a) Aruna Sunderajan Committee (b) Bimal Jalan Committee (c) U K Sinha Committee (d) Rattan Watal Committee

Answer: (b)

Related facts:

- On 26th August, 2019; the Reserve Bank of India at its board meeting decided to transfer whopping Rs. 1.76 lakh crore to the Centre.
- It also includes interim dividend of Rs. 28, 000 crore paid in February, which is likely to address the fiscal situation of the government to a great extent.
- It also includes the Central Bank's 2018-19 surplus of Rs. 1, 23 lakh crore and Rs. 52, 637 crore of excess provisions identified as per the revised Economic Capital Framework ECF adopted at the Board meeting.
- The RBI said as financial resilience was within the desired range, the entire 2018-19 net income of Rs 1.23 lakh crore has been transferred.



Jalan Committee:

- The RBI had formed a committee chaired by former Governor Bimal Jalan to review its economic capital framework and suggest the quantum of excess provision to be transferred to the Government.
- The Committee was formed after a demand from the Government for more money.
- The RBI board has accepted all the recommendations of the Jalan Committee.
- The Committee's recommendations were guided by the fact that the RBI forms the primary bulwark for monetary, financial and external stability.
- The panel recommended a clear distinction between the two components of economic capital- realized and revaluation balances. Equity could be used for meeting all risks/losses as they were primarily built up from retained earnings, while revaluation could be reckoned only as risk buffers against market risk as they represented unrealized valuation gains and hence were not distributable.
- The risk provisioning made primarily from retained earnings is cumulatively referred to as the Contingent Risk Buffer and has been recommended to be maintained within a range of 6.5 % to; 5.5% of RBI's balance sheet.
- The CRB comprising 5.5 to 4.5 % for monetary and financial stability risks and 1% for credit and operational risks.

Links:

<https://www.thehindu.com/business/Economy/explained-what-does-the-176-lakh-crore-transfer-mean-to-rbi-government/article29268967.ece>

RBI relaxes External Commercial Borrowing (ECB) norms

Question: Which among the following statement is false regarding the term ECB appeared in a recent RBI decision?

(a) ECB in full is known as External Commercial Borrowing
(b) ECBs are commercial loans raised by eligible resident entities from recognised lenders, except foreign branches/overseas subsidiaries of Indian banks.
(c) Reserve Bank of India relaxed the end-use restrictions related to external commercial borrowings (ECBs)
(d) It will allow corporates and non-banking finance companies (NBFCs) to raise ECBs for Human capital



Answer: (d)

Related facts:

- Reserve Bank of India has relaxed the end-use restrictions related to external commercial borrowings (ECBs).
- The purpose of this relaxation is to allow corporates and non-banking finance companies (NBFCs) to raise ECBs for working capital and general corporate purposes.
- It should be known that ECBs are commercial loans raised by eligible resident entities from recognised lenders, except foreign branches/overseas subsidiaries of Indian banks.
- This has been done by the apex bank in consultation with the government of India in a bid to give a leg-up to the slowing economy of the country.
- Under the revised ECB policy, long-term overseas borrowing will enable NBFCs, especially housing finance companies, overcome asset-liability mismatches and liquidity stress faced by them.
- The RBI stated that eligible corporate borrowers will be allowed to avail ECB for repayment of rupee loans availed domestically for capital expenditure.
- The condition is that the loan should be for capital expenditure in manufacturing and infrastructure sector and must be classified as SMA-2, or NPA, under any one-time settlement with lenders.

Link:

<https://www.thehindubusinessline.com/money-and-banking/rbi-relaxes-ecb-end-use-policy-to-boost-economy/article28761828.ece>

16th Session of the Joint Economic Commission between India and Belgium Luxembourg Economic Union

Question: The 16th Session of the Joint Economic Commission between India and Belgium Luxembourg Union took place at?

(a) Brussels (b) Luxembourg (c) New Delhi (d) London

Answer: (c)

Related facts:

- The 16th Session of the Joint Economic Commission (JEC) between India and Belgium Luxembourg Economic Union (BLEU) was convened in New Delhi on 17th September, 2019.
- The Session was co-chaired by Anup Wadhawan, Commerce Secretary with Sylvie Lucas, Secretary General of the Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs of Luxembourg.
- The session was attended by officials of Department of Commerce and Promotion of Industry & Industrial Trade, Ministry of AYUSH, New & Renewable Energy, External Affairs, Information and Broadcasting and Railways.
- Both the sides reiterated the importance of the JEC towards the development of bilateral economic and trade relations through facilitating dialogue and enhancing cooperation on a wide range of issues of mutual interest, such as, transportation and logistics, renewable energy and many more.
- The India and BLEU sides resolved that dynamic nature of commercial exchanges seen in the last few years is reflected in the increasing number of companies interested in establishing and gaining access to respective markets, and signing of MoU among the three Countries for cooperation in multiple fields of mutual interest.



Joint Economic Commission (JEC):

- JEC Sessions are convened based on an agreement signed in 1990 in New Delhi.
- This biennial event is organized in capital cities of the three countries alternatively, and is a main vehicle for discussing economic and commercial issues between India and BLEU.

Bilateral Trade between BLEU:

- The bilateral trade between India-Belgium and India-Luxembourg in year 2018-19 was USD 17.2 billion and USD 161.98 million, respectively, registering growth of 41% and 150%, as compared to 2017-18.
- Cumulative FDI inflows to India from Belgium and Luxembourg during April, 2000 to June, 2019 were around USD 1.87 billion and USD 2.84 billion, respectively.
- Joint Economic Commission between India and Belgium – Luxembourg Economic Union (India-BLEU) was established in 1997 and is the main vehicle for discussing bilateral economic and commercial issues.
- The focus of bilateral relations has been on trade and investment. India is Belgium's second largest export destination and fourth largest trade partner outside the European Union with a significant contribution from the Indian diaspora.

Links:

<https://pib.gov.in/PressReleaseDetail.aspx?PRID=1585559>

World Bank slashes growth forecast for India

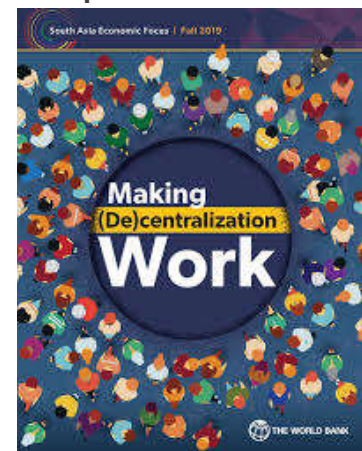
Question: What is the estimated growth rate of India in 2019 fiscal as per latest edition of the biannual South Asia Economic Focus report?

(a) 6.0 (b) 6.8 (c) 6.9 (d) 6.2

Answer: (a)

Related facts:

- On 13 October 2019, World Bank has released its biannual report on South Asia economic scenario titled as South Asia Economic Focus, Fall 2019: Making (De)centralization Work.
- The report warns South Asian countries to judiciously perform decentralization works as it can degenerate into fragmentation if not properly managed.
- In its report, World Bank has estimated India's growth rate to fall to 6 percent for year 2019 after a broad-based deceleration in the initial quarters of this fiscal.
- However, the growth is then expected to gradually recover to 6.9 percent in fiscal year 2020/21 and to 7.2 percent in the following year.
- In 2018-19, the growth rate of the country stood at 6.9 per cent.
- In India, domestic demand has slipped, with private consumption growing 3.1 percent in the last quarter from 7.3 percent a year ago, while manufacturing growth plummeted to below 1 percent in the second quarter of 2019 compared to over 10 percent a year ago.



Regional scenario:

- In line with a global downward trend, growth in South Asia is projected to slow to 5.9 percent in 2019, down 1.1 percentage points from April 2019 estimates.
- In South Asia, Bangladesh witnessed the highest growth rate of 7.9 percent in 2018 and is estimated to be highest with 8.1 percent in 2019 fiscal.
- The sharp economic slowdown in South Asia is due to the weakened domestic demand, declining industrial production and imports, as well as tensions in the financial markets.
- The report notes that South Asia's current economic slowdown echoes the decelerating growth and trade slumps of 2008 and 2012.
- With that context, the report remains cautiously optimistic that a slight rebound in investment and private consumption could jumpstart Asia's growth up to 6.3 percent in 2020, slightly above East Asia and the Pacific, and 6.7 percent in 2021.

Links:

<https://www.worldbank.org/en/news/press-release/2019/10/13/growth-in-south-asia-slows-down-rebound-uncertain>

Scientific

Defense/Science Short Notes

Genetic study of the evolution of Blackbuck

Question: As per the recent study done by IISc Bengaluru, blackbuck of which region is claimed to be the ancestors of blackbuck in India?

- (a) Eurasian plateau (b) Saharo-Arabian region (c) Mongolian region
(d) None of the above

Answer: (b)

Related facts:

- Indian Institute of Science (IISc), Bengaluru, has done a study of four genera of 'true antelopes': Gazella, Nanger, Eudorcas and Antelope revealing that the blackbuck's (*Antelope cervicapra*) ancestors came into India from the Saharo-Arabian region about two million years ago.
- Antelopes were part of the fauna coming through the northwest gateway into India.



Diverged in India

- The paper states that there is a lack of blackbuck fossils outside India which allows to speculate that they diverged from their ancestors only after reaching India, long after the intensification of aridification in the Indian subcontinent.
- Blackbucks are largely found in the scrubland regions of India except for the Terai region, northeast and the Western Ghats.

Reclassification need:

- Antelope, another true antelope was found not to be a sister of Gazella as believed previously.
- Research team used nuclear DNA with genetic material from both parents. They used 12 different nuclear markers for the study.

Evolution of chinkara:

- The another 'true antelope' of India, chinkara (*Gazella bennetti*) evolved much more recently about 7,00,000 years ago, probably after the establishment of the Thar desert.
- They are also found in the hilly terrains of Iran. Being facultative drinkers, they were better adapted to the drier, semi-arid region.

Links:

<https://www.thehindu.com/sci-tech/science/genetics-reveals-origin-and-evolution-of-blackbuck-chinkara/article29477449.ece?homepage=true>

First Indigenous Fuel Cell System launched on CSIR Foundation Day

Question: Who unveiled the first indigenous Fuel Cell System launched on CSIR foundation Day i.e. September 26 2019?

(a) Narendra Modi (b) Ram Nath Kovind (c) Ramesh Pokhariyal (d) Pranab Mukherjee

Answer: (b)

Related facts:

- The President of India, Ram Nath Kovind unveiled the first Indigenous High Temperature Fuel Cell System developed by Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) in partnership with Indian industries under India's flagship program named "New Millennium Indian Technology Leadership Initiative (NMITLI)".
- It was inaugurated on the occasion of CSIR Foundation Day at Vigyan Bhawan, New Delhi.



Fuel System Cell:

- A unique example of Public-Private Partnership (PPP) among CSIR's three Laboratories [CSIR-NCL, Pune; CSIR-NPL, New Delhi & CSIR-CECRI, Karaikudi (Chennai Center)] and two Indian industries; M/s Thermax Limited, Pune and M/s Reliance Industries Limited, Mumbai exemplified exploiting materials of science developments at CSIR laboratories into practice by Industry.
- The 5.0 kW fuel cell system generates power in a green manner using methanol / bio-methane, with heat and water as bi-products for further use; amounting to greater than 70% efficiency, which otherwise may not be possible by other energy sources.
- The Fuel Cells developed are based on High Temperature Proton Exchange Membrane (HTPEM) Technology. The development is most suitable for distributed stationary power applications like; for small offices, commercial units, data centers etc.; where highly reliable power is essential with simultaneous requirement for air-conditioning.

- This system will also meet the requirement of efficient, clean and reliable backup power generator for telecom towers, remote locations and strategic applications as well. This development would replace Diesel Generating (DG) sets and help reduce India's dependence on crude oil.
- The developed technology is world class and the development has placed India in the league of developed nations which are in possession of such a knowledgebase.
- CSIR has an impressive portfolio of global patents on these developments. In the field of clean energy, Fuel Cell distributed power generation systems are emerging as promising alternative to grid power.
- The Fuel Cells fit well in India's mission of replacing diesel with green and alternate fuels. The development of fuel cell technology is indigenous and carries immense national importance in terms of non-grid energy security.

Links:

<https://pib.gov.in/PressReleaseDetail.aspx?PRID=1586289>

Svalbard

Question: Recently in news Svalbard Island, which is facing extreme consequences of climate change on the Earth is located in?

(a) Maldives (b) Sri Lanka (c) Norway (d) Indonesia

Answer: (c)

Related facts:

- According to the recent findings Svalbard located in Norway is facing extreme consequences of climate change.
- Svalbard's main town Longyearbyen which is northern-most town on the planet is the fastest-warming town on the earth.
- It is the result of rising sea level of Arctic sea due to Global Warming
- Longyearbyen is the de facto capital of the Svalbard archipelago located between Norway and the North Pole.
- According to a report by the Norwegian Environment Agency released in February-2019, temperatures in the town have risen by 4 degrees Celsius since 1971.
- That is five times faster than the global average. During winters, the temperature has gone up by 7°C.
- Researchers have estimated that Longyearbyen and Svalbard's temperature will increase by 10°C by 2100, according to current trends.
- The recent heat wave in Europe is an example that can explain the condition of Svalbard.
- Experts are blaming it on the disruption of a system known as the jet stream.
- Since 1979, the Arctic sea ice extent has declined by nearly 12% per decade, with the most pronounced winter reduction in Svalbard and the Barents Sea area.



Links:

<https://in.reuters.com/article/climate-change-svalbard/on-the-front-lines-of-climate-change-in-the-worlds-northernmost-town-idINKCN1VO1A3>

World's Largest Amphibian

Question: Recently researchers from which of the following countries have discovered a new species of giant Chinese salamander, which is now considered to be the world's

largest amphibian?

(a) China (b) New Zealand (c) France (d) England

Answer: (d)

Related facts:

- In September 2019; researchers have discovered a new species of giant Chinese salamander, which is now considered to be the world's largest amphibian.
- Researchers from the Zoological Society of London (ZSL) and London's Natural History Museum took the initiative in this discovery.
- The study of this species is mentioned in the journal Ecology and Evolution and its scientific name is *Andrias sligoi*.
- In this journal it has been described that there are 3 distinct species of Chinese salamanders which are now considered as critically endangered species.
- Apart from *Andrias sligoi*, the other salamander species is named as *Andrias davidianus* while the third is yet to be named.
- Giant salamanders, which typically live in rocky, mountainous river systems, were once widespread across central, southern and eastern China.



Links:

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/science/giant-salamander-chinese-world-largest-amphibian-china-zsl-a9108101.html>

Protodontoptyx ruthae -world's oldest bird species

Question: Recently in which of the following country world's oldest bird species, named as Protodontoptyx ruthae, has been discovered?

(a) Australia (b) New Zealand (c) Indonesia (d) Norway

Answer: (b)

Related facts:

- In September 2019; palaeobotanists from England discovered the world's oldest bird species' fossils in Waipara, New Zealand.
- It was a sea bird, and is named as *Protodontoptyx ruthae* and the details of its discovery were published in the journal Palaeontology.
- Team of scientists from the Canterbury Museum (England) undertook the project of studying the fossils of bird species' fossils in Waipara region of New Zealand.
- They confirmed that the bird lived 62 million years ago and it was a sea bird. The bird which was smallest in size of its family, maintained size of an average sea gull while its descendants had wingspans more than five metres.
- It was first found by paleontologist Leigh Love at the Waipara Greensand fossil site in 2018. They had bony tooth like projections on their beaks' edge and had evolved in the southern hemisphere.
- The Waipara Greensand site where the *Protodontoptyx* skeleton was found has yielded several important scientific discoveries in recent years, including ancient penguins and the world's oldest tropicbird fossil.



Links:

<http://www.sci-news.com/paleontology/protodontoptyx-ruthae-07603.html>

Air-to-Air missile Astra successfully flight-tested

Question: Recently Indian Air Force successfully flight-tested air-to-air missile Astra from which of the following fighter aircraft?

(a) Su-30 MKI (b) Rafael (c) Mig-21 (d) Mirage 2000

Answer: (a)

Related facts:

- On 17th September, 2019, the Indian Air Force (IAF) successfully flight-tested air-to-air missile Astra from Su-30 MKI.
- This test was done as a part of user trials from the Bay of Bengal off the coast of Odisha.
- It is India's first air-to-air missile which is engaged accurately with the live aerial target demonstrating its capability.

Astra Missile:

- Astra is an indigenously developed sophisticated Beyond Visual Range Air-to-Air Missile (BVRAAM).
- It is capable of engaging targets of different ranges and altitudes including long-range and short-range targets.
- It has a range of over 70 km and can fly towards its target at a speed of over 5,555 kilometers per hour.
- With highly advanced features like Electronic Counter- Counter Measures (ECCM), it has a 15-kilogramme high-explosive pre-fragmented warhead.
- Astra is India's first beyond-visual-range (BVR) air-to-air missile indigenously designed and developed by Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO).
- Modifications of the Sukhoi-30 MKI jets to accommodate Astra missiles were done by Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL).
- The missile test was tracked by different Radars, Sensors and Electro-Optical Tracking System (EOTS).



Links:

<https://www.indiatoday.in/india/story/indian-air-force-air-to-air-missile-astra-drdo-defence-ministry-1600084-2019-09-17>

Submarine Khanderi handed over to the Indian Navy

Question: Recently which submarine was handed over to the Indian Navy by Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders Ltd (MDL)?

(a) INS Khanderi (b) INS Karanj (c) INS Kalvari (d) INS Vikram

Answer: (a)

Related facts:

- The Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders Ltd (MDL) handed over the second Scorpene submarine Khanderi to the Indian Navy on 19th September, 2019.
- The third Scorpene Karanj at MDL was started on 31st January, 2018. It is currently undergoing the rigorous phase of sea trials.
- The fourth Scorpene Vela was recently launched in May and is being prepared for sea trials.
- The remaining two submarines — Vagir and Vagsheer — are in various stages of outfitting.
- The Scorpene class of submarines can undertake multifarious tasks typically undertaken by any modern submarine that include anti-surface as well as anti-submarine warfare.



Link:

<https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/defence/mdl-hands-over-scorpene-class-submarine-khanderi-to-navy/articleshow/71206804.cms?from=mdr>

Indo-Thai CORPAT

Question: Which of the following Indian Naval Ship participated in the 28th edition of India-Thailand Coordinated Patrol (Indo-Thai CORPAT)?

(a) INS Kalvari (b) INS Trishul (c) INS Rana (d) INS Kesari

Answer: (d)

Related facts:

- 28th edition of India-Thailand Coordinated Patrol (Indo-Thai CORPAT) between the Indian Navy (IN) and the Royal Thai Navy (RTN) was conducted from 05 – 15 September, 2019.
- Detailed discussions were held towards scheduling and conduct of the CORPAT along with joint exercises between ships or aircraft of both the navies.
- Indian Naval (IN) Ship Kesari and Thailand Ship (HTMS) Kraburi along with Maritime Patrol Aircraft from both the navies are participated in the CORPAT.
- Since 2003, Indian Naval ships and aircraft of Andaman and Nicobar Command has been participating in the biannual Coordinated Patrol (CORPAT) with the Royal Thai Navy (RTN).
- The Objectives of the Indo-Thai CORPAT are to ensure effective implementation of United Nations Conventions on Laws of the Sea (UNCLOS).
- **These laws specify regulations on following matters:-**
 - Protection and conservation of natural resources
 - Conservation of marine environment.
 - Prevention and suppression of illegal, unregulated fishing activity.
 - Drug trafficking piracy, exchange of information in prevention of smuggling, illegal immigration and conduct of Search and Rescue operations at sea.



Links:-

<https://pib.gov.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=193027>

Water found on an Exoplanet

Question: Astronomers recently discovered water in the atmosphere of K2-18b, a planet orbiting a red dwarf star K2-18b. This star is located in-

(a) Constellation Leo (b) Constellation Libra (c) Constellation Sagittarius

(d) Constellation Aries

Answer: (a)

Related facts:

- Astronomers have for the first time discovered an Exoplanet with presence of water in its atmosphere.
- Details regarding the discovery of such planet were published in September 2019 in the scientific journal Nature Astronomy.
- Its atmosphere was studied by astronomers at the University College London (UCL) and ultimately the results are published in the journal.
- This planet is orbiting a red dwarf star K2-18 located about 110 light years from Earth in the constellation Leo.



- The new planet is just over twice in the size and eight times the mass of the Earth.
- It is a planet in the category known as a “super Earth” – and has a temperature cool enough to have liquid water, between zero and 40C.
- The lead scientist, Prof Giovanna Tinetti of University College London (UCL), described the discovery as mind blowing.
- The exoplanet also lies within the habitable zone of its star, which means it will have the right temperature for liquid water to exist on the surface of the planet and potentially support life.

Background of the Discovery of K2-18b:

- The planet was first discovered by NASA’s Kepler spacecraft in 2015.
- The K2-18b exoplanet completes one orbit around its star every 33 days.
- The super-Earth is much closer to its star than the Earth is to the sun. However, the red dwarf star is much cooler than the Sun.
- Researchers therefore based on the calculations speculated that the exoplanet could have a temperature, similar to that of the Earth.
- It is also emphasised on the point that the temperature range upon the planet, however, could include temperatures much colder and warmer than Earth.
- Conclusion is that though the actual conditions on the surface of the planet are not known, the red dwarf star it orbits is quite active.
- This means that the planet will be exposed to ultraviolet radiation.
- However, the study reveals that K2-18b receives about the same amount of radiation from its star as the Earth does from the sun.

Links:

<https://www.thehindu.com/sci-tech/science/water-found-for-first-time-on-potentially-habitable-planet/article29397908.ece>

New species of snake discovered

Question: In which of the following state Sahyadri tiger reserve is located?

(a) Madhya Pradesh (b) Maharashtra (c) Karnataka (d) Tamil Nadu

Answer: (b)

Related facts:

- A new species of snake has been discovered in the Western Ghats in Maharashtra’s Sahyadri tiger reserve.
- This species usually falls in the category of cat snake or cat-eyed snakes and belongs to the genus Boiga.
- New Snake Species Named after Uddhav Thackeray’s Younger Son, Tejas; Thackeray’s cat snake, who contributed to this discovery.
- Tejas Thackeray first observed this species in 2015 and studied its behavior in detail.
- A research paper describing the new species and regarding this new discovery was published in the journal of the Bombay Natural History Society (BNHS).



