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**Current
Affairs**

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Day to Day



**AMARINDER
SINGH**



**YOGI
ADITYANATH**



**MANOHAR
PARRIKAR**



**TRIVENDRA
SINGH RAWAT**



**NONGTHOMBAM
BIREN SINGH**

**ASSEMBLY
ELECTION
RESULTS OF**

FIVE STATES

**QUESTIONS AND RELATED FACTS
1 MARCH TO 31 MARCH, 2017**

Preface

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

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

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

Our plan will be to publish our monthly PDF on very first day of every month with making appropriate modifications of day-to-day events. In general, the events happened till 28th 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 March to 31st March) will benefit our beloved readers.

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

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NATIONAL

Assembly Election Results of Five States

Question: Match the total number of seats of state assembly in column A with States in column B.

A	B
(1)403	(a)Goa
(2)117	(b)Uttar Pradesh
(3)40	(c)Manipur
(4)60	(d)Uttarakhand
(5)70	(e)Punjab



Codes:

	A	B	C	D	E
(a)	3	1	4	5	2
(b)	2	3	4	1	5
(c)	1	3	2	5	4
(d)	5	4	3	2	1

Ans: (a)

- Election results for five states- Goa, Manipur, Punjab, Uttar Pradesh and Uttarakhand were announced on 11th March, 2017.
- In Goa, Indian National Congress won 17 seats; Bhartiya Janta Party won 13; Maharashtrawadi Gomantak, Goa Forward Party & Independent 3 each and Nationalist Congress Party 1 seat in the 40 member legislative assembly.
- In Manipur, Indian National Congress won 28 seats, Bhartiya Janta Party 21 seats, Naga Peoples Front 4 seats, National Peoples Party 4 seats and Lok Janshakti Party, All India Trinmool Congress & Independent 1 each in the 60 member legislative assembly.
- In Punjab, Indian National Congress won 77 seats; Aam Aadmi Party 20 seats; Shiromani Akali Dal 15; Bhartiya Janta Party 3 and Lok Insaaf Party 2 in the 117 member assembly.
- Uttar Pradesh has total strength of 403 members in the state assembly. Bhartiya Janta Party won 312 seats in the 2017 assembly election. Samajwadi Party won 47 seats, Indian National Congress won 7 seats, Bahujan Samaj Party won 19 seats and Apna Dal (Sonelal) won 9 seats.
- In Uttarakhand Bhartiya Janta Party won 57 seats; Indian National Congress 11 seats and Independent 2 seats in the 70 member state assembly.
- The Election Commission of India notified the election schedule on 4th January, 2017.
- Elections were conducted in 1 phase in Goa, Uttarakhand and Punjab; Two Phases in Manipur and 7 Phases in Uttar Pradesh.

- Out of 2979 candidates in all the states, there were just 234 women and out of which only 56 were elected.
- In U.P assembly election 41 out of the 61 female candidates in the race were elected.
- In Punjab only 6 women candidate out of 81 who contested the polls could secure victory.
- Out of 62 female candidates, only 5 have been elected in Uttarakhand Assembly polls.
- 11 women candidates contested elections in Manipur assembly election and out of these, only two could secure wins.
- 2 out of 19 candidates were elected to the state legislative assembly in Goa.
- Uttar Pradesh's Sahibabad assembly seat saw the winner with highest victory margin of 1,50,685 votes, while the winning candidate at Manipur's Sagolband seat scraped through with a small margin of 19 votes — lowest in all 689 seats in five states that went to polls.
- Five seats in Uttar Pradesh — Kunda, Mathura, Noida, Rath and Sahibabad — witnessed victory with a margin of over one lakh votes.

Reference:

<http://eci.nic.in/eci/eci.html>

Adityanath Yogi Sworn in as new CM of Uttar Pradesh

Question: On 19th March, 2017 Adityanath Yogi was sworn in as new Chief Minister of UP along with two deputy Chief Ministers. One of the deputy Chief Ministers is Keshav Prasad Maurya and the other is...

- (a) Swati Singh (b) Satyadev Pachauri (c) Ramapati Shastri
(d) Dr. Dinesh Sharma

Ans: (d)



- On 19th March, 2017, five-time BJP MP from Gorakhpur, Adityanath Yogi took oath as the 21st chief Minister of Uttar Pradesh along with two deputy chief ministers and 44 ministers. Keshav Prasad Maurya and Dr. Dinesh Sharma were sworn in as deputy Chief Ministers of the state.
- 22 Cabinet Ministers, 13 Minister of State and 9 Minister of State with Independent Charge (total 44) were sworn in by the state Governor Sri Ram Naik.
- Council of Ministers includes five women, one of Cabinet rank, two ministers of state (independent charge) and two ministers of state.
- Prominent figures like Rita Bahuguna Joshi, former Test cricketer Chetan Chauhan, Swami Prasad Maurya, Shrikant Sharma and Siddharth Nath Singh have been given Cabinet rank.
- Those named as ministers of state with independent charge include Swati Singh, state chief of BJP's Mahila Morcha.
- Sandeep Singh, 26, is the youngest minister in the Council of Ministers.

- Adityanath's birth name is Ajay Singh Bisht and he was born at Panchur, Pauri Garhwal.
- He has a Bachelor's Degree in Mathematics from the Hemwati Nandan Bahuguna Garhwal University in Srinagar, Uttarakhand.
- Adityanath was made Peethadhishwar of Gorakhnath Temple on 14 September 2014.
- He was elected to the Lok Sabha in 1998 for the first time.

Reference:

<http://www.thehindu.com/elections/uttar-pradesh-2017/yogi-adityanath-is-new-cm-of-up/article17529487.ece>

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

http://information.up.nic.in/Module_View.aspx?id_view=269

Trivendra Singh Rawat became new Chief Minister of Uttarakhand

Question: On 18th March, 2017, Trivendra Singh Rawat became new Chief Minister of Uttarakhand.

What is the total strength of the state assembly?

- (a) 70 seats (b) 45 seats (c) 35 seats (d) 90 seats

Ans:(a)

- On 18th March, 2017, Trivendra Singh Rawat took oath as the new Chief Minister of Uttarakhand.
- Rawat is the eighth Chief Minister of the state.
- He was elected from Doiwala constituency of Dehradun district.
- Rawat was an organisational secretary of the state BJP when the state was formed on November 9, 2000. He was the Agriculture Minister in the previous BJP government.
- He is currently the convener of the Modi government's flagship programme for Ganga cleanup, the 'Namami Gange' programme.
- In the 70 seats state assembly Bhartiya Janta Party won 56 seats and was invited to form Government.



Reference:

<http://indiatoday.intoday.in/story/trivendra-singh-rawat-uttarakhand-chief-minister/1/907029.html>

<http://www.cm.uk.gov.in/>

New Chief Minister of Goa

Question: On 14th March, 2017, Manohar Parrikar became the new chief minister of Goa. He was sworn in as the new Chief Minister by the State Governor, ...

- (a) Kesharinath Tripathi (b) Mridula Sinha (c) Nazma Heptulla
(d) Kalyan Singh

Ans: (b)

- On 14th March, 2017 former Defence Minister Manohar Parrikar was sworn in as Goa's new Chief Minister for the fourth time in Panaji.



- He was sworn in by the state Governor Mridula Sinha.
- Nine ministers also sworn in along with Mr. Parrikar who will replace Lakshmikant Parsekar.
- Before this, Mr. Manohar Parrikar was Chief Minister of the state from 2000-2002, 2002-2005 and 2012-2014.
- Besides, he has also been the Defence Minister of India from November, 2014 to March, 2017.
- The BJP had bagged 13 seats in the polls, while three MLAs each of the Goa Forward Party and Maharashtra Gomantak Party, besides three independents and one Nationalist Congress Party backed Manohar Parrikar. Indian National Congress emerged as the largest party in the state assembly with 17 seats however could not manage the required number of 21 to form government.
- The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP)-led government in Goa, headed by Chief Minister Manohar Parrikar, emerged victorious in the floor test conducted on 16th March, 2017 with 22 votes in favour of the government.
- On Tuesday, the Supreme Court cleared the decks for the oath taking of Parrikar as Chief Minister by refusing Congress' plea to stay the ceremony and ordered holding of the floor test on 16th March, 2017.

Reference:

<http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/elections/assembly-elections/goa/news/manohar-parrikar-returns-as-go-a-chief-minister/articleshow/57632259.cms>

<http://www.thehindu.com/elections/goa-2017/manohar-parrikar-sworn-in-as-go-a-chief-minister/article17461755.ece>

Punjab's New Chief Minister

Question: On 16th March, 2017 senior Congress leader Capt. Amrinder Singh took oath as the 26th Chief Minister of Punjab. Before this he was the Chief Minister of the state during...

(a) 2000-2005 (b) 2002-2007 (c) 1995-2000 (d) 1980-1985

Ans: (b)

- On 16th March, 2017 senior Congress leader Capt. Amrinder Singh took oath as the 26th Chief Minister of Punjab.
- He was sworn in by the state Governor Mr. V.P. Singh Badnaur. Capt. Singh will replace Prakash Singh Badal.
- Nine Ministers including famous cricketer Navjot Singh Sidhu also took oath.
- Capt. Amrinder Singh has become the Chief Minister of the state for the second time. Before this he has been the Chief Minister of Punjab from 2002-2007.
- He represent Patiala assembly constituency of the state.
- It is notable that in the state assembly election results declared on 11th March, 2017 ,Indian National Congress got a clear majority with 77 seats. Aam Aadmi Party won 20 seats, Shiromani Akali Dal 15, Bhartiya Janta Party 3 and Lok Insaaf Party won 2 seats.



Reference:

<http://eciresults.nic.in/PartyWiseResultS19.htm?st=S19>

https://twitter.com/narendramodi/status/842242902830940161?ref_src=twsrc%5Etfw

New Chief Minister of Manipur

Question: Who has taken oath as the new Chief Minister of Manipur?

- (a) Ibobi Singh (b) N. Biren Singh (c) Y. Jay Kumar Singh
(d) H. Balkrishna Singh

Ans: (b)

- On 15th March, 2017 Nongthombam Biren Singh along with 8 ministers took oath as the Chief Minister of Manipur.
- He was sworn in by the state Governor Najma Heptulla. N. Biren Singh will replace Okram Ibobi Singh as the new Chief Minister.
- Y. Joy Kumar Singh took oath as the deputy Chief Minister of the state.
- In the election result Indian National Congress won 28 seats, Bhartiya Janta Party won 21 seats, Naga People's Front 4, National People's Party 4 and Lok Janshakti Party & others won 1 seat each in the 60 member state assembly.
- N. Biren Singh has been a Journalist and a National level Footballer.
- He started his political career with Democratic People's Party in 2002. In 2004 his party was merged with Congress and he became minister in the Congress led government.
- He joined BJP in October, 2016 and won the Hengong assembly constituency seat in the 2017 assembly election.



Reference:

<http://www.livemint.com/Politics/g88KvqgErUY6DkvQBzIZqO/Live-N-Biren-Singh-to-be-sworn-in-as-Manipur-CM-today-Amit.html>

http://zeenews.india.com/north-east/live-n-biren-singh-to-take-oath-as-first-bjp-manipur-cm-latest-details-inside_1986772.html

<http://www.jansatta.com/national/manipur-chunav-2017-n-biren-singh-profile-ex-congressman-will-first-bjp-cm-in-manipur-inspite-of-not-being-single-largest-party-of-the-state/275412/>

Ganga, Yamuna declared as living entities

Question: Which High Court recently ordered the Ganges and Yamuna rivers to give status of living human?

- (a) Allahabad High Court (b) Delhi High Court
(c) Uttarakhand High Court (d) Patna High Court

Ans: (c)

Related facts:

- On March 20, 2017; in a historic decision the Uttarakhand High Court declared Rivers Ganga and Yamuna to be given the status of living human.
- A Bench of High Court Judge Justice Rajiv Sharma and Justice Alok Singh issued a directive on a PIL filed by Mohd Salim.
- The court also gave an example of New Zealand's Wanganui River in this regard, which has recently been given this kind of status.
- After this decision, rivers of Ganga and Yamuna got status of legal person.
- This can be filed against these rivers and on their behalf in civil courts and other courts.
- Apart from this, the High Court has directed to constitute Ganga Management Board in eight weeks.



- The court has authorized the Chief Secretary, Advocate General and the Director General Namami Ganga Mission to bring the court independently in any litigation.

Related Links:-

<http://www.livelaw.in/first-india-uttarakhand-hc-declares-ganga-yamuna-rivers-living-legal-entities/>

<http://indianexpress.com/article/india/uttarakhand-hc-declares-ganga-yamuna-living-entities-4579743/>

<http://www.jansatta.com/national/uttarakhand-hc-recognised-river-ganga-first-living-entity-india/280253/>

The Mental Healthcare Bill 2016

Question: One of the key aspects of the Mental Healthcare Bill 2016 is ...

- (a) Criminalizing suicide attempt (b) Decriminalizing suicide attempt
(c) Monetary penalty for suicide attempt (d) None of the above.



Ans: (b)

- The Mental Healthcare Bill 2016, that provides for mental healthcare and services for persons with mental illness, and also decriminalises suicide attempt, secured parliamentary approval on 27th March, 2017 with the Lok Sabha's assent to the legislation.
- The bill, passed by the Rajya Sabha in August 2016, ensures every person shall have a right to access mental health care and treatment from mental health services run or funded by the appropriate government.
- It also assures free treatment for such persons if they are homeless or poor, even if they do not possess a Below Poverty Line card.
- One of the clauses in the bill decriminalises suicide, stating that a person who attempts suicide should be presumed to have severe stress, and shall not be punished.
- As per the bill, it will be government's duty to provide care, treatment and rehabilitation to a person, having severe stress and who attempted to commit suicide, to reduce the risk of recurrence of any attempt.
- The bill also provides that a person with mental illness will have the right to make an advance directive that states how he/ she wants to be treated for the illness and nominate a representative.
- The Mental Healthcare Bill, 2016, aims to provide for mental healthcare and services for persons with mental illness and ensure these persons have the right to live a life with dignity by not being discriminated against or harassed.
- The Bill defines "mental illness" as a substantial disorder of thinking, mood, perception, orientation or memory that grossly impairs judgment, behavior, capacity to recognise

reality or ability to meet the ordinary demands of life and mental conditions associated with the abuse of alcohol and drugs.

- The Bill empowers the government to set-up Central Mental Health Authority at national-level and State Mental Health Authority in every State. Every mental health institute and mental health practitioners including clinical psychologists, mental health nurses and psychiatric social workers will have to be registered with this Authority.
- These bodies will (a) register, supervise and maintain a register of all mental health establishments, (b) develop quality and service provision norms for such establishments, (c) maintain a register of mental health professionals, (d) train law enforcement officials and mental health professionals on the provisions of the Act, (e) receive complaints about deficiencies in provision of services, and (f) advise the government on matters relating to mental health.
- A Mental Health Review Board will be constituted to protect the rights of persons with mental illness and manage advance directives.

Reference:

<http://indiatoday.intoday.in/story/parliament-mental-health-care-bill-approved-today/1/914339.html>

<http://www.thehindu.com/news/national/all-you-need-to-know-about-the-mental-healthcare-bill/article17662163.ece>

Approval of establishment of new central schools under civil / defense sector

Question: Recently, the Union Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs has approved the proposal to set up how many central schools in the country under civil / defense sector in the country?

(a) 50 (b) 55 (c) 60 (d) 65

Ans: (a)

Related facts:-

- March 15, 2017; under the chairmanship of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, the Union Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs approved the proposal to set up 50 new central schools under civil / defense sector in the country.
- The cost of construction of 50 new central schools will be Rs. 1160 crores.
- In these newly opened Kendriya Vidyalayas, education from one to class five will be done.
- Each year a new class will be attached to these schools and thus it will start getting education till the 12th standard.
- There will be two classes for each class and for them 40,000 jobs will be created in different categories.



- Nearly 50,000 students will get quality education if they are fully operated by the new central schools.
- At present about 12 lakh children are studying in central schools.
- New schools will meet the educational needs of eligible students with high quality standards and will play the role of accelerated educational institutions in the respective districts.
- The main objective of KVS is to work for educational needs of the children of the transferable Central Government employees, including personnel of Defense and Para Military Forces by providing a common program of education.
- Presently, under KVS 1142 Central Schools are operating in foreign countries including three schools in Tehran, Moscow and Kathmandu.
- Central schools are considered as model schools in the country in terms of infrastructure, education resources, curriculum and academic performance.

Related Links:-

https://twitter.com/PrakashJavdekar/status/842041856603045891?ref_src=twsrc%5Etfw&ref_url=http%3A%2F%2Fabpnews.abplive.in%2FIndia-news%2Fcabinet-approves-50-kendriya-vidyalayas-across-the-country-578080
<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/hindirelease.aspx?relid=%2060001>
<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=159284>
<http://www.thehindubusinessline.com/news/education/cabinet-approves-setting-up-of-50-kendriya-vidyalayas/article9585726.ece>

Cabinet approves four GST Bills

Question: Who is the chairman of the GST Council?

- (a) Union Finance Minister (b) Prime Minister (c) Home Minister
 (d) None of the above.