Habitat and description about the new snake:

- These snakes belonging to this genus are found all over India, but some species are found only in the Western Ghats.
- The new Snake is non-venomous and arboreal species (living in trees and active mostly during the night).

- It has tiger-like stripes on its body & a light yellow texture, dotted with black marks from its head to the mid-section & it turns pink colour towards the other half of its body.
- The species have unique feature of feeding eggs of Frog.

Link:

<https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/pune/newly-discovered-cat-snake-species-named-after-uddhav-thackerays-son/articleshow/71342810.cms>

Methane-powered rocket engines

Question: ISRO's Liquid Propulsion Systems Centre spread across two campuses in India, one is at Trivandrum (Kerala) and another is located at-
(a) Chennai (b) Bengaluru (c) Hyderabad (d) Kochi

Answer: (b)

Related facts:

- Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) is developing methane-powered rocket engines.
- The space agency is developing two 'LOx methane' engines (liquid oxygen oxidiser and methane fuel) engines.
- ISRO in its endeavour to develop cutting-edge technologies that is on par with elsewhere in the world is developing these methane-powered rocket engines.
- Methane, which can be synthesised with water and carbon dioxide in space, is often described as the space fuel of the future.
- One of the two projects is trying to convert the existing cryogenic engine, which uses liquid hydrogen for fuel, into a LOx methane engine.
- The other is a smaller engine of 3 tonnes thrust, which will feature an electric motor.
- These are being developed at ISRO's Liquid Propulsion Systems Centre at Trivandrum.
- It should be known that ISRO's Liquid Propulsion Systems Centre spread across two campuses in India one is at Trivandrum (Kerala) and another is located in Bengaluru Karnataka.



Link:

<https://www.thehindubusinessline.com/news/national/isro-is-developing-a-methane-powered-rocket-engine/article29483292.ece>

Discovery of second interstellar object

Question: Recently International Astronomical Union (IAU) has confirmed about the discovery of second interstellar object. This has been named as-
(a) Oumuamua (b) 2 I/Borisov (c) 101955 Bennu (d) 25143 Itokawa

Answer: (b)

Related facts:

- 2 I/Borisov the second interstellar object has been discovered in the solar system.
- It was discovered by amateur astronomer Gennady Borisov from MARGO observatory, Crimea on August 30, 2019.
- The new name 2I/Borisov has been simplified; in 2I, I stand for interstellar, and 2 for being the second



interstellar object ever discovered, after Oumuamua, which was detected in October 2017.

- Astronomers declared that comet 2I/Borisov which has a hyperbolic orbit will make its closest approach to the sun on 7 December 2019.
- The conclusions of the discovery have been supported by the National Aeronautics and Space Administration's (NASA) Jet Propulsion Laboratory (JPL) Solar System Dynamics (SSD) Group.

Interstellar object:

- Those celestial bodies which are not gravitationally bound to any star and wanders in the vast space between stars are known as interstellar object.
- Object like an asteroid, comet or possibly planet may behave as an interstellar object if they are not under the gravitational influence of any star or substar.

Links:

<https://www.space.com/interstellar-comet-borisov-officially-from-beyond-solar-system.html>

ICGS Varaha

Question: Defence Minister Rajnath Singh commissioned which among the following vessels on September 25, 2019 at the Chennai port?

(a) Varaha (b) Vamana (c) Vyapak (d) Varma

Answer: (a)

Related facts:

- The ICGS Varaha, the fourth in the series of seven 98-m Offshore Patrol Vessels (OPV) of the Indian Coast Guard (ICG), was commissioned on September 25, 2019 by Defence Minister Rajnath Singh.
- The ship, which was commissioned at the Chennai port, would be based at New Mangalore under the administrative and operational control of Commander Coast Guard region (west).
- The ship will have on board 14 officers and 89 men.
- The ship has been designed and built indigenously by Larsen & Toubro (L&T) at its Katupalli ship building yard in North Chennai.



Features:

- It is fit with the latest navigation and communication equipment.
- It also has some of the most advanced sensors and machinery as well as a 33-millimetre (mm) gun.
- It will be fitted with 12.7 mm gun with fire control system.
- The ship's special features include the integrated Bridge System, Automated Power Management System and indigenously built Integrated Platform Management System and Halo Traversing System.
- It ship is also designed to carry one twin engine helicopter and four high speed boats.
- Singh stated that the ship will operate from the port of New Mangalore covering up to Kanyakumari.
- The ship will add to the ICG's strength in responding to the threats of maritime terrorism, smuggling and challenges of maritime enforcement.

Links:

<https://www.thehindubusinessline.com/news/defence-minister-rajnath-singh-commissions-icgs-varaha/article29506552.ece>

Indian Navy gets second Scorpene Submarine: KHANDERI

Question: Second Scorpene class Submarine Khanderi, which has recently been received by Indian Navy, is manufactured by?

- (a) Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders Limited
- (b) Cochin Shipyard Limited
- (c) Hindustan Shipyard Limited
- (d) Garden Reach Shipbuilders & Engineers Ltd,(GRSE)

Answer: (a)

Related facts:



- On 19th September, 2019; Indian Navy has received Scorpene submarine INS Khanderi.
- India's biggest warship builder Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders Ltd (MDL) has delivered this second of the six Scorpene class submarine to the Indian Navy in Mumbai, Maharashtra.
- The submarine will be commissioned shortly at naval dockyard.
- The acceptance document was signed by Rakesh Anand, Chairman & Managing Director (MD) of MDL and Rear Admiral B Sivakumar, Chief of Staff Officer (Tech), Western Naval Command.
- The first of the scorpene submarine named INS Kalvari was commissioned in the year 2018. The last of the submarine is expected to be delivered by 2022.
- The submarine is named as Khanderi after the name of wide snouted Sawfish Khanderi which is a deadly sea predator of the Indian Ocean.
- The Scorpene class of submarines can undertake multifarious tasks typically undertaken by any modern submarine that include anti-surface as well as anti-submarine warfare.

Links:

https://www.business-standard.com/article/pti-stories/mdl-hands-over-scorpene-class-submarine-khanderi-to-navy-119091901370_1.html

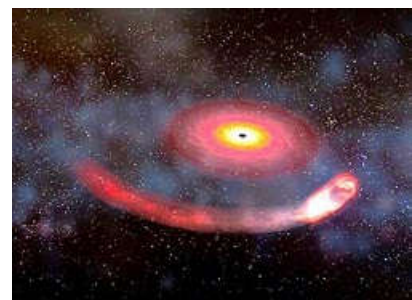
Gravitational waves detected

Question: Recently Scientists have detected gravitational waves first time from a newly born-

- (a) Black hole (b) Star (c) Neutron Star (d) Elliptical Galaxy

Answer: (a)

Related facts:



- In September 2019; scientists have detected gravitational waves first time from a newly born black hole.
- This discovery was made by the researchers from Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) in the United States. The study, published in the journal Physical Review Letters.
- They observed that these gravitational waves have ringing pattern of the waves just as the sound waves emanating from the ringing bell.
- Scientists say that ringing pattern of gravitational waves predicts the cosmic body's mass and spin and it provides more evidence for Einstein's General Theory of Relativity.
- Einstein's General Theory of Relativity predicted that a black hole of a given mass and spin can only produce tones of a certain pitch and decay.
- This discovery increases the possibility that black holes exhibit only three observable properties – mass, spin, and electric charge.

- All other properties, the study noted, could be swallowed up by the black hole itself, and are unobservable.
- Researchers from the MIT in the U.S calculated the mass and spin that the black hole should have using physicist Albert Einstein's General Theory of Relativity, given its ringing pattern.
- These calculations, according to the study, matched earlier measurements of the black hole's mass and spin.
- Researchers say that Einstein's general relativity theory for the first time is being confirmed by this way.
- By concentrating on the last few milliseconds of the signal, immediately following the chirp's peak, the researchers were able to observe the newly formed black hole's ringing.
- Researchers detect an overall gravitational wave signal that's made up of multiple frequencies, which fade away at different rates, like the different pitches that make up a sound.
- Each frequency or tone corresponds to a vibrational frequency of the new black hole.
- The team used the equations of General Theory of Relativity to calculate the newly formed black hole's mass and spin using the detected information on its pitch and decay.
- Their calculations matched with calculations of the black hole's mass and spin which were made previously.

Gravitational waves and their detection:

- When an object accelerates, it creates ripples in space-time, these space-time ripples are known as gravitational waves.
- In another way we can understand gravitational waves just like a boat causes ripples in a pond or an accelerating electrical charge produces an electromagnetic wave.
- Gravitational waves are extremely weak so are very difficult to detect.
- It should be known that the gravitational waves, for the first time were detected on September 14, 2015, the twin Laser Interferometer Gravitational-wave Observatory (LIGO) detectors, located in Livingston, Louisiana, and Hanford, Washington, USA.

Links:

<https://www.thehindu.com/sci-tech/science/gravitational-waves-detected-for-first-time-from-newly-born-black-hole-study/article29408037.ece>

PET bottles are harmless

Question: Which of the following statements is not true regarding PET (Polyethylene Terephthalate)?

- (a) PET is exclusively used only in bottles manufacturing.
- (b) PET is responsible for almost all endocrine related disruptions.
- (c) Terelyne a famous fiber (synthetic) is made of PET.
- (d) Bisphenol –A (BPA) is below its detection limit (BDL) 0.02mg/kg.

Answer: (a)

Related facts:

- CSIR- Central Food Technological Research Institute, Mysore has determined that PET bottles are safe, after a comprehensive evaluation.
- For years there's been a swirling debate internationally on whether PET (Polyethylene Terephthalate) bottles, which are the mainstay of plastic bottles and disposable food containers, leach harmful chemicals when exposed to high temperatures.



- The CFRTI analysis concluded that antimony, arsenic, barium, cadmium, chromium, cobalt, lead, mercury, selenium, and zinc were below their detection limits (BDL) of 0.001mg/kg.
- Bisphenol –A (BPA) is below its detection limit (BDL) 0.02mg/kg.
- The researchers collected four different kinds of PET containers and exposed them to different stimuli such as ethanol of varying concentrations, acetic acid and vegetable oil.
- These were supposed to stimulate the kind of chemicals contained in packaged food and drink that could trigger the leakage of metals or other secondary chemicals.
- They tested these bottles when they were subject to 40C and 60C temperature as well as when test-chemicals were stored in them for 10 days.
- Along with metals, the scientists also measured terephthalic acid, Isophthalic acid, Ethylene Glycol, BPA (bisphenol-A) and phthalates.
- The presence of metals, BPA and phthalates were found below of their detection limit.
- They were also below the European Union's regulation norms of the specific migration limit, which is the maximum amount of a substance that can migrate from a food packaging material or food container into food.
- This conclusively proved that PET bottles did not cause any endocrine disruption activity if used to package water.

Links:

<https://www.thehindu.com/sci-tech/science/are-pet-bottles-safe/article29163643.ece>

Mobile Science Exhibition launched in Ladakh

Question: Recently launched the first-ever Mobile Science Exhibition (Science Explorer) in which Region?

(a) Varanasi (b) Jammu (c) Ladakh (d) Srinagar

Answer: (a)

Related facts:

- As per report dated 5th September, 2019, Tourism and Culture Minister Prahlad Singh Patel flagged off the first Mobile Science Exhibition at Leh Palace, in Leh.
- For the first time, a national programme is being launched from Leh. The Mobile Science Exhibition will be moving to various schools in the Leh district.
- The Mobile Science Exhibition (MSE) is specially designed in a bus so that it can reach the doorsteps of people. The bus will travel from school to school in rural areas and organize exhibitions throughout the year.
- Along with the exhibition, some other programmes like Sky Observation Programme through telescope, science film show, Science Demonstration Lectures etc will also be organized.
- The programme carries a number of interactive exhibits related to everyday science.



Links:

<https://indiaeducationdiary.in/prahlad-singh-patel-flags-off-first-ever-mobile-science-exhibition-science-explorer-ncsm-leh-entire-ladakh-region/>

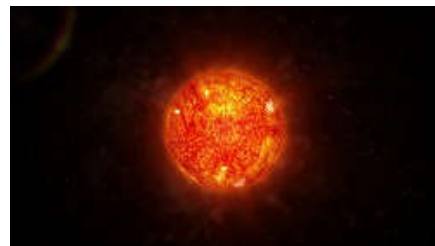
1st High-resolution Measurements Interplanetary shock

Question: Magnetospheric Multiscale mission (MMS) of NASA has recently taken 1st high-resolution measurements of an interplanetary shock event originated in the?

(a) Jupiter (b) Sun (c) Saturn (d) Mars

Answer: (b)
Related facts:

- Magnetospheric Multiscale mission (MMS) has obtained 1st high-resolution measurements of an interplanetary shock event. The MMS mission measured the shock with fast and high-resolution instruments including the Fast Plasma Investigation (FPI).
- The findings have been published, in August 2019, in the Journal of Geophysical Research: Space Physics.
- FPI can measure ions and electrons around the spacecraft at up to 6 times per second.
- It should be noted that these shocks are originated from the Sun which continually releases streams of charged particles called the solar wind.
- According to the researchers Solar winds are of two types, slow and fast. When a fast stream of solar wind overtakes a slower stream, it creates a shock wave.
- These shocks are not only the phenomenon found on the Sun but in every part of the Universe, including in supernovae, black holes, and distant stars.
- It occurs when particles transfer energy through electromagnetic fields instead of directly bouncing into one another.
- The advantage is that these shocks provide ideal situation for understanding about larger universal phenomena.



Magnetospheric Multiscale Mission (MMS):-

- In March 2015 to study Earth's magnetosphere US space agency NASA launched robotic space mission known by the name Magnetospheric Multiscale mission (MMS) .
- MMS comprises of 4 identical spacecraft, which fly in a tight formation that allows for the 3D (3-Dimensional) mapping of space.

Links:

<https://www.nasa.gov/feature/goddard/2019/nasa-s-mms-finds-first-interplanetary-shock/>

India's 1st large-scale trial of two new TB vaccines launched

Question: Recently Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) launched India's first large-scale trial for two new vaccines, named IMMUVAC and VPM1002 to fight against:

(a) TB (b) HIV (c) Japanese Encephalitis (d) Ebola

Answer: (a)

Related facts:

- Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) launched India's first large-scale trial for two new tuberculosis (TB) vaccines named IMMUVAC and VPM1002.
- These vaccines aim to prevent infection (pre-exposure) or prevent primary progression or reactivation of latent TB infection (post-exposure).
- Both vaccines have been manufactured by Indian pharmaceutical companies.
- Immuvac, which is also known as Mycobacterium Indicus Pranii (MIP), has been manufactured by Ahmedabad based Cadila Pharmaceuticals.
- Another vaccine VPM1002 is manufactured by Serum institute of India, located in Pune, Maharashtra.
- It should be known that until now Bacille Calmette-Guerin (BCG) vaccine is widely used in routine Expanded Programme of Immunization (EPI) across the world.



- Need for the new vaccine is being felt since last many years as over a century old BCG vaccine, for this purpose, provides poor protection against pulmonary disease in adolescents and adults.
- Trial of these vaccines is being carried out upon more than 12,000 healthy household contacts of newly diagnosed TB patients from across six states including Delhi, Maharashtra, Odisha and Karnataka.

Links:

<https://www.financialexpress.com/lifestyle/health/first-time-ever-indias-to-conduct-its-biggest-tuberculosis-preventive-trial-with-two-new-vaccines/1662803/>

Growing human organs in animals

Question: Recently which of the following country, for the first time, approved the growing of human organs in animals?

(a) India (b) Japan (c) South Africa (d) Italy

Answer: (b)

Related facts:

- Recently Scientists in Japan received the permission to grow human organs in animals. If it happens, this will be the first study of its kind in the country.
- A professor of genetics Hiromitsu Nakauchi, at Stanford University led the research of this kind.
- This kind of research involves implanting modified animal embryos with human Induced Pluripotent Stem (iPS) cells.
- Scientists say that these kinds of implanted stem cells in animal embryo can be directed into forming the building blocks of any part of human organ.
- Researchers mentioned that it is the initial stage of the lengthy research, which will ultimately lead towards the future where human organs for transplant could be grown inside animals.
- This only became possible after Japan changed its rules on implanting human cells into animals. The research involves generating animal embryos- mice, rats or pigs. All these animals lacks pancreas.
- It is noticeable that Japan had previously required researchers to terminate animal embryos implanted with human cells after 14 days and prevented the embryos from being placed into animal wombs to develop.



Link:

<https://www.thehindu.com/sci-tech/science/japan-approves-growing-human-organs-in-animals-for-first-time/article28787782.ece>

R-27 Air to Air Missile

Question: Recently with which of the following countries India has signed Rs 1500 crore deal to acquire R-27 air to air missiles?

(a) France (b) Israel (c) USA (d) Russia

Answer: (d)

Related facts:

- India is now going to equip Su-30MKI combat aircraft of the IAF with Russian R-27air-to-air missiles. In this regard the government has signed Rs 1500 crore contract with Russia for the acquisition of R-27air-to-air



missile.

- R-27 missiles, when fitted upon an aircraft like Su-30MKI gives additional capability to target enemy aircraft at long ranges.
- It should be known that R-27 missile is a medium-to-long-range air-to-air missile developed by Russia for its MIG and Sukhoi fighter jets.
- It is noticeable that the Pulwama attack completely changed the security perception in country.
- Keeping in mind this changed security scenario, the Central Government had given emergency powers to the three services to buy whatever equipment is required by them for safeguarding the borders with Pakistan.
- Rs 7,600 crore has been spent by the IAF under the emergency procurement route in procuring other missiles such as the Spice-2000, Strum Ataka ATGMs and a large number of spares.

Links:

https://www.business-standard.com/article/news-ani/india-russia-sign-rs-1-500-crore-deal-for-air-to-air-missiles-to-be-used-by-su-30-119072901464_1.html

Five new species of fish found in North-East India

Question: In which of the following North-East Indian State five new species of fishes has been recently discovered?

(a) Sikkim (b) Arunachal Pradesh (c) Meghalaya (d) Nagaland

Answer: (b)

Related facts:

- In August 2019 in a release from Rajiv Gandhi University (RGU) of Arunachal Pradesh informed about discovery of five new species of fish. These fishes have been discovered from different districts of Arunachal Pradesh.
- Research Team from Fisheries and Aquatic Ecology, Zoology Department of Rajiv Gandhi University made the discovery. The research team was headed by Professor DN Das.
- The RGU research team published the details of the discovery in various International journals.
- Newly discovered fish species are *Mystus Prabini*, *Exostoma Kottelati*, *Creteuchiloglanis Tawangensis*, *Garra Ranganensis* and *Physoschistura Harkishorei*.
- Professor Das stated that there are more possibilities for the discoveries of new Ichthyospecies from Arunachal in the future.
- He said that although the task is difficult as the remote water bodies of the State are still not easily accessible to the researchers due to dense rainforests, steep terrains and communication problem.
- According to the researchers this is sure that systematic exploration may result in discoveries of more new species.



Place of location of the new species:

- *Mystus Prabini*: Sinkin and the Dibang rivers in Lower Dibang Valley district.
- *Exostoma Kottelati*: The Ranga River in Lower Subansiri district.
- *Creteuchiloglanis Tawangensis*: The Tawangchu river in Tawang district of the Arunachal Pradesh.
- *Garra Ranganensis*: The Ranga River.
- *Physoschistura Harkishorei*: The Dibang and the Lohit rivers in Lower Dibang Valley district.

Links:

<https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/itanagar/five-new-fish-species-discovered-in-arunachal-pradesh/articleshow/70733308.cms>

Discovery of rare Blue Spider

Question: In which State, a rare and endangered species of Gooty tarantula (Peacock Parachute Spider) was discovered recently?

(a) Arunachal Pradesh (b) Sikkim (c) Tamil Nadu (d) Assam

Answer: (c)

Related facts:

- Recently researchers have discovered a rare species of spider known as Peacock Parachute Spider
- The spider, which is from the genus Poecilotheria, is also known as Gooty Tarantula, it is an endangered bright blue spider found near Gingee in Villupuram district of Tamil Nadu.
- It was spotted by a team of Puducherry-based researchers from the Indigenous Biodiversity Foundation (IBF) in the Pakkamalai Reserve Forests of the State in a cave.
- They later identified the type of spider by looking at photographs from the Zoo Outreach Organizations and Wildlife Information Liaison Development Society.
- This spider is native of the Eastern Ghats, in the deciduous forests near Nandyal in Andhra Pradesh.
- Tarantulas are biological pest controllers and there is a huge demand for them by collectors in the pet trade.

**Links:**

<https://www.firstpost.com/tech/news-analysis/researchers-stumble-across-rare-critically-endangered-blue-tarantula-in-tamil-nadu-7253631.html>

Chandrayan-2 scans the Crater Mitra on the Moon

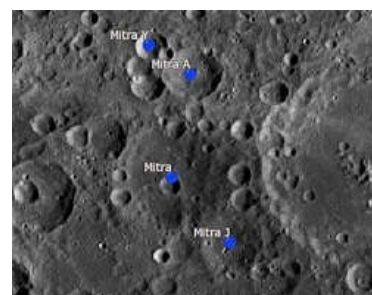
Question: Which of the following crater have been recently scanned by Chandrayan-2 on its orbital maneuvers of the moon?

(a) Surya (b) Mitra (c) Varun (d) Agni

Answer: (b)

Related facts:

- Chandrayan-2 orbiter or mother spacecraft has zeroed in on a crater on the moon named after 20th century's acclaimed radio physicist Sisir Kumar Mitra. The Mitra crater is on the edge of another crater.
- Images of the crater are among the second set of pictures of the northern craters sent by the orbiter. The picture was taken by the Terrain Mapping Camera-2 on 23rd August, 2019. The orbiter was then around 4300 km from the moon.
- At 25 degrees Kelvin (minus 248 degrees Celsius), the northern polar region is believed to be one of the coldest spots in the solar system.
- Prof. Mitra 1890-1963 also lends his name to the S.K. Mitra Centre for Research in Space Environment of the University of Calcutta.

**Link:**

<https://www.thehindu.com/sci-tech/science/chandrayaan-2-scans-mitra-crater/article29262668.ece?homepage=true>

AUMX exercise

Question: AUMX exercise held between which of the following countries?

**(a) ASEAN and US (b) Australia and US (c) Australia And Ukraine
(d) Australia And Maldives**

Answer: (a)

Related facts:



- The U.S. Navy and Maritime forces from the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) will begin the first ASEAN-U.S. Maritime Exercise (AUMX) with opening ceremonies at Sattahip Naval Base, Thailand on September 02.
- Co-led by the U.S. and Royal Thai navies, AUMX will consist of pre-sail activities in Thailand, Singapore and Brunei, followed by a sea phase in international waters in Southeast Asia, including the Gulf of Thailand and South China Sea. The exercise will conclude in Singapore.
- In all, AUMX includes eight warships and four aircraft from seven countries, and more than a thousand personnel representing all ten ASEAN member states and the United States.
- AUMX promotes shared commitments to maritime partnerships, security and stability in Southeast Asia. Participating nations include Brunei, Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, United States and Vietnam.
- Throughout the exercise, ASEAN member states and U.S. forces will operate together under a combined task force structure, executing a variety of realistic scenarios designed to reinforce interoperability in areas such as visit, board, search and seizure (VBSS), maritime domain awareness, division tactics and maritime asset tracking.
- The task force headquarters will be located on board the Royal Thai Navy vessel HTMS Krabi (OPV 551), and include representatives from each ASEAN member state and the United States.
- An ashore support element in Singapore will also host representatives from each ASEAN member state.
- Commercial vessels have been contracted by the United States to serve as the simulated target vessels for the VBSS portion of the exercise, which will focus on countering maritime threats.

History of AMUX

- AUMX was first proposed at the Association of Southeast Asian Nations Defense Ministers' Meeting Plus (ADMM-Plus) in 2017 and confirmed during the 12th ADMM in October 2018.
- While this is the first exercise of its kind with ASEAN, the U.S. Navy has conducted engagements, exercises and port visits in Southeast Asia for decades. In 2019, the 25th Cooperation Afloat Readiness and Training (CARAT) bilateral exercise series commenced, along with the 18th Southeast Asia Cooperation and Training (SEACAT) multilateral exercise.
- The U.S. Navy also participates routinely in ADMM-Plus maritime security exercises, to promote peace and stability throughout the region.

Links:

<https://www.c7f.navy.mil/Media/News/Display/Article/1949503/asean-us-maritime-exercise-begins-in-thailand/>

Rajasthan becomes first state to launch policy on Pneumoconiosis

Question: Recently, which state becomes first state to launch policy on Pneumoconiosis?

(a) Andhra Pradesh (b) Madhya Pradesh (c) Odisha (d) Rajasthan

Answer: (d)

Related facts:

- Rajasthan Government launched Policy on Pneumoconiosis Detection, Prevention, Control and Rehabilitation.
- It was launched by chief minister Ashok Gehlot.
- Pneumoconiosis is a lung diseases caused by inhalation of dust in occupations.
- Rajasthan became the first state to launch such a policy.
- Earlier Gehlot announced a policy on pneumoconiosis in the 2019-20 budget.



Policy Highlights

- According to the new policy, people having pneumoconiosis will be declared permanently disabled, and all benefits under the Persons with Disability Act, 1995, will be accrued to them and their families.
- They will get Rs 4,000 every month as pension, and their family will receive Rs 3,500 every month for five years or until their minor heirs become self-dependent.
- The relief and rehabilitation assistance in the policy includes financial assistance for education of children of people having pneumoconiosis, and funeral assistance of Rs 10,000.
- The state government will also increase the one-time assistance to Rs 400,000 to the affected worker after certification by the pneumoconiosis board. Currently, this amount is Rs 200,000.
- The compensation was being provided only to silicosis, one of the diseases under pneumoconiosis, patients in Rajasthan.
- According to government data, there are 17,000 patients of silicosis in Rajasthan since 2016 when the department made a portal for tracking the disease. As many as 1,800 people have died due to the disease in this period.

Links:

<https://www.hindustantimes.com/ajipur/rajasthan-to-give-pension-to-people-with-lung-diseases-caused-by-dust/story-59UJkzaT9UXac5IAZZrTEJ.html>

Project Netra

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

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

Answer: (a)

Related facts:

- The Indian Space Research Organization initiated 'Project Netra' – an early warning system in space to detect debris and other hazards to Indian satellites.
- The project estimated to cost Rs. 400 crore, when in place, will give India its own capability in space situational awareness like the other space powers which is used to predict threats from debris to Indian



Satellites.

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

Link:

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

Sports

Cricket

Sourav Ganguly set to be new BCCI President

Question: Recently who has been nominated as the new President of the Board of Control for Cricket in India, BCCI?

(a) Sourav Ganguly (b) Sachin Tendulkar (c) Rahul Dravid (d) VVS Laxman

Answer: (a)

Related facts:

- Former Indian cricket captain Sourav Ganguly has been unanimously nominated as the new President of the Board of Control for Cricket in India, BCCI.
- At an informal meeting in Mumbai all the affiliated units of the BCCI finalized the names of the new office-bearers.
- A consensus between the state units of BCCI was built for former India captain and Cricket Association of Bengal (CAB) President Sourav Ganguly as the front runner for the post of BCCI president.



- 47-year-old Ganguly was the chairman of the BCCI technical committee and has been a media personality for many years.
- Besides Ganguly, BCCI members have also unanimously selected Jay Shah as Secretary and Arun Dhumal as Treasurer.
- Jay Shah is the son of Union Home Minister Amit Shah while Dhumal is the younger brother of MoS Finance and former BCCI president Anurag Thakur.
- All these candidates are expected to be elected unopposed at the Board's Annual General Meeting to be held on 23-10-2019.

Link:

<http://www.newsonair.com/News?title=Sourav-Ganguly-all-set-to-become-new-president-of-BCCI&id=372899>

Highest wicket taker in Men's Twenty20 Internationals

Question: Which of the following cricketer became highest wicket taker in Men's Twenty20 Internationals?

(a) Lasith Malinga (b) Shahid Afridi (c) Jasprit Bumrah (d) Mohammad Shami

Answer: (a)

Related facts:

- Sri Lanka paceman Lasith Malinga became the highest wicket-taker in men's Twenty20 Internationals with his 99th scalp in the first match of the series against New Zealand, surpassing Pakistan's Shahid Afridi.
- Malinga, who retired from Test cricket in 2011 and played his farewell one-day international in July, bowled Colin Munro in the first over of the New Zealand chase to equal Afridi's record of 98 wickets.
- The 36-year-old then cleaned up Colin de Grandhomme for 44 to achieve the feat in his 74th T20 match of his illustrious career.
- Afridi, a leg-spinner who also captained Pakistan, played 99 T20 matches.
- Malinga, known for bowling yorkers with his slinging action, made his T20 debut against England in 2006. He has 101 wickets from 30 Tests and 338 scalps in 226 ODI games.



Links:

<https://www.cricket.com.au/news/match-report/lasith-malinga-100-t20-wickets-record-sri-lanka-new-zealand-first-t20-kandy/2019-09-02>

Jalaj Saxena

Question: Jalaj Saxena, who was recently in news, is associated with which sport?

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

Answer: (b)

Related facts:

- Jalaj Saxena (32) became the only cricketer in first-class cricket to score 6044 runs in first-class cricket, as well as taken over 300 wickets. He still has not represented Team India.
- Jalaj made above record during the 58th season of Duleep Trophy 2019–20 match between India Red and India Blue.
- With this record, Saxena has entered an elite club filled with Indian legends like Kapil Dev, Lala Amarnath and Polly Umrigar.



- Saxena originally belongs to Indore Madhya Pradesh, where he started his cricket career, later he moved to Kerala for better opportunities.
- He has been the recipient of prestigious Lala Amarnath Award for best all-rounder by BCCI (Board of Control for Cricket in India) in January 2016.

Links:

<https://www.indiatoday.in/sports/cricket/story/jalaj-saxena-domestic-cricket-all-round-feat-india-a-kapil-dev-delhi-capitals-duleep-trophy-1592719-2019-08-28>

India won disability world cricket series

Question: India has won T20 Disability World Cricket Series. The team defeated which of the following nations?

(a) Australia (b) New Zealand (c) England (d) Pakistan

Answer: (c)

Related facts:

- India beat host England by 36 runs in the final of Physically Disabled World Cricket Series organized by England & Wales Cricket Board at Blackfinch New Road ground in Worcester on 14th August, 2019.
- The visitors scored 180 for seven in 20 overs after skipper Vikrant Keni won the toss and then restricted England to 144 for eight to seal the title.
- Earlier, India had topped the six team round robin league stage to qualify directly for the final.
- The Indian team called itself Wadekar Warriors, in memory of former India Captain Ajit Wadekar, who played an active role in All India Cricket Association for Physically Challenged (AICAPC).



Links:

<https://www.indiatoday.in/sports/cricket/story/t20-physical-disability-world-cricket-series-india-beat-england-to-lift-trophy-blackfinch-1580908-2019-08-14>

Football

Qatar unveils 2022 FIFA World Cup logo

Question: 2022 World Cup will be held in which of the following place?

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

Answer: (a)

Related facts:

- On 4th September, 2019, Qatar unveiled the logo for the 2022 World Cup which will be hosted by the Gulf emirate, displaying it in public spaces in Doha and cities around the world. The event will be held in the month of November and December.
- The design is a stylized Arabic white unisex shawl with maroon patterning, which is displayed in a figure-of-eight symbolizing infinity while creating a heart shape above the words FIFA WORLD CUP Qatar 2022.
- It was projected onto the vast facade of the country's National Archives in the capital's southern Msheireb district to fanfare that included a procession of soldiers on horseback watched by a crowd of hundreds.



Link:

<https://www.thehindu.com/sport/football/qatar-unveils-2022-fifa-world-cup-logo-round-the-globe/article29328840.ece>

2019 SAFF U-15 Women's Championship

Question: Which country won the 2019 SAFF (South Asian Football Federation) U-15 Women's Championship?

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

Answer: (a)

Related facts:

- On 15 October 2019, India thrashed Bangladesh 5-3 on penalty shoot-out to win the SAFF (South Asian Football Federation) U-15 Women's Championship held at Changlimithang Stadium in Thimphu, Bhutan.
- This is India's second SAFF U-15 Women's Championship title.
- India, Bangladesh, Bhutan and Nepal were the participating nations.
- Lynda Kom Serto of India is the top scorer with 4 goals. Whereas Rupna Chakma of Bangladesh has been conferred the Best Player award.
- Bhutan got the Fair Play Award.



Links:

<https://saffederation.org/india-won-the-saff-u-15-womens-championship-2019-on-penalty-shootout/>

India to host the FIFA U-17 Women's World Cup

Question: The FIFA U-17 Women's World Cup, to be hosted by India, will be held in-

(a) November, 2020 (b) November, 2019 (c) January, 2020

(d) December, 2020

Answer: (a)

Related facts:

- The FIFA U-17 Women's World Cup, to be hosted by India, will be held from 2nd November, to 21st January 2021.
- India was announced as the host country in March 2019. This event will be held in four cities across the country.
- Last month, the Kalinga Stadium in Bhubaneswar was provisionally confirmed as a venue, pending FIFA approval.
- Kolkata, Navi Mumbai, Goa and Ahmedabad are in the running for the other three host cities.
- Spain is the defending champions, having won the title of the biennial tournament in 2018.
- India attained automatic qualification to the event on account of being the host.



Links:

<https://www.indiatoday.in/sports/football/story/-fifa-u-17-women-s-world-cup-in-india-to-be-held-from-nov-2-to-21-next-year-1598983-2019-09-14>

Badminton

Indian shuttler bagged Dutch Open 2019

Question: Which Indian shuttler has won the Men's Singles title at the Dutch Open 2019?

(a) Lakshya Sen (b) K. Srikanth (c) H S Prannoy (d) Sai

Praneeth

Answer: (a)

Related facts:



- On 13 October 2019, Indian shuttler Lakshya Sen clinched his maiden BWF World Tour title by winning the Dutch Open men's singles at Almere in the Netherlands.
- The 18-year-old defeated his world no. 160 opponent Yusuke Onodera of Japan by 15-21 21-14 21-15.
- Lakshya, currently ranked 72nd, had won the Belgian Open last month and reached the finals of Polish Open this year.
- He had also won the Asian Junior Championships, a silver at Youth Olympic Games and a bronze medal at World Junior Championships last year.
- The Dutch Open is a BWF World Tour Super 100 tournament.

Links:

<https://bwfbadminton.com/results/3366/yonex-dutch-open-2019/draw/ms>

BWF Para World Badminton Championship

Question: Which of the following players have recently won her maiden gold in BWF Para World Badminton Championship?

(a) Parul Kumar (b) Manasi Joshi (c) P V Sindhu (d) Rituparna Das

Answer: (b)

Related facts:

- Manasi Joshi has won her maiden gold medal by clinching the title of BWF Para World badminton championship.
- She has defeated her compatriot Parul Kumar in women's singles. She won by 21-12, 21-7.
- It was her third appearance in the world's championship; previously she won a bronze medal in 2017.



Link:

<https://www.thehindu.com/sport/other-sports/para-world-badminton-feels-great-to-be-a-world-champion-says-manasi-after-securing-maiden-gold/article29267660.ece?homepage=true>

Boxing

Asian Junior Championship

Question: Which of the following country finished the Asian Junior Championship of Boxing held recently with the best medal tally?

(a) China (b) Iran (c) UAE (d) India

Answer: (d)

Related Fact :

- In the Asian Junior Championship ending recently, India emerged as the country with best medal tally. It was held in Fujairah, UAE.
- Indian boxers at the championship clinched a bumper tally of 21 medals, including six golds and nine silvers, to end with the best medal haul among 26 competing countries.
- The Indian men's squad fetched two golds, three silvers and three bronze, while the women claimed four gold, six silver and three bronze medals.
- The team ended top in terms of medals won but finished second behind Uzbekistan (20) which had a better gold count of eight.



Links:

<http://www.newsonair.com/News?title=Indian-boxers-clinch-bumper-tally-of-21-medals%2c-including-six-golds-at-Asian-Junior-C%e2%80%99ships&id=373164>

Billiards, Snooker & Squash

Pankaj Advani clinches record 22nd world title

Question: Which of the following player has won IBSF Billiards Championship?

(a) Pankaj Advani (b) Nay Thway (c) Sourav Kothari (d)

None of the above

Answer:(a)

Related facts:

- One of India's most consistent sportspersons, Pankaj Advani, has clinched a record 22nd world titles by winning a fourth straight final in the 150-up format at the IBSF World Billiards Championship in Myanmar.
- Advani yesterday defeated Nay Thway of Myanmar.
- The 34-year-old has brought home a world trophy every year ever since returning from a professional stint in the UK in 2014.
- In the short format of billiards, this is Advani's fifth title in the last six years.
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi has congratulated Pankaj Advani for winning a fourth straight final at World Billiards Championship.



Links:

<https://sportstar.thehindu.com/pool/pankaj-advani-world-billiards-championship-final-22nd-title/article29418331.ece>

Formula One

Sebastian Vettel won Singapore Grand Prix

Question: Recently which Ferrari driver won Singapore Grand Prix?

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

Answer: (a)

Related facts:

- On 22nd September, 2019, Ferrari driver Sebastian Vettel has won Singapore Grand Prix ahead of teammate Charles Leclerc by 2.641 seconds.
- It was Vettel's fifth Grand Prix victory.
- Max Verstappen of Red Bull team was third and Lewis Hamilton was fourth.

**Links:**

<https://www.indiatoday.in/sports/formula-one/story/sebastian-vettel-wins-singapore-grand-prix-ferrari-charles-leclerc-max-verstappen-red-bull-3rd-1602012-2019-09-22>

Athletics

First athlete to run a marathon in less than two hours

Question: Who became the first athlete to complete the marathon in less than two hours making a world record recently?

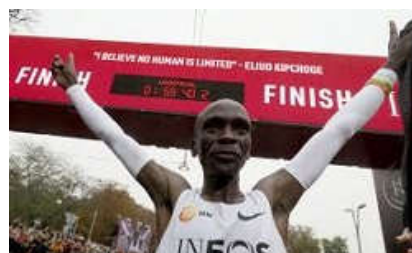
(a) Usain Bolt (b) Geoffrey Mutai (c) Eliud Kipchoge (d)

Rosa Mota

Answer: (c)

Related facts:

- Eliud Kipchoge, a Kenyan runner became the first athlete to run a marathon in less than two hours.
- The Olympic champion world record holder finished the marathon of 26 miles in 1 hour, 59 minutes and 40 seconds at the INEOS 1:59 Challenge in Vienna, Austria on October 12 2019.
- He ran at a consistent average pace of 2:50 minutes per kilometer (4:33.5 minutes per mile), Kipchoge was 11 seconds ahead of schedule halfway through his run.
- Kipchoge was supported by 36 pacemakers and so it will, however be not counted as a world record.



- Kipchoge won Olympic gold in Rio de Janeiro in 2016. He has also won 10 of his 11 marathons, holding the official world record of 2:01:39.

Links:

<https://www.bbc.com/sport/athletics/50025543>

Vinesh Phogat becomes first Indian wrestler to qualify for 2020 Tokyo Olympics

Question: Who became first Indian wrestler to qualify for 2020 Tokyo Olympics?

(a) Vinesh Phogat (b) Babita Phogat (c) Deepa malik (d) None of the above

Answer: (a)

Related facts:

- On September 18, 2019, India's star wrestler Vinesh Phogat qualified for the 2020 Olympics after beating fancied American Sarah Hildebrandt in the World Championships in Nur Sultan, Kazakhstan.
- She scored an impressive 8-2 win over the world championship silver medalist to secure her place at the Tokyo Games.
- Vinesh won wrestle in the bronze-medal bout against Maria Prevolaraki of Germany.
- Earlier, she had stormed to a 5-0 win over Ukraine's Yuliya Khalvadzhy in the first round of repechage in the 53kg category to remain in contention for an Olympic quota and a bronze medal.



Links:

<http://www.newsonair.com/News?title=Vinesh-Phogat-becomes-first-Indian-wrestler-to-qualify-for-2020-Tokyo-Olympics&id=371739>

Sports ministry de-recognises PCI for Sports Code violation

Question: Which Committee has been de-recognised recently for violation of Sports Code?

(a) National Olympic Committee (b) Paralympic Committee of India (c) Empowered Steering Committee (d) Physical Education Committee

Answer: (b)

Related facts:

- Union Sports Ministry recently derecognised the Paralympic Committee of India (PCI) for violating the National Sports Code by sacking the PCI President Rao Inderjit Singh.
- The Committee was penalised for misgovernance.
- The PCI had also been suspended in 2015 over governance issues and re-recognised in 2016.



Links:

https://www.business-standard.com/article/pti-stories/sports-ministry-de-recognises-pci-for-sports-code-violation-119091000467_1.html

First Indian man to win gold at Wushu World Championships

Question: Who became the first Indian to win gold at Wushu World Championships?

(a) Praveen Kumar (b) Sunil Kumar (c) Ravinder Malik (d) Manpreet Jangad

Answer: (a)

Related facts:

- On 23 October 2019, Praveen Kumar became the first Indian man to win a gold medal at the 15th World Wushu Championships held in Shanghai, China.
- He achieved the feat by defeating Philippines' Russel Diaz 2-1 in the 48kg category in the men's sanda event, a mixed martial full contact sport
- Wushu is a Chinese martial art which combines full-contact kickboxing, including close-range punches and kicks, with wrestling, takedowns, throws, sweeps and kicks catch.
- Among others Indians in the fray, Poonam (women's 75kg) and Sanathoi Devi (women's 52kg) secured silver medals while Vikrant Baliyan bagged the bronze in the men's 60kg category.
- India finished third overall in the championship with a gold, two silvers and a bronze.



Links:

<http://www.15thwwc.com/en/>

ISSF World Cup Rifle / Pistol Event- 2019

Question: International Shooting Sports Federation (ISSF) World Cup Rifle / Pistol-2019 was held in?

(a) Paris, France (b) Rio de Janeiro, Brazil (c) New Delhi (d) Sydney, Australia

Answer: (b)

Related facts:



- From 26th August to 3rd September, 2019, International Shooting Sports Federation (ISSF) World Cup Rifle / Pistol-2019 was held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil.
- It was an annual edition of the ISSF World Cup in the Olympic Shooting events and governed by ISSF.
- India finished the tournament at the top spot with 5 Gold, 2 Silver & 2 Bronze medals, with 9 medals altogether.
- Teen stars Manu Bhaker and Saurabh Chaudhary registered remarkable victory by winning gold medal in the mixed 10m air pistol event of this shooting sport.
- This win provided a fitting finale to India's unprecedented dominance of the medal tally in the ISSF World Cup Rifle/Pistol stage.
- Representing the other Indian team in the same event, Yashaswini Deswal and Abhishek Verma won the silver medal.

- The results ensured an unprecedented top finish for India across all four ISSF World Cup stages this year, including the lone junior world cup.

Link:

<https://sportstar.thehindu.com/shooting/issf-rifle-pistol-world-cup-bhaker-saurabh-abhishek-yashaswini-india-gold-silver-bronze-medal-tally-score-results-rio-tokyo-olympic-2020-quota/article29321083.ece#>

Sports Miscellaneous

Vinesh Phogat qualifies for 2020 Tokyo Olympics

Question: Who among the following became the first Indian wrestler to qualify for 2020 Tokyo Olympics?

(a) Vinesh Phogat (b) Babita Phogat (c) Deepa Malik (d) None of the above

Answer: (a)

Related facts:

- On 18th September, 2019, India's star wrestler Vinesh Phogat qualified for the 2020 Olympics after beating fancied American Sarah Hildebrandt in the World Championships in Nur Sultan, Kazakhstan.
- She scored an impressive 8-2 win over the world championship silver medalist to secure her place at the Tokyo Games.
- Vinesh Phogat defeated two-time world bronze medalist Maria Prevolaraki of Greece to clinch a bronze medal in 53 kg freestyle event.
- She is only the fourth Indian female wrestler to win a medal at the prestigious tournament.



Links:

<http://www.newsonair.com/News?title=Vinesh-Phogat-becomes-first-Indian-wrestler-to-qualify-for-2020-Tokyo-Olympics&id=371739>

Short Notes

Personalities

First female player to complete 20 yrs in international cricket

Question: Which player became the first female cricketer to complete a time period of 20 years in active International Cricket?

(a) Mithali Raj (b) Sana Meer (c) Charlotte Edwards (d) Ellyse Perry

Answer: (a)

Related facts:

- India women's cricket captain Mithali Raj has become the first female player to complete a time of over 20 years in international cricket.