Ans: (a)

- On 20th March, 2017, the Union Cabinet chaired by the Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi approved four GST related bills. These are :
- The Central Goods and Services Tax Bill 2017 (The CGST Bill)
- The Integrated Goods and Services Tax Bill 2017 (The IGST Bill)
- The Union Territory Goods and Services Tax Bill 2017 (The UTGST Bill)
- The Goods and Services Tax (Compensation to the States) Bill 2017 (The Compensation Bill)
- The above four Bills have been earlier approved by the GST Council after thorough, clause by clause, discussion over 12 meetings of the Council held in the last six months.
- The CGST Bill makes provisions for levy and collection of tax on intra-state supply of goods or services for both by the Central Government. On the other hand, IGST Bill makes provisions for levy and collection of tax on inter-state supply of goods or services or both by the Central Government.
- The UTGST Bill makes provisions for levy on collection of tax on intra-UT supply of goods and services in the Union Territories without legislature. Union Territory GST is akin to States Goods and Services Tax (SGST) which shall be levied and collected by the States/Union Territories on intra-state supply of goods or services or both.

- The Compensation Bill provides for compensation to the states for loss of revenue arising on account of implementation of the goods and services tax for a period of five years as per section 18 of the Constitution (One Hundred and First Amendment) Act, 2016.

Reference:

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=159523>

First Made-In-India Train, Medha, Flagged off

Question: Country's first 'Made in India' EMU Train, Medha, flagged off at Dadar station on March 18, 2017. In which of the following Rail Coach Factory it has been manufactured?

- (a) Rail Coach Factory, Kapurthala
- (b) Diesel Locomotive Works, Varanasi
- (c) Rail Wheel Factory Bangalore
- (d) Integral Coach Factory, Chennai



Answer: (d)

Related facts:

- On March 18, 2017, Railway Minister Suresh Prabhu flagged off Medha rake at Lokmanya Tilak Terminus.
- This is country's first made in India train. It will facilitate suburban travel on Western Railways.
- Medha has been manufactured by the Integral Coach Factory (ICF), Chennai.
- A 12 coach Medha rake costs approximately 43.23 crore.
- Train has a capacity of 6,050 passengers with 1,168 seats and can run with a maximum speed of 110 km./hour.
- Train has a facility that helps motormen communication with a guard in case of emergencies and a in-built system to minimise breakdowns during the travel.
- It also has a GPS-based information system to indicate the stations and LED lighting to reduce energy consumption.
- It has two halt at Bandra and Andheri stations.

Reference:

<http://www.railnews.in/ir-takes-a-leap-make-in-india-suburban-rail-emus-flagged-off-at-dadar-station/>

<http://www.thehindu.com/news/cities/mumbai/first-fully-india-made-train-flagged-off-at-dadar-station/article17530031.ece>

Government released the Draft Labour Code for Social Security & Welfare

Question:-Who is the current Union Labour Minister?

- (a) Manoj Sinha (b) Bandaru Dattatreya
- (c) Nirmala Sitaraman (d) Ravi Shankar Singh

Ans:(d)

Related Facts:-

- On 16 March 2017; Union Government released the Draft Labour Code Social Security & Welfare.



- It will cover every working person whether he/she belongs to the organised sector or the unorganized sector in the country.
- Thus, for the first time, agricultural workers along with self-employed people will be covered under the social security cover.
- Even factories employing single worker will have to contribute towards social security benefits.
- It will cover any factory, mine, shop, plantation, charitable organisations and all establishments or households employing casual, fixed-term, part-time, informal, apprentice, domestic and home-based workers.
- If such establishments or factories fail to contribute towards the social security schemes of the workers, they will be liable to pay compensation.
- It even covers households employing domestic help and they will also have to contribute towards schemes, including gratuity for the worker and provident fund.
- It proposes, National Social Security Council (NSSC), chaired by the Prime Minister to streamline and make policy on social security schemes related to all the Ministries.
- NSSC's other members will include Union Finance Minister, Labour Minister, Health and Family Welfare Minister along with employer and employees' representatives.
- It will co-ordinate between central and State governments, monitor the implementation of social security schemes, regulate funds collected under various social security schemes, among others.

Related Links:-

http://www.labour.nic.in/sites/default/files/draft%20Labour%20Code%20on%20Social%20Security%20%26%20Welfare_0.pdf

<http://www.thehindu.com/news/national/labour-code-to-provide-social-security-cover-to-all-workers/article17523675.ece>

National Health Policy, 2017

Question: The National Health Policy, 2017 approved by Cabinet on 15th March, 2017, proposes to increase public health expenditure to what percent of the GDP?

(a) 1.00 (b) 1.50 (c) 2.00 (d) 2.5

Ans: (d)

- On 15th March, 2017, The Union Cabinet chaired by the Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi approved the National Health Policy, 2017 (NHP, 2017).
- The Policy aims at achieving universal health coverage and delivering quality health care services to all at affordable cost.
- The main objective of the National Health Policy 2017 is to achieve the highest possible level of good health and well-being, through a preventive and promotive health care orientation.
- The new Policy also aims to achieve universal access to good quality health care services without anyone having to face financial hardship as a consequence.
- In order to provide access and financial protection at secondary and tertiary care levels, the policy proposes free drugs, free diagnostics and free emergency care services in all public hospitals.



- The roadmap of this new policy is predicated on public spending and provisioning of a public healthcare system that is comprehensive, integrated and accessible to all.
- The NHP, 2017 advocates a positive and proactive engagement with the private sector and envisages private sector collaboration for strategic purchasing, capacity building, skill development programmes, awareness generation etc.
- The policy proposes raising public health expenditure to 2.5% of the GDP in a time bound manner from current 1.04 percent.
- The policy aspires to provide at the district level most of the secondary care which is currently provided at a medical college hospital.
- The Policy has also assigned specific quantitative targets aimed at reduction of disease prevalence/incidence under 3 broad components viz. (a) health status and programme impact, (b) health system performance and (c) health systems strengthening, aligned to the policy objectives. Some key targets that the policy seeks to achieve are –

1. Life Expectancy and healthy life

- a. Increase Life Expectancy at birth from 67.5 to 70 by 2025.
- b. Establish regular tracking of Disability Adjusted Life Years (DALY) Index as a measure of burden of disease and its trends by major categories by 2022.
- c. Reduction of TFR to 2.1 at national and sub-national level by 2025.

2. Mortality by Age and/ or cause

- a. Reduce Under Five Mortality to 23 by 2025 and MMR from current levels to 100 by 2020.
- b. Reduce infant mortality rate to 28 by 2019.
- c. Reduce neo-natal mortality to 16 and still birth rate to “single digit” by 2025.

3. Reduction of disease prevalence/ incidence

- a. Achieve global target of 2020 which is also termed as target of 90:90:90, for HIV/AIDS
 - i. e, - 90% of all people living with HIV know their HIV status, – 90% of all people diagnosed with HIV infection receive sustained antiretroviral therapy and 90% of all people receiving antiretroviral therapy will have viral suppression.
- b. Achieve and maintain elimination status of Leprosy by 2018, Kala-Azar by 2017 and Lymphatic Filariasis in endemic pockets by 2017.
- c. To achieve and maintain a cure rate of >85% in new sputum positive patients for TB and reduce incidence of new cases, to reach elimination status by 2025.
- d. To reduce the prevalence of blindness to 0.25/ 1000 by 2025 and disease burden by one third from current levels.
- e. To reduce premature mortality from cardiovascular diseases, cancer, diabetes or chronic respiratory diseases by 25% by 2025.

Reference:

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=159327>

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=159376>

15 IITs declared as Institutes of National Importance

Question: How many Indian Institutes of Information Technology have been approved to be declared ‘Institutions of National Importance’ as per recent Cabinet decision?

(a) 10 (b) 12 (c) 14 (d) 15

Ans: (d)

- On 15th March, 2017, the Union Cabinet chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi approved introduction of the Indian Institutes of Information Technology Public Private Partnership (IIIT PPP) Bill, 2017.
- The cabinet also approved to grant statutory status to the fifteen Indian Institutes of Information Technology in Public Private Partnership and declare them as Institutions of National Importance.
- This will enable these institutions to grant degrees to their students in the academic courses conducted by them.
- This will entitle these institutes to use the nomenclature of Bachelor of Technology (B.Tech) or Master of Technology (M.Tech) or Ph.D degree as issued by a University or Institution of National Importance.
- There is no financial implication with regard to the proposed IIIT PPP Bill, 2017.
- The grant of a formal degree in Information Technology, Engineering or Ph.D will enhance the prospects of the graduating students in the job market and will also enable the Institutes to attract enough students required to develop a strong research base in the country in the field of information technology.

Reference:

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=159285>

Indo-Pak meeting on Indus Waters Treaty

Question: The Indus Waters Treaty is a water distribution treaty between India and Pakistan. Under this treaty how many times in a year the negotiation between these two is mandatory?

(a) One (b) Two (c) Three (d) Four

Answer- (a)

Related facts

- On March 20-21, 2017, meeting between India and Pakistan on various aspects of the Indus Waters Treaty (IWT) will be held at Lahore.
- It is mandatory to negotiate at least once a year under the Indus Water Treaty, 1960.
- For the annual meeting India's Indus water commissioner and ministry of external affairs officials will be part of the Indian delegation.
- It is mentionable that India had decided to suspend talks with Pakistan declaring in regards to Uri attack that "Blood and water cannot flow together".
- Now about 6 months after the meeting of the PIC-Permanent Indus Commission, is going to be held.
- The last meeting of the PIC was held in May 2015 here.



Reference:

<http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/india/How-India-plans-to-use-Indus-Water-Treaty-to-turn-the-heat-on-Pakistan/articleshow/54544929.cms>

http://www.ptinews.com/news/8473195_Parleys-between-India-Pak-on-Indus-pact-to-be-held-in-Lahore-

Change in No-Detention Policy

Question: Change in No- Detention Policy is based on the recommendations of the...

- (a) Prof. Vasudev Devnani (b) Subramanian Committee
- (c) Evaluation Report on Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan, 2010
- (d) None of the above.



Ans: (a)

- In written response to a question in the Rajya Sabha, Minister of State for Human Resource Development, Upendra Kushwaha informed the House about change in No-Detention Policy on 9th March, 2017 .
- The changes are based on the recommendation of Sub-Committee under the Chairpersonship of Prof. Vasudev Devnani.
- The recommendations of the Committee are as follows:
- There should be an examination at Class 5. It should be left to the States and UTs to decide whether this exam will be at the school, block, District or State Level.
- If a child fails then allow the child an opportunity to improve. There should be additional instruction provided to children and the child should be given an opportunity to sit for another exam. If the child is unable to pass the exam in the second chance, then detain the child.
- At Classes 6 and 7, there should be a school based exam for students.
- At Class 8, there should be an external exam. In case the child fails, the child should be given additional instruction and then appear for an improvement exam. If fails again then detain. The matter regarding amendment to Section 16 of the RTE Act, 2009 is under the active consideration of this Ministry.

Background:

- Section 16 of the Right of Children to free and Compulsory Education (RTE) Act, 2009 stipulates that 'No child admitted in a school shall be held back in any class or expelled from school till the completion of elementary education'. Thus, the policy covers elementary stage of schooling covering classes 1 to 8.
- In pursuance of a resolution adopted in the 59th meeting of the Central Advisory Board of Education held on 6th June, 2012, a Sub-Committee was constituted for assessment of implementation of Continuous and Comprehensive Evaluation (CCE) in the context of No-Detention provision in the RTE Act, 2009.
- The Sub-Committee submitted its report in August, 2014. The report of the Sub-Committee was placed before CABE in its meeting held on 19.8.2015, wherein it was decided to request all States/UTs to share their views on the No-Detention policy. 28

States have shared their views on the No Detention policy out of which 23 States have suggested modification to the No Detention policy.

- Another Sub-Committee under the Chairpersonship of Prof. Vasudev Devnani, Minister of Education, Government of Rajasthan was constituted on 26.10.2015 inter-alia, to review the feedback received from States/UTs on the 'No-Detention' policy.

Reference:

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=159006>

Cabinet approval for accession to the Customs Convention on International Transport of Goods

Question: The Union Cabinet chaired recently approved India's accession to the Customs Convention on International Transport of Goods under cover of TIR Carnets (TIR Convention) and its ratification. How many countries are member of this convention presently?

(a) 50 (b) 70 (c) 55 (d) 60

Ans: (b)

Related Fact :

- On 6th March, 2017, the Union Cabinet chaired by the Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi gave its approval for India's accession to the Customs Convention on International Transport of Goods under cover of TIR Carnets (TIR Convention) and for completion of necessary procedures for ratification, for its entry into force.
- The convention will help Indian traders to have access to fast, easy, reliable and hassle-free international system for movement of goods by road or multi-modal means across the territories of other contracting parties.
- The convention will do away the need for inspection of goods at intermediate borders as well as physical escorts en route due to reciprocal recognition of customs controls.
- With this customs clearance can take place at internal customs locations, which will avoid clearances at border crossing points and ports that may often be congested.
- Compliance with the convention shall ensure enhanced security in the supply chain as only approved transporters and vehicles are allowed to operate in terms of the convention.
- The Customs Convention on International Transport of Goods under cover of TIR Carnets, 1975, is an international transit system under the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe to facilitate the movement of goods within and amongst the parties to the convention.
- At present there are 70 members to the convention.



Reference:

<http://indiatoday.intoday.in/story/cabinet-approves-accession-to-global-customs-convention/1/898267.html>

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=158890>

National Family Health Survey – 4 (2015 -16)

Question: As per the National Family Health Survey 2015-16, under- five child mortality rate in 2015-16 was ...

(a) 50 (b) 51 (c) 40 (d) 23

Ans: (a)

Related Fact :

- On 1st March, 2017, The National Family Health Survey 2015-16 (NFHS-4), the fourth in the NFHS series, was released by Ministry of Health and Family Welfare.
- It provides information on population, health and nutrition for India and each State / Union territory. NFHS-4, for the first time, provides district-level estimates for many important indicators.
- International Institute for Population Sciences, Mumbai was the nodal agency to conduct NFHS-4 like the previous rounds of the survey.
- The main objective of each successive round of the NFHS has been to provide essential data on health and family welfare and emerging issues in this area.
- NFHS-4 data will be useful in setting benchmarks and examining the progress in health sector the country has made over time. Besides providing evidence for the effectiveness of the ongoing programmes, the data from NFHS-4 help in identifying need for new programmes with area specific focus.
- As per the National Family Health Survey 2015-16:
- Sex ratio of the total population (females per 1,000 males) is 991 compared to 1,000 in NFHS-3 in 2005-06
- Number of Households with electricity has increased to 88.2 percent in 2015-16 compared to 67.9 percent in 2005-06.
- Women literacy was reported at 68.4 percent in 2015-16 in contrast to 55.1 percent in 2005-06.
- Infant mortality rate has declined to 41 from 57 during this period.
- Under- five child mortality rate is still high at 50 compared to 74 in 2005-06.

Reference:

<http://rchiips.org/NFHS/pdf/NFHS4/India.pdf>



Indian Railway's Freight and Passenger Business Action Plan -2017-18

Question: ROLL-ON ROLL-OFF (RO-RO) is a new initiative taken by ...

(a) Ministry of Shipping (b) Ministry of Railways
(c) Ministry of Road Transport (d) Ministry of Civil Aviation

Ans: (b)

- On 2nd March 2017, Minister of Railways Shri Suresh Prabhakar Prabhu inaugurated key freight sector initiatives at National Rail Museum, New Delhi.
- Centre for Transportation Research and Management organized Eighteenth National Rail Transport Seminar with the theme: 'Transforming IR's Freight Services: Initiatives launched and the Road Ahead' and the inauguration of 'Key Freight Sector Initiatives'.



- These initiatives inaugurated are as follows:
- Policy of 'Long Term Contracts' with major customers.
- Indian Railways Freight and Passenger Business Action Plan -2017-18.
- Confirmation trial of Double stacks Dwarf Container Train under wire- a New Delivery Model.
- The demonstration runs of Ro-Ro (Roll on – Roll off) service across the National Capital Region- A Pilot project of Indian railways for 'Green Transportation' – to reduce road congestion and improve environment.
- **ROLL-ON ROLL-OFF (RO-RO)**
 'Roll-on-Roll-off' is new delivery model which can provide multimodal transport mix. RORO envisions decongesting city by loading commercial vehicles onto railway flat wagons at railway terminals/PFTs outside the city and unload them after carrying them across the city. This service was started on KONKAN Railway and then proliferated to ECR and NFR successfully last year.
 The pilot project across National Capital Region is the next such service being introduced on Indian Railways. The pilot project on NCR from Garhi Harsaru to Murad Nagar was flagged off from Patel Nagar on 2nd March, 2017.
- **Benefits:**
- Everyday around 66,000 trucks enter Delhi. Out of these around 38% i.e. 25000 in number are heavy trucks, of this 15000 in number are not destined for the Capital.
- According to a study, conducted by Centre for Science and Environment, commercial vehicles entering Delhi spew close to 30% of the total particulate load and 22% of Nitrogen oxide load from the transport sector.
- This model would provide movement of trucks in day time also which was restricted earlier from 7 o'clock in the morning to 11 o'clock in the night.
- Comprehensively it will help in saving transit time, environment compensation charge, toll tax, and fuel & turn round time for truck operators and benefit the community by reducing noise pollution, congestion, road accidents and carbon footprints.
- **Long Term Tariff Contracts/Agreements**
 In compliance of announcement made by Minister of Railways in the Railway Budget 2016-17, it has been decided to launch the policy of Long Term Tariff Agreements/ Contracts. This facility will be extended to Railway's key freight customers using pre-determined price escalation principle.
- **Objectives**
- Long term Gross Freight Revenue (corresponding to Minimum Guaranteed Quantity) commitments from customers at pre-determined price escalation principle.
- **The main features of the policy are :**
- Minimum Guaranteed Volume linked discounts on the basis of incremental growth in Gross Freight Revenue in return for commitment to provide Minimum Guaranteed Quantity of traffic.
- Discounts range from 1.5% to 35% as per the incremental growth in gross freight revenue (GFR).
- Customers are required to offer at least one million tonne traffic per annum.
- Minimum period of agreement shall not be less than three years and at stretch not more than 5 years.
- New customer will have to offer more than 3 million tonne traffic during the agreement period and one million traffic in the first year itself.