- She achieved the feat leading India to an eight-wicket win over South Africa Women in the first ODI at Vadodara on October 9 2019.
- So far, only three male cricketer namely Sachin Tendulkar (22 years and 91 days), Sanath Jayasuriya (21 years and 184 days) and Javed Miandad (20 years and 272 days) have had longer careers (in terms of number of years played) in international cricket.
- Mithali, 36 year old made her ODI debut against Ireland on June 26, 1999. She completed 20 years and 105 days in the 50-over format.
- The right-handed batswoman has played 204 ODIs till now, the most by a female.
- Mithali retired from T20 cricket last month and had played 10 Tests and 89 T20 Internationals for India.

Links:

<https://www.indiatoday.in/sports/cricket/story/mithali-rai-20-years-international-cricket-1st-woman-sachin-tendulkar-javed-miandad-1607625-2019-10-09>

47th Chief Justice of India

Question: Who has been recently appointed as the 47th Chief Justice of India?

(a) DY Chandrachud (b) Arvind Bobde (c) Indira Jaisingh (d) Prashant Bhushan

Answer: (b)

Related facts:

- Justice Sharad Arvind Bobde was appointed as the 47th Chief Justice of India.
- Justice Bobde will take oath as the CJI on 18th November 2019, a day after incumbent Chief Justice Ranjan Gogoi demits office.
- He will have tenure of 17 months and would demit office on April 23rd, 2021.
- His Warrant of Appointment was signed by President Ram Nath Kovind following which the Law Ministry issued a notification announcing Justice Bobde's appointment as the next head of the Indian judiciary.
- A judge since 2000, Justice Bobde joined the Bombay High Court as an additional judge.
- He was appointed as the chief justice of the Madhya Pradesh High Court on October 2012. In April 2013, he was elevated to the Supreme Court.
- As per established procedure, Justice Gogoi had earlier this month written to the Law Minister recommending the name of Justice Bobde, the senior most judge as his successor.



Links:

<http://ddnews.gov.in/national/justice-sharad-arvind-bobde-appointed-47th-cji>

Kim Clijsters announced her return

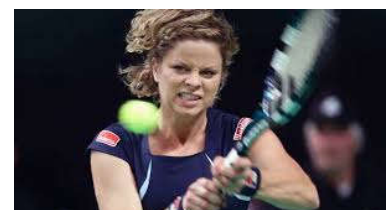
Question: Recently which of the following has announced her return to professional tennis after seven years?

(a) Kim Clijsters (b) Sania Mirza (c) Naozami Okuhara (d) Sarena Williams

Answer :(a)

Related facts:

- Kim Clijsters, former World no. 1 and four-time Grand Slam Winner has announced her return to professional tennis, seven years after her retirement.
- Kim Clijsters announced her comeback through a video on



twitter.

- Clijsters was ready to come back in 2020.

Links:

<https://www.independent.co.uk/sport/tennis/kim-clijsters-news-retirement-wta-2020-tour-latest-a9102536.html>

Madhukar Kamath new chairman of the Audit Bureau of Circulations

Question: Who has been elected as the Chairman of the Audit Bureau of Circulations?

(a) Madhukar Kamath (b) Ranjan Gogoi (c) Arvind Subramaniam (d) Devendra V Darda

Answer : (a)

Related facts:

- Madhukar Kamath, chairman emeritus of DDB Mudra group and mentor of Interbrand India, has been elected chairman of the Audit Bureau of Circulations (ABC) for 2019-20.
- Kamath has also been the president of Advertising Agencies Association of India.



Links:

https://www.business-standard.com/article/economy-policy/madhukar-kamath-elected-chairman-of-the-audit-bureau-of-circulations-119092001421_1.html

Akila Dananjaya

Question: Which country's bowler has been banned by ICC in September 2019 for his suspected bowling action?

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

Answer: (b)

Related facts:

- On September 19, 2019, Akila Dhananjaya was banned to play International Cricket by the International Cricket Council (ICC).
- Dhananjaya who is Sri Lankan off-spinner banned for 12 months for illegal bowling action.
- On August 29, 2019 an independent investigation was carried out in Chennai, Tamil Nadu, it was revealed in this investigation that his bowling action was illegal.
- His questionable bowling action came into the light, during 14-18 August, 2019, in a test match between Sri Lanka and New Zealand.
- It should be known that, earlier in December 2018 he was suspended from bowling.
- After the end of the one-year period, Dhananjaya can appeal an action investigation in the ICC.



About ICC:

- ICC was founded in 15 June 1909 and is Headquartered in Dubai, United Arab Emirates (UAE).

Links:-

<https://www.icc-cricket.com/media-releases/1349580>

Former Andhra Pradesh Speaker Kodela Siva Prasad Rao commits suicide

Question: Recently Kodela Siva Prasad Rao committed suicide. He was Former speaker of which state?

(a) Andhra Pradesh (b) Tamil nadu (c) Karnataka (d) Uttrakhand

Answer: (a)

Related facts:

- Former Andhra Pradesh Assembly Speaker Kodela Siva Prasad Rao, who was at the centre of a row over alleged theft of assembly property, have committed suicide.
- Kodela Prasad Rao was recently booked by the Andhra Pradesh police for shifting furniture from the assembly to his home in Guntur.
- He had won the seat with a margin of about 900 seats in the 2014 elections.
- Kodela Rao was reportedly upset over the number of cases registered against him and his family members over different issues.



Links:

<https://www.livemint.com/politics/policy/former-ap-speaker-kodela-siva-prasad-rao-commits-suicide-in-hyderabad-1568623313050.html>

Chairmanship of Association of World Election Bodies

Question: Who assumed the charge of Chairmanship of Association of World Election Bodies recently?

(a) Sunil Arora (b) Sushil Chandra (c) Umesh Sinha (d) Amit Tyagi

Answer: (a)

Related facts:

- Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) Sunil Arora assumed the Chairmanship of 'Association of World Election Bodies' (AWEB) on September 3, 2019, Arora will serve the post during 2019-21.
- His appointment came after India took over the Chair of AWEB from Romania.



About Association of World Election Bodies (AWEB)

- The Association of World Election Bodies, commonly referred to as 'A-WEB,' was established on October 14, 2013 in Song-do, South Korea.
- A-WEB is the first global organization of election management bodies, and the membership currently consists of 97 organizations from 94 countries.

Links:

<https://www.pib.nic.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1583786>

Sumit Nagpal

Question: Which of the following player became third Indian to face tennis ace Roger Federer in US Open?

(a) Somdev Dev Varman (b) Rohan Bopanna (c) Sumit Nagpal (d) Yuki Bhambri

Answer: (c)

Related facts:

- Sumit Nagpal became the third Indian tennis player to play against the tennis ace Roger Federer.
- He not only played against him but win his first set in ongoing US Open.
- He couldn't capitalize this one set lead into the record books as Federer defeated him in remaining three sets. The final score was 4-6, 6-1, 6-2, 6-4.
- Prior to Sumit, Rohan Bopanna and Somdev Dev Varman had faced the Federer but couldn't register even a set win.

**Links:**

https://sportstar.thehindu.com/tennis/us-open-tennis-sumit-nagal-first-indian-to-win-a-set-against-roger-federer-record-bopanna-devvarman/article29267561.ece?utm_source=pushnotifications&utm_campaign=pushnotifications&utm_medium=ALL_USER

Pramod Kumar Das assumes charge as Secretary, Ministry of Minority Affairs

Question: On 25th October 2019, who assumed charge as the Secretary, Ministry of Minority Affairs?

(a) Pramod Kumar Das (b) Vinod Kumar (c) Rajneesh Jain (d) Rahul Bisht

Answer: (a)

Related facts:

- On 25 October 2019, Pramod Kumar Das assumed charge as the Secretary, Ministry of Minority Affairs.
- He is a Madhya Pradesh cadre IAS officer of 1986 batch.
- Prior to this, he was serving as the Special Secretary, Department of Expenditure in the Ministry of Finance.
- Mukhtar Abbas Naqvi is the current Union Minister of Minority Affairs and Kiren Rijiju is the Minister of State for Minority Affairs.
- Ministry of Minority Affairs was carved out of Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment and was created on 29th January, 2006
- It is the apex body for the central government's regulatory and developmental programmes for the minority religious communities in India, which include Muslims, Sikhs, Christians, Buddhists, Zoroastrians (Parsis) and Jains.



Links:

<https://pib.gov.in/PressReleaseDetail.aspx?PRID=1589219>

New Secretary to Ministry of Power

Question:Who has been appointed Secretary, Ministry of Power on 22nd October 2019?

(a) Sanjeev Nandan Sahai (b) Sunil Kumar (c) Rajiv Kumar (d) Rajneesh Kumar

Answer:(a)

Related facts:

- On 22 October 2019, the Appointments Committee of Cabinet (ACC) has appointed Sanjeev Nandan Sahai as the new Secretary to Ministry of Power.
- Sanjeev Nandan Sahai is a 1986-batch IAS officer of the Uttarakhand cadre.
- Sahai has been serving as Special Secretary in the ministry and will succeed incumbent Subhash Chandra Garg upon his retirement on October 31.
- Subhash Chander Garg sought voluntary retirement after being shunted out from the post of finance secretary soon after the budget was passed by Parliament.



Links:

<http://164.100.117.97/WriteReadData/userfiles/22Secretaries.pdf>

New Chairman of SSC

Question:Who has been appointed as the new Chairman of SSC(Staff Selection Commission)?

(a) Braj Raj Sharma (b) Sunil Kumar (c) Rajiv Kumar (d) Rajneesh Kumar

Answer:(a)

Related facts:

- On 22nd October 2019, Braj Raj Sharma has been appointed as Chairman of one of the country's biggest recruiting agency Staff Selection Commission(SSC).
- He is a 1984 batch IAS officer of Jammu & Kashmir cadre.
- Prior to this, he remained Chief Secretary of J&K and was presently serving as Secretary, Department of Border Management, Ministry of Home Affairs.
- He will replace Asim Khurana who had been in controversy for alleged SSC Graduate level Tier-II paper leaks in February 2018.



Links:

<http://164.100.117.97/WriteReadData/userfiles/22Secretaries.pdf>

New CEO of UIDAI

Question:Who has been appointed as the new CEO(Chief Executive Officer) of UIDAI(Unique Identification Authority of India)?

(a) Pankaj Kumar (b) Sunil Kumar (c) Rajiv Kumar (d) Rajneesh Kumar

Answer:(a)

Related facts:

- On 22 October 2019, the Appointments Committee of Cabinet (ACC) has appointed Pankaj Kumar as CEO(Chief Executive Officer) of Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI).
- Pankaj Kumar is a 1987-batch IAS officer of the Nagaland cadre.
- He was currently serving as Additional Secretary in Union Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY).
- He is appointed as CEO of UIDAI in the rank and pay of Secretary by temporarily upgrading the post.
- The Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI) is a statutory authority established under the provisions of the Aadhaar (Targeted Delivery of Financial and Other Subsidies, Benefits and Services) Act, 2016 ("Aadhaar Act 2016") on 12 July 2016 by the Government of India, under the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY).
- UIDAI was created with the objective to issue Unique Identification numbers (UID), named as "Aadhaar", to all residents of India that is (a) robust enough to eliminate duplicate and fake identities, and (b) can be verified and authenticated in an easy, cost-effective way.
- The first UID number was issued on 29 September 2010 to a resident of Nandurbar, Maharashtra.



Links:

<http://164.100.117.97/WriteReadData/userfiles/22Secretaries.pdf>

New Controller General of Accounts

Question: Who took the charge as the new Controller General of Accounts on October 16, 2019?

(a) J.P.S. Chawla (b) Abhijit Tripathi (c) Satyadev Pachauri (d) None of these

Answer: (a)

Related facts:

- On 16 October 2019, J.P.S. Chawla assumed charge as the new Controller General of Accounts, Ministry of Finance, Department of Expenditure.
- Mr. Chawla is a 1985-batch Indian Civil Accounts Service (ICAS) Officer.
- The Controller General of Accounts is the apex Accounting Authority of the Central Government and exercises the powers of the President under Article 150 of the constitution for prescribing the forms of Accounts of the Union and State Governments on the advice of the Comptroller & Auditor General of India.



Controller General of Accounts (CGA) is:

- The Principal Advisor on Accounting matters to the Union Government.
- Responsible for establishing and managing a technically sound Management Accounting System.
- Responsible for preparation and submission of the accounts of the Union Government.
- Responsible for exchequer control and internal audits.

Links:

<https://pib.gov.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=193826>

Jagannath Mishra passes away

Question: Jagannath Mishra who recently passed away, was three time Chief Minister of which of the following States?

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

Answer: (c)

Related facts:

- On 19th August, 2019, former Chief Minister of Bihar, Shri Jagannath Mishra, 2019 passed away at a hospital in New Delhi. He was 82.
- He was Chief Minister of the State in 1975, 1980 and in 1989. He was also the last Congress Chief Minister of the State.
- He was a Cabinet Minister at the Centre in the P.V. Narasimha Rao's government.
- Before joining politics, he was an economics professor at Bihar University and authored several books.
- He was also the member of National Congress Party and the Janata Dal (United) too.
- He was also the co-accused in the multi-crore fodder scam.

**Link:**

<https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/other-states/former-bihar-cm-jagannath-mishra-passes-away/article29132268.ece?homepage=true>

IPS officer VK Johri appointed as next BSF DG

Question: Who has been appointed as the next Director General of Border Security Force?

(a) VK Johri (b) Ajit Dhoval (c) Rajiv Kumar (d) None of the above

Answer: (a)

Related facts:

- IPS officer VK Johri has been appointed as the next Director General of Border Security Force.
- Mr Johri, a 1984-batch Indian Police Service officer of Madhya Pradesh cadre, is presently serving as the Special Secretary in RAW, under the Cabinet Secretariat.
- He will take over the charge of the BSF from incumbent Rajni Kant Mishra, who retires on 31st August, 2019.
- The official order, issued by the Appointments Committee of the Cabinet, also stated that Mr Johri has been appointed as an Officer on Special Duty in the Union Home Ministry with immediate effect.

**Link:**

<http://newsonair.nic.in/Main-News-Details.aspx?id=369260>

Dr. Shankar Dayal Sharma Birth anniversary

Question: On which of the following day Dr. Shankar Dayal Sharma Birth anniversary is celebrated?

(a) 18 August (b) 19 August (c) 20 August (d) 21 August

Answer: (b)
Related facts:

- President Ram Nath Kovind paid floral tribute to Dr. Shankar Dayal Sharma, the former President of India, on the occasion of his birth anniversary, at Rashtrapati Bhavan.
- He was born on 19th August, 1918 in Bhopal.
- He became the eighth vice president of India and ex-officio chairman of Rajya Sabha from September 3, 1987, till he assumed the office of the President on 24th July, 1992.
- He served in this vaunted position till 1997. He was the ninth President of India.
- Prior to this, he also served as a governor of Maharashtra, Andhra Pradesh and Punjab.
- Shankar Dayal Sharma died on December 26, 1999, at a hospital in New Delhi.



Links:

<https://www.indiatoday.in/education-today/gk-current-affairs/story/shankar-dayal-sharma-anniversary-1417433-2018-12-26>

Executive Director for India at IMF

Question: Recently, who has been appointed as Executive Director for India at IMF ?

(a) Subir Gokarn (b) Surjit S Bhalla (c) Gita Gopinath (d)

Raghuram Rajan

Answer: (b)

Related facts:

- Economist Surjit S Bhalla was appointed as the Executive Director for India at the International Monetary Fund (IMF) on 1st October'2019.
- His appointment has been cleared by the Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (ACC) headed by Prime Minister Narendra Modi.
- The ACC approved the appointment of Bhalla for a period of three years from the date of assumption of charge of the post or until further orders, whichever is earlier.
- Earlier he resigned as part-time member of the Economic Advisory Council to the Prime Minister (EAC-PM) in December 1, 2018.
- The EAC-PM is an independent body constituted to advise the government of India, specifically the prime minister, on economic and other related issues.
- Bhalla has authored several books, which include Between the Wickets: The Who and Why of the Best in Cricket (1987), Imagine There's no Country (2002), Devaluing to Prosperity (2012), and recently The New Wealth of Nations (2017).



Links:

<https://indianexpress.com/article/india/economist-surjit-s-bhalla-appointed-as-executive-director-for-india-at-imf-6045672/>

Awards & Honors

Professor Yusuf awarded by Vatican

Question: Nobel Laureate Professor Muhammad Yusuf was conferred the 'Lamp of Peace of Saint Francis ' award by the Vatican. Which country does he belong to?

(a) Pakistan (b) Indonesia (c) USA (d) Bangladesh

Answer: (d)

Related facts:

- Nobel Laureate from Bangladesh Professor Muhammad Yunus was conferred the 'Lamp of Peace of Saint Francis ' award by the Vatican for his contribution towards establishing peace and harmony on September 3, 2019.
- The award is recognition for distinguished work by an individual for promoting peace and dialogue among people.
- The ceremony took place at the historical Papal Basilica of Assisi in Italy.
- The Lamp of Peace award was first given to the Polish trade union leader Lech Walesa in 1981.
- Dalai Lama, Mikhail Gorbachev and Angela Merkel are a few other prominent persons who received this award earlier.



Links:

<http://ddnews.gov.in/international/nobel-laureate-professor-yunus-conferred-award-vatican>

Sonu Nigam has been honoured 21st Century Icon Award

Question: which singer has got 21st century Icon Award?

(a) Ranu Mondal (b) Sonu Nigam (c) Himesh Reshamiya (d)Kumar Sanu

Answer: (b)

- On 20th September, 2019, popular Bollywood playback singer Sonu Nigam has been honoured with the Magnificent Performing Arts Award at the annual 21st Century Icon Awards in London.
- Nigam was among a host of winners across a range of categories at a gala awards ceremony, devised as a celebration of dynamic entrepreneurs and successful individuals chosen from hundreds of nominations from around the world.
- The nominations were from 22 different countries.



21st Century Icon Awards:

- The 21st Century Icon Award is the brainchild of UK-based Indian-origin entrepreneurs Tarun Ghulati and Preeti Rana, co-founders of Squared Watermelon Ltd. The Judges included personalities across varied fields who decided on the final 18 winners.
- Among some of the other winners at the ceremony included Kalli Purie, Vice-Chairperson of India Today Group who won the Outstanding Media and Entertainment Award; Charlotte Crosswell, CEO of Innovate Finance UK, who won the Specialist Professional Award; Asha De Vos who is a Marine Biologist, Ocean Educator and Pioneer Blue Whale Research within

the Indian Ocean, won the Inspirational Icon Award; and Rachael Burford, Rugby Player and Founder of Burford Academy UK, won the Competitive Sports Award.

Links:

https://www.business-standard.com/article/pti-stories/sonu-nigam-wins-21st-century-icon-award-in-uk-119092000706_1.html

National Tourism Awards-2019

Question: Which state has been conferred the Best State award for overall growth in tourism?

(a) Andhra Pradesh (b) Madhya Pradesh (c) Uttarakhand (d) Goa

Answer: (a)

Related facts:

- On 27 September 2019(World Tourism Day), Vice President M Venkaiah Naidu conferred the National tourism awards in various categories at a function in New Delhi.
- Andhra Pradesh has bagged the Best State award for overall growth in tourism category while Goa and Madhya Pradesh were joint winners in Adventure Tourism category.
- Uttarakhand was awarded best film promotion friendly state and Telangana for the best state in innovative use of IT category.



World Tourism Day:

- In order to raise awareness on the role of tourism within the international community and to demonstrate how it affects social, cultural, political and economic values worldwide.
- World Tourism Day is celebrated on 27th September every year since the inception of World Tourism Organization in 1980.
- 2019 Theme for the day is "Tourism and Jobs — A Better Future for All".

Facts & Figures:

- As per World Travel and Tourism Council, tourism generated ₹16.91 lakh crore (US\$240 billion) or 9.2% of India's GDP in 2018 and supported 42.673 million jobs, 8.1% of its total employment.
- Similarly, international tourism revenues earned by destinations around the world have grown from 2 billion US dollars in 1950 to 1260 trillion in 2015. The sector represents an estimated 10% of the world's GDP and 1 in 10 jobs globally.

Links:

<http://newsonair.nic.in/News?title=Vice-Prez-confers-National-Tourism-Awards-on-occasion-of-World-Tourism-Day&id=372138>

IIFA Awards 2019

Question: Which film has won best film award in IIFA Awards 2019?

(a) Raazi (b) Hellaro (c) Kabir singh (d) Kedarnath

Answer: (a)

Related facts:

- On September 18, 2019, Director Meghna Gulzar's Raazi claimed Best Film Award while Alia Bhatt bagged Best Actress Award for the film.
- The film Raazi won four awards Andhadhun and Padmaavat received two awards for each film.
- The Best Actor (Male) Award was received by Ranveer Singh for the film Padmaavat.
- Ishan Khattar was awarded the Best Debut (Male) Award for the film Dhadak, while Sara Ali Khan was awarded the Best Debut Female for the film Kedarnath.
- This was the 20th edition of IIFA Awards.
- Actress Alia Bhatt and actor Vicky Kaushal's film Raazi received the award for the Best Film.
- This film is the story of an Indian detective and the role was played by Alia Bhatt.

Winners of IIFA Awards 2019:



- Best Actor (Male): Ranveer Singh for Padmaavat
- Best Actor (Female): Alia Bhatt for Raazi
- Best Film: Raazi
- Best Director: Sriram Raghavan for Andhadhun
- Best Story Award: Andhadhun
- Best Supporting Actor (Female): Aditi Rao Hydari for Padmaavat
- Best Supporting Actor (Male): Vicky Kaushal for Sanju
- Best Lyrics: Amitabh Bhattacharya for Dhadak
- Best Playback Singer (Male): Arijit Singh for Ae Watan from Raazi
- Best Debut Award (Female): Sara Ali Khan for Kedarnath
- Best Debut Award (Male): Ishaan Khatter for Dhadak
- 20 Years Best Actor (Female): Deepika Padukone
- Best Playback Singer (Female): Harshdeep Kaur and Vibha Saraf for Dilbaro from Raazi
- Outstanding performance by a director in last 20 years: Rajkumar Hirani for Sanju
- 20 Years Best Actor (Male): Ranbir Kapoor.
- Best Music: Sonu Ke Titu Ki Sweety
- Best music in the last 20 years: Pritam
- Best film of the past 20 years: Kaho Na Pyaar Hai
- Lifetime Achievement Award: Legendary actor and comedian Jagdeep Jaffery

International Indian Film Academy Awards(IIFA):

- The International Indian Film Academy Awards (also known as the IIFA Awards) are a set of awards presented annually by the International Indian Film Academy to honour both artistic and technical excellence of professionals in Bollywood, the Hindi language film industry.
- Instituted in 2000, the ceremony is held in different countries around the world every year with the most recent one being held at Mumbai on 18 Sept. 2019.

Links:

<https://www.news18.com/news/movies/iifa-awards-2019-alia-bhatt-ranveer-singh-bag-top-acting-honours-raazi-declared-best-film-2314347.html>

Bangladesh PM Hasina receives Dr. Kalam Smriti International Excellence Award

Question: Who has been conferred the Dr Kalam Smriti International Excellence Award 2019?

(a) Sheikh Hasina (b) K. Siavan (c) Narendra Modi (d) Arvind Subramaniam

Answer: (a)

Related facts:

- On September 16, 2019, Bangladesh Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina was conferred the Dr Kalam Smriti International Excellence Award 2019 in Dhaka.
- The award has been instituted in the memory of former Indian President Dr. A.P.J. Abdul Kalam.
- Chief Adviser of Dr Kalam Smriti International Advisory Council and former Ambassador T.P. Sreenivasan handed over the award to Sheikh Hasina.
- The award citation lauded Prime Minister Hasina for her vision of a peaceful and prosperous South Asia, free of tension, conflicts and terrorism. It acknowledged her contribution to fostering cooperation between India and Bangladesh.
- After receiving the award, Sheikh Hasina said, it will inspire her government to strive for achieving greater inclusive development of the people.
- The award is given every year to honour statesmen or leaders who have shown excellence in their fields to achieve the best for their countries.
- Earlier, the Presidents of the Maldives, Ghana and Mauritius received the prestigious award since its introduction in 2015.



Links:

<http://www.newsonair.com/News?title=Bangladesh%3A-PM-Hasina-receives-Dr-Kalam-Smriti-International-Excellence-Award&id=371650>

Vikram Sarabhai Journalism Award in Space Science, Technology and Research

Question: Which of the following statement is not correct regarding Vikram Sarabhai Journalism Award in Space Science, Technology and Research?

- (a) This award is being given in the centenary celebration of Dr. Vikram Sarabhai
- (b) This award will be given in two categories
- (c) Journalists associated with Hindi/English electronic media only will be eligible for the award
- (d) ISRO will announce the selected candidate on 1st August, 2020

Answer: (c)

Related facts:

- As part of centenary year celebration of Dr. Vikram Sarabhai, father of Indian space programme, ISRO institutes two categories of awards in journalism.
- These awards will recognize and reward journalists who have actively contributed towards the field of space science, applications, and research.
- There are two categories of awards, wherein the first category holds a cash price of Rs. 5,00,000 a medal and citation and two journalists or freelancers of print media will be awarded.
- These candidates will be judged on the basis of the article or success stories published in Hindi, English, or Regional languages in popular Periodicals, Science magazines, or Journals in India during the year 2019-2020.
- The second category of the award holds 3 cash prizes of 3 lakh, 2 lakh, 1 lakh and citation each for journalists or freelancers of print media the article or success stories published in Hindi, English, Regional languages in popular newspapers or news magazines in India during the one year as indicated in the proposal.
- The names of the selected candidates will be announced in August 1st, 2020.



Links:

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=192517>

President Awards the Certificate of Honour and Maharshi Badrayan Vyas Samman for the Year 2019

Question: Certificate of Honour and Maharshi Badrayan Vyas Samman for the Year 2019 is not given for which of the following languages?

(a) Hindi (b) Sanskrit (c) Persian (d) Pali

Answer: (a)

Related facts:



- Vice President Venkaiah Naidu conferred President's Certificate of Honour and Maharshi Badrayan Vyas Samman Awards at New Delhi.
- Certificate of Honour were presented to the scholars of Sanskrit, Persian, Arabic, Pali, Prakrit, Classical Kannada, Classical Telugu, Classical Malayalam and Classical Odiya for the year 2019.
- For Sanskrit: Shri Sripada Satyanarayana Murthy, Shri Rajendra Nath Sarma, Prof. Ramji Thakur, Prof. Chand Kiran Saluja, Dr. Shri Krishan Sharma, Dr. V. Ramakrishna Bhatt, Vidwan Janardana Hegde, Dr. Kala Acharya, Prof. (Dr.) Harekrishna Satapathy, Pandit Satya Dev Sharma, Shri Banwari Lal Gaur, Dr. V.S. Karunakaran, Prof. Yugal Kishore Mishra, Pandit Manudev Bhattacharya and Shri Subuddhi Charan Goswami.
- For Sanskrit International: Nil
- For Pali: Dr. Uma Shankar Vyas
- For Prakrit: Prof. Kamal Chand Sogani
- For Arabic: Prof. Faizanullah Farooqi, Mohammad Iqbal Husain and Dr. Mohd. Samiullah Khan
- For Persian: Prof. Dr. Iraq Raza Zaidi, Prof. Chander Shekhar and Mohammad SidiqNiazmand
- For Classical Kannada: Shri Hampa Nagarajaiah
- For Classical Telugu; Prof. Ravva Srihari
- For Classical Malayalam: Dr. C.P. Achuthan Unny
- For Classical Odia: Pandit Dr. Antaryami Mishra
- In addition, the President is also pleased to award the Maharshi Badrayan Vyas Samman to the following scholars of Sanskrit, Persian, Arabic, Pali, Prakrit, Classical Kannada, Classical Telugu, Classical Malayalam and Classical Odiya for the year 2019:
- For Sanskrit: Dr. Ashok Thapliyal, Prof. Sujata Tripathi, Dr. Sanju Mishra, Dr. .Abhijit Hanmant Joshi and Dr. Sharachchandra Dwivedi.
- For Pali: Ms. Anoma Shriram Sakhare
- For Prakrit: Shri Ashish Kumar Jain
- For Arabic: Dr. Fauzan Ahmad
- For Classical Kannada: Shri G.B. Harisha, Shri S. Karthik and Dr. M. Byrappa
- For Classical Telugu: Dr. Addanki Srinivas, Dr. V. Triveni and Dr. D.K. Prabhakar
- For Classical Malayalam: Dr. Rajeev R.R. and Shri Santhosh Thottingal
- For Classical Odia: Dr. Subrat Kumar Prusty
- The distinction is conferred once a year on the Independence Day in recognition of substantial contribution in the field of Sanskrit, Persian, Arabic, Pali, Prakrit, Classical Odiya, Classical Kannada, Classical Telugu and Classical Malayalam.

About Maharshi Badrayan Vyas Samman:

- The Maharshi Badrayan Vyas Samman distinction is conferred on persons once a year on the Independence Day (15 August) in recognition of their substantial contribution in the field of Sanskrit, Persian, Arabic, Pali, Prakrit, Classical Oriya, Classical Kannada, Classical Telugu and Classical Malayalam.
- The award introduced in the year 2002, is given to selected young scholars in the age group of 30 to 45 years. The Presidential award carries a certificate of honour, a memento and a one time cash prize of Rs.1 lakh

Links:

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

Asia Environmental Enforcement Award 2019

Question: Who has been selected for the prestigious Asia Environmental Enforcement Award by the United Nations Environment Programme?

(a) Ramesh Pandey (b) Vinod Bais (c) Rajiv Kumar (d) Ravinder Saini

Answer: (a)

Related facts:

- Senior Indian Forest Service officer Ramesh Pandey has been selected for the prestigious Asia Environmental Enforcement Award by the United Nations Environment Programme.
- The 1996-batch IFS officer, posted as Chief Conservator Forests in Lucknow and Secretary, UP State Bio-diversity Board, is known for his investigation and intelligence gathering on poachers.
- He will receive the award on November 13 at the United Nations Conference Centre in Bangkok.
- This year theme for the award was “Fighting Transboundary Environmental Crime” which covers any transboundary environmental crimes, such as illegal trade in wildlife, illegal trade in chemicals or waste, including plastic.
- The purpose of the Asia Environmental Enforcement Awards is to publicly recognise outstanding achievements by public organisations and individuals in Asia to combat transboundary environmental crime.



Links:

<http://newsonair.nic.in/News?title=IFS-officer-Ramesh-Pandey-selected-for-Asia-Environmental-Enforcement-Award-by-UNEP&id=372612>

The Order of the Green Crescent award

Question: The Order of the Green Crescent award was given by which of the following countries to the Vice President, Venkaiah Naidu?

(a) Comoros (b) Maldives (c) Yamen (d) Azerbaijan

Answer: (a)

Related facts:

- On 11th October, 2019, Vice-President M Venkaiah Naidu was conferred the highest Civilian Honour of Comoros — The Order of the Green Crescent.
- The honour was conferred by the President of the Union of Comoros Azali Assoumani in Moroni, the capital city of Comoros. Naidu is on a first-ever high-level visit to Comoros.
- India and Comoros also signed six agreements on defence, health and culture.



- Both the countries also decided to exempt each other from Visa for diplomatic and official passport holders for short visits.

Links:

<https://www.financialexpress.com/india-news/vice-president-venkaiah-naidu-conferred-highest-civilian-honour-of-comoros/1732994/>

European Golden Shoe Award,2018/19

Question: Who has been conferred the Golden Shoe award by European Sports Media for the year 2018-19?

(a) Lionel Messi (b) Luis Suarez (c) Kylian Mbappe (d) Cristiano Ronaldo

Answer: (a)

Related facts:

- On 16 October 2019, star striker of FC Barcelona, Lionel Messi has been conferred the 2018/19 European Golden Shoe award.
- This achievement marks the sixth golden shoe of his illustrious career and the third consecutively.
- He has scored total 36 goals last season, 3 more than the second placed Kylian Mbappe.
- Achieving this feat, he now has two more Golden Shoes than his rival Cristiano Ronaldo.



Links:

http://www.eusm.eu/item/goldenshoe_winners.htm

31st Indira Gandhi Award for National Integration

Question: Who has been awarded 'Indira Gandhi Award for National Integration' for the year 2017 and 2018?

(a) Chandi Prasad Bhatt (b) T. M. Krishna (c) Mohan Dharja (d) Ram Singh Solanki

Answer: (a)

Related facts:

- The 31st Indira Gandhi Award for National Integration for the year 2017 & 2018 has been awarded to environmentalist Chandi Prasad Bhatt for his services in promoting and preserving National Integration in the country.
- Bhatt (85), native of Uttarakhand, had founded the Dasholi Gram Swarajya Sangh (DGSS) in Gopeshwar in 1964, which later became a mother organisation to the Chipko Movement, in which he was one of the pioneers.
- He has earlier been awarded the Ramon Magsaysay Award for community leadership in 1982, followed by the Padma Bhushan in 2005 and Gandhi Peace Prize as well.



About 31st Indira Gandhi Award for National Integration:

- In order to uphold the cause of national integration and understanding which was dearest to Indira Gandhi's heart, the Congress in its centenary year (1985) instituted the 'Indira Gandhi Award for National Integration', to give recognition to outstanding contribution to this cause by individuals or institutions
- The award consists of a citation and Rs 10 lakh in cash to be given to the awardee by the Congress president on 31st October, 2019, the Martyrdom Day of India's former Prime Minister Indira Gandhi.

- Former recipients of this Award are – Dr. A. P. J. Abdul Kalam, Aruna Asaf Ali, Barat Scouts & Guides, P.N. Haksar, M.S. Subbulakshmi, Rajiv Gandhi (Postumous), Javed Akhtar, A.R. Rahman, Gulzar and Dr. M.S. Swaminathan.

Links:

<https://www.inc.in/en/media/press-releases/press-releaseenglish-hindi-indira-gandhi-award-for-national-integration>

The Booker Prize 2019

Question: Who is the winner of 2019 Booker Prize?

(a) Margaret Atwood (b) Bernardine Evaristo (c) Lucy Ellmann (d) Both (a) & (b)

Answer: (d)

Related facts:

- Margaret Atwood and Bernardine Evaristo have been declared the joint winners of the 2019 Booker Prize for Fiction after judges defied the single winner norm by declaring a tie.
- Being joint winners, the pair will split the literary award's £50,000 prize money equally.
- Margaret Atwood received the award for her novel–‘The Testament’ whereas Bernardine Evaristo has been awarded the Booker Prize for her novel ‘Girl, Woman, Other’.
- The Testaments is a follow up to Atwood’s 1985 dystopian novel The Handmaid’s Tale.
- Total of six books were shortlisted for the award alongwith Salman Rushdie’s tragicomic ‘Quichotte’.
- Having won the Booker Prize, Bernardine Evaristo became the first black woman and the first black British writer to achieve the feat.
- Also, 79-year-old Canadian author Margaret Atwood became the oldest to win Booker Prize.
- Margaret Atwood is the second women author to win the Booker Award twice and fourth overall writer. She had her first in 2000 for ‘The Blind Assassin’.



Booker Prize:

- The Booker Prize awards any novel originally written in English and published in the UK and Ireland in the year of the prize, regardless of the nationality of their author.
- The prize was first awarded in 1969. In 2018 Northern Irish writer Anna Burns won the Booker Prize for ‘Milkman’.

Links:

<https://thebookerprizes.com/fiction>

Gallantry medals to naval personnel on Independence Day 2019

Question: Which of the following naval cadets has been conferred Gallantry award on Independence Day?

(a) Amit Singh Rana (b) Rakesh Khajuria (c) Shaminder Singh (d) All of the above

Answer: (d)

Related facts:

- Six naval sailors have been awarded gallantry awards for showing valor and undaunted courage in the battle field and human assistance and disaster relief operation.

- Amit Singh Rana was deployed for Op Rakshak, J&K, since May 18. In two back to back operations, Op Danna & Shok Baba where eight foreign terrorists were eliminated, the sailor had performed exceptionally well.
- For his selfless actions in dire circumstances, he has been recommended for the award of "Shaurya Chakra".

Following Officers and sailors have been awarded Nao Sena Medal (gallantry):

- Captain Naveen Thapa as a Captain of Aircraft of Seaking 42 C, displayed exceptional courage in saving the lives of five Indian coast guard officers and one Indian army jawan in extremely rough sea conditions.
- LT CDR Ruchir Rakesh Khajuria was officer in charge of the team deployed in J&K, for Op Rakshak. Under his leadership he was succeed in eliminated 8 terrorists without own team casualty.
- Thakellambam Rakhesh Singh was part of MARCOS team; he was part of the assault team that killed five terrorists.
- Shaminder Singh and Shri Niwas were part of op Rakshak and Op Shok Baba and showed exemplary courage.



Link:

<http://pib.gov.in/PressReleseDetail.aspx?PRID=1581982>

Breakthrough Prize for team behind world's first Black Hole image

Question: Breakthrough Prize in Fundamental Physics was given to which of the following image?

(a) Ozone layer (b) Mars Photograph (c) Black hole Image (d) None of the above

Answer: (c)

Related facts:

- The 347 scientists collaborated to produce the world's first image of a black hole.
- On 5th September, 2019, they were honored with the Breakthrough Prize in Fundamental Physics, winning \$3 million dollars. The award is referred as the Oscars of science.
- They were able to achieve an unprecedented resolution and observe the black hole's silhouette for the first time in history, confirming theoretical predictions about these celestial objects.
- Now in its eighth year, the Breakthrough Prize was launched by Silicon Valley entrepreneurs to recognize and reward the world's top scientists.
- They will be recognized at a gala awards ceremony on November 3, at NASA Ames Research Center in Mountain View, California.



Links:

<https://www.ndtv.com/science/oscar-of-science-award-for-team-behind-worlds-first-black-hole-image-2096391>

Dadasaheb Phalke Award

Question: Who has been selected for the Dada Saheb Phalke award for the year 2018?

(a) Rajesh Khanna (b) Dev Anand (c) Amitabh Bachchan (d) Rishi Kapoor

Answer: (c)

Related facts:



- Country's highest film honour, Dadasaheb Phalke award for the year 2018 will be presented to Amitabh Bachchan.
- The announcement was made by Information and Broadcasting Minister Shri Prakash Javdekar.
- Amitabh Bachchan made his debut in 1969 in the film Saat Hindustani which is about seven Indians attempting to liberate Goa from Portuguese colonial rule.
- The same year he also did the voice over for Mrinal Sen's Bhuvan Shome, one of the earliest films of the Indian parallel cinema.
- Mr. Bachchan has been honoured with four National Film Awards, for the films Agneepath, Black, Paa, and Piku.
- He has done films like Anand, Mili, Chupke Chupke, Parwana, Bombay to Goa, and Kabhie Kabhie and he was liked most as a host on TV show Kaun Banega Crorepati.
- Mr. Bachchan has been honoured with Padma Shri in 1984, the Padma Bhushan in 2001 and the Padma Vibhushan in 2015.

Dadasaheb Phalke Award:

- Dada Saheb Phalke award is India's highest film honour conferred for "Outstanding contribution for the growth and development of Indian cinema".
- The award comprises a Swarna Kamal (Golden Lotus), a shawl and a cash prize of Rs. 10 lacs.
- It is presented every year at the National Film Awards ceremony.
- This award was introduced by government in the year 1969. The first recipient of the award was Devika Rani.

Links:

<https://indianexpress.com/article/entertainment/bollywood/amitabh-bachchan-on-receiving-dadasaheb-phalke-award-deeply-grateful-and-most-humbled-6026552/>

71st Emmy Awards, 2019

Question: Which among the following was conferred Outstanding Drama Series award in 71st Emmy Awards 2019?

(a) Game of Thrones (b) Bodyguard (c) Ozark (d) This Is Us

Answer: (a)

Related facts:

- On 22nd September 2019, the 71st annual primetime **Emmy Awards** were conferred at the Microsoft Theater in Los Angeles.
- Game of Thrones won outstanding Drama Series Award.

List of prominent winners:

- Outstanding Drama Series: Game of Thrones

- Outstanding Comedy Series: Fleabag
- Outstanding Limited Series: Chernobyl
- Outstanding Television Movie : Bandersnatch (Black Mirror)
- Outstanding Lead Actress in a Drama Series: Jodie Comer (Killing Eve)
- Outstanding Lead Actor in a Drama Series: Billy Porter
- Outstanding Lead Actor in a Comedy Series: Bill Hader
- Outstanding Lead Actress in a Comedy Series: Phoebe Waller-Bridge
- Outstanding Lead Actor in a Limited Series or Movie: Jharrel Jerome
- Outstanding Lead Actress in a Limited Series or Movie: Michelle Williams
- Directing for a Drama Series: Jason Bateman (Ozark)
- Directing for a Comedy Series: Harry Bradbeer
- Directing for a Limited Series, Movie: Johan Renck
- Directing for a Variety Series: Don Roy King



Links:

<https://www.theverge.com/2019/9/22/20878685/emmy-awards-2019-winners-list-game-of-thrones-fleabag-hbo-amazon-netflix>

Operations & Campaign

Exercise Sindhu Sudarshan

Question: At which place the largest Indian Army exercise codenamed as Sindhu Sudarshan is scheduled to be held?

(a) Rajasthan (b) Uttarakhand (c) Punjab (d) Manipur

Answer: (a)

Related facts:

- Indian Army's Exercise Sindhu Sudarshan has been scheduled to be held from 29 November to 4 December in Rajasthan.
- The exercise will see the participation of over 40,000 troops aiming to evaluate the capability to strike deep along Western Borders.
- The exercise will provide a unique opportunity to employ the whole mechanized formations that consist of Tanks and Infantry Combat Vehicles.
- It will also verify the Indian Army's resolve to implement the integrated launch of Strike Corps in developed and desert terrain using Integrated Battle Groups (IBGs) along the Western Front.
- The Indian Air Force (IAF) will provide intimate support in terms of destruction of targets and airlifting troops during the exercise.
- The exercise will also focus on fine-tuning surveillance and destruction mechanisms, which will support precision strikes and manoeuvres by network-enabled forces under battlefield conditions.
- The exercise will be reviewed by lieutenant general SK Saini.



Links:

<https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/india/over-40000-troops-to-participate-in-armys-exercise-sindhu-sudarshan-in-deserts-of-rajasthan/articleshow/71707918.cms>

Planning & Project

Food Safety Mitra (FSM) launched on World Food Day

Question: The Food Safety Mitra Scheme was launched by Government on World Food Day. Which two more schemes were launched on the same day?

(a) Eat Right Jacket (b) Eat Right Bag (c) Eat Right Jhola (d) Eat Right Bora

Correct option:

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

Answer: (c)

Related facts:

- World Food Day 2019(16th October) was celebrated in India. Union Health Minister Dr. Harsh Vardhan commemorated the occasion.
- The theme for this day was 'Healthy Diets for a Zero Hunger World'.
- To mark the occasion, Dr Harsh Vardhan also launched the 'Food Safety Mitra (FSM)' scheme, along with the 'Eat Right Jacket', and 'Eat Right Jhola'.
- These schemes were launched to strengthen food safety administration and scale up the 'Eat Right India' movement.
- The Eat Right India movement is a crucial trigger for the much needed social and behavioural change. This campaign along with the 'Fit India' Movement' can achieve huge success if the right strategy is adopted and efforts are made to reach out to every section of the society.



Food Safety Mitra Scheme:

- The 'Food Safety Mitra (FSM)' scheme will support small and medium scale food businesses to comply with the food safety laws and facilitate licensing and registration, hygiene ratings and training.
- This scheme would also create new employment opportunities for youth, particularly with food and nutrition background. The FSMs would undergo training and certification by FSSAI to do their work and get paid by food businesses for their services.

Eat Right Jacket Scheme:

- The 'Eat Right Jacket' scheme will be used by the field staff. This jacket has a smart design to hold tech devices like tablets/smart phone, a QR code and RFID tag for identification and tracking.
- Apart from providing safety to field staff on duty, this would bring in efficiency, professionalism and transparency in food safety administration and bring in a sense of ownership & visibility of FSOs.

Eat Right Jhola Scheme:

- The 'Eat Right Jhola', a reusable cloth bag shall replace plastic bags for grocery shopping in various retail chains.
- These cloth bags are being provided on rental basis through a private textile rental service company.