- In case of customers already offering more than 5 million tonnes of traffic discount would be granted on the basis of absolute GFR corresponding to the total volume of traffic offered by the company during the previous 12 months subject to the same GFR being maintained over the period of the agreement.
- Excluded commodities: All commodities below Class-100, Coal & Coke, Military traffic and RMC.
- Under the pre-determined price escalation principle, any increase or decrease in freight rates will be implemented from the beginning of the next year of the agreement only.
- Discount in freight under this scheme will be given as refund within 45 days.
- Agreement will be signed at Zonal Railway level.
- In case of multi zone operations of a customer, the agreement will be signed with that Zonal Railway which deals with maximum traffic of that customer.
- Customer can opt for single zone or multi zone agreements or both.
- **Benefits:**
- This will benefit Key customers such as cement, fertilizers, steel industries etc. by providing stability and certainty of long term tariff/freight rates to the customers.
- **Trial Run of Double Stack Dwarf Containers:**
In the Railway Budget for 2016-17, Minister of Railways had announced that an Action Plan will be developed and implemented to expand the freight basket and recapture the traffic through either Containerization or New Delivery Models. Double Stack Dwarf Container Train is one such Innovative Delivery Model.
- **Main Feature**
Double Stack Dwarf Containers are designed with 6 feet 4 inches height to run under wire for maximum throughput with increased loadability.
The overhead electric equipment in electrified territories on the Indian Railways acts as infringements to proliferation of ISO double stack containers (with conventional height of 8.5 ft and 9.5 ft.) on electrified section. All important routes are electrified.
A single stack ISO 40 feet container has loadability of around 32 tonnes which can be increased to around 54 tonnes in Double Stack Dwarf Containers on electrified sections. Hence, the load-ability per wagon can be increased by more than 55% by using this delivery model.
The concept has been received with excitement by various groups of customers transporting commodities with low- weight- volume ratio.
A preliminary trial run of Double Stack Dwarf Containers was undertaken in Jan 2017. After ensuring removal of Infrastructure constraints, a confirmatory trial run was launched on 2nd March, 2017 by Minister of Railways between Ambala and Jamnagar (with run from Ambala to Ludhiana under wire) after which commercial runs will be started.
- **Benefits:**
- The load-ability per wagon under wire would increase by more than 55% thereby increasing throughput.
- Per unit cost of transportation would come down. Beneficial to commodities with low weight- volume ratio.
- The model envisages procurement of rakes and development of Dwarf Containers by Container Train Operators and other stakeholders.
- Indian Railways is likely to regain lost modal share and capture new traffic in domestic segment like Petchem products such as Low Density/High Density Polyethylene, Plastic granules, white goods, PVC and Polyester fabric etc.

- Likely to attract additional traffic of around 3 Million tonnes in the initial year.
- **Indian Railway's Business Plan 2017-18**
- The Business Plan 2017-18 is a continuation of the ministry's sustained efforts to make the journeys of passengers more pleasurable and to make Indian Railway's Freight Business more responsive to the needs of our customers.
- This Business Plan details 50 actionable initiatives covering the core business segments of Indian Railway's Passenger and Freight Sectors as well as new avenues in Parcel and Non-fare business, that Indian Railways shall be focused on, in 2017-18.
- **Salient Features of Business Plan 2017-18**
- Upgrading the Delivery System by initiatives like revamp of railway goodsheds through partnerships with stakeholders.
- Better freight services and rationalized tariffs to expand the freight basket.
- Operational strategies to enhance throughput like procurement of 3000 25T BOXNS wagons in 2017-18, leverage IT and to improve asset utilization.
- International Freight Services under which a demo train run between Bangladesh and India and a meeting of CEOs of railways of concerned countries to boost intermodal regional connectivity is planned in 2017-18
- **Passenger Segment**
- Transformation of ticketing by migrating towards cashless, paperless ticketing (6000 PoS machines and 1000 Ticket Vending Machines in 2017-18), Aadhaar -based ticketing and an integrated ticketing App by May 2017.
- Providing comfort and a pleasurable journey experience through induction of new Rakes(about 2300 coaches in 2017-18)
- Fulfilling travel needs by scaling up the new train products like Humsafar (7 new services by 2017), Antyodaya (7 new services by June 2017), Tejas (3 new services by June 2017) etc. Enhancing Parcel Business through New partnership with the Postal Department to provide End-to-End solution in Parcel Traffic
- Augmenting Non-fare revenues by monetization of Railways' hard and soft assets through proliferation of Rail Display Network (RDN) at 408 A-1 and A class stations in 2017-18. New policy on Out-of-Home advertising to generate Rs 6000 Crores in 10 years, About 2000 new ATMs, Train advertising, Content-on-demand and Rail Radio besides monetized apps for complaints/feedback and Cab Booking.
- The initiatives enlisted in Business Plan 2017-18 carry specific targets and timelines. These will form the roadmap for the transformative journey of Indian Railway towards its vision of becoming an 'engine of growth' for the Indian Economy.

Reference:

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=158793>

First Integrated Heliport dedicated to the Nation

Question: Recently the First Integrated Heliport was dedicated to the Nation by Ministry of Civil Aviation in association with Pawan Hans is located at-

(a) Mathura (b) Varanasi (c) Delhi (d) Hyderabad

Ans:(c)

Related facts:



- On 28 February 2017; the First Integrated Heliport was dedicated to the Nation by Ministry of Civil Aviation in association with Pawan Hans at Rohini Heliport, Delhi.
- Minister for Civil Aviation Shri Ashok Gajapathi Raju inaugurated the Heliport.
- This facility will keep the cost under control as MRO facility has been incorporated.
- It is part of National Aviation Policy to have four heliports, one in each region and Rohini's heliport is the first step.
- The Rohini heliport has been completed in almost two years at a cost of nearly 100 crores.
- This Heliport will provide all helicopter operational facilities and will decongest busy Indira Gandhi International Airport.
- It will also promote Regional Air connectivity through helicopters in the northern part of the country for regular passenger services, heli services, landing & parking of helicopters, Helicopters Maintenance Services (MRO), disaster management, helicopter emergency medical services (HeMS), law & order surveillance.
- The Heliport consists of a terminal building having capacity of 150 passengers, 4 hangers with parking capacities for 16 helicopters and 9 parking bays.

Reference:

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=158731>

India's first floating elementary school

Question: Recently India's first floating elementary school was inaugurated in which of the following state?

(a) Madhya Pradesh (b) Manipur (c) Sikkim (d) Himachal Pradesh

Ans: (b)

Related facts:

- Loktak Lake, the largest freshwater lake in the country, has now become home to first of its kind loktak floating elementary school.
- The school has been inaugurated at Langolsabi Leikai of Champu Khangpok village, about 50 km from Imphal in Manipur.
- The Loktak Lake is referred as the "lifeline of Manipur" as it is highly productive and many lives depend on the lake for endurance.
- This ancient lake plays an important role in the economy of Manipur.
- The floating elementary school aims to provide education to drop outs students, who were rendered homeless due to the recent evacuation of phumdis.
- The school will not only cater to the need of the children but for the illiterate adults as well. The school will be accommodating around 25 students and two teachers from the community. The school has been opened under the initiative undertaken by All Loktak Lake Fisherman's Union with the support of an NGO – People Resources Development Association (PRDA).



Reference:

http://www.business-standard.com/article/news-ani/manipur-s-loktak-lake-is-now-home-to-country-s-first-ever-floating-elementary-school-117021300385_1.html

<http://indianexpress.com/article/education/indias-first-floating-elementary-school-inaugurated-on-manipurs-loktak-lake-4522383/>

National Women's Parliament

Question: The three-day (10-12 January 2017) National Women's Parliament is being organized at-

(a) Amravati (b) Hyderabad (c) Jaipur (d) Lucknow

Ans:(a)

Related facts:

- On 10 February 2017; the three-day National Women's Parliament (NWP) organised by Andhra Pradesh Legislative Assembly.
- It began in the state capital region Amravati.
- The theme of the event was 'Empowering Women — Strengthening Democracy'.
- It is first-of-its-kind conclave in India; the National Women's Parliament will be inaugurated by Prime Minister Narendra Modi .
- The vision of NWP is to enable and encourage social, political and economic empowerment of women in all strata of the society.
- One of the objectives of NWP is to generate new ideas, concepts, theories and ideologies for women empowerment.
- Buddhist spiritual leader Dalai Lama, Union Ministers M Venkaiah Naidu and P Ashok Gajapati Raju, AP Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu, Puducherry Lieutenant Governor Kiran Bedi, Bangladesh Parliament Speaker Shirin Chaudhury, Gandhian Ela Bhatt, actress Manisha Koirala and many other dignitaries attended the inaugural event.
- As many as 91 women parliamentarians, 401 women legislators, 300 social and corporate sector women leaders from India and abroad attended the NWP.
- An 'International Woman Icon of the World' award and 12 best young achievers awards for women in different fields will be presented at the NWP.
- The discussions on subjects like socio-political challenges in women empowerment, women's status and decision-making power, building own identity and vision for the future took place.

Reference:

http://www.hubilo.com/eventApp/ws/custom_files/1485675102000_brochure.pdf



INTERNATIONAL

The World's 50 Greatest Leaders-Fortune List, 2017

Question: Which one of the following Indians has been included in the Fortune list of the 50 greatest leaders of the world for year 2017?

(a) Narendra Modi (b) Kailash Satyarthi (c) Arundhati Bhattacharya
(d) Chanda Kochhar

Answer- (c)

Related facts:

- On March 23, 2017, Fortune magazine released the list of world's 50 Greatest Leaders.
- Theo Epstein President, Baseball Operations, Chicago Cubs has been ranked first in the list
- Jack Ma, the executive president of the Alibaba Group has secured second position.



- Pope Francis, the head of Roman Catholic Church has ranked third, while chairman of Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, Melinda Gates at fourth and Amazon's founder and CEO Jeff Bezos has been ranked fifth.
- For year 2017 edition, only one Indian has been included in the list by 'Fortune' magazine.
- State Bank of India (SBI) chief Arundhati Bhattacharya has been ranked 26th in the Fortune's top 50 greatest leaders.
- She is the only Indian corporate leader in the list.
- Lisa Su, CEO, Advanced Micro Devices has been placed at last (50th) position in the list.

Related links:

<http://fortune.com/2017/03/23/worlds-50-greatest-leaders-intro/>

Global Energy Architecture Performance Index Report 2017

Question: What is India's ranking in the Global Energy Architecture Performance Index Report 2017?

(a) 57th (b) 67th (c) 77th (d) 87th

Ans: (d)

- Fifth annual Global Energy Architecture Performance Index Report 2017 was released on 22nd March, 2017.
- Switzerland has topped the ranking followed by Norway and Sweden.
- India stands at 87th position in the index while China at 95th, Japan at 45th, Russia at 48th and the US at 52nd. India's neighbor Sri Lanka is at 59th place.
- India is beginning to overcome some of its energy system's significant challenges, as reflected by the gradual improvement in its EAPI score since last year. India's rank improved three places from 90th last year.
- India's commitment to increase solar power capacity to 100 gigawatts by 2022, can make it a leader in renewable capacity.
- The Global Energy Architecture Performance index is part of the World Economic Forum's System initiative on Shaping the Future of Energy. It was prepared in collaboration with Accenture.
- The index benchmarks the energy system performance of 127 countries according to 18 indicators covering three core dimensions: energy access and security, sustainability and contribution to economic growth.
- This index and analysis is intended to inform energy policy and investment decisions by revealing strengths, weaknesses, trends and opportunities to improve national energy systems
- According to the report, highest performers are primarily smaller countries.



Reference:

<http://reports.weforum.org/global-energy-architecture-performance-index-2017/press-releases/>

Human Development Report, 2016

Question: The place of India in Human Development Index (HDI) of 2015, for Human Development Report, 2016 released by the United Nations Development Program (UNDP) is –

(A) 125th (B) 131th (C) 132nd (D) 130th

Answer- (b)

Related facts:



- On March 21, 2017, 'Human Development Report-2016' is released by the United Nations Development Program (UNDP) in Stockholm (Sweden).
- 'Human Development for Everyone' is the title of Human Development Report-2016.
- 188 countries have been ranked for year 2016 HDR on the basis of their Human Development Index (HDI) position in 2015.
- These 188 countries have been classified into the following four groups based on their Human Development Index (HDI) value-
- 0.800 or greater; countries with very high human HDI
- 0.700 -0.79; countries with high HDI
- 0.550 -0.69; countries with middle HDI
- Less than 0.550; countries with low HDI
- In the Human Development Index countries from rank 1 to 51 are placed in 'Very High Human Development' category, countries from rank 52 to 105 are placed in 'High Human Development' category countries from rank 107 to 147 are placed in 'Middle Human Development' category and countries from rank 148 to 188 are placed in 'Low Human Development' category.
- Norway with HDI value 0.949, has got first rank in the index.
- After Norway, Australia and Switzerland (HDI value 0.939) are jointly at second position, Germany (HDI value 0.92) at fourth and Denmark and Singapore (HDI value 0.925) are jointly at fifth position.
- Central African Republic with HDI value 0.352 is at the last place (188th).
- After this, Niger (HDI value 0.353) gets 187th, Chad (HDI value 0.396) 186th, Burkina Faso (HDI value 0.402) 185th, Burundi (HDI value 0.404) 184th and Guinea (HDI value 0.414) is ranked 183rd.
- India is ranked 131 with HDI value of 0.624 and is classified as a 'Medium Human Development' Country.
- It is notable that in the last year HDR 2015, India was at 130th place with 0.609 HDI value.
- In neighboring countries of India, Sri Lanka (73rd with 0.766 HDI value), China (73th with 0.738 HDI value), Maldives (105th position with 0.738 HDI value) is better than India.
- Bhutan (132th with 0.607 HDI value), Bangladesh (139th with 0.579 HDI value), Nepal (144th with 0.558 HDI value) and Pakistan (147th position with 0.550 HDI value) is.
- Amongst other major countries in the world USA is at 10th, United Kingdom is at 16th, Japan is at 17th, France is at 21st and Russia is at 49th.
- It is mentionable that from 2010 the new technique is being used by the UNDP for calculating HDI by 2010, under which there are 3 indicators-
- Life expectancy index (LEI).
- Education Index (EI).

- Income Index (II).
- The concept of the Human Development Index was developed by Pakistani economist Mahbub ul-Haq and Indian economist Amartya Sen (Noble awardees’).

Related links:

<http://hdr.undp.org/en/year/2016>

http://hdr.undp.org/sites/default/files/2016_human_development_report.pdf

<http://hdr.undp.org/en/content/human-development-report-2016-%E2%80%99human-development-everyone%E2%80%99-launch-21-march-2017-stockholm>

Restrictions on electronic goods in some of the upcoming US flights

Question: Recently, from how many countries did the US temporarily stop the passengers carrying electronic goods along with some aircraft?

(a) Five (b) Six (c) eight (d) ten

Ans: (c)

Related facts:-

- On March 21, 2017; the US government has temporarily banned passengers, coming from eight countries, carrying laptops, iPads, cameras and most other electronic items, traveling on some of the aircraft.
- The ban was disclosed by the statements of official news agencies of Royal Jordan Airlines and the Saudi Arabia.
- According to an American official, this restriction will apply on 10 international airports in the meantime, without any interruption in flight to the United States.
- These international airports include Cairo in Egypt, Amman in Jordan, Kuwait City in Kuwait, Casablanca in Morocco, Doha in Qatar, Riyadh and Jeddah in Saudi Arabia, Istanbul in Turkey and Abu Dhabi and Dubai in the UAE.
- This restriction is for indefinite period.
- This ban will affect nine airlines.



Related Links:-

<http://www.aljazeera.com/news/2017/03/electronics-flights-middle-east-170320232426035.html>

<http://america.cgtn.com/2017/03/21/us-limits-electronic-devices-on-flights-from-8-muslim-majority-countries>

https://www.washingtonpost.com/local/trafficandcommuting/us-unveils-new-restrictions-on-travelers-from-eight-muslim-majority-countries/2017/03/21/d4efd080-0dcb-11e7-9d5a-a83e627dc120_story.html?utm_term=.4a222234de0d

World Happiness Report-2017

Question: According to the ‘World Happiness Report-2017’ released by the UN Sustainable Development Solutions Network (UNSDSN) under the leadership of United Nations General Assembly, which amongst the following countries is at the first place in the list of the world’s happiest countries?

(A) Denmark (B) Norway (C) Iceland (D) Switzerland

Answer- (b)

Related facts:



- On March 20, 2017, the fifth 'World Happiness Report-2017' has released by the UN Sustainable Development Solutions Network (UNSDSN) under the leadership of United Nations General Assembly.
- The first, second, third and fourth versions of this important annual report issued by the United Nations were released in the year 2012, 2013, 2015 and 2016 respectively.\
- 155 countries are included in this World Happiness Report-2017.
- The World Happiness Report is based on six key variables, each of which digs into a different aspect of life.
- These determining factor points are as follows:
 - GDP per capita
 - Healthy Life Expectancy
 - Social Freedom
 - Absence of corruption
 - (V) Social Support
 - (Vi) Generosity
- According to this report, Norway is the world's happiest country .
- The report includes Norway followed by Denmark , Iceland, Switzerland, Finland, the Netherlands, Canada, New Zealand, Australia and Sweden in the top ten countries of the world.
- Amongst the developed countries of the world United States is at 14th position, United Kingdom is at 19th , Singapore is at 26th, Germany is at 16th and Japan is at 51th position .
- According to the report, India is ranked 122nd in this list, while last year India was at 118th place.
- In neighboring countries of India, China is ranked 79th, Pakistan is 80th, Bhutan Bangladesh is 110th.
- In this way India is far behind from its neighbors in this list.
- It is important to note that no Asian country is included in the list for the top 10 countries.
- Israel is ranked 11th, and United Arab Emirates (United Arab Emirates) is 21st among the most happiest Asian countries.
- According to this report, the Central African Republic is at the bottom of the list.. It is at 155th position.
- It is worth noting that the main objective of this report, issued by the United Nations from the year 2012, is to motivate the member countries to create public policies keeping in mind the level of satisfaction and happiness of their citizens.