Links:

<https://pib.gov.in/PressReleaseDetail.aspx?PRID=1588275>

ADB, India sign \$190 million loan

Question: Asian Development Bank (ADB) & India has recently signed \$190 million loan for the improvement of road connectivity in which of the following state?

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

Answer: (b)

Related facts:

- The Asian Development Bank and the Government of India signed a \$190 million loan to upgrade 754 kilometres of state highways and major district roads (MDRs) to two-lane or intermediate-lane standards that will benefit about 26 million people in 14 districts of Rajasthan on October 11 2019.
- The Tranche 2 roads pass through mostly rural areas of Rajasthan that lack reliable connectivity and will help improve access to health, education facilities and markets leading to increased job opportunities.
- The ADB value-addition will consist in financing part of the construction costs for the annuity-based public private partnership (PPP) concessions and EPC contracts and ensure good governance during project implementation, particularly on procurement and safeguards.



Annuity based PPP Model:

- The annuity-based PPP model attracts private sector financing to address capital investment requirements, where a proportion of initial capital expenditure is paid during construction while the balance is serviced by annuity payments during the operation and maintenance phase.
- The toll collection rights will remain with the state public works department to bring sustainability in operation and maintenance of the project.
- For the benefit of commuters and pedestrians, particularly women and children, the project provides for constructing more than 200 bus stops, 70 km of hard shoulder, and 2 km of raised sidewalk on project roads.

Links:

<https://pib.gov.in/PressReleaseDetail.aspx?PRID=1587929>

Plan to monitor Sunderban with drones

Question: The Sunderban delta forest is a kind of:

(a) Tropical Rainforest (b) Tropical Evergreen Forest (c) Mangrove Forest

(d) None of the above

Answer: (c)

Related facts:

- The forest department of Bangladesh has planned to use drones for monitoring poaching and other illegal activities in the Sundarban area.
- The department is also considering to erect net-fence around the forest to prevent the intrusion of tigers into the nearby human habitations.
- It has been also mentioned that if the sources of drinkable water and food for tigers can be ensured, they will not invade localities.
- These methods have been used successfully by India in checking poaching and tiger attacks on people.



- Illegal activities like poaching of tigers and deer, felling of trees and fish catching take place regularly in the Sundarban area.
- According to some reports a total of 14 tigers have been beaten to death by locals after they entered into human habitat over the last two decades.
- Sunderban is the largest mangrove forest in the World. It is also a UNESCO world heritage site.

Links:

<https://www.thedailystar.net/country/sundarbans-monitoring-with-drones-plan-underway-1797751>

ADB committed over \$12 billion debt to India

Question: Who is the President of Asian development Bank (ADB) currently?

(a) Christine Lagarde (b) Takehiko Nakao (c) David R.

Malpass (d) Xiangmin Liu

Answer: (b)

Related facts:



- On 29th August, 2019, Asian Development Bank (ADB) President Takehiko Nakao met India's Prime Minister Narendra Modi in New Delhi.
- On this occasion Nakao committed over \$12 billion lending to India over the next 3 years (2020-22).
- This debt is being offered by ADB in support of new flagship initiatives, averaging annually over \$3 billion for sovereign operations and \$1 billion for non sovereign operation.
- ADB President also met Finance and Corporate Affairs Minister Nirmala Sitharaman, Nitin Gadkari, Minister of Road Transport and Highways and Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises (MSME) and others.
- Nakao also announced a \$100 million investment in the National Investment and Infrastructure Fund (NIIF).

Project focus by ADB:

- ADB's sovereign and nonsovereign operations will focus on the government's following major initiatives:
- Jal Jeevan Mission: extending drinking water for all, water conservation and more crop per drop
- East Coast Economic Corridor: program promoting competitiveness of micro, small, and medium-sized enterprises (MSME) by connecting to global value chains.
- Supporting national road safety programs.
- Constructing a rapid rail transit system to connect Delhi with neighboring satellite cities, starting from Delhi to Meerut.
- Assistance in secondary education and the universal health system.

Links:

<https://www.thehindubusinessline.com/economy/adb-willing-to-lend-over-12-billion-to-india-over-the-next-three-years/article29291266.ece>

Project Cyberdome

Question: Consider the following statements related to Project Cyberdome.

(1) It makes a collective coordination among the Government departments, research groups, individual experts from the community and other law enforcement agencies with an aim of providing a safe and secure cyber world.

(2) It is jointly launched by Ministry of Home Affairs and NITI Aayog to replace the CCTNS and NATGRID.

Select the correct option from below:

a) 1 only b) 2 only c) Both 1 and 2 d) Neither 1 and 2

Answer: a

Related facts:

- Cyberdome is a technological and development centre of Kerala police department, conceived as cyber centre of excellence in cyber security.
- It will make technology augmentation for effective policing.
- It envisages as a high tech public-private partnership centre of collaboration for different stakeholders in the domain of cyber security and handling of cyber crimes in a proactive manner.
- One of the main objectives of the Cyberdome is to prevent cyber crimes through developing a cyber threat resilient ecosystem in the state to defend against the growing threat of cyber attacks by synergizing with other departments and nodal agencies of the state.
- Cyberdome makes a collective coordination among the Government departments and agencies, academies, research groups, non-profitable organizations, individual experts from the community, ethical hackers, private organizations, and other law enforcement agencies in the country with an aim of providing a safe and secure cyber world for each and every citizen in the state.
- The primary objective of Cyberdome is to prevent cyber crimes and ensure that our cyber resources are secured.
- As of it is in place with the Assam and Kerala police.

**Links:**

<https://in.linkedin.com/company/kerala-police-cyberdome>

Union Government to draw frame work of National Infrastructure Pipeline

Question: As measure to tide over economic slowdown in the country the Union government in recent decision has now set a target of spending how much money in infrastructure development during the fiscal year 2019-20 to 2024-25?

(a) Rs. 5000 crore (b) Rs. 10,000 crore (c) Rs. 100 lakh crore (d) Rs. 10 lakh crore

Answer: (c)

Related facts:

- The government has set up a task force to speed up infrastructure development to identify projects on which 100 lakh crore is to be spent.
- The task force in this regard has been constituted by Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman, which will be headed by Economic Affairs Secretary Atanu Chakraborty.

- It will draw up National Infrastructure Pipeline of Rs 100 lakh crore (\$1.4 trillion) for the fiscal year 2019-20 to 2024-25.
- The government has set a target of spending 100 lakh crores on infrastructure by the year 2024-25 to become a five-trillion dollar economy.

The Terms of Reference (ToR) of the task force:

- To identify technically feasible and financially/economically viable infrastructure projects that can be initiated in FY 2019-20;
- To list the projects that can be included in the pipeline for each of the remaining 5 years between FY 2021-25;
- To estimate annual infrastructure investment/capital costs;
- To guide the Ministries in identifying appropriate sources of financing and to suggest measures to monitor the projects so that cost and time overrun is minimized.
- The National Infrastructure Pipeline will include Greenfield and Brownfield projects costing above Rs 100 crore.
- It enables robust marketing of the pipeline of projects requiring private investment through the India Investment Grid and National Investment & Infrastructure Fund (NIIF).
- The Task Force will submit its Report on Pipeline by 31st of October for the fiscal year 2019-20 and on the indicative pipeline for fiscal years 2021-25 by 31st of December 2019.



Links:

<https://m.economictimes.com/news/economy/infrastructure/task-force-to-draw-national-infrastructure-pipeline-worth-1-4-trillion/articleshow/71021425.cms>

International Speed Post service commenced

Question: Which of the following country is not covered under the recently launched International Speed Post service?

(a) Bosnia (b) Herzegovina (c) Brazil (d) Canada

Answer : (d)

Related facts:

- Department of Posts has announced commencing of International Speed Post (EMS) Service to Bosnia and Herzegovina, Brazil, Ecuador, Kazakhstan, Brazil and North Macedonia.
- EMS or Express Mail Service is a premium service that enables its users to send documents and merchandise faster and with the added facility of being able to track the movement of the item on the internet.
- This facility is expected to augment people to people contact with these countries and foster trade as EMS is popular channel for small and medium enterprises.
- The EMS service to these countries will henceforth be available at major Post offices across India.



Links:

<https://pib.nic.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1585407>

Intensified Mission Indradhanush 2.0

Question: Consider the following statements:

- (1) IMI 2.0 aims to vaccinate each and every child below the age of two years and all pregnant women still uncovered/partially covered.
- (2) Mission Indradhanush is a health mission of the government of India.
- (3) It was launched by Union Health Minister J. P. Nadda on 25 December 2014.

Of the above correct statement/s is/are:

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

Answer: (d)

Related facts:

- The Government is to launch the second phase of comprehensive nationwide immunisation drive, i.e. Intensified Mission Indradhanush 2.0 on October 31, 2019, to mark the 25 years of Pulse polio programme.
- Through 'IMI 2.0', the health ministry aims to reach each and every child below the age of two years and all pregnant women still uncovered/partially covered in 271 districts of the country and 652 blocks of Uttar Pradesh and Bihar.
- IMI 2.0 will include four rounds of vaccination, with each round involving a seven-day immunisation drive to be conducted each month.
- The IMI programme is supported by 12 ministries and departments and is being monitored by the cabinet secretary at the national level.



Need of Intensified Mission Indradhanush 2.0:

- The current national full immunisation coverage rate stands at 87 per cent.
- According to government data, 260 lakh children are born every year and an estimated 31 lakh out of them would not receive complete rounds of vaccination in the first year of their life due to various reasons.

Mission Indradhanush:

- To strengthen and re-energise the programme and achieve full immunization coverage for all children and pregnant women at a rapid pace, the Government of India has launched Mission Indradhanush in 2014.
- Four phases of Mission Indradhanush have been conducted till August 2017 and more than 2.53 crore children and 68 lakh pregnant women have been vaccinated.

Intensified Mission Indradhanush :

- To further intensify the immunization programme, Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched the Intensified Mission Indradhanush on October 08, 2017 at Vadnagar in Gujarat.
- Through this programme, Government of India aimed to reach each and every child under two years of age and all those pregnant women who have been left uncovered under the routine immunisation programme.
- The special drive was to focus on improving immunization coverage in select districts and cities to ensure full immunization to more than 90% by December 2018.
- The achievement of full immunisation under Mission Indradhanush to at least 90% coverage was to be achieved by 2020 earlier.

Links:

https://www.business-standard.com/article/pti-stories/health-ministry-to-launch-imi-2-0-to-improve-immunisation-in-low-coverage-pockets-119102201194_1.html

Second phase of GOAL a program

Question: The second phase of GOAL (Going Online as Leaders) is launched by which agency?

(a) Facebook (b) Whats app (c) Libra (d) OYO

Answer: (a)

Related facts:

- Arjun Munda, Union Minister of Tribal Affairs announced the second phase of GOAL (Going Online as Leaders).
- It is a Facebook program aimed at inspiring, guiding and encouraging tribal girls from across India to become village-level digital young leaders for their communities.



About GOAL:

- Launched in March, 2019, GOAL (Going Online as Leaders) connects underprivileged young tribal women with senior expert mentors in the areas of business, fashion and arts to learn digital and life skills.
- In the second phase of the program, the Ministry of Tribal Affairs and Facebook together will digitally mentor 5000 young women in India's tribal dominated districts.
- The program will include weekly one-to-one mentoring sessions, focused on a range of skills such as digital literacy, entrepreneurship and online safety. In total, more than 200,000 hours of guidance will be provided using Facebook family of apps including WhatsApp and Facebook Messenger.
- More than 125 young women have enrolled in the program.
- Facebook is committed to closing the digital gender gap by enabling more women to get online and access digital services. This program is important because it actively supports these young women to build leadership qualities and encourages them to be champions and help share their learnings with others.

Links:

<https://pib.gov.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=193829>

Government to prepare roadmap for Fortified Rice

Question: Which of following nutritional compound will be added in Fortified Rice?

(a) Iron (b) Folic acid (c) Vitamin B-12 (d) All of the above

Answer: (d)

Related facts:

- NITI Aayog Vice chairman Rajiv Kumar today met Consumer Affairs Minister Ram Vilas Paswan in New Delhi and discussed the Rice Fortification Pilot Scheme.
- Under this scheme rice is fortified with nutritional substances such as iron, folic acid, vitamin B-12, and zinc etc.
- During the meeting, it was decided that in order to ensure effective tackling, the problem of Malnutrition, a road map will be charted out by the Department of Food and Public Distribution for taking the pilot scheme of Rice Fortification all over the country.



- All State Government department and other stakeholders will be consulted to enhance cooperation by fostering the involvement of State Governments in the economic policy making process.
- Minister said that he is looking to implanting the scheme across the country.

Links: <https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/economy/agriculture/government-to-prepare-roadmap-for-distribution-of-fortified-rice/articleshow/70802891.cms>

National Launch of 10 Year Rural Sanitation Strategy (2019-2029)

Question: Recently, the 10 year Rural Sanitation Strategy has been launched by which Ministry?

- (a) Ministry of Health and Family Welfare
- (b) Ministry of Rural Development
- (c) Ministry of Jal Shakti
- (d) Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers' Welfare

Answer: (c)

Related facts:



- The Department of Drinking Water and Sanitation (DDWS), Ministry of Jal Shakti, Govt. of India launched the 10 Year Rural Sanitation Strategy (2019-2029) on 27th September 2019.
- The strategy was launched in the presence of Shri Gajendra Singh Shekhawat, Union Minister, Jal Shakti Ministry.

Aim

- To focus on sustaining the sanitation behavior change that has been achieved under the Swachh Bharat Mission Grameen (SBM-G), ensuring that no one is left behind, and increasing access to solid and liquid waste management.

Strategic Plan-highlights

- Since the launch of the SBM-G in 2014, over 10 crore toilets have been built in rural areas; over 5.9 lakh villages, 699 districts, and 35 States/UTs have declared themselves Open Defecation Free (ODF).
- This strategy has been prepared by DDWS, in consultation with State Governments and other stakeholders, and it lays down a framework to guide local governments, policy makers, implementers and other relevant stakeholders in their planning for ODF Plus, where everyone uses a toilet, and every village has access to solid and liquid waste management.

Key Points

- The 10 year strategy focuses on the need for States/UTs to continue their efforts to sustain the gains of the mission through capacity strengthening, IEC (Information, education and communication), organic waste management, plastic waste management, grey water management and black water management.
- The strategy also speaks about potential collaborations with development partners, civil society and inter-government partnerships.
- It also highlights innovative models for sanitation financing.
- Keeping in mind Gandhi's 150th birth anniversary on 2nd October 2019, the State Government have been advised to ensure that no one is left behind, and in case any household does not have access to a toilet, they are facilitated to build a toilet on priority.

Links:

<https://pib.gov.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=193469>

Survey of India to map India with 300 drones

Question: Survey of India will deploy how many drones map the country?

(a) 100 (b) 200 (c) 300 (d) 400

Answer: (c)

Related facts:

- The Survey of India (Sol), the oldest scientific department of country is historically tasked with mapping the country, will for the first time rely on drones to map the country.
- Sol which is India's National Survey and Mapping Organization is in charge of mapping and surveying entire country.
- Sol is affiliated to the Department of Science and Technology (DST).
- As a precursor to undertake such drone-based mapping exercises, Survey of India has signed agreements with districts in Haryana (6), Karnataka (2) and Maharashtra (2).
- Every square kilometre mapped by drones will be encapsulated in 2500 pictures and thus be a store of digital data.
- The mapping will be creating high-resolution maps of the land in villages facilitating the digitization of land titles in villages, according to officials involved with the survey.
- The objective is to map 75% of India's geography, about 2.4 million sq km of the 3.2 million sq km, within the next two years. However forests, hills and deserts are likely to be left out.
- A major consequence of drone-based exercise will be mapping of settled habitations in villages. Based on availability of accurate maps, residents will finally be able to get property cards as well as proper legal titles to their lands.

**Link:**

<https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/survey-of-india-to-deploy-300-drones-for-mapping-country/article29425393.ece>

Treaty & Agreements

Third round Kartarpur talk between India & Pakistan

Question: Where did the third round of talk over Kartarpur Corridor take place on September 4 2019?

(a) Islamabad (b) New Delhi (c) Chandigarh (d) Amritsar

Answer: (d)

Related facts:

- The third round of talks with Pakistan on the modalities for operationalisation of the Kartarpur Sahib Corridor was held on September 4, 2019 at Attari, Amritsar.
- Indian delegation comprised of representatives from the Ministry of External Affairs, Ministry of Defence, Government of Punjab, Land Ports Authority of India, National Highways Authority of India, in addition to Ministry of Home Affairs.
- The meeting reviewed the progress reached in the two rounds of Joint Secretary Level meetings and four rounds of Technical Level meetings, held earlier.



Understanding reached by Parties:

- Agreement on visa free travel of Indian pilgrims, without any restrictions based on their faith. Persons of Indian origin holding OCI card too can visit Holy Gurdwara Kartarpur Sahib using the Corridor.
- 5,000 pilgrims can visit Holy Gurdwara Kartarpur Sahib using the Corridor every day. Additional pilgrims, over and above the figure of 5,000, can visit on special occasions, subject to capacity expansion by Pakistan side. Pakistan has conveyed its assurance to increase this number.
- The Corridor will be operational throughout the year, seven days a week. Pilgrims will have a choice to visit as individuals or in groups, and on foot.
- Both sides agreed to build the bridge at Budhi Ravi Channel. Pending the construction of the bridge on Pakistan side, both sides agreed to the crossing point coordinates of the temporary service road being built.
- The Pakistan side has agreed to make sufficient provision for preparation and distribution of 'Langar' and 'Prasad' for the pilgrims.
- However, owing to inflexibility shown by Pakistan, the agreement could not be finalised.
- Pakistan has insisted on charging a service fee for allowing Pilgrims to visit Gurdwara Kartarpur Sahib, which is repugnant to the spirit of the Kartarpur Sahib Corridor.
- Pakistan has also shown its unwillingness to allow the presence of Protocol officials at the Gurdwara premises to accompany the pilgrims for their facilitation. Pakistan side was strongly urged to reconsider its position.

Links:

<https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/kartarpur-corridor-third-round-of-talks-between-india-pak-underway/article29329827.ece>

DRDO signed MoU to set up Kalam Centre for Science and Technology

Question: DRDO, along with Ministry of Defence has recently signed MoU with which of the following institution to set up Kalam Centre for Science and Technology?

(a) IIT Delhi (b) University of Hyderabad (c) IISc Bengaluru (d) Central University of Jammu

Answer: (d)

Related facts:

- Defence Research & Development Organisation (DRDO), Ministry of Defence and Central University of Jammu (CUJ) has entered into a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) for the establishment of Kalam Centre for Science and Technology (KCST) at the university.
- The MoU signing held in the presence of Defence Minister Rajnath Singh on September 26, 2019.



The MoU:

- The main objective of the MoU is to undertake and facilitate multidisciplinary directed basic and applied research and technology development in the identified research verticals namely; Computational System Security and Sensors.
- The centre will be equipped with state-of-the-art facilities and equipment leading to increase in research scholars in these areas.
- The CUJ is a Central Government funded University, established under Central Universities Act 2009, with the vision to contribute knowledge and technology innovation to the country and the world.

Links:

<https://pib.gov.in/PressReleaseDetail.aspx?PRID=1586289>

MeitY and Google tie up to Build for Digital India

Question: Consider the following statement regarding “Build for Digital India”:

- (1) It will give engineering students a platform to develop market-ready, technology-based solutions that address key social problems.
(2) Students across the country will be invited to transform their bright ideas into real-world solutions.

From the above correct statement/s is/are:

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

Answer : (c)

Related facts:

- The Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) and Google on August 31 2019 signed a statement of intent to roll-out ‘Build for Digital India’.
- This programme will give engineering students a platform to develop market-ready, technology-based solutions that address key social problems.
- As part of the programme, engineering students across the country will be invited to apply and join in a learning journey that will help them transform their bright ideas into real-world solutions.
- Applicants will take part in online and offline learning opportunities on key technologies such as machine learning, cloud and android.
- These will be offered through Google’s Developer Student Club network and other Google Developer networks.
- Google will also offer mentorship sessions in product design, strategy and technology to the most promising products and prototypes.
- This initiative will motivate college students across India to innovate and produce some good technology solutions for major social challenges of India.
- The programme will invite bright ideas and solutions from students to focus on areas of healthcare, agriculture, education, smart cities and infrastructure, women safety, smart mobility and transportation, environment, accessibility and disability and digital literacy.

**Links:**

<https://www.livemint.com/news/india/meity-and-google-tie-up-to-build-for-digital-india-1567249514749.html>

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

Question: For which of the following sectors a MoU between Department of Social Justice & Empowerment and National AIDS Control Organisation was signed?

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

Answer: (d)

Related facts:

- A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed on August 24, 2019 between the Department of Social Justice, Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment and National AIDS Control Organization (NACO,)Ministry of Health and Family Welfare.
- The MoU was signed by Additional Secretary Upma Srivastava and Special Secretary & Director General NACO Sanjeev Kumar in the presence of Union Minister for Health and Family Welfare Dr Harsh Vardhan.

Salient points of MoU are as follows:

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



Links:

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

Conference

Asia Health- 2019 Conference

Question: Where did the Asia Health 2019 Conference take place recently?

(a) Hyderabad (b) New Delhi (c) Dhaka (d) Colombo

Answer: (b)

Related facts:

- The Asia Health 2019 Conference was organized in New Delhi from 16 to 18 October 2019 in association with CII.
- It was chaired by Union Minister of State Dr. Jitendra Singh.
- Ayushman Bharat – Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana was described as a unique and successful health insurance scheme launched by Prime Minister Narendra Modi in 2018.

- Over 50 lakh people have benefited from this scheme and the government is taking healthcare protection to a new aspirational level. It is the “world’s largest government funded healthcare program” targeting more than 50 crore beneficiaries.
- Dr. Jitendra Singh suggested that in a heterogeneous and dynamic nation like India the fundamental priorities need to be considered while determining the spectrum of healthcare and disease. He said that India is evolving state and the disease and healthcare spectrum should be determined according to it.
- The developed and new technology is needed but there is no alternative for human interface in the healthcare.



Links:

<https://pib.gov.in/PressReleaseDetail.aspx?PRID=1588401>

25th edition of DST-CII India Netherlands Technology Summit

Question: Where did the 25th edition DST-CII India Netherlands Technology Summit take place recently?