Related links:

<http://worldhappiness.report/ed/2017/>

https://s3.amazonaws.com/sdsn-whr2017/HR17-ESv2_updated.pdf

International Yoga Fest

Question: When is International Yoga Day celebrated?

(a) 21st June (b) 27th September (c) 23rd June (d) None of the above.

Ans: (a)

- A three days International Yoga Fest is being held from 8th-10th March 2017 at Talkatora Indoor Stadium, New Delhi.



- The International Yoga Fest is being organized as a Curtain Raiser for International Day of Yoga (IDY) 2017.
- The main purpose of the Fest is to sensitize the masses regarding celebration of International Day of Yoga held every year.
- The three days event is being organised by Ministry of AYUSH, Morarji Desai National Institute of Yoga in association with Indian Yoga Association and New Delhi Municipal Corporation.

Reference:

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=158921>

IIS Bangalore among top 10 institutions in the ‘Best Small Universities’ category

Question: Indian Institute of Science Bangalore recently figured in the list of top 10 institutions in the ‘Best Small Universities’ category. This list was prepared by...

- (a) Forbes (b) Times Higher Education (c) University Grant Commission
(d) None of the above.



Ans:(b)

- Indian Institute of Science Bangalore figured in the list of top 10 institutions in the ‘Best Small Universities’ category of the Times Higher Education (THE) rankings 2017.
- The President of India, Shri Pranab Mukherjee congratulated Indian Institute of Science Bangalore for being amongst the top Institutions of higher learning in the world.
- The Indian Institute of Science was established in 1909 by a visionary partnership between the industrialist Jamsetji Nusserwanji Tata, the Maharaja of Mysore, and the Government of India.
- It is another new institution to make the rankings – and the only one on the list located in India.
- The Institute provides undergraduate students an ambience for in depth studies of physics, mathematics, chemistry, biology and the humanities with a strong emphasis on engineering. In their final year, students are expected to conduct their own research-oriented project under academic supervision.
- Students who want a break from the books can enjoy the diverse plant life and wildlife on campus, abundant with exotic trees and more than 100 species of birds.

Reference:

<https://www.timeshighereducation.com/student/best-universities/worlds-best-small-universities-2017>

ECONOMICS

India becomes Net Exporter of Electricity for the first Time

Question: Which of the following is the designated authority of Government of India for cross border trade of electricity?

- (a) Central Electricity Authority
- (b) National Thermal Power Corporation
- (c) Ministry of New and Renewable Energy
- (d) None of the Above.



Ans: (a)

- As per Central Electricity Authority India has turned around from a net importer of electricity to Net Exporter of electricity for the 1st time.
- During the current year 2016-17 (April to February 2017), India has exported around 5,798 Million Units to Nepal, Bangladesh and Myanmar which is 213 Million units more than the import of around 5,585 Million units from Bhutan.
- Export to Nepal and Bangladesh increased 2.5 and 2.8 times respectively in last three years.
- From the beginning of the cross border trade of electricity in mid-Eighties, India has been importing power from Bhutan and marginally exporting to Nepal. On an average Bhutan has been supplying around 5,000- 5500 Million units to India.
- India had also been exporting around 190 MW power to Nepal over 12 cross border interconnections at 11kV, 33kV and 132 kV level.
- The export of power to Nepal further increased by around 145 MW with commissioning of Muzaffarpur (India)– Dhalkhebar(Nepal) 400kV line (being operated at 132 kV) in 2016.
- Export of power to Bangladesh from India got further boost with commissioning of 1st cross border Interconnection between Baharampur in India and Bheramara in Bangladesh at 400kV in September 2013. It was further augmented by commissioning of 2nd cross border Interconnection between Surjyamaninagar (Tripura) in India and South Comilla in Bangladesh. At present around 600 MW power is being exported to Bangladesh.
- It is notable that the Central Electricity Authority is the Designated Authority of Government of India for Cross Border Trade of Electricity.

Reference:

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=160105>

Forbes 2017 Billionaires List

Question: On March 20, 2017, 31st Annual Forbes List of Billionaires, 2017 was released. Who has received the title of the world's richest person in this year's list?

- (A) Amancio Ortega
- (B) Mark Zuckerberg
- (C) Bill Gates
- (D) Warren Buffett

Answer- (c)

Related facts:

- On March 20, 2017, the 31st Annual Forbes World's Billionaires List, 2017 has been released.



- World's 2043 billionaires (Richest people) are included in this list whose total net worth is \$ 7.67 trillion.
- This year, the maximum 565 billionaires are from the USA followed by China (319 billionaires), Germany (114 billionaires) and India (101 billionaires).
- For the first time, the number of billionaires in India has crossed 100.
- Microsoft's co-founder Bill Gates has received the title of the world's richest man in the list.
- His total asset is of \$ 86 billion.
- In 2016, his total assets were estimated for 75 billion dollars.
- After Gates, Warren Buffett (\$ 75.6 billion), Jeff Bezos (\$ 72.8 billion), Amancio Ortega (71.3) and Mark Zuckerberg (\$ 56 billion) are at second, third, fourth and fifth positions respectively in the list.
- American President Donald Trump is 544th in this list with a net worth of \$ 3.5 billion.
- The richest Indian Mukesh Ambani is at the 33rd position in the list with a net worth of \$ 23.2 billion.
- Steel King Lakshmi Mittal (\$ 16.4 billion) is 56th, Wipro Chairman Azim Premji (\$ 14.9 billion) is 72nd and Sun Pharmaceutical Industries founder Dilip Shanghvi (\$ 13.7 billion) is 84th.
- In this year's list, 227 women have been able to make their place, including five Indian women. Total 190 women have got place in the list for year 2016.
- According to the Forbes list of billionaires, 2017, Liliane Bettencourt (ranked 14th) is the world's richest woman.
- Her net wealth worth of \$ 39.5 billion.
- The number of billionaires who have been included first time in Forbes annual list is 195.
- Alexandra Anderson (Norway) is the youngest billionaire in the list for 2017.
- 20-year-old Alexandra Anderson is ranked 1678th with a property of 1.2 billion dollars.
- America's David Rockefeller, the oldest billionaire (101 years), with a property worth \$ 3.3 billion is at 581th position in the list.

Related links:

- <https://www.forbes.com/sites/kerryadolan/2017/03/20/forbes-2017-billionaires-list-meet-the-richest-people-on-the-planet/#e68122562ff0>
- <https://www.forbes.com/billionaires/list/#version:static>

Re-organisation of the Central Board of Excise & Customs (CBEC)

Question: Central Board of Excise & Customs (CBEC) is being renamed as...

- Central Board of Indirect Taxes & Customs (CBIC)
- GST Implementation wing
- Indirect Taxes and Customs Board of India
- None of the above.

Ans: (a)

- On 25th March, 201, Union Finance Minister, Shri Arun Jaitley approved re-organisation of the field formations of the Central Board of Excise & Customs (CBEC).



- Changes are being incorporated with a view to the implementation of Goods & Services Tax (GST).
- The existing formations of Central Excise & Service Tax under the CBEC have been re-organised to implement and enforce the provisions of the proposed Goods & Services Tax Laws.
- The Central Board of Excise & Customs (CBEC) is being renamed as the Central Board of Indirect Taxes & Customs (CBIC), after getting legislative approval.
- The proposed CBIC shall, inter alia, supervise the work of all its field formations and Directorates and assist the Government in policy making.
- The CBIC will have 21 Zones, 101 GST Tax payer Services Commissionerates comprising 15 sub-Commissionerates, 768 Divisions, 3969 Ranges, 49 Audit Commissionerates and 50 Appeals Commissionerates.
- This will ensure rendering of taxpayer services to all the taxpayers through an indirect tax administration structure, having pan-India presence
- The existing training establishment, to be renamed as National Academy of Customs, Indirect Taxes and Narcotics will have an all India presence, to enable capacity building.
- The renamed Directorate General of Goods & Service Tax Intelligence is also being strengthened and expanded to contribute in fight against Tax Evasion and Black Money.

Reference:

<http://indiatoday.intoday.in/story/cbec-to-be-renamed-cbic-under-gst-regime/1/912591.html>
<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=159936>

Bharatiya Mahila Bank to be merged with SBI

Question: Bharatiya Mahila Bank is a ...

- (a) Private sector bank (b) Public sector bank (c) based on PPP
 (d) None of the above.

Ans: (b)

- According to a press release by the Finance Ministry dated 20th March, 2017, the Government of India has decided to merge the Bharatiya Mahila Bank with the State Bank of India to ensure greater banking services outreach to women.
- This will help in achieving the objectives of affordable credit to women as at fast pace.
- The decision to merge Bharatiya Mahila Bank with SBI has been taken in view of the advantage of the large network of SBI among other things.
- In the three years since Bharatiya Mahila Bank was established, it has extended loans of Rs 192 crores to women borrowers, while the SBI group has provided loans of about Rs.46,000 crore to women borrowers.
- SBI has a large outreach of more than 20,000 branches and lowest cost of funds in the sector. Out of the total workforce of around 2 lakh employees in SBI, 22% are women. SBI group already has 126 exclusive all-women branches across the country while Bharatiya Mahila Bank has only seven.
- The proportion of administrative and managerial cost in Bharatiya Mahila Bank is much higher to reach the same coverage. For the same cost, a much higher volume of loans to women could be given through SBI.



- It is to be noted that Bharatiya Mahila Bank Ltd is the first of its kind in the Banking Industry in India formed with a vision of economic empowerment for women. This public sector bank was incorporated under the Companies Act 1956 on 5 August 2013. It is headquartered in New Delhi.

Reference:

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=159575>

Cabinet approved additional DA/ DR

Question: What percentage of additional Dearness Allowance (DA) and Dearness Relief (DR) has been approved by the Union Cabinet recently?

(a) 5 percent (b) 4 percent (c) 3 percent (d) 2 percent

Ans: (d)

- On 15th March, 2017, the Union Cabinet, chaired by the Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi approved release of an additional instalment of Dearness Allowance (DA) to Central Government employees and Dearness Relief (DR) to pensioners w.e.f. 01.01.2017.
- It has been increased by 2% over the existing rate of 2% of the Basic Pay/Pension, to compensate for price rise.
- This increase is in accordance with the accepted formula, which is based on the recommendations of the 7th Central Pay Commission.
- The combined impact on the exchequer on account of both Dearness Allowance and Dearness Relief would be Rs. 5,857.28 crore per annum and Rs.6,833.50 crore in the Financial Year 2017-18 (for a period of 14 months from January, 2017 to February, 2018).
- This will benefit about 48.85 lakh Central Government employees and 55.51 lakh pensioners.



Reference:

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=159279>

Gold Loan in Cash capped at Rs. 20,000 for NBFCs

Question: The Reserve Bank of India notified change in cash for gold policy and capped it at 20000 rupees. What was the previous limit of cash for gold?

(a) 1,00,000 (b) 50,000 (c) 750,000 (d) 1,50,000

Ans: (a)

- On 9th March, 2017, The Reserve Bank of India notified change in cash for gold policy.
- According to the new policy, Non-banking finance companies (NBFCs) will not be able to give more than Rs. 20,000 in cash against gold loans.
- Earlier, gold loans above Rs. 1 lakh were made mandatory to be disbursed through cheques.
- The notification is based on the requirements under the Income Tax Act, 1961, as amended from time to time, would be applicable to all NBFCs with immediate effect.
- Currently, the relevant threshold under the Income Tax Act, 1961 is Rupees Twenty thousand.



Reference:

<https://rbidocs.rbi.org.in/rdocs/notification/PDFs/NOTI245682DBDDED23B4339B5DAF630A26BEED7.PDF>

<http://profit.ndtv.com/news/your-money/article-gold-loan-in-cash-restricted-to-rs-20-000-for-nbfcs-1668169>

IDFC Aadhaar Pay launched

Question: To transact through the IDFC Aadhaar Pay application, which of the following is required?

- (a) Aadhaar number and customer fingerprint as password
- (b) Customer's Bank Account number and pin
- (c) Customer's debit card and ATM pin
- (d) Debit card number and mobile banking pin



Ans: (a)

- On 7th March, 2017, IDFC (Infrastructure Development Finance Company) Bank launched IDFC Aadhaar Pay, India's first Aadhaar-linked cashless merchant solution.
- The application has been developed by IDFC Bank under the guidance of the Ministry of IT, NITI Aayog, Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI) and National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI).
- IDFC Aadhaar Pay was launched after successful pilots in 16 states.
- **What is IDFC Aadhaar Pay?**

IDFC Aadhaar pay is Aadhaar-linked interoperable banking software application made available on a merchant's smartphone. Customers can pay the merchant by selecting the Bank's name and filling only one field on the merchant's phone – the Aadhaar number. The customer's fingerprint is the password used to authenticate the transaction. It is the simplest way to pay. Customers need not use debit or credit cards, download mobile applications or even carry a mobile to make cashless transactions. The solution eliminates the hassles of remembering passwords, account numbers, or setting up of virtual payment addresses and using USSD codes to transfer money. In rural and semi-urban areas, where customers need 'assisted digital' banking formats, IDFC Bank's Aadhaar Merchant solution is a perfect fit. IDFC Bank currently has over 7000 points of presence, spread across 19 states, serving 40,000 villages across the country. Starting with no retail customers, the Bank has, within a year and a half, acquired an active customer base of 1.4 million.

Reference:

<http://www.idfcbank.com/content/dam/IDFC/media-room/press-release/IDFC-Aadhaar-Pay-Launched-7-03-17.pdf>

Two Insolvency Professional Entities recognized by IBBI

Question: Insolvency Professional Entities are recognized by Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board of India under...

- (a) The Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code, 2016.
- (b) The Income Tax Ombudsman Guidelines 2006.
- (c) The Conservation of Foreign Exchange and Prevention of Smuggling Activities Act, 1974.



(d) Central Excise Act, 1944.

Ans: (a)

Related Fact :

- According to press release by Ministry of Corporate Affairs dated 6th March, 2017 The Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board of India (IBBI) recognized two Insolvency Professional Entities (IPEs) under the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code, 2016. These are:
- IRR Insolvency Professionals Private Limited
- AAA Insolvency Professionals LLP
- An IPE is jointly and severally liable for all acts or omissions of its partners or directors as IPs committed during such partnership or directorship.
- A limited liability partnership, a registered partnership firm or a company may be recognized by the IBBI as an IPE if (a) a majority of the partners of the limited liability partnership or registered partnership firm are registered as insolvency professionals (IPs); or (b) a majority of the whole-time directors of the company are registered as insolvency professionals, as the case may be.
- The Insolvency Professionals (IPs) are registered and regulated by the IBBI. They have a critical role in transactions under the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code, 2016 (Code).
- The Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code, 2016 is considered as the biggest economic reform next only to GST. It offers a market determined, time bound mechanism for orderly resolution of insolvency, wherever possible, and orderly exit, wherever required.

Reference:

<http://www.ibbi.gov.in/Order.pdf>

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=158872>

Cabinet approves acquisition of subsidiary banks of State Bank of India

Question: When did Union Cabinet has approved the acquisition by the State Bank of India of its subsidiary banks?

- (a) 10 February 2017 (b) 15 February 2017 (c) 13 February 2017
(d) 16 February 2017

Ans: (b)

Related facts:

- On 15 February 2017 the Union Cabinet has approved the acquisition by the State Bank of India of its subsidiary banks namely State Bank of Bikaner and Jaipur, State Bank of Hyderabad, State Bank of Mysore, State Bank of Patiala and State Bank of Travancore.
- The Cabinet also approved the introduction of a Bill in Parliament to repeal the State Bank of India (Subsidiary Banks) Act, 1959 and the State Bank of Hyderabad Act, 1956.
- The merger is likely to result in recurring savings, estimated at more than Rs. 1,000 crore in the first year, through a combination of enhanced operational efficiency and reduced cost of funds.
- The merger will also lead to better management of high value credit exposures through focused monitoring and control over cash flows instead of separate monitoring by six different banks.
- The acquisition under Section 35 of the State Bank of India Act, 1955 will result in the creation of a stronger merged entity.



- This will minimize vulnerability to any geographic concentration risks faced by subsidiary banks.
- It will create improved operational efficiency and economies of scale.
- It will also result in improved risk management and unified treasury operations.
- The acquisition of subsidiary banks of State Bank is an important step towards strengthening the banking sector through consolidation of public sector banks.
- It is in pursuance of the Indradhanush action plan of the Government and it is expected to strengthen the banking sector and improve its efficiency and profitability.

Reference:

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/erelease.aspx>

http://www.business-standard.com/article/finance/cabinet-approves-merger-of-5-associate-banks-with-sbi-117021501073_1.html

<http://ddinews.gov.in/Business/Business%20-%20Headlines/Pages/SBImerger.aspx>

CBDT issues Certificates of appreciation to tax payers

Question: Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT) has issued the third round of Certificates to nearly how many tax payers?

- (a) Nearly 2.75 lakh (b) Nearly 3.74 lakh (c) Nearly 3.75 lakh
(d) Nearly 4.80 lakh

Ans: (b)

Related facts:

- In continuation of the initiative of the Government to acknowledge the contribution of tax payers by paying taxes towards nation building and promptness in filing of Income Tax Returns, CBDT has issued the third round of Certificates to nearly 3.74 Lakh tax payers.
- With this, the total number of certificates issued by CBDT now stands at approximately 23 Lakh. Individual tax payers may take note that such certificates of appreciation are only sent by e-mail in various categories on the basis of the taxes paid by them for the Assessment Year 2016-17, where taxes have been paid in full, tax payers have no outstanding tax liabilities, the return is e-filed within the prescribed due date and verified through Digital Signature or Electronic Verification Code (EVC) or submission of signed ITR-V to CPC Bangalore. The categories for individual taxpayers are:
 1. Platinum -Taxpayers who have contributed Rs 1 Crore and above as tax
 2. Gold -Taxpayers who have contributed between Rs 50 Lakh and Rs 1 Crore as tax
 3. Silver -Taxpayers who have contributed between Rs 10Lakh and Rs50 Lakh as tax
 4. Bronze -Taxpayers who have contributed between Rs 1Lakh and Rs10 Lakh as tax
- Taxpayers are advised to verify and update their email address and mobile number on the e-filing website to receive electronic communication. It may be noted that taxpayers can provide upto two email and two mobile numbers in their profile.
- Therefore, it is strongly advised that taxpayers should provide their personal and regularly used Email and Mobile number as their primary email.
- The CBDT urges taxpayers to e-file their returns in time and verify their return by submitting the Electronic Verification Code online or sending their ITR-V within the 120 day period so that they can be also acknowledged for their contribution.



Reference:

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=158223>

Specified Bank Notes (Cessation of Liabilities) Bill, 2017

Question: When was the Specified Bank Notes (Cessation of Liabilities) Bill, 2017 passed?

- (a) 5 February, 2017 (b) 6 February, 2017 (c) 7 February, 2017
(d) 8 February, 2017

Ans:(c)

Related facts:

- On 7 February 2017; Lok Sabha passed the Specified Bank Notes (Cessation of Liabilities) Bill, 2017.
- The bill will replace an ordinance promulgated on December 30 last year which provides for a fine of 10 thousand rupees or five times the cash held, whichever is higher, on holding of more than 10 banned notes.
- It shall be deemed to have come into force on the 31st day of December, 2016.
- The bill seeks to end the liability of RBI and the government on the currency notes demonetised in November 2016.
- The Specified Bank Notes (SBNs) were allowed to be exchanged for value at RBI Offices till December 30, 2016 and till November 25, 2016 at bank branches/Post Offices and deposited at any of the bank branches of commercial banks/Regional Rural Banks/Co-operative banks (only Urban Co-operative Banks and State Co-operative Banks) or at any Head Post Office or Sub-Post Office during the period from November 10, 2016 to December 30, 2016.
- The bill also provides that an Indian citizen, who was outside the country between November 9 and December 30, will be entitled to tender the demonetised notes within the specified period.
- With effect from January 2, 2017 Resident Indian citizens who were abroad during November 9, 2016 to December 30, 2016 can avail this facility upto March 31, 2017 and Non Resident Indian citizens who were abroad during November 9, 2016 to December 30, 2016 can avail this facility upto June 30, 2017.
- Any person on the direction of a court in relation to any case pending in the court can hold the SBN notes.
- Any person violating the above rules shall be punishable with fine which may extend to fifty thousand rupees or five times the amount of the face value of the specified bank notes tendered, whichever is higher.
- Any one notwithstanding anything contained in section 29 of the Code of Criminal Procedure, 1973, the court of a Magistrate of the First Class or the court of a Metropolitan Magistrate may impose a fine, for contravention of the provisions of this Act.
- No suit, prosecution or other legal proceeding shall lie against the Government, the Reserve Bank or any of their officers for anything done or intended to be done in good faith under this Act.

Reference:

http://www.business-standard.com/article/news-ani/lok-sabha-passes-specified-bank-notes-bill-117020701439_1.html

<https://www.rbi.org.in/Scripts/FAQView.aspx?Id=122>



Removal of limits on withdrawal of cash from Saving Bank Accounts

Question: Recently RBI announced the removal of limits on withdrawal of cash from Saving Bank Accounts this will be effective from-

- (a) 20 February, 2017 (b) 13 March 2017 (c) 10 March 2017
(d) 1 April 2017

Ans:(b)



Related facts:

- On 8 February 2017; RBI released a circular regarding removal of limits on withdrawal of cash from Saving Bank Accounts.
- In line with the pace of remonetisation, RBI decided to remove the restrictions on cash withdrawals from Saving Bank accounts (including accounts opened under PMJDY) in a two step process as under:
 - I. Effective February 20, 2017, the limits on cash withdrawals from the Savings Bank accounts enhanced to Rs 50,000 per week (from the current limit of Rs 24,000 per week); and
 - II. Effective March 13, 2017, there will be no limits on cash withdrawals from Savings Bank accounts.
- Under section 42(1) of Reserve Bank of India Act, 1934 RBI withdrawn the legal tender status of Rs 500/- and Rs 1000/- denominations of bank notes issued by the Reserve Bank of India till November 8, 2016 (referred to as Specified Bank Notes)
- It may be recalled that earlier the limit was set within the existing overall cash withdrawal cap of Rs24,000 per week per account at both banks and ATMs.
- Also, RBI had removed the daily withdrawal from ATMs from 1 February but kept the weekly limits on savings accounts at Rs 24,000.
- Earlier, RBI on 30 January 2017 removed all limits on withdrawal have been removed for current accounts, cash credit accounts, and overdraft accounts with immediate effect.

Reference:

<https://www.rbi.org.in/Scripts/NotificationUser.aspx?Id=10856&Mode=0>

SCIENTIFIC

Successful test of Barak missile

Question- Recently, from which vessel, Indian Navy successfully tested the short range surface to air Barak missile?

- (a) INS Kolkata (b) INS Vikramaditya (c) INS Arihant
(d) INS Godavari

Ans: (b)

Related facts:-

- During 21 to 23 March 2017; the Indian Navy successfully tested the low range Barak Missile, capable of hitting from surface to air, from the aircraft carrier INS Vikramaditya.



- In this trial in the Arabian Sea, the missile successfully destroyed the target flying at a very low altitude but very fast speed.
- It is worth mentioning that INS Vikramaditya was included in the Navy in November 2013.
- The Barak missile was developed jointly by Defense Research and Development Organization (DRDO) and Israel Aerospace Industries (I.A.I.).

Related Links:-

<http://airworldservice.org/hindi/archives/39837>

http://www.ptinews.com/news/8538712_Navy-successfully-test-fires-surface-to-air-missile

<http://www.thehindu.com/news/national/ins-vikramaditya-fires-surface-to-air-missile/article17657681.ece>

<http://www.rtinews.net/state-news/andhra-pradesh/navy-successfully-test-fires-surface-to-air-missile-from-ins/39942.html>

INLCU L51 commissioned into the Indian Navy

Question: Recently Indian Navy’s surveillance ship, INLCU L51 was commissioned into the Indian Navy at...

(a) Port Blair (b) Vishakhapattanam (c) Kolkata (d) Kochin

Ans: (a)

- On 28th March, 2017, Indian Navy’s latest surveillance ship, INLCU L51 was commissioned into the Indian Navy at Port Blair.
- It is the first of the eight ships of the LCU Mk IV Class. It has been built by M/s Garden Reach Ship Builders & Engineers Ltd, Kolkata. It was designed indigenously.
- It has a displacement of 900 tons the magnificent ship spans 62.8 m in length and 11 m in breadth.
- The ship is propelled by 02 MTU diesel engines of 1840 Kw rating and can sustain speeds up to 15 knots. The ship has been built to assist in amphibious operations by carrying out beaching operations and has an endurance of 1500 nm.
- The armament onboard the ship consists of two 30 mm CRN -91 guns manufactured by Ordnance Factory, Medak. The gun is controlled by an electrical day-night fire control system namely Stabilised Optronic Pedestal manufactured by Bharat Electronic Limited. The ship is also equipped with 12.7 mm Heavy Machine Guns and 7.62 mm Medium Machine Guns.
- The commissioning of the ship adds a feather to the glorious chapter in the nation’s ‘Make in India’ initiatives in the field of warship design and construction.
- The ship will play a key role in carrying out maritime surveillance of Andaman & Nicobar Islands for preventing anti-poaching, illegal fishing, drug trafficking, human trafficking, poaching and other illegal activities.
- It will also enhance the capabilities of the Andaman and Nicobar Command in Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief (HADR) operations.



• **Reference:**

<http://www.indiandefensenews.in/2017/03/indian-navy-inducts-surveillance-ship.html>

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=160054>

De-induction of Long Range Maritime Patrol aircraft TU 142M

Question: Long Range Maritime Patrol aircraft TU 142M which was de-inducted from the Indian navy on 29th March, 2017, will be replaced by...

(a) P-8I (b) Rafael (c) Mig-32 (d) None of the above.

Ans: (a)

- On 29th March, 2017, Long Range Maritime Patrol aircraft TU142M was de-inducted from the Indian Navy after its 29 years of dedicated service to the nation.
- The aircraft was formally de-inducted by Admiral Sunil Lanba, Chief of the Naval Staff at a special ceremony held at INS Rajali, on 29 March 17.
- To commemorate the stellar service of the TU142M, a TU Static Display Aircraft was also inaugurated by the Chief of Naval Staff at INS Rajali.
- The TU142M Patrol aircraft was inducted into Indian Navy at Dabolim Goa on 16 April 1988 from erstwhile USSR. The aircraft subsequently shifted base permanently to INS Rajali in 1992 and became the most formidable Long Range Maritime Reconnaissance anti submarine warfare aircraft of the Indian Navy.
- The aircraft has done the Indian Navy proud by participating in all major naval exercises and operations with distinction. Over the years, the TU-142M has rendered yeomen service to the nation and has taken part in all major exercises and operations including Operation Cactus in Maldives, Op Vijay in 1998, Op Parakram in 2002 and Anti-piracy Operations from 2011 till date.
- Despite being in its twilight year, the aircraft performed exceptionally well during the recently conducted Naval Exercise TROPEX in Mar 2017.
- The role of TU142M will now be taken on by the newly inducted P-8I aircraft. The P-8I aircraft has proven all its systems and has been fully integrated into the operational grid of the Indian Navy.



Reference:

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=159948>

<http://www.newindianexpress.com/nation/2017/mar/28/navy-to-de-induct-long-range-patrol-aircraft-after-29-years-1587007.html>

First Pristine air-quality monitoring station

Question: First Pristine air-quality monitoring station has been established by National Physical Laboratory in ...

(a) Himachal Pradesh (b) Uttarakhand (c) Arunachal Pradesh
(d) Sikkim

Ans: (a)

- Atmospheric monitoring station established by National Physical Laboratory in the campus of Institute of Himalayan Bio resource Technology (IHBT) at Palampur (H.P.) was dedicated to the nation on 17th March, 2017.



- It is situated at an altitude of 1391 m for generating the base data for atmospheric trace species & properties to serve as reference for comparison of polluted atmosphere in India.
- At this station, NPL has installed state of art air monitoring system, greenhouse gas measurement system and Raman Lidar.
- A number of parameters like CO, NO, NO₂, NH₃, SO₂, O₃, PM, HC & BC besides CO₂ & CH₄ are being currently monitored at this station which is also equipped with weather station (AWS) for measurement of weather parameters.
- In India, air quality parameters are mostly measured in industrial and residential areas, however, data for air quality of pristine atmosphere is not available in India.
- NPL's station will contribute to fill this important gap. The NPL's station will also serve as a base station for inter-comparison of air quality monitoring equipment being used in India to improve quality of monitored data in India.
- The data generated by this station at Palampur will act as background data for the measured pollution at various cities in the country. The generated background data will be shared with different pollution control boards and agencies in the country so that the more precise pollution mapping traceable to standard values can be done
- Setting up of such state of art monitoring systems in Himalayan region will help to assess the vulnerability of region's sensitive ecosystem due to climate change & pollution.

Reference:

<http://indiaeducationdiary.in/national-physical-laboratorynpl-csir-dedicates-first-pristine-air-quality-monitoring-station-palampur-nation/>

Successful test of longer range version of BrahMos

Question: What is the range of new version of BrahMos which was successfully tested from Odisha coast on 11th March, 2017?

(a) 300 Km (b) 350 Km (c) 400 Km (d) 450 Km

Ans: (d)

- On 11th March, 2017, India successfully test-fired its latest 450-km range version of the BrahMos supersonic cruise missile from the Odisha coast.
- This is the first test of the missile after its strike range was extended following India's entry in Missile Technology Control Regime (MTCR).
- The extended range BrahMos hit the target with centimetric accuracy.
- The development of the extended range version of BrahMos was announced at the Aero India 2017 by Defence Research and Development Organization (DRDO) chief S. Christopher.
- BrahMos has been developed as part of a joint venture between India and Russia, and the missile had an initial range of 290 km. India has been able to work on increasing the range of the BrahMos missile from its current 290 km after it became a member of the prestigious Missile Technology Control Regime (MTCR).
- Indian Army and Indian Navy have already inducted the 290-km BrahMos and it is likely to clear the final test for Indian Air Force soon.
- In its current form (290-km), the BrahMos has a maximum velocity of 2.8 Mach and cruises at altitudes varying from 10 metres to 15 km.



- The land-attack version of BrahMos is fitted on a mobile launcher.
- BrahMos is also capable of being launched from submarine from a depth of 40-50 metres.

Reference:

<http://www.livemint.com/Politics/bLQcyCpYCFzmh2xbr77UP/India-successfully-testfires-BrahMos-supersonic-cruise-miss.html>

NASA New Radar Technique searched Lost Lunar Spacecraft

Question: NASA's JPL has succeeded in locating two lunar spacecraft. One of them is Chandrayaan-1 and the other is...

- (a) Lunar Reconnaissance Orbiter (b) Surveyor 3 (c) Explorer 49
(d) Luna 10

Ans: (a)

- According to press release by NASA on 9th March, 2017, Jet Propulsion Laboratory (JPL) of NASA has successfully located spacecraft orbiting the moon — one active, and one dormant.
- NASA has succeeded in searching its own Lunar Reconnaissance Orbiter (LRO) and the Indian Space Research Organization's Chandrayaan-1 spacecraft in lunar orbit with ground-based radar.
- JPL's team used NASA's 70-meter (230-foot) antenna at NASA's Goldstone Deep Space Communications Complex in California to send out a powerful beam of microwaves directed toward the moon. Then the radar echoes bounced back from lunar orbit were received by the 100-meter (330-foot) Green Bank Telescope in West Virginia.
- Its notable that Chandrayaan-1 spacecraft is very small, a cube about five feet (1.5 meters) on each side — about half the size of a smart car. Although the interplanetary radar has been used to observe small asteroids several million miles from Earth, researchers were not certain that an object of this smaller size as far away as the moon could be detected, even with the world's most powerful radars.
- Chandrayaan-1 proved the perfect target for demonstrating the capability of this technique.
- This new technique could assist planners of future moon missions.



Reference:

<https://www.jpl.nasa.gov/news/news.php?feature=6769>

INS Tillanchang Commissioned at Karwar

Question: Indigenously designed and built, INS Tillanchang, recently commissioned into the Indian Navy was built by which of the following companies?

- (a) Garden Reach Shipbuilders and Engineers (GRSE) Kolkata
(b) Hindustan Shipyard (c) Cochin Shipyard (d) Vipul shipyard

Ans (a)

- On 9th March, 2017, INS Tillanchang, a Water Jet Fast Attack



Craft was commissioned into the Indian Navy by Vice Admiral Girish Luthra, the Flag Officer Commanding-in-Chief Western Naval Command, at Karwar.

- INS Tillanchang has been built by the Garden Reach Shipbuilders and Engineers (GRSE) Kolkata. The ship has been indigenously designed and built and is an upgrade from the Chetlat class of Fast Attack Craft that the Indian Navy possesses.
- It is the third ship of 'Water Jet Fast Attack Craft' category built by this company.
- The first two ships of the class, IN ships Tarmugli and Tihayu were commissioned in 2016 and are based at Visakhapatnam.
- INS Tillanchang is about 50 m long and powered by three waterjet propulsion system, which give it speeds of over 35 knots. It was able to achieve the fastest speeds among all ships of this category during the speed trials. The ship is armed with a 30 mm main gun and a number of light, medium and heavy machine guns to undertake operations at sea. It is manned by 50 personnel and commanded by Commander Adit Patnaik.
- It is an ideal platform for a number of missions like coastal and off-shore surveillance, EEZ control, law enforcement as well as non-military missions such as Search and Rescue, Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief.
- INS Tillanchang will be based at Karwar under the operational control of the Flag Officer Commanding, Karnataka Naval Area.

Reference:

<https://www.indiannavy.nic.in/content/ins-tillanchang-commissioned-karwar>

Surya Kiran-XI

Question: 'Surya Kiran-XI' is the name of ...

- (a) a genetically modified crop (b) An Indo-Nepal joint training exercise
(c) Solar Energy Programme (d) None of the above.