(a) Mumbai (b) Kolkata (c) New Delhi (d) Jaipur

Answer: (c)

Related facts:

- The 25th edition of DST-CII India Netherlands Technology Summit was organized at New Delhi on 15 October 2019.
- It was inaugurated by King Willem-Alexander of The Netherlands and Union Minister for Science & Technology and Health Dr. Harsh Vardhan.
- The two day Summit (15-16 October) provides a high profile and wide-ranging platform for businesses, knowledge institutions and government to forge partnership and boost innovation, investment and trade.
- ‘NEXUS’ is the central theme of the summit, discussing how to co-create on pioneering innovative solutions for global challenges related to water, food and good health for all.
- Among the many themes during the Summit, the core focus was on Cross-cutting Public-Private Partnerships (PPPs), NEXUS of Water-Agriculture-Health, Entrepreneurship, Enabling Technologies, Big Data, Artificial Intelligence, etc.
- The shared heritage and common beliefs between both countries that has led to further intensify cooperation and build a sound bilateral relationship.
- A booklet titled “Science, Technology and Innovation Partnership” was also released by Mona Keijzer, Dutch State Secretary for Economic Affairs and Climate Policy and Dr. Harsh Vardhan.



Relation between India and Netherlands:

- India and the Netherlands are celebrating 10 years of cooperation in Science, Technology and Innovation space, especially in areas such as Urban Water Management, Smart Energy Grids etc.
- Netherlands is India’s 28th largest trading partner globally and 6th largest trading partner from the European Union. The country has been the gateway for over 20% of all of India’s exports to the European Union.
- Between 2000 and 2017, the Netherlands invested \$24.31 billion in India, ranking amongst the top 5 investors in the country.

Links:

<https://pib.gov.in/PressReleaseDetail.aspx?PRID=1588181>

2nd Indo French Knowledge Summit

Question: Where did the second Indo French Knowledge Summit take place on October 17-18,2019?

(a) Hyderabad (b) Lyon (c) Paris (d) New Delhi

Answer: (b)

Related facts:

- The second edition of the Indo-French Knowledge Summit took place at the University of Lyon, France on October 17-18,2019.
- The summit is dedicated to higher education, research and innovation.
- This two-day summit was organised by the Embassy of France in India in association with the Ministry of Science and Technology and the HRD Ministry.
- The first Knowledge Summit took place in 2018 state visit of French President Emmanuel Macron to India.
- It is an essential step to develop and structure the collaborations in education and research, stimulate connections between research and industry, and encourage the mobility of students and scholars between France and India. These matters are a fundamental aspect of our partnership with India.
- Around 15 agreements are signed between French and Indian participants during this summit.
- Over 300 participants from the Indian and French academia, research organisations, corporate houses, competitive clusters and start-ups, as well as public authorities took part in the second Knowledge Summit in Lyon.

**Links:**

https://www.business-standard.com/article/pti-stories/2nd-indo-french-knowledge-summit-in-lyon-on-october-17-18-119101601379_1.html

National Conference on Agriculture- Rabi Campaign 2019

Question: Where did the National Conference on Agriculture- Rabi Campaign 2019 take place recently?

(a) Pune (b) Patna (c) New Delhi (d) Ranchi

Answer: (c)

Related facts:

- The National Conference on Agriculture for Rabi Campaign 2019 was organized on 20 September 2019 at NASC, Pusa, New Delhi.
- The conference was inaugurated by Parshottam Rupala, Minister of State for Agriculture & Farmers Welfare.
- The record production is achieved for food grains (285 million tonnes). There is also all time high production of rice (116 million tonnes), wheat (102.5 million tonnes), pulses and oilseeds.
- It was mentioned that the shortage of oilseeds will be tackled by launching a separate mission to increase capacity and reduce import of edible oils.
- The State Agriculture Departments should furnish their fertilizer demands to Centre in time so that availability can be ensured to farmers at crucial stages of crops.



- The department has decided to distribute seed mini-kits for Rabi crops, pulses and oilseed with active involvement of State Agriculture Departments.
- As far as Kisan Credit Card is concerned, major changes in terms of waiver of registration fee, minimum time for issuance of KCC, widening the range of loans etc have been made for covering large number of farmers.
- 45 biofortified varieties have been released with enhanced percentage of nutrients, protein etc. The State Agriculture Departments have been asked to provide support for strengthening the seed hubs. There is need to strengthen the Lab to Land connect for maximum benefit of farmers.

Link:

<https://pib.gov.in/PressReleaseDetail.aspx?PRID=1585689>

APEDA holds International Conference-Cum-Buyer seller meet

Question: Where did APEDA organized the International Conference cum Buyer Seller meet on September 26 2019?

(a) New Delhi (b) Mumbai (c) Agartala (d) Shillong

Answer: (c)

Related facts:

- The Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA) under the Ministry of Commerce and Industry, Government of India, in cooperation with government of Tripura organised an International Conference-cum-Buyer Seller Meet in Agartala on September 26,2019.
- The event was inaugurated by Dr. U. Venkateswarlu, Chief Secretary, Government of Tripura.
- It was organized to showcase the export potential of agricultural products from North East Region (NER) and Tripura in particular.
- Twenty international buyers from 8 countries – Bangladesh, Bhutan, Nepal, Indonesia, UAE, Bahrain, Kuwait and Greece participated in it.
- More than 30 exporters and representatives of FPC/FPO from Tripura, Assam and Arunachal Pradesh also participated. APEDA has taken various initiatives to facilitate exports from the region, which has been identified as a major thrust area for increasing agri exports.
- Tripura has some very specific commodities like pineapple, ginger, turmeric among horticultural produce and aromatic rice, corn and some oilseeds among the agricultural produce and the State Government is trying its best to create infrastructure and logistics facilities.
- Importers and buyers also spoke about their business, commodities of interest and promised to explore import of commodities especially perishable items from the North East region.



Links:

<https://pib.gov.in/PressReleaseDetail.aspx?PRID=1586302>

46th National Management Convention

Question: Who chaired the 46th National Management Convention organized by All India Management Association (AIMA) on September 17, 2019?

(a) Narendra Modi (b) Prakash Javadekar (c) Amit Shah (d) Venkaiah Naidu

Answer: (c)

Related facts:

- Union Minister for Home Affairs, Amit Shah chaired the 46th National Management Convention held by All India Management Association (AIMA), New Delhi.
- He addressed the meeting addressing distinguished on the topic of 'New India, Great India'

Important highlights of the meeting:

- Shah stated that India was well on way to becoming 5 trillion dollar economy by 2024 and that a strong foundation has been laid in the direction by the Modi Government.
- The National per capita income increased from about Rs. 78,000 to over Rs. 1,26,000;
- Agricultural Growth rate has picked up pace after the government has increased the budget substantially.
- National highways construction increased 2.5 times; near total rural electrification has been achieved; 1,20,000 gram panchayats have been linked with broadband; 99.4% citizens have bank accounts today; Health cover was given to 50 crore people under Aayushman Bharat are major success of the NDA government.
- NDA government also built 83 lakh houses in last 5 years, 8 crore LPG connections given; houses to 2.5 crore people were given and 8 crore people have access to toilets now.
- Ease of doing business, global competitiveness, foreign investments, innovation index; among other global benchmarks have seen immense progress in the last 5 years.
- The Government has been focusing on giving the youth a platform to encourage entrepreneurial spirit in the country
- The 'Rule of Law' is imperative for economic growth and in India becoming a global leader. Organizations like AIMA are responsible to provide the industry a direction and platform to make India a global trade leader.
- There is a need to setup sector-based R&D clusters, bring in investments and take 'Make in India', 'Start up India' forward so that India does not need to look towards the world for anything.
- There is need to ensure that the benefits of intellectual property rights remain in India and India is able to reap the benefits of the rich demographic dividend available in the country.



Links:

<https://pib.gov.in/PressReleaseDetail.aspx?PRID=1585302>

Joint Naval Annual Quality Conclave (JNAQC)

Question: Consider the following statement regarding Joint Naval Annual Quality Conclave (JNAQC)

- (1) Joint Naval Annual Quality Conclave (JNAQC) was held in Visakhapatnam.
- (2) The Theme of the conclave was 'Transformation of QA Paradigm: Opportunities and Challenges'.

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

- (a) Only(1) (b) Only (2) (c) Both(1) and (2) (d) None of the above

Answer: (c)

Related facts:

- Joint Naval Annual Quality Conclave (JNAQC) was held in Visakhapatnam on September 05, 2019.
- The Theme of the conclave is 'Transformation of QA Paradigm: Opportunities and Challenges'.

- It was hosted by the Naval Quality Assurance Establishments under the aegis of Director General Quality Assurance (DGQA), Ministry of Defence.
- Vice Admiral Atul Kumar Jain, Flag Officer Commanding-in-Chief of Eastern Naval Command was the Chief Guest for the annual event.
- It provides a vibrant environment for stimulating discussions on all aspects pertaining to Transformation of QA Paradigm and will benefit all stakeholders by enabling cross-fertilisation of ideas and best practices from diverse fields.



Links:

<http://www.uniindia.com/~joint-naval-annual-quality-conclave-to-be-held-in-visakhapatnam-on-sept-5/India/news/1716749.html>

53rd Meeting of the Council of IITs

Question: Who chaired the meeting of the 53rd Council of IITs held at IIT Delhi on 27th September, 2019?

(a) Narendra Modi (b) Ramesh Pokhriyal (c) Rajnath Singh (d) Bandaru Dattatreya

Answer: (b)

Related facts:

- Union HRD Minister Ramesh Pokhriyal 'Nishank' chaired the 53rd Meeting of the Council of Indian Institutes of Technology (IITs) at IIT Delhi on 27th September, 2019.
- Minister of State for HRD Sanjay Shamrao Dhotre was also present on the occasion.



Highlights of the major decisions taken in the meeting:

- Every IIT will work on improving their research excellence and through that their national and international rankings. For this, each IIT will come up with their action plan.
- For promoting IITs as global education destinations, foreign students – including the OCI card holders with foreign passport & have studied abroad – would be provided direct entry to appear in the JEE Advanced examinations. Further, IITs would prepare a scheme for providing scholarships for the bright foreign students to study in IITs.
- They would also explore the possibility of offering online programmes to students both in India and abroad. The process of recruiting foreign faculty would be continued by liberalizing the current regulatory processes.
- A major drive will be launched for improving the hostel facilities and rebuilding the dilapidated hostels. Separate funding for this would be earmarked under HEFA. Further, where possible, the PPP model would be implemented which would be started by IIT Delhi.
- In order to promote excellence in the IITs, all new appointments would be through tenure track system, under which IITs will have more flexibility in recruitment without insisting for necessary three years post-PhD experience.
- Academically weak students, who are not able to secure the required credits for promotion to the next semester may be allowed an exit option with a degree programme after second semester, rather than being forced out of the programme.
- Continuation of the weaker section scholarships for slow paced students for one additional year beyond the regular term of four years.
- Each IIT will identify their thrust areas for specialization and communicate the same to MHRD within a month. In these areas, they have to set up nation-best research facilities.

- The HRD Minister launched a common IIT/IISc admission portal developed by IIT Bombay for international applicants interested in pursuing postgraduate studies.

Links:

<https://pib.gov.in/PressReleaseDetail.aspx?PRID=1586508>

29th Meeting of the Northern Zonal Council in Chandigarh

Question: Who chaired the 29th meeting of the Northern Zonal Council which was held in Chandigarh on 20th September, 2019?

(a) Narendra Modi (b) Amit Shah (c) Ram Nath Kovind (d) Amitabh Kant

Answer: (b)

Related facts:



- Union Minister for Home Affairs Amit Shah chaired the 29th meeting of the Northern Zonal Council was held at Chandigarh (Haryana) on 20th September, 2019.
- The meeting was attended by the Chief Ministers of Rajasthan, Punjab, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Governor of Jammu & Kashmir, Administrator of UT of Chandigarh, Lt. Governor of NCT of Delhi, and various Ministers from these States and senior officers from the Central and State Governments including Chief Secretaries and Secretaries to Government of India.
- 20% of the area and 13% of the population is covered by the States in this region and North Zone has made important contribution in the economic growth of the country.
- The Council reviewed the progress of implementation of the recommendations made at the last meeting and the Council focused on the following issues:
- Speedy investigation of cases of sexual offence/rape against women and children. It was decided that no stone should be left unturned to adhere to the time limits of 2 months for investigation and enquiry/trial in keeping with Criminal Law (Amendment) Act, 2018.
- The Council expressed satisfaction over release of Rs. 47,436 crores under CAMPA funds which was long overdue.
- Report of Survey of India relating to boundary disputes between Haryana and Himachal Pradesh was presented on which there was broad consensus on methodology.
- It was agreed that coverage of all villages which have hitherto remained without any banking facilities within 5 km radial distance by a Bank/India Post Payments Service must be ensured within 3 months.
- The Union Home Minister also called upon the States to give their suggestions for improvements in Indian Penal Code and Criminal Procedure Code.

Zonal Councils:

- The five Zonal Councils (Northern, Eastern, Northern, Southern and Central Zonal Councils) were set up under the States Reorganization Act, 1956 to foster Inter-State co-operation and co-ordination among the States.
- The Zonal Councils are mandated to discuss and make recommendations on any matter of common interest in the field of economic and social planning, border disputes, linguistic minorities or inter-State transport etc.
- They are regional fora of cooperative endeavor for States linked with each other economically, politically and culturally.
- The deliberations of the Council were warm and cordial, in the true spirit of cooperative federalism and ended with the decision to host the next meeting in Jaipur.

Links:

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

International conference on Augmenting Nature by Green Affordable New-habitat (ANGAN)

Question: In which of the following city International conference on Augmenting Nature by Green Affordable New-habitat (ANGAN) was organized?

- (a) Mumbai
- (b) Bengaluru
- (c) Hyderabad
- (d) New Delhi

Answer: (d)

Related facts:



- During 9th-11th September, 2019; an international conference on Augmenting Nature by Green Affordable New-habitat (ANGAN) commenced in New Delhi.
- The conference focuses primarily on achieving Energy Efficiency in the building sector.
- The conference was organized by the Bureau of Energy Efficiency (BEE) under the aegis of Ministry of Power in collaboration with GIZ under the Indo German Technical Cooperation initiative.
- Experts and policymakers from around 16 countries are participated in this event.
- The conference aimed to identify economically viable alternatives and technologies in the field of design and construction of energy-efficient commercial and residential buildings.
- It is estimated that an investment of Rs. 2000 billion in Building energy efficiency activities would lead to a cumulative savings of 388 billion units of electricity for the next ten years.
- Apart from energy savings, the emphasis will also be given to other resources like water and other materials that can be saved in the building sector.
- In India, buildings have become an important component of our integrated energy policy.
- An exhibition on energy efficient building material suppliers, technology suppliers, research institutions and universities displayed latest things in the building energy efficiency sector was also displayed.
- The BEE (Bureau of Energy Efficiency) is a statutory body under the Ministry of Power, Government of India. It assists in developing policies and strategies with the primary objective of reducing the energy intensity of the Indian economy. BEE coordinates with designated consumers, designated agencies, and other organizations to identify and utilize the existing resources and infrastructure, in performing the functions assigned to it under the Energy Conservation Act.

Links:

<https://pib.gov.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=193088>

Law & Justice

Transgender Persons (Protection of Rights) Bill, 2019

Question: The Union Cabinet has approved the proposal to introduce The Transgender Persons (Protection of Rights) Bill, 2019 on which date?

(a) 10 April 2019 (b) 20 April 2019 (c) 21 June 2019 (d) 10 July 2019

Answer: (a)

Related facts:

- On 5th August 2019, Lok Sabha passed the Transgender Persons (Protection of Rights) Bill, 2019.
- The Bill will be introduced in the ensuing Session of Parliament
- The Bill provides a mechanism for their social, economic and educational empowerment.

Impact

- The Bill will benefit a large number of transgender persons, mitigate the stigma, discrimination and abuse against this marginalized section and bring them into the mainstream of society.
- This will lead to inclusiveness and will make the transgender persons productive members of the society.

**Background**

- Transgender community is among one of the most marginalized communities in the country because they don't fit into the stereotypical categories of gender of 'men' or 'women'.
- Consequently, they face problems ranging from social exclusion to discrimination, lack of education facilities, unemployment, lack of medical facilities and so on.

Links:

<http://pib.gov.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=191518>

Surrogacy (Regulation) Bill, 2019

Question: Lok Sabha passed the Surrogacy (Regulation) Bill, 2019. Which of the following statement is incorrect about this Bill?

- (a) The bill aims to prohibit commercial surrogacy in India
(b) It was passed on August 5, 2019
(c) It allows only close relative of eligible intended couple to be surrogate mother
(d) The couples who intend for surrogate child, may be either Indian or foreign citizen

Answer: (d)

Related facts:

- On 5th August, 2019, Lok Sabha passed the Surrogacy (Regulation) Bill, 2019 through a voice vote. It was introduced in the Lok Sabha by the Union Minister of Health & Family Welfare Dr Harsh Vardhan.

Surrogacy as defined by the Bill:

- It defines surrogacy as a practice where a woman gives birth to a child for an intending couple with the intention to hand over the child after the birth to the intending couple.

Need for surrogacy laws:

- Philanthropically surrogacy may be the good practice if it is utilized to provide childless couples who are unable to give birth to a child naturally by themselves but the problem emerges when unethical practices, exploitation of surrogate mothers, abandonment of children born out of surrogacy surfaces in the society.
- If one could go deeper into the details, will find rackets involving intermediaries importing human embryos and gametes.
- There have been such reports which are related to above mentioned problems as India has emerged as a surrogacy hub for couples from other countries and



Provisions of the Bill:

- According to the 228th report of the Law Commission the bill proposed the prohibition of commercial surrogacy and allowed only altruistic surrogacy.
- It allows only close relative of eligible intended couple to be surrogate mother.
- The surrogate mother must also having been married, having child of her own and must be between 25 and 35 years of age.
- The intending couple should have a certificate of essentiality and a certificate of eligibility issued by the appropriate authority.
- The couple should be Indian citizens and married for at least 5 years with the age between 23 to 50 years for a woman and between 26 to 55 years old for a man.
- Such couples do not have any surviving child (biological, adopted or surrogate) and meet other conditions that may be specified by regulations.
- The bill proposes to regulate surrogacy as it provided that the central and the state governments shall constitute the National Surrogacy Board (NSB) and the State Surrogacy Boards (SSB) respectively.
- The Central and State governments shall appoint one or more appropriate authorities within 90 days of the Bill becoming an Act.

Criteria for surrogate mother in the bill:

- The surrogate mother has to be a close relative of the intending couple.
- She should be a married woman of 25 to 35 years of age and having a child of her own.
- She could become surrogate only once in her lifetime and possess a certificate of medical and psychological fitness for surrogacy.
- The surrogate mother cannot provide her own gametes for surrogacy.

Punishment for violating or crossing the boundary of surrogacy law:

- The penalty for offences is imprisonment up to 10 years and a fine which may extend to Rs 10 lakh.

The fit case or the conditions in which surrogacy is permitted:

- Surrogacy could only be allowed when the intending couples suffer from proven infertility.
- It should be altruistic, not for commercial purposes, not for producing children for sale, prostitution or other forms of exploitation and for any condition or disease specified through regulations.

Link:

<https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/lok-sabha-passes-surrogacy-bill/article28824277.ece>

Rajya Sabha passes Dam Safety Bill, 2019

Question: Consider the following statements regarding Dam Safety Bill, 2019:

(1) This Bill applies to all specified dams with height more than 15 meter only
(2) There is a provision for imprisonment and penalty on obstruction or refusing to comply

(3) National Dam Safety Committee will be chaired by the chairperson, CWC

Of the above, choose correct statement/s:

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

Answer: (b)

Related facts:

- The Dam Safety Bill, 2019 was introduced in Lok Sabha by the Minister of Jal Shakti, Mr. Gajendra Singh Shekhawat, on 29th July, 2019 and it was passed in the Lok Sabha on 2nd August, 2019.
- The Bill provides for the surveillance, inspection, operation, and maintenance of specified dams across the country.
- It also provides for an institutional mechanism to ensure the safety of such dams.



Applicability of the Bill:

The Bill applies to all specified dams in the country, with

- Height more than 15 meters or
- Height between 10 to 15 meters and subject to certain additional design and structural conditions.
- National Committee on Dam Safety will be constituted and it will be:
- Chaired by the Chairperson, Central Water Commission
- All other members will be nominated by the Central Government, and include:
- Up to 10 representative of the Central Government
- Up to seven representative of the State Government (by rotation)
- Up to three Dam Safety Expert
- National Dam Safety Authority will be headed by an officer, not below the rank of additional secretary, he will be appointed by the Central Government.

Functions of the Authority:

- Implementing the policies formulated by the National Committee on Dam Safety
- Resolving issues between State Dam Safety organizations (SDSOs) or between a SDSO and any dam owner in that state
- Specifying regulations for inspection and investigation of dams.
- Providing accreditation to agencies involved in construction, design, and alteration of dams.
- At state level also State Dam Safety Organization and State Committee on Dam Safety will be constituted.

Bill provides for two types of offences:

- Obstructing a person in the discharge of his functions under the Bill
- Refusing to comply with directions issued under the Bill
- Offenders will be punishable with imprisonment of up to one year, or a fine, or both.
- If the offence leads to the loss of lives the imprisonment will raise to two years.

Obligations of dam owners have been set under the Bill and every owner has to provide a dam safety unit to inspect the dam:

- Before and after the monsoon session
- During and after every earthquake, flood, or any other calamity or sign of distress.
- Dam owners will prepare a comprehensive dam safety evaluation of each dam.

Links:

<https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/ls-passes-dam-safety-bill/article28801022.ece>

Lok Sabha passes the Supreme Court (number of judges) Amendment Bill, 2019

Question: What will be the strength of judges in the Supreme Court after the Supreme Court (number of judges) Amendment Bill, 2019 is passed by the Parliament?

(a) 30 (b) 31 (c) 32 (d) 33

Answer: (d)

Related facts:

- The Supreme Court (number of judges) Amendment Bill, 2019 was introduced in Lok Sabha on August, 2019 by the Minister of Law and Justice, Mr. Ravi Shankar Prasad.
- This Bill will amend the Supreme Court (number of judges) Act, 1956.
- The Act fixes the maximum number of judges in the Supreme Court at 30 judges (excluding the Chief Justice of India). The Bill increases this number from 30 to 33.
- The Bill has been sent to Rajya Sabha for approval after being passed by Lok Sabha on 5th August, 2019.