Ans: (b)

- Indo – Nepal Joint Military Exercise 'Surya Kiran – XI' commenced on 7th March, 2017 at Pithoragarh Uttarakhand.
- EKTA SHAKTI Battalion of The Punjab Regiment is participating on behalf of the Indian Army while Nepal Army is being represented by the officers and troops of the elite DURGA BAKSH Battalion in this 14 days long exercise.
- The joint military exercise is conducted every year, alternatively in India and Nepal. The Surya Kiran X was held in Saljhandi of Dang last year.
- Surya Kiran aims at promoting military relations while increasing interoperability in conducting joint counter insurgency operations in mountainous terrain.
- This sort of military exercise will strengthen the friendly relation between Nepal and India since ancient times and build up understanding between the ranks and file of two armies.
- Both armies stand to benefit mutually from each other's experience in fighting insurgency, environmental conservation, humanitarian assistance and disaster relief.



Reference:

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=158940>

<http://indiatoday.intoday.in/story/indo-nepal-joint-military-exercise-from-march-7/1/893455.html>

Maiden Anti-Ship Missile launch by Kalvari class submarines

Question: The Indian Navy recently conducted the test firing of an anti-ship missile from the first of the indigenously built Kalvari class submarines. How many submarines of this class are being built by India?

(a) 8 (b) 6 (c) 9 (d) 10

Ans: (b)

- On 2nd March 2017, The Indian Navy successfully conducted the maiden firing of an Anti-Ship missile from the first of the indigenously built Kalvari class submarines, during a test firing in the Arabian Sea.
- The missile successfully hit a surface target at extended ranges during the trial firing. This missile launch is a significant milestone, not only for the Kalvari, which is the first in a series of Scorpene class submarines being built in India, but also in enhancing the Indian Navy's sub-surface warfare capability.
- All six Kalvari class submarines being built in India will be equipped with this anti-ship missile, which has a proven record in combat. These missiles will provide the submarines the ability to neutralise surface threats at extended ranges.



Reference:

<http://indiatoday.intoday.in/story/kalvari-class-submarine-anti-ship-missile-indian-navy/1/895039.html>

SPORTS TENNIS

Eberto Mexicano Telcel Open, 2017

Question: Who won the title of the recently concluded Eberto Mexicano Telcel Open men's singles title?

(a) Jamie Murray (b) Bruno Soares (c) John Isner (d) Sam Querrey

Ans: (d)

Related facts:-

- From February 27 to March 4, 2017; Eberto Mexicano, Telcel Open, the ATP Tour professional tennis tournament of 2017, played in Acapulco, Mexico.
- Competition Results:-
- **Men's singles**
Winner-Sam Querrey (United States)
Runners-up, Rafael Nadal (Spain)
- **Women's singles**
Winner-Lesia Tsurenko (Ukraine)
Runner-up Kristina Mladenovic (France)
- **Men's doubles**
Winner-Jamie Murray (UK) and Bruno Soares (Brazil)
Runner-up-John Isner (America) and Feliciano Lopez (Spain)



- **Women's doubles**

Winner-Darija Jurak (Croatia) and Anastasia Rodionova (Australia)

Runner-up-Veronica Cepede Royg (Paraguay) and Mariana Duque Marino (Colombia)

Related Links:-

<http://abiertoMexicanodetenis.com/draw/2017/ATP-singles/>

<http://abiertoMexicanodetenis.com/draw/2017/WTA-singles/>

<http://abiertoMexicanodetenis.com/draw/2017/ATP-dobles/>

<http://abiertoMexicanodetenis.com/draw/2017/WTA-dobles/>

Brazil Open, 2017

Question: Who won the men's singles title of the Brazil Open on March 6, 2017?

(a) Julio Petro (b) Nicolas Monre (c) Pablo Cuevas (d) Marcus Daniell

Ans: (c)

Related facts

- From February 27 to March 6, 2017; Brazil Open, the ATP Tour Men's Tennis Tournament played at São Paulo, Brazil.

- **Competition Results:-**

- **Men's singles**

Winner-Pablo Cuevas (Uruguay)

Runners-up Albert Ramos Vinolas (Spain)

- **Men's doubles**

Winner-Rogério Dutra Silva and Andre Sa (both Brazil)

Runners-up-Marcus Daniell (New Zealand) and Marcelo Demoliner (Brazil)



Related Links:-

<http://www.atpworldtour.com/en/scores/archive/sao-paulo/533/2017/draws>

<http://www.atpworldtour.com/en/scores/archive/sao-paulo/533/2017/draws?matchType=doubles>

Dubai Tennis Championship, 2017

Question: Who among the following has won the men's singles title of recently held 2017 Dubai Tennis Championship?

(a) Rohan Bopanna (b) Andy Murray (c) Horia Tecau
(d) Jean-Julien Rojer

Answer: (b)

Related facts:

- The Dubai Tennis Championship, also known as the Dubai Duty Free Tennis Championships for sponsorship reasons, is concluded.
- Female Category -20 to 26 February, 2017
- Men's Category-27 February to 4 March, 2017
- Result of the tournament:
 - Men's singles
Winner: Andy Murray (UK)
Runner-up: Fernando Verdasco (Spain)



- Women's singles
Winner: Elina Svitolina (Ukraine)
Runner-up : Caroline Wozniacki (Denmark)
- Men's doubles
Winner: Jean Julian Roger (Netherlands) and Horia Tecau (Romania)
Runner-up : Rohan Bopanna (India) and Marcin Matkowski (Poland)
- Women's doubles
Winner-: Ekaterina Makarova and Elena Vesnina (both Russia)
Runner-up: Andrea Halackova (Czech Republic) and Peng Shuai (China)

Reference:

<http://www.dubaidutyfreetennischampionships.com/en/scores-and-results/atp-draws>
<http://www.dubaidutyfreetennischampionships.com/en/scores-and-results/wta-draws>
<http://www.protennislive.com/posting/2017/495/mds.pdf>
<http://www.protennislive.com/posting/2017/495/mdd.pdf>

Delray Beach Open, 2017

Question: Who among the following won the ATP World Tour singles title at the Delray Beach Open 2017?

(a) Rajiv Ram (b) James Blake (c) Mardy Fish (d) Jack Sock

Ans: (d)

Related Fact :

- Men's Tennis Tournament Delray Beach Open 2017 was held in the U.S.A. (20 February to 26 February, 2017)

Tournament Result:

Men's Singles:

- Winner- Jack Sock (USA)
- Runner Up- Milos Raonic (Canada)

Men's Double:

- Winner- Raven Klaasen (South Africa), Rajeev Ram (USA)
- Runner up- Treat Huey, (Philippines) Max Mirnyi (Belarus)

Reference:

<http://www.atpworldtour.com/en/tournaments/delray-beach/499/overview>
<http://www.atpworldtour.com/en/scores/archive/delray-beach/499/2017/results?matchType=doubles>
<http://www.atpworldtour.com/en/news/raonic-sock-delray-beach-2017-final>



FOOTBALL

EFL Cup/Football League Cup -2017

Question: Which of the following team is the winner of EFL Cup- 2017, formerly known as the Football League Cup?

- (a) Southampton (b) Manchester United (c) Liverpool
(d) Georgia Bulldogs

Ans: (b)



Related Fact :

- The Final of English Football League (EFL) Cup-2017 formerly known as the Football League Cup Tournament was held at Wembley Stadium London on 26th February, 2017.
- Winner- Manchester United (3-2)
- Runner Up- Southampton
- This was Manchester United's fifth title.
- Zlatan Ibrahimovic was awarded the Alan Hardaker Trophy for his performance.

Reference:

<http://cup.efl.com/fixtures-results/fixtures-list/>

<http://cup.efl.com/news/article/2016-17/efl-cup-final-zlatan-ibrahimovic-manchester-united-hero-3596134.aspx>

<https://www.facebook.com/EFLCup/photos/a.211358515664642.57218.110296602437501/1079475678852917/?type=3&theater>

<http://www.bbc.com/sport/football/39018813>

CHESS

Women's World Chess Championship, 2017

Question- Who won the Women's World Chess Championship titled, 2017, in Tehran, on March 5, 2017?

- (a) Tan Zhongyi (b) Koneru Hampi (c) Anastasia Savina
(d) Alexandra Kosteniuk

Ans: (a)

Related facts:-

- 64 Female chess players' knockout tournament 'World Chess Championship, 2017' concludes in Tehran, Iran. (February 10 to March 5, 2017)
- Competition Results:-
- **Gold Medal**-Tan Zhongyi (China)
- **Silver Medal**-Ana Muzychuk (Ukraine)
- **Bronze medal**-Harika Dronavalli (India)



- **Bronze Medal**-Alexandra Kosteniuk (Russia)
- Tan won the Grand Prix (GM) title after winning this championship

Related Links:-

<http://tehran2017.fide.com/en/component/content/article/1-news-en/324-tan-zhongyi-china-becomes-the-16th-womens-world-chess-champion->
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Women's_World_Chess_Championship_2017

BADMINTON

German Open Grand Prix Gold, 2017

Question: Who among the following has won in walkover the women's singles title of 2017 German Open Grand prix Gold Badminton tournament held on 5th March ?

- (A) Naoko Fukuman (B) Yuki Fukushima (C) Akane Yamaguchi
 (D) Li Yinhui



Answer: (c)

Related facts:

- BWF Session , German Open Grand Prix Gold Badminton tournament,2017 concluded in Germany. (February 28th to March 5th , 2017)
- Result of the tournament:
- Men's singles
 Winner: Chou Tien Chen (Chinese Taipei)
 Runner-up: Wang Tzu Wei (Chinese Taipei)
- Women's singles
 Winner: Akane Yamaguchi (Japan), in Walkover
 Runner-up: Carolina Marin (Spain)
- Men's doubles
 Winner: Kim Astrup and Anders Skaa Rasmussen (both Denmark)
 Runner-up: Mads Conrad Peterson and Mads Pieler Kolding (both Denmark)
- Women's doubles
 Winner: Yuki Fukushima and Sayaka Hirota (both Japan)
 Runner-up: Huang Dongping and Li Yinhui (both China)
- Mixed couple
 Winner: Zhang Nan and Li Yinhuui (both China)
 Runner-up: Lu Kai and Huang Yaqiong (both China)

Reference:

<http://bwfbadminton.com/results/2789/yonex-german-open-2017/podium>

SPORTS PERSONALITY

Srinath Narayanan set to become Indias 46th Grandmaster

Question: What is FIDE?

- (a) An International Chess Federation (b) Chess Board
(c) Gaming Software (d) None of the above.

Ans: (a)

- Chennai's Srinath Narayanan is set to become India's 46th Grandmaster after he defeated Spanish GM David Anton Guijarro at the ongoing Sharjah Masters 2017 chess tournament on 29th March, 2017.
- He had become India's youngest FIDE-rated player in 2002 when he was just eight years old.
- He also finished as joint winner in the Under-12 World Championship in 2005 in France.
- Srinath became an International Master at the age of 14 and crossed the 2500 Elo rating a few months back.
- He had already secured five GM norms. He won his first GM norm in 2012 by winning the Asian Junior Chess Championship, which he won again the next year.
- The Fédération Internationale des Échecs (FIDE) or World Chess Federation is an international organization that connects the various national chess federations around the world and acts as the governing body of international chess competition.
- FIDE was founded in Paris, France, on July 20, 1924. Its motto is Gens una sumus, Latin for "We are one people"



Reference:

<http://indiatoday.intoday.in/story/chennai-srinath-set-to-become-indias-46th-gm/1/915731.html>

Vani Kapoor

Question: In which of the following cities Hero Women's Professional Golf Tour has recently organized?

- (a) Delhi (b) Kolkata (c) Mumbai (d) Pune

Answer- (d)

Related facts:

- On March 24, 2017, Vani Kapoor from Delhi, won the Hero Women's Professional Golf Tour title for the year 2017.
- This was the sixth edition of this tournament organized in Poona Club Golf Course, Pune.
- Gaurika Bishnoi and Amandeep Drall, were tied second with identical scores of 225.
- This is Vani's second title of this season.



Related links:

<http://wgai.co.in/wpqt-17/leg6/scoresday3.pdf>

<http://wgai.co.in/updates/2017/Vani-wins-her-second-title.htm>

<http://airworldservice.org/english/archives/43390>

P.V. Sindhu

Question: – Recently which of the following company has appointed P.V. Sindhu as it's brand ambassador?

(a) Gatorade India (b) Thumbs up (c) Coca Cola (d) Parleji

Ans: (a)

Related facts:-

- On March 20, 2017; the silver medal winner of the Rio Olympics, Indian female shuttler P.V Sindhu has appointed as brand ambassador of Gatorade India.
- Gatorade Soft Drinks Company is PepsiCo's Sports Drink Brand.
- According to this company, a new 'Sweatmore' campaign with this badminton player will be launched as a digital film.
- During this partnership, Sindhu will also work with the Gatorade Sports Science Institute.

Related Links:-

http://www.business-standard.com/article/pti-stories/pepsico-ropes-in-pv-sindhu-as-brand-ambassador-117032001015_1.html

<https://www.sportskeeda.com/badminton/gatorade-india-appoints-p-v-sindhu-as-brand-ambassador>

<http://economictimes.indiatimes.com/industry/services/advertising/pepsicos-gatorade-india-appoints-pv-sindhu-as-brand-ambassador/articleshow/57735892.cms>



Sjoerd Marijne appointed as Indian Women Hockey Team's Chief Coach

Question: Sjoerd Marijne who has been recently appointed as the Chief Coach for Indian Women's Hockey, is related to which of the following countries?

(a) Germany (b) Argentina (c) The Netherlands (d) Poland

Ans: (c)

Related Fact :

- Former Dutch Women's national coach, Sjoerd Marijne has been appointed as the Chief Coach for Indian Women's Hockey Team. (28th February, 2017)
- He has been appointed Indian Women's Hockey Team's Chief Coach for the next four years till the 2020 Tokyo Olympics.
- He will replace former chief coach Neil Hawgood.
- Eric Wonink will assist Sjoerd as analytical coach for the national women's Hockey team.

Reference:

<http://hockeyindia.org/news/hockey-india-appoints-sjoerd-marijne-as-indian-women-hockey-teams-chief-coach.html>

<http://indiatoday.intoday.in/story/sjoerd-marijne-chief-coach-indian-womens-hockey-team/1/893548.html>

<http://www.jagran.com/news/sports-shuard-becomes-main-coach-of-indian-women-hockey-team-15607051.html>



SHORT NOTES PERSONALITIES

Hriday Narayan Dixit elected as the Speaker of UP Vidhan Sabha

Question: Which of the following articles of Indian Constitution provides for the role of Speaker for every Legislative Assembly?

(a) Article 176 (b) Article 177 (c) Article 178 (d) Article 179

Ans: (c)

- On 30th March, 2017, senior BJP Leader Hriday Narayan Dixit was unanimously elected as the Speaker of the 17th Legislative Assembly of the state of Uttar Pradesh.
- He is also reputed columnist and has a number of books to his credit.
- He was elected to the 17th Legislative Assembly from BhagvantNagar seat of Unnao District.
- It is to be noted that under Article 178 of the Indian Constitution, "Every Legislative Assembly of a State shall, as soon as may be, choose two members of the Assembly to be respectively Speaker and Deputy Speakers thereof and, so often as the office of Speaker or Deputy Speaker becomes vacant, the Assembly shall choose another member to be Speaker or Deputy Speaker, as the case may be."



Reference:

<http://www.tribuneindia.com/news/nation/hriday-narayan-dixit-elected-up-assembly-speaker/384631.html>

http://uplegisassembly.gov.in/ENGLISH/pdfs/PressAdvertisement_Speaker_Election.pdf

New Vice Chancellor of Nalanda University

Question: Who has been recently appointed as the new Vice Chancellor of Nalanda University?

(a) Pro. Sunaina Singh (b) Pro. MP Dubey (c) Gopa Sabbarwal
(d) None of the above.

Ans: (a)

- On 29th March, 2017, Professor Sunaina Singh was appointed as the new vice chancellor of Nalanda International University.
- Professor Singh is currently the vice chancellor of English and Foreign Language University Hyderabad.
- The post of vice chancellor had been vacant after the retirement of the University's first vice chancellor Gopa Sabbarwal.
- Nalanda University (also known as Nalanda International University) is located in Rajgir, near Nalanda, Bihar. The University began its first academic session on September 1, 2014 with 15 students including five women. Initially set up with temporary facilities in Rajgir, a modern campus is expected to be finished by 2020.



- The idea for revival of Nalanda university was given on 28 March 2006 by the 11th President of India A. P. J. Abdul Kalam while addressing the Joint Session of the Bihar Vidhan Mandal

Reference:

<https://www.nalandauniv.edu.in/>

New head of World Food Programme

Question: David Beasley who was recently appointed the Executive Director of the UN World Food Programme will replace...

- (a) José Graziano da Silva (b) Ertharin Cousin (c) Ban Ki Moon
(d) None of the above.

Ans: (b)

- On 29th March 2017, The United Nations announced the appointment of David Beasley as the Executive Director of the UN World Food Programme (WFP).
- The announcement was made by UN Secretary-General António Guterres and José Graziano da Silva, the Director-General of the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO).
- He will replace Ertharin Cousin whose five-year term expires on 4 April.
- World Food Programme delivers emergency food assistance around the world and works with communities to improve nutrition and build resilience.
- Mr. Beasley, who is the Chair of the Center for Global Strategies, was Governor of the state of South Carolina. He was elected at the age of 21 to the South Carolina House of Representatives (1979-1992) and Governor of South Carolina (1995-1999), as one of the youngest in the United State's history.