Links:

<http://www.prsindia.org/billtrack/supreme-court-number-judges-amendment-bill-2019>

Jallianwala Bagh National Memorial (Amendment) Bill 2019

Question: Which of the following statement is false regarding the Jallianwala Bagh National Memorial Bill 2019, which was passed recently in Lok Sabha?

- (a) This Bill seeks to remove the Congress Chief from being a permanent member of Jallianwala Bagh Memorial Trust established in 1951.**
- (b) The Bill, which was passed by a voice vote, introduced by Minister of Culture, Prahlad Patel.**
- (c) 214 voted in favor and 30 against the Bill**
- (d) The Congress Party voted in favor of the Bill.**

Answer: (d)

Related facts:

- On 2nd August, 2019; Lok Sabha passed the Jallianwala Bagh National Memorial Bill. The Bill, which was passed by a voice vote, introduced by Minister of Culture, Shri Prahlad Patel. 214 voted in favor and 30 against the Bill
- This Bill seeks to remove the Congress Chief from being a permanent member of Jallianwala Bagh Memorial Trust established in 1951 in Amritsar, Punjab.
- It should be known that Jallianwala Bagh National Memorial Act, 1951 which provides for the erection of a National Memorial in memory of the people killed in Jallianwala Bagh on 13th April, 1919 in Amritsar, Punjab.
- The proposed Bill provided amendment in the above said act and it also creates a Trust to manage the National Memorial.
- The Congress Party opposed the bill as the party considered this as a move by the present government not to depict party's contribution in 1919 Jallianwala Bagh movement.
- The Bill also confers power to the Central Government to terminate a nominated trustee before the expiry of the term without the need of assigning reason.



Link:

<https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/india/ls-passes-jallianwala-bagh-national-memorial-amendment-bill/articleshow/70498146.cms>

Year, Day & Week

76th Year of Formation of Azad Hind Government

Question: Where did the commemoration event of Azad Hind Government take place on October 21 2019?

(a) New Delhi (b) Kolkata (c) Chennai (d) Hyderabad

Answer: (a)

Related facts:

- Union Minister of State for Culture & Tourism (IC), Prahlad Singh Patel took part in the commemoration event of 76th anniversary of the formation of Azad Hind Government on October 21 2019 at Red Fort, Delhi.
- Union Minister congratulated the nation on the proud occasion of 76th anniversary of formation of Azad Hind Government.
- Azad Hind government represented the vision laid down by Subhas Chandra Bose. Azad Hind government was actively involved in nation building and had even started its own bank, currency, postal stamps and army.
- The Minister emphasized to bring back the audio clip of Netaji Subhas from Singapore in which he can be heard declaring the formation of Azad Hind Government.
- The nation salutes Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose whose supreme sacrifice and leadership continues to guide young generation.
- Last year on 21st October 2018, Prime Minister Narendra Modi hoisted the National Flag at Red Fort and also unveiled the plaque commemorating the 75th Anniversary of formation of Azad Hind Government, formed by Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose.



Links:

<https://pib.gov.in/PressReleaseDetail.aspx?PRID=1588627>

73rd Infantry Day Celebration

Question: When is Infantry Day celebrated by the Infantry every year?

(a) October 18 (b) October 20 (c) October 25 (d) October 27

Answer: (d)

Related facts:

- Infantry celebrates 27th October each year as Infantry Day to commemorate the first engagement with armed adversary post independence.
- In response to the threat posed to the sovereignty and territorial integrity of our nation, on this day in 1947, the leading elements of the Indian Army air landed at Srinagar and fought Pakistani tribesmen from the erstwhile North West Frontier Province gallantly.
- To honour the gallant actions of the Infantry soldiers, a wreath laying ceremony is being organised at the National War Memorial. Army Chief Bipin Rawat, and other senior generals of Infantry will pay homage to the bravehearts in a solemn ceremony.
- To honour the Next of Kin and disabled soldiers, 'The Ultimate Run' involving 1.2 Km Run/ Walk for Next of Kin, wheel chair bound disabled soldiers (assisted by Army Public School students) and ASHA School Children is being organised on 19 October.
- Field Marshal KM Cariappa Memorial Lecture is also planned at Manekshaw Centre, Delhi Cantonment on 25 October.
- A Talk on 'The Strategic Dimensions of Kashmir Issue, will be delivered by well known military analyst Mr Maroof Raza followed by release of commemorative postal stamp 'Siachen Warrior', to commemorate the selfless contributions of the indomitable Indian Army soldier, who participated in OPERATION MEGHDOOT.



Links:

<https://pib.gov.in/PressReleaseDetail.aspx?PRID=1588512>

60th 'World Standard Day'

Question: Who inaugurated the 60th World Standard Day celebration by Bureau of Indian Standards on October 14, 2019 in New Delhi?

(a) Narendra Modi (b) Amit Shah (c) Ram Vilas Paswan (d) Ashwini Chaubey

Answer: (c)

Related facts:

- Union Minister of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution Ram Vilas Paswan inaugurated the celebrations of 'World Standard Day' by the Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) in New Delhi.
- The theme of the celebration was "Video Standards create a global stage" being highly relevant in the Indian context as India is the fastest growing entertainment and media market globally and is expected to keep up the momentum by growing at a compounded annual growth rate of more than 11%.
- The Media and entertainment industry in India will become a Rs. 4,51,373 crore industry by 2023.
- Delivering his Presidential address, Union Minister Shri Ram Vilas Paswan congratulated everyone on the occasion of 60th 'World Standards Day' and appreciated the efforts of all officials of BIS and said that we have some of the best laboratories in the world.



- With the target of providing tap water to all households by 2024, BIS which sets quality standards for piped water, has a huge role to play in this regard.

Links:

<https://pib.gov.in/PressReleaseDetail.aspx?PRID=1588021>

26th foundation day of the National Human Rights Commission

Question: Who presided the 26th foundation day celebration of the National Human Rights Commission on October 12 2019?

(a) Narendra Modi (b) Ram Nath Kovind (c) Amit Shah (d) Dipak Mishra

Answer: (c)

Related facts:

- The National Human Rights Commission, NHRC, India celebrated its 26th Foundation Day on the 12th October, 2019 and organized a function in New Delhi to mark the occasion.
- Union Minister of Home Affairs Amit Shah presided over the 26th foundation day celebrations of the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) as Chief Guest. HL Dattu, Chairperson, NHRC was also present.
- The concept of human rights violation is not limited only custodial torture or deaths. There is also a need to focus on elimination of poverty and lack of basic amenities, which result in grave human rights violations.
- There have been efforts to further strengthen the National Human Rights Commission and State Human Rights Commissions.
- The recent amendment to the PHR, Act is an affirmative step bringing the Women, Children, Backward Class Commissions in the decision making process of the National Human Rights Commission to encourage wider participation of all sections of society.
- The NHRC Chairperson highlighted various activities of the Commission and the new initiatives taken as part of its consistent endeavour to make people aware of the importance of the promotion and protection of human rights.
- He said that the Commission has cleared almost all cases registered prior to 2016. He said that the enormous increase in the number of complaints is indicative of the awareness of Human Rights among the people and as also their growing faith in the Commission.



NHRC:

- The Commission was set up on the 12th October, 1993, under the Protection of Human Rights Act, passed by Parliament. The mandate of the NHRC is to work for the promotion and protection of human rights and take cognizance of such complaints wherein the actions, inactions and omissions of government functionaries, prima facie or allegedly, cause human rights violation.
- It is a recommendatory quasi-judicial body, having powers of a civil court to call for any documents and summon any public authority in a case of human rights violation. In a case of human rights violation, its recommendations are twofold: relief to the victim and punishment to the guilty.

Links:

<http://nhrc.nic.in/media/press-release/curtain-raiser-nhrc-celebrate-its-26th-foundation-day-12th-october-2019-11102019>

International Day of Peace

Question: When is the International Day of Peace celebrated every year?

- (a) September 20 (b) September 21 (c) September 18
(d) September 25

Answer: (b)

Related facts:

- Each year the International Day of Peace is observed around the world on 21 September. The General Assembly has declared this as a day devoted to strengthening the ideals of peace, both within and among all nations and peoples.
- The theme of this year was “Climate Action for Peace” which draws attention to the importance of combating climate change as a way to protect and promote peace throughout the world.
- Climate change causes clear threats to international peace and security. Natural disasters displace three times as many people as conflicts, forcing millions to leave their homes and seek safety elsewhere.
- The salinization of water and crops is endangering food security, and the impact on public health is escalating. The growing tensions over resources and mass movements of people are affecting every country on every continent.
- Each year the International Day of Peace is observed around the world on 21 September. The General Assembly has declared this as a day devoted to strengthening the ideals of peace, both within and among all nations and peoples.



Links:

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

Teacher's Day

Question: Teacher's Day is being celebrated across India to honour which of the following personality?

- (a) Dr. S. Radhakrishnan (b) C V Raman (c) Homi Jahangir Bhabha (d) None of the above

Answer: (a)

Related facts:

- On 5th September, 2019, Teacher's Day is being celebrated across India to honour Dr. Sarvepalli Radhakrishnan on his 131st birth anniversary. He was born on 5th September, 1888.
- Dr. Sarvepalli Radhakrishnan was India's first Vice President and second President.
- Teachers' Day was first celebrated in 1962, the year he became the second President of India.
- Since then, the day has been celebrated every year. Dr. Radhakrishnan highly believed that teachers should be the best minds in the country.
- Dr. Radhakrishnan was awarded the Bharat Ratna, India's highest civilian award, in 1954.



Links:

<https://www.indiacelebrating.com/events/teachers-day/>

World Rhino Day 2019

Question: The World Rhino Day is celebrated every year on-
(a) September 11 (b) September 22 (c) October 22 (d) August 22

Answer: (b)

Related facts:

- On September 22, 2019 World Rhino Day was observed in various wild life sanctuaries related to the conservation of rhinoceros species in the world.
- The purpose of celebration of this day is mainly focused upon world's five rhinoceros species, and to reflect on the challenges faced by them.
- It is an international ecological observance to raise awareness on the protection of 5 existing species of rhinoceros.
- It was first observed in 2010 by WWF (World Wide Fund for Nature) South Africa.
- On this occasion Rohit Sharma had launched "Rohit4Rhinos campaign" in partnership with WWF India and Animal Planet (wildlife channel) to spread awareness about the need for conservation of one-horned rhinos.



World Rhino Day

5 SPECIES OF RHINO:

- There are five species of rhino, white rhino, black rhino, Indian rhino, Javan rhino, and Sumatran rhino that still survive in the world today.
- Two of the species come from Africa and three from Asia but all of them have one thing in common their very existence in our world is under threat, thanks mainly to a massive increase in poaching.

Facts common to all species of rhino:

- Rhino horn is made of keratin, the same substance that makes up human hair and fingernails.
- The collective term for a group of rhinos is a 'crash' of rhinos.
- All rhinos are herbivores (meaning they do not eat meat).
- All species of rhino can weigh over a tone.
- All 5 species of rhino have an excellent sense of hearing and smell but very poor sight.

Links:

<https://www.ecotraining.co.za/world-rhino-day-22-september-2019/>

Vigilance Awareness Week

Question: Under which Ministry aegis, the Vigilance Awareness Week is to be observed from 28th October- 2nd November, 2019?

- (a) Ministry of Health and Family Welfare
- (b) Ministry of Finance
- (c) Ministry of Home Affairs
- (d) None of these

Answer: (a)

Related facts:

- As part of its efforts to promote probity in public life and to achieve a corruption free society, the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare will observe the Vigilance Awareness Week from 28th October to 2nd November, 2019.



- The week will be observed as per directions of Central Vigilance Commission (CVC), Government of India to ensure greater awareness among all the stakeholders in fight against corruption.
- The theme of the vigilance awareness this year is “Integrity- a way of life”.
- During the week-long Vigilance Awareness campaign, various activities like public interaction for redressal of their grievances, usage of generic medicines, surprise inspections, conducting seminars, workshops, debates among students, faculty, children of staff/ officers, poster competitions, essay writing, quiz, painting competitions inculcating moral/ethical values, and other vigilance related awareness activities will be carried out in sync with the theme of the year 2019.
- The competition winners will be felicitated with awards.

About Central Vigilance Commission (CVC):

- Central Vigilance Commission is an apex vigilance institution set up by the Government in February, 1964 on the recommendations of the Committee on Prevention of Corruption, headed by K. Santhanam, to advise and guide Central Government agencies in the field of vigilance.
- It monitors all vigilance activity under the Central Government and advises various authorities in Central Government organizations in planning, executing, reviewing and reforming their vigilant work.
- At present, Sharad Kumar is the Central Vigilance Commissioner.

Links:

<https://pib.gov.in/PressReleaseDetail.aspx?PRID=1589162>

International Poverty Eradication Day, 2019

Question: When is the International Day of Poverty Eradication observed?

(a) 17th August (b) 18th August (c) 18th September (d) 17th October

Answer: (d)

Related facts:

- The International Day of Poverty Eradication was observed globally on 17th October, 2019
- Its aim to spread awareness about the efforts undertaken internationally to eradicate poverty.
- The theme of this year's day was **Acting together to empower children, their families and communities to end poverty.**
- This year marks the 30th anniversary of the adoption of the Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) on 20th November, 1989.
- This landmark human rights treaty sets out the civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights of every child, regardless of their race, religion or abilities.



Links:

<https://www.un.org/development/desa/socialperspectiveondevelopment/international-day-for-the-eradication-of-poverty-homepage/2019-2.html>

Communal Harmony Day

Question: Communal Harmony Day is observed on 20th August every year, it is observed on the birth anniversary of which eminent personality?



(a) Mahatma Gandhi (b) Rajiv Gandhi (c) Indira Gandhi (d) Feroz Gandhi

Answer: (b)

Related facts:

- Communal Harmony Day (Sadbhavna Divas) is observed on the birth anniversary of former Prime Minister, Rajiv Gandhi.
- This year was the 75th birth anniversary of Rajiv Gandhi (20th August, 1944).
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi paid tributes to former Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi.
- Rajiv Gandhi became the youngest Prime Minister of the country at the age of 40.
- He was assassinated 21st May, 1991, by a Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) suicide bomber during an election rally in Sriperumbudur in Tamil Nadu.
- His death anniversary is also observed as Anti-Terrorism Day.

Links:

<https://www.thehindubusinessline.com/news/national/pm-pays-tributes-to-rajiv-gandhi-on-his-75th-birth-anniversary/article29167837.ece>

Books

Loktantra Ke Swar

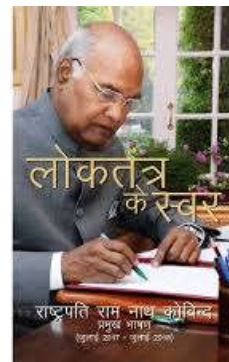
Question: Ministry of Information and Broadcasting has published which book, a compilation of speeches delivered by President?

(a) Loktantra Ke Swar (b) Jantantra Ke Swar (c) Janta Ki Awaz (d) President speech

Answer : (a)

Related facts:

- Ministry of Information and Broadcasting has published two books on selected speeches of President of India, Ram Nath Kovind.
- These books are – Loktantra Ke Swar and The Republican Ethic.
- These two books are a compilation of 95 speeches delivered by President Kovind during his second year in office.
- Vice President M. Venkaiah Naidu released the book at Pravasi Bharatiya Kendra, New Delhi.
- The books are also available in e-version on Kindle and App Store.
- Various online shopping websites are also providing these books on demand.



Links:

<https://pib.gov.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=193033>

Book: India in the Persianate Age: 1000-1765

Question: A new book, India in the Persianate Age: 1000-1765, which has been released recently, is written by-

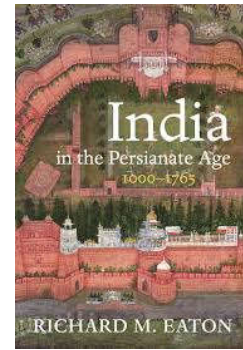
(a) Ranajit Guha (b) M. G. S. Narayanan (c) Richard M Eaton

(d) Thomas R. Metcalf

Answer: (c)

Related facts:

- On September 24, 2019 a new book named “India in the Persianate Age: 1000-1765” was released.
- The book is written by United States (US) based professor and author, Richard M Eaton.
- In the book Mr. Eaton traces the rise of Persianate culture, a many-faceted trans-regional world connected by ever-widening networks across much of Asia.
- The book tells how dynasties based in eastern Afghanistan, Introduced to India in the eleventh century and progressively indigenized during sixteenth, seventeenth, and eighteenth centuries.
- Eaton brilliantly elaborates the complex encounter between India’s Sanskrit culture—an equally rich Persian culture which helped shape the Sultanate, the Mughal Empire, and a host of regional states.
- Eaton says that this long-term process of cultural interaction is profoundly reflected in the languages, literatures, cuisines, attires, religions, styles of ruler-ship and warfare, science, art, music, and architecture—and more—of South Asia.



Link:

<https://www.ucpress.edu/book/9780520325128/india-in-the-persianate-age>

Book- Bridgital Nation

Question: ‘Bridgital Nation’ book is authored by which of the following?

(a) Narendra Modi (b) N Chandrasekaran (c) Ratan Tata (d) Arvind Subramanian

Answer: (b)

Related facts:

- On 20 October 2019, Prime Minister Narendra Modi unveiled the book titled Bridgital Nation in New Delhi.
- The book has been authored by Chairman, Tata Sons, N Chandrasekaran and Roopa Purushothaman. Eminent industrialist and philanthropist Ratan Tata was present on the occasion among others.
- The book Bridgital Nation presents a powerful vision of the future where human beings and technology co-exist in a mutually beneficial ecosystem.
- The book argues that instead of accepting technology as a replacement of human labour, India can use technology as an aid to generate more jobs.
- Bridgital term refers that the digital tools can act as a bridge between aspirations and achievements.



Links:

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

Miscellaneous

POK belongs to India, Foreign Minister S Jaishankar

Question: Recently who said “POK is part of India and we expect one day that we will have the physical jurisdiction over it”?

(a) Rajnath Singh (b) Amit Shah (c) S Jaishankar (d) Narendra Modi

Answer: (c)

Related facts:

- Recently Union External Affairs Minister, S Jaishankar stated that the “POK is and has always been a part of India and also said that India expects to have physical jurisdiction over the area one day”.
- Foreign Minister S Jaishankar asserted while addressing a press meeting on the occasion of 100 days of the Modi government also said “Our position on POK (Pakistan Occupied Kashmir) has always been and will always be very clear.”



Links:

<https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/politics-and-nation/pok-belongs-to-india-will-have-jurisdiction-over-that-area-one-day-foreign-minister-s-jaishankar/articleshow/71169028.cms>

PM Modi asks for speech suggestions for ‘Howdy, Modi’ address

Question: What is the meaning of the term “Howdy”?

(a) How are you? (b) How do you do? (c) Whats up (d) None of the above

Answer :(b)

- PM Narendra Modi had invited ideas from the people for his speech at the ‘Howdy Modi’ event in Houston, US on September 22, 2019.
- Modi urged the people to express their thoughts on the special open forum on the NaMo application.
- US President Donald Trump will also be present in the ‘Howdy Modi’ event.
- Modi has asked earlier to the people for ideas for his Independence Day speech and ‘Mann Ki Baat’ monthly radio programme.
- More than 50,000 Indian-Americans from across the US have registered for the September 22 “Howdy, Modi! Shared Dreams, Bright Futures” event to be held at the NRG Stadium in Houston.
- “Howdy”, short for ‘How do you do?’ is a friendly greeting commonly used in southwestern United States.



Links:

<https://www.indiatoday.in/india/story/pm-modi-speech-suggestions-for-howdy-modi-address-1599908-2019-09-17>

A new patriotic music video- Watan

Question: Which song has been dedicated to new patriotic song for India?

(a) Watan (b) Ma tujhe salam (c) Vande Matram (d) None of the above

Answer: (a)

Related facts:

- Union Minister for Information and Broadcasting Prakash Javadekar on 13th August, 2019, dedicated a new patriotic music video Watan to the nation.
- Recorded in the enthralling voice of renowned Indian singer, Javed Ali, the song both lyrically and visually outlines the beauty and might of India.
- The video of the song features key historical occurrences of recent past including inauguration of the National War Memorial, Statue of Unity's unveiling, Launch of Chandrayaan 2 among other things.
- On the occasion of 15th August this year, Doordarshan and Prasar Bharti has prepared this amazing song.
- Beautifully capturing the diverse and amazing landscape of India, around 4-minute video of the song gives the audience a visual tour of different regions of the country including tea gardens of the northeast, serene beaches of the south, Ganga ghats of North India, Himalayan mountain ranges etc.



Links:

<https://www.dnaindia.com/india/report-73rd-independence-day-song-watan-celebrating-new-india-is-bound-to-make-you-feel-patriotic-and-full-of-hope-2781394>

ITBP celebrated 58th Raising Day

Question: ITBP celebrated its 58th Raising Day in which city?

(a) Greater Noida (b) New Delhi (c) Bangalore (d) Leh

Answer: (a)

Related facts:

- The Indo-Tibetan Border Police has celebrated its 58th Raising Day on October 24, 2019 at ITBP's Headquarter in Greater Noida.
- ITBP is one of the seven Central Armed Police Forces of India, raised on 24th October, 1962, under the CRPF Act in the wake of the Sino-Indian War of 1962. The ITBP was intended for deployment along India's border with Tibet.
- MoS Home Kishan Reddy attended the function and paid tributes to the martyrs of the central armed forces as well as witnessed the raising day parade celebrations.
- The parade showcased valour and courage of various contingents.



Links:

<http://www.ddinews.gov.in/national/itbp-celebrates-its-58th-raising-day>

Tatpar App launched by Delhi Police

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

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

Answer: (a)

Related facts:

- On 19th September, 2019, Delhi Lieutenant Governor Anil Baijal has launched Tatpar App to provide safety and a convenient 24×7 online mode to its citizens.
- The Tatpar App has an SOS button, which is provided on the home screen, for urgent assistance.
- The SOS button will enable the user to call an emergency contact number of their choice or reach out to their nearest Police Control Room (PCR) at 100 with a single touch.
- The app has included all the important websites, mobile applications and helpline numbers of Delhi Police besides, 50 others services. People can also share information to police about a suspicious vehicle or person or of a crime



Links:

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