Reference:

<http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=56459#.WNzvDNKGPIU>

<http://www.fao.org/news/story/en/item/854811/icode/>

Arun Sharma

Question: Recently, the prominent playwright Arun Sharma passed away. He was related to –

- (a) Arunachal Pradesh (b) Uttar Pradesh (c) Assam (d) Manipur

Answer- (c)

Related facts:

- Arun Sharma, the prominent playwright of Assam passed away on March 27th, 2017. He was of 85.
- He was an assamese writer belonging to contemporary style of writing and noted for his play.
- In addition to the drama, he wrote more than 6 novels on Assam's lifestyle.
- He was awarded with Padma shree award in year 2010 by Central government.
- He was a proud recipient of the Sahitya Akademi Award for his novel, "Axirbaador Rong"(The colors of blessings) in year 1998.
- He was also given the Sangeet Natak Akademi Award in 2003 for writing drama.



Related links:

<http://www.merineews.com/article/arun-sarma-the-pride-of-assam/15795522.shtml>

http://www.veethi.com/india-people/arun_sharma-profile-6307-25.htm

<http://www.uniindia.com/noted-playwright-arun-sharma-dead/other/news/823576.html>

<http://navbharattimes.indiatimes.com/india/the-demise-of-the-famous-playwright-arun-sharma/articleshow/57860063.cms>

Vanita Gupta

Question:-Recently which organization has appointed American human rights activist and lawyer Vanita Gupta as its new President and Chief Executive Officer?

- (a) Amnesty International
- (b) 'The Leadership Conference on Civil and Human Rights'
- (c) The Human Rights Organization
- (d) None of the above.

Ans: (b)

Related facts:-

- On March 23, 2017, American human rights activist Vanitha Gupta was appointed as the new President and Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of The Leadership Conference on Civil and Human Rights. .
- She will be the first woman president of this organization fighting for human rights.
- Along with this, she will also lead its subsidiary organization 'The Leadership Conference Education Fund'.
- She will take charge on June 1, 2017.
- At this post, she will replace Wade Henderson.
- It is notable that Vanita Gupta has presided over the Human Rights Division in the Obama Administration's Justice Department.



Related Links:-

<http://www.civilrights.org/press/2017/vanita-gupta-to-be-new-president-and-ceo.html?referrer=https://www.google.co.in/>

https://www.washingtonpost.com/world/national-security/obama-civil-rights-head-to-run-leadership-conference-on-civil-and-human-rights/2017/03/23/d6928ca2-0f56-11e7-9b0d-d27c98455440_story.html?utm_term=.0e78f3452e1e

<http://indiatoday.intoday.in/story/vanita-gupta-appointed-president-of-leadership-conference/1/914384.html>

Professor Randeep Guleria

Question: In which of the followings AIIMS Poff. Randeep Guleria has got an appointment as new Director?

- (a) AIIMS, New Delhi
- (b) AIIMS, Patna
- (c) AIIMS, Bhubaneswar
- (d) AIIMS, Raipur

Answer- (a)

Related facts:

- On March 24, 2017, Prof. Randeep Guleria took charge as Director of All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS), New Delhi.



- He will serve for five years from the date of assumption of charge or till attaining the age of 65.
- He is successor of Dr. M.C. Mishra who was retired from the post of director of AIIMS, New Delhi in January 2017.
- Proff. Guleria received Padma Shri award in 2015 and Dr BC Roy award in the category “Eminent Medical Person” in 2014.
- Guleria is the first Indian to get a Doctorate of Medicine (DM) in Pulmonary and Critical Care Medicine.
- India’s first Pulmonary Medicine and Sleep Disorders department was created under his leadership in 2011.

Related links:

- <https://khabar.ndtv.com/news/india/dr-randeep-guleria-is-new-aiims-director-1673231>
- <http://indiatoday.intoday.in/story/dr-randeep-guleria-is-new-director-of-aiims-delhi/1/912382.html>
- <http://health.economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/industry/dr-randeep-guleria-is-new-director-of-aiims-delhi/57821241>

Full time Interim Director General of the International Solar Association

Question: Who has recently been appointed the Interim Full-time Director General of the International Solar Association (ISA)?

- (a) Kaushal Kumar (b) Upendra Tripathi (c) Rajiv Arora
(d) Kamala Kant Dwivedi

Ans: (b)

Related facts:-

- On March 21st, 2017; senior IAS officer Upendra Tripathi was appointed as the full time Interim Director General (IDG) of the International Solar Association (ISA).
- His appointment was decided jointly by Central Energy, Coal, New and Renewable Energy and Mines Minister Piyush Goyal and France’s Environment and Energy Minister Segolene Royal.
- Upendra Tripathi is the Karnataka batch officer of the Indian Administrative Service.
- He was the full secretary of the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy.
- It is known that on January 25th, 2016, Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi and French President Francois Holland inaugurated the ISA Interim Secretariat in National Solar Energy Institute (NISE) located in Gurugram (Haryana).
- Along with this, both leaders also laid the foundation stone of the ISA headquarters.
- It is significant that on November 30th, 2015, the two leaders had announced the ‘International Solar Association’ during the summit held in Paris (COP-21).
- It is a coalition of 122 countries, where at least 300 days of sunlight is available in the year.



Related Links:-

- <http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=159659>
- <http://www.livemint.com/Industry/Hf5YqwaHOS3jaXLswrvMdP/Indias-Upendra-Tripathy-to-head-International-Solar-Allianc.html>
- <http://www.univarta.com/news/india/story/817786.html>

Protem Speaker of the 17th Legislative Assembly of Uttar Pradesh

Question: Who recently had sworn in as the new Protem Speaker of the 17th Legislative Assembly of Uttar Pradesh?

- (a) Hriday Narayan Dikshit (b) Fateh Bahadur Singh
(c) Bir Bahadur Singh (d) Fagu Chauhan

Ans: (b)

Related facts:-

- On March 27, 2017; BJP MLA Fateh Bahadur Singh took oath as the Protem Speaker of the 17th Legislative Assembly.
- Governor Ram Naik administered him oath of office and secrecy.
- He is a MLA from the Campierganj assembly constituency of Gorakhpur.
- It is known that in the Constitution it is a system that till the election of the Chairman of the newly constituted Assembly, the appointment of 'Protem Speaker' is done by the Governor for the discharge of the responsibilities of the Speaker.

Related Links:-

<http://www.jagran.com/uttar-pradesh/lucknow-city-bjp-mla-fateh-bahadur-singh-will-take-oath-as-protem-speaker-today-15751027.html>

<http://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/politics-and-nation/bjp-mla-fateh-bahadur-singh-is-ups-protem-speaker/articleshow/57778607.cms>



Dr. Randeep Guleria appointed as the director of the AIIMS Delhi

Question: AIIMS Delhi was established in ...

- (a) 1951 (b) 1953 (c) 195 (d) 1956

Ans: (d)

- On 24th March, 2017, Dr. Randeep Guleria was appointed as the director of the All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS).
- The post was vacant following retirement of former director Dr. M C Mishra in January.
- Dr Guleria joined AIIMS as an assistant professor in 1992 and has been the HoD of the department of pulmonary medicine and sleep disorders, since April, 2011.
- "The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet has approved the appointment of Randeep Guleria at AIIMS, New Delhi to the post of Director.
- He has been appointed for five years from the date of assumption of charge or till attaining the age of 65 until further orders.
- Dr Guleria has worked as a personal physician to former prime minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee.
- It is notable that All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS), Delhi, was established in 1956 and operates autonomously under the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare.

Reference:

<http://indiatoday.intoday.in/story/dr-randeep-guleria-is-new-director-of-aiims-delhi/1/912146.html>



Madhabi Puri Buch appointed as Sebi Whole-Time Member

Question: Who is the chairman of the Securities and Exchange Board of India?

(a) Ajay Tyagi (b) Rahul Bajaj (c) Pankaj Patel (d) Rahul Bhatnagar

Ans: (a)

- On 21st March, 2017 Madhabi Puri Buch was appointed as a Whole-Time Member of capital markets regulator the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI).
- She is currently associated with the New Development Bank in Shanghai, China.
- She has been appointed to the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) post for a period of three years.
- She will get pay as admissible to an additional secretary to Government of India or a consolidated salary of Rs. 3.75 lakh per month.



Reference:

<http://www.thehindubusinessline.com/markets/madhabi-puri-buch-appointed-as-sebi-whole-time-member/article9594552.ece>

<http://www.sebi.gov.in/sebiweb/home/detail/35893/yes/PR-Shri-Ajay-Tyagi-takes-charge-as-Chairman-SEBI>

New Speaker of Goa Legislative Assembly

Question: Who amongst the following has recently elected as the new Speaker of Goa Legislative Assembly?

(A) Digambar Kamat Digambar (B) Ranjit Rane (C) Pramod Sawant
(D) Siddharth Kuncolienkar



Answer- (c)

Related facts:

- On March 22, 2017, BJP MLA Pramod Pandurang Sawant has been elected the new Speaker of the Goa Legislative Assembly.
- The new Speaker defeated Congress nominee Aleixo Reginaldo Lourenco.
- Sawant secured 20 votes while Lourenco got 15.
- Aleixo Reginaldo Lourenco is MLA from the Sanquem Legislative Assembly of Goa State.

Related links:

<http://www.deccanherald.com/content/602608/bjps-pramod-sawant-elected-speaker.html>

<http://indianexpress.com/article/india/bjps-pramod-sawant-elected-speaker-of-go-a-assembly/>

Chinu Modi

Question: Recently Chinu Modi passed away. He was-

- (A) Gujarati poet (B) Marathi litterateur (C) Environmentalists
(D) Bengali poet

Answer- (a)

Related facts:

- On March 19, 2017, the famous Gujarati poet and Ghazalkar Chinu Modi passed away. He was 77 years old.
- He was born on September 30, 1939.
- He has made significant contributions in Gujarati poetry, drama, novels and stories writing.
- He was awarded with Sahitya Akademi Award for his Ghazal collection 'Khara Zaran' in 2013.

Related links:

<https://twitter.com/narendramodi/status/843498861268230145>

<http://deshgujarat.com/2017/03/19/renown-gujarati-poet-chinu-modi-passes-away/>

<http://www.globalgujaratnews.in/article/gujarati-poet-chinu-modi-gets-sahitya-akademi-award/>

<http://www.financialexpress.com/india-news/pm-narendra-modi-mourns-death-of-gujarati-language-poet-chinu-modi/594538/>



US President nominated for Indian-American top judicial post

Question- Recently, which American-American nominated US-American Donald Trump, has been named as the judge of the 6th Circuit Court of Appeal in US?

- (a) Vivek Krishnamurthy (b) Amul Thapar (c) Tarun Chatterjee
(d) Vikas Agarwal

Ans: (b)

Related facts:-

- On March 21, 2017, American President Donald Trump named Indian American diversified expert Amul Roger Thapar as the judge in the U.S. Court of Appeals (The U.S. Court of Appeals for the Sixth Circuit) of the Sixth Circuit.
- He is the first American of Indian origin, who has been nominated for the top judicial post by Trump. If the Senate affirms this appointment, he will be the judge of the Court of Appeal of the Sixth Circuit of US. Here they will hear appeals from Kentucky, Tennessee, Ohio, Michigan states. Presently he is working as the District Judge of the United States in the eastern districts of Kentucky.
- In 2007, when he was appointed to this position. He was the first South Asian judge to reach this position.

Related Links:-

<https://www.whitehouse.gov/the-press-office/2017/03/21/president-donald-j-trump-announces-intent-nominate-judge-amul-r-thapar>

<http://www.kentucky.com/news/state/article139760453.html>



Manjeev Singh Puri

Question: In which of the following countries the senior official of Indian Foreign Service Mr. Manjeev Singh Puri is appointed as the next ambassador of India?

(a) Russia (b) Brazil (c) Belgium (d) Nepal

Answer- (d)

Related facts:

- According to a release on March 10, 2017, from Ministry of External Affairs , senior official of the Indian Foreign Service, Manjeev Singh Puri, has been appointed as the ambassador of India to Nepal.
- He will replace Ranjit Rae for this post.
- Ambassador Puri is a member of the Indian Foreign Service, having joined the service in 1982. In present Mr. Puri is the incumbent Indian Ambassador to the European Union, Belgium and Luxembourg. Mr. Deep Kumar Upadhyaya is Ambassador of Nepal to India.



Reference:

[http://www.mea.gov.in/press-](http://www.mea.gov.in/press-releases.htm?dtl/28129/Manjeev_Singh_Puri_appointed_as_the_Ambassador_of_India_to_Nepal)

[releases.htm?dtl/28129/Manjeev Singh Puri appointed as the Ambassador of India to Nepal](http://www.mea.gov.in/press-releases.htm?dtl/28129/Manjeev_Singh_Puri_appointed_as_the_Ambassador_of_India_to_Nepal)

<https://thehimalayantimes.com/nepal/manjeev-singh-puri-appointed-indian-envoy-nepal/>

Pro. George A. Olah

Question- Recently Prof. George A. Olah passed away. He was-

(a) Physicist (b) Chemist (c) Economist (d) Lawmaker

Ans: (b)

Related facts:-

- On March 8, 2017, the famous American chemistry Prof. George. A. Olah died. He was 89 years old.
- He was awarded the Nobel Prize for Chemistry in 1994 for his contribution to Carbocation. Apart from this he has been awarded the highest honor 'Priestley Medal' given by the American Chemical Society.



Related Links:-

<https://www.chemistryworld.com/news/chemistry-nobel-laureate-george-olah-dies-aged-89/2500536.article>

https://www.nobelprize.org/nobel_prizes/chemistry/laureates/1994/olah-bio.html

New deputy governor of RBI

Question: Recently, the Appointments Committee of the Cabinet approved the appointment of the new deputy governor of Reserve Bank of India?

(A) Chanda Kochhar (B) BP Kanungo (C) Usha Subramaniam (D) Arundhati Bhattacharya

Ans: (b)

Related facts

- On March 10, 2017; the Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (ACC) gave approval for the appointment of BP Kanungo, the new deputy governor of the Reserve Bank of India.
- His tenure will be for 3 years.
- He will replace R. Gandhi for this post.
- He will join the office on 3rd April, 2017.

Related Links:-

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=159160>

http://www.business-standard.com/article/current-affairs/b-p-kanungo-appointed-rbi-deputy-governor-117031001086_1.html

<http://www.aapnews.in/news/bp-kanungo-appointed-as-deputy-governor-of-reserve-bank-of-india/>

Appointment of new Deputy Secretary in Prime Minister's Office

Question: Who amongst the following has recently been appointed as the Deputy Secretary of the Prime Minister's Office (PMO)?

- (a) Praveen Kumar (b) Pradeep Sindh (c) Siddhartha Nath
(d) Nirupama Rao

Answer- (c)

Related facts:

- On March 9, 2017, the Central Government has appointed senior IFS officer Siddhartha Nath as the Deputy Secretary in the Prime Minister's Office (PMO).
- He is the officer of the 2003 batch of Indian Foreign Service.
- His tenure for this post is of 3 year.
- The numbers of Deputy Secretary working in PMO, including Nath ; is now 8.

Reference:

<http://www.thestatesman.com/india/new-deputy-secretary-in-pmo-1489081022.html>

http://www.bhasha.ptinews.com/news/1560320_bhasha

<https://www.tkbsen.in/2017/03/siddhartha-nath-appointed-deputy-secretary-in-pmo/>



South Korean President removed from Office

Question: What is the name of South Korea's President who was recently removed from office after impeachment on corruption charges?

- (a) Park Geun-hye (b) Hwang Kyo-ahn (c) Lee Myung-bak
(d) Roh Moo-hyun

Ans: (a)

- On 9th March, 2017, South Korea's President Park Geun-hye was formally removed from power after the country's Constitutional Court unanimously upheld her impeachment for corruption and influence peddling.
- She was accused of corruption charges at a time of rising tensions with North Korea and China.
- Park has become South Korea's first democratically elected leader to be forced from office. A snap presidential election will be held within 60 days.
- Prime Minister Hwang Kyo-ahn, who was appointed, acting president, will remain in that post until the election.
- Park became the 18th president of South Korea on 25 February 2013.
- Park, 65, is the daughter of former military strongman Park Chung-hee, who served as president from 1963 to 1979 and oversaw South Korea's transformation into an economic powerhouse.



Reference:

<http://www.reuters.com/article/us-southkorea-politics-idUSKBN16H066>

Senior journalist Arvind Padmanabhan passed away

Question: Famous journalist Arvind Padmanabhan, who recently passed away, was associated with...

- (a) IANS (b) Reuters (c) BBC (d) CNN

Ans: (a)

- Veteran journalist Arvind Padmanabhan, Executive Editor at IANS, died of cardiac arrest in New Delhi on 8th March, 2017. He was 49.
- Arvind Padmanabhan had started with the IANS in 1999 as in-charge of its Business Section. He also served with the PTI, The Times of India and TV18.
- Arvind was widely admired in the journalistic community for thoroughness in reporting, writing and editing.
- He had a long inning at IANS, first assuming charge of the Business Bureau of the wire service and subsequently rising to become, first, the Business Editor of IANS and then the Bureau Chief.
- He was soon elevated as the Executive Editor and headed the business and economy team.



Reference:

<http://www.uniindia.com/senior-journalist-arvind-padmanabhan-passes-away/india/news/803819.html>

Dr. Thomas Starzl

Question : Dr. Thomas Starzl , the world's first eminent liver transplant surgeon, died recently . He was from –

(a) Japan (b) America (c) Canada (d) Germany

Answer:(b)

Related Fact :

- On March 4, 2017, eminent American surgeon Dr. Thomas Starzl passed away at Pittsburgh. He was of 90.
- Dr. Thomas is known as the “Father of Transplantation”.
- He performed the world's first liver transplant in 1963 and the first successful liver transplant in 1967.
- He also introduced anti-lymphocyte globulin and cyclosporine to prevent organ rejection and in 1989, announced the first-time use of FK506 (tacrolimus) as a more effective anti-rejection agent.



Reference:

<http://www.news.pitt.edu/news/starzl>

<http://www.usatoday.com/story/news/2017/03/05/liver-transplant-dr-thomas-starzl-dies/98788710/>

P.K. Purwar

Q: Right now, who has been appointed as the new chairman and managing director of the public sector telecom company MTNL?

(A) J.S. Deepak (B) Anupam Shrivastava (C) PK Purwar

(D) A.K. Garg

Answer- (c)

Related facts:

- On March 1, 2017, the Central Government appointed PK Purwar as Chairman and Managing Director (CMD) of Public Sector Telecom Company Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Limited (MTNL).
- His tenure will be for 5 years.
- Currently he is the Executive CMD of MTNL and Director (Finance).
- On this post, he will replace AK. Garg, who retired on May 31, 2014.
- It is known that MTNL is the main service provider of fixed-line telecommunications mobile services in both metro cities of Delhi and Mumbai.
- It was established on April 1, 1986.
- It provides mobile services in Mumbai city including four outlying peripheral cities like Noida, Gurugram, Faridabad and Ghaziabad and in the areas covered under Mumbai Municipal Corporation, New Mumbai Corporation and Thane Municipal Corporation.
- MTNL was granted Navratna status in 1997 and was included in the New York Stock Exchange list in the year 2001.



Related Links:-

<http://mtnl.in/aboutus.htm>

<http://indiatoday.intoday.in/story/p-k-purwar-appointed-mtnl-cmd/1/894695.html>

Lok Sabha ex-Speaker Rabi Ray passed away

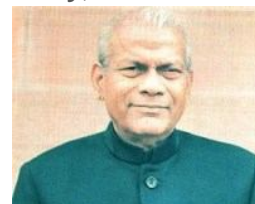
Question: Former Lok Sabha speaker Rabi Ray who recently passed away, was elected Speaker of the ... Lok Sabha.

(a) 9th (b) 2nd (c) 5th (d) 7th

Ans: (a)

Related Fact :

- On 6th March, 2017, noted socialist leader and former Lok Sabha speaker Rabi Ray passed away due to age-related ailments at SCB Medical College Hospital in Cuttack. He was 90.
- He was born at Bhanragarh village in Khurda district of Odisha on November 26, 1926.
- Ray was elected to the 4th Lok Sabha from Puri in Odisha in 1967.
- Mr. Ray was the union minister of health and family welfare in the Morarji Desai ministry from January 1979 to January 1980.
- On December 19, 1989, he was unanimously elected as Speaker of the 9th Lok Sabha from 1989-1991. He was also a former chairman of Common Wealth Speakers' Forum.



Reference:

<http://indianexpress.com/article/india/former-ls-speaker-rabi-ray-passes-away-4557151/>

SAARC's New General Secretary

Question: Who has been appointed as the new General Secretary of SAARC recently?

(a) Amjad Hussain B. Sial (b) Arjun Bahadur Thapa
(c) Vikas Swaroop (d) G Parthasarthy

Ans: (a)

Related Fact :

- On 1st March, 2017, Mr. Amjad Hussain B. Sial assumed charge of the office of Secretary General of South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC). He is the 13th general secretary of SAARC.
- He has succeeded Nepal's Arjun Bahadur Thapa, who was appointed the Secretary-General in 2014. The Pakistani turn starts from March 1, 2017, and continues till February 28, 2020.
- Mr. Sial is a seasoned diplomat from Pakistan Foreign Service. He has a rich experience in bilateral and multilateral diplomacy both at Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Islamabad and Missions abroad. He was Director (Pakistan) from 2003-2006, at SAARC Secretariat Kathmandu.
- Before joining SAARC Secretariat he was Special Secretary at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Islamabad.



About SAARC:

The South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) is a regional intergovernmental organization and geopolitical union of nations in South Asia. Its member states are- Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Nepal, the Maldives, Pakistan and Sri Lanka. Afghanistan joined SAARC as a Member at the Fourteenth SAARC Summit, Delhi, in April 2007.

The heads of Seven South Asian Countries of SAARC (Bangladeshi, Bhutan, India,

Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka) signed the charter to establish the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) on December 8th, 1985. The SAARC secretariat was established in Kathmandu on 16th January 1987.

- Abul Ahsan (Bangladesh) was the first general secretary of SAARC.
- Fathimath Dhiyana Saeed (Maldives) is the only woman to have served as SAARC general secretary.
- There have been two general secretaries from India so far: Kishore Kant Bhargava and Sheel Kant Sharma.

Reference:

<http://www.saarc-sec.org/press-releases/Appointment-of-the-New-Secretary-General-01-March-2017/130/>

P K Purwar appointed MTNL CMD

Question: Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Limited (MTNL) was set up by the Government of India on ...

- (a) 1st March, 1986 (b) 1st April, 1986 (c) 25th March, 1986
(d) 1st January, 1990

Ans: (b)

Related Fact :

- On 1st March, 2017, P K Purwar was appointed Chairman and Managing Director of state-run telecom major Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Limited (MTNL). The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet has approved his appointment to the post for five years.
- Purwar is currently working as Director (Finance) in MTNL. The company had been without a full-time CMD since May 31, 2014, following superannuation of A K Garg.
- **About MTNL:**
MTNL was setup on 1st April, 1986 by the Government of India to upgrade the quality of telecom services, expand the telecom network, introduce new services in India 's key metro cities of Delhi & Mumbai.
- MTNL is the principal provider of fixed-line telecommunication service in the two Metropolitan Cities of Delhi and Mumbai. It offers mobile services in the city of Delhi including four peripheral towns Noida, Gurgaon, Faridabad & Gaziabad and the Mumbai city along with the areas falling under the Mumbai Municipal Corporation, New Mumbai Corporation and Thane Municipal Corporation.
- The authorized capital of the Company is Rs. 800 crores. The Paid up Share Capital is Rs. 630 crores divided into 63 crore share of Rs. 10 each. At present, 56.25% equity shares are held by President of India and remaining 43.75% shares are held by FIIs, Financial Institutions, Banks, Mutual Funds and others including individual investors.
- MTNL has been given Navratna status in 1997 and was listed in New York Stock Exchange in 2001. MTNL was also associated with the Common Wealth Games (CWG)-2010 as its Official Telecom Partner to set up a world class communication infrastructure to meet out the broadcast and telecom requirement of the event.

Reference:

<http://mtnl.in/aboutus.htm>

<http://indiatoday.intoday.in/story/p-k-purwar-appointed-mtnl-cmd/1/894695.html>



New Director of National Police Academy

Question: Who has been appointed as Director of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel National Police Academy (SVPNPA), Hyderabad?

- (a) Ms DR Doley Barman (b) Reena Mitra (c) Kiran Bedi
(d) Aruna M Bahuguna

Ans: (a)

Related Fact :

- On 28th February, 2017, Senior Indian Police Service officer Ms D.R. Doley Barman was appointed as Director of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel National Police Academy Hyderabad.
- She is a 1986 batch Jammu and Kashmir cadre IPS officer and will replace Ms Aruna M Bahuguna.
- However, Ms Barman's appointment has been done by temporarily downgrading the post to ADG level for a period of two years or until further orders, whichever is earlier.
- Ms Barman, would also hold additional charge of the post of Director, North Eastern Police Academy (NEPA), Meghalaya, where she is currently working, till the appointment and joining of regular Director.



Reference:

<http://www.indiastrategic.in/2017/02/28/dr-doley-barman-appointed-director-of-svpnpa-hyderabad/>

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=158738>

Zeliang appointed Finance Advisor to Nagaland govt.

Question: Who is the current Governor of Nagaland?

- (a) P.B.Acharya (b) Ram Naik (c) Vinod Kumar Duggal (d) Shiela Dixit

Ans: (a)

Related Fact :

- On 25th February, 2017, Former Nagaland Chief Minister T R Zeliang was appointed as Finance Advisor to the government of Nagaland.
- Mr. Zeliang was appointed by the Governor P.B. Acharya. He will receive the pay and allowances and all other facilities admissible to a cabinet minister.
- Mr. Zeliang resigned from the chief ministership on February 19 conceding to the demand of the Joint Coordination Committee and Nagaland Tribal Action Committee for his decision to hold elections to urban bodies with 33 per cent reservation for women and subsequent incidents.



Reference:

<http://www.thehindu.com/news/national/other-states/Former-CM-Zeliang-appointed-Finance-Advisor-to-Nagaland-govt/article17366225.ece>

http://www.indiablooms.com/ibns_new/news-details/N/29006/former-nagaland-cm-zeliang-appointed-finance-advisor-to-state-govt.html

Taarak Mehta passed away

Question: 'Duniya Ne Undha Chashma' was a popular column of famous writer...

- (a) Khushwant Singh (b) Karan Thapar (c) Deena Nath Mishra
(d) Taarak Mehta

Ans: (d)



- On 1st March, 2017, Taarak Mehta, the popular Gujarati columnist, humorist and playwright, passed away at the age of 87. Mehta used to write for Gujarati dailies like Divya Bhaskar and other publications like Chitralekha.
- The columnist's most popular work 'Duniya Ne Undha Chashma' was adapted to the small screen as Taarak Mehta Ka Ooltah Chashmah on SAB TV.
- Taarak Mehta had published 80 books, over the years, three books are based on the columns he wrote in Gujarati newspaper Divya Bhaskar while rest were compiled from the stories in Taarak Mehta Ka Ooltah Chashmah.
- Taarak Mehta was awarded the Padma Shri in 2015 for his literary contributions.
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi offered condolence to the departed soul and described him as someone whose writing represented unity in diversity.

Reference:

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=158756>

Abdul Salam passed away

Question: Congress leader and Rajya Sabha member Haji Abdul Salam, who recently passed away, belonged to...

- (a) Manipur (b) Maharashtra (c) Odisha (d) Telangana

Ans: (a)



- On 28th February, 2017, Congress leader and Rajya Sabha member Haji Abdul Salam passed away following a brief illness. He was 69.
- He was born on 1st March, 1947, at Heibong Makhong in Thoubal district of Manipur.
- Haji Abdul Salam was the first Manipuri Muslim to be a member of RS from Manipur. He had been representing the state in the upper house since 2014.
- He was elected to the 3rd, 6th and 8th Manipur Legislative Assembly from Wabagai assembly constituency.
- The Vice President of India, Mr. M. Hamid Ansari condoled the passing away of Abdul Salam. In a message, he said that Mr. Salam will be remembered for his service to the people of Manipur.

Reference:

<http://indianexpress.com/article/india/congress-rajya-sabha-mp-haji-abdul-salam-passes-away-at-69-4549231/>

<http://www.elections.in/political-leaders/haji-abdul-salam.html>

Kenneth J. Arrow

Question: Recently Kenneth J. Arrow passed away, He was a-

(a) Scientist (b) Economist (c) Environmentalist (d) Astronaut

Ans:(b)

Related facts:

- On 21 February 2017; Kenneth J. Arrow an American economist and Nobel prize winner passed away. He was 95.
- He shared Nobel memorial prize in economic science with British economist Sir John R. Hicks in 1972 for their pioneering mathematical work on general equilibrium theory.
- He was the youngest-ever winner of a Nobel prize for economics.



Reference:

https://www.washingtonpost.com/business/nobel-winning-economist-kenneth-j-arrow-dies-at-95/2017/02/22/ff5a68dc-f96a-11e6-aa1e-5f735ee31334_story.html?utm_term=.69b0eb2be250
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kenneth_Arrow

Nand Kumar Sai- new Chairman of National Commission for Scheduled Tribes

Question: The National Commission for Scheduled Tribes (NCST) came into existence on...

(a) 19th February, 2004 (b) 25th March 2005
(c) 17th September, 2001 (d) 1st August, 2002

Ans: (a)

RelatedFact :

- On 28th February, 2017, senior tribal leader from Chhattisgarh and ex-parliamentarian Nand Kuamr Sai assumed charge as the chairman of National Commission for Scheduled Tribes (NCST) in New Delhi.
- Mr. Sai belongs to Bhagora village of Jaspur District in Chhattisgarh. He obtained Post Graduate degree in Political Science from Pt. Ravi Shankar Shukla University, Raipur.
- Mr. Sai was elected to MP legislative assembly in 1977, 1985 and 1998. He was elected to Chhattisgarh legislative assembly in 2000 and was the first leader of opposition in the assembly. Shri Sai was elected to Lok sabha in 1989, 1996 and 2004. He was also elected to Rajya Sabha in 2009 and 2010.
- He has served as member of Parliamentary Standing Committee on Coal and Steel and member of the Parliamentary consultative committee of Ministry of Urban Development and Ministry of Social Justice and empowerment.
- Mr. Sai has been actively involved in spreading education in tribal areas and various movements to oppose atrocities and exploitation of tribal people.
- **About NCST:**
NCST was established by amending Article 338 and inserting a new Article 338A in the Constitution through the Constitution (89th Amendment) Act, 2003. By this amendment, the erstwhile National Commission for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes was replaced by two separate Commissions namely- (i) the National Commission for Scheduled Castes (NCSC), and (ii) the National Commission for Scheduled Tribes (NCST) since February 19, 2004.



The term of office of Chairperson, Vice-Chairperson and each member is three years from the date of assumption of charge. The Chairperson has been given the rank of Union Cabinet Minister and the Vice-Chairperson that of a Minister of State and other Members have the ranks of a Secretary to the Government of India.

- **Functions:**

NCST is empowered to investigate and monitor matters relating to safeguards provided for STs under the Constitution or under other laws or under Govt. order. The Commission is also authorized to inquire into specific complaints relating to rights and safeguards of STs and to participate and advise in the Planning Process relating to socio-economic development of STs and to evaluate the progress of their development under the Union and States. The commission submits its report to the President annually on the working of safeguards and measures required for effective implementation of Programmers/ Schemes relating to welfare and socio-economic development of STs.

Reference:

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=158724>

New Spokesperson in the External Affairs Ministry

Question: Who has been recently appointed as the new spokesperson of the External Affairs Ministry?

- (a) Deepak Mittal (b) Gopal Baglay (c) Vikas Swarup
(d) Syed Akbaruddin

Ans (b)

Related Fact :

- On 27th February, 2017, senior diplomat Gopal Baglay was appointed spokesperson in the External Affairs Ministry succeeding Vikas Swarup, who was made India's new High Commissioner to Canada.
- Mr. Baglay is a 1992-batch officer of Indian Foreign Service. He was handling the sensitive PAI (Pakistan-Afghanistan-Iran) division in the ministry till now.
- Apart from Spokesperson, his designation would also be Joint Secretary External Publicity (XP).
- Baglay has held many key positions including Director, XP, Director PAI and Indian Deputy High Commissioner to Pakistan.
- Deepak Mittal is the new in-charge of the PAI division.
- Mr. Mittal, who joined the IFS in 1998, has since served in Bangladesh, Egypt and Israel in various capacities and as Consul General in Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam. His last position was as Joint Secretary in CPV (Consular, Passport and Visa) division.

Reference:

<http://indiatoday.intoday.in/story/gopal-baglay-appointed-mea-spokesperson/1/892664.html>



P. Shiv Shankar passed away

Question: Veteran Congress party leader P. Shiv Shankar, who recently passed away, belonged to...

- (a) Hyderabad (b) Bengaluru (c) Chennai (d) Nagpur



Ans: (a)

Related Fact :

- On 27th February, 2017, former Union Minister and a veteran parliamentarian P. Shiv Shankar passed away after prolonged illness. He was 89 years old.
- He was born on August 10, 1929 in Mamidipally village in Hyderabad district. Mr. Shiv Shankar passed BA from Hindu College, Amritsar, and completed LLB from University Law College, Osmania University.
- He won in the Secunderabad Lok Sabha constituency by-election in 1979 from the Indian National Congress party and retained the seat in 1980 too.
- He became Law Minister in the Indira Gandhi Cabinet in 1980. From 1985 till 1993 he represented the Congress as Rajya Sabha member from Gujarat. In 1998, he again won in the Tenali Parliamentary constituency election from Congress Party.
- In 2008 he joined the Praja Rajyam Party floated by actor Chiranjeevi which merged with the Congress in 2011.
- Shri Shiv Shankar made valuable contribution to Indian politics in his various capacities including as Union Cabinet Minister, Deputy Chairman, Planning Commission and as Governor of Sikkim as well as Kerala. He was associated with a large number of social and educational institutions.
- The President of India, Shri Pranab Mukherjee condoled the passing away of Shri P. Shiv Shankar.

Reference:

<http://www.thehindu.com/news/national/Former-Union-Minister-P.-Shiv-Shankar-passes-away/article17377153.ece>

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=158723>

Hemant Bhargava

Question: Recently Hemant Bhargava was appointed as Managing Director of which of the following state-owned Life Insurance Company?

- (a) General Insurance Corporation of India (GIC)
- (b) Life Insurance Corporation (LIC)
- (c) Oriental Insurance Company Limited
- (d) United India Insurance Company Limited



Ans: (b)

Related facts:

- On 10 February 2017; Hemant Bhargava was appointed as Managing Director of state-owned Life Insurance Corporation (LIC) of India.
- The Appointments Committee of Cabinet has approved Bhargava's appointment to the post till his superannuation, i.e., July 31, 2019.
- Presently V K Sharma is the chairman of Life Insurance Corporation (LIC).
- Whereas Usha Sangwan is a Managing Director at Life Insurance Corporation of India.
- Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC) is an Indian state-owned insurance group and investment company headquartered in Mumbai.

Reference:

<https://www.licindia.in/getattachment/5d0d9a49-6319-46d6-96a9-53b3d16bdac3/SHRI-HEMANT-BHARGAVA-TAKES-CHARGE-AS-MANAGING-DIRE>

Frank Walter Steinmeier

Question: Recently Frank Walter Steinmeier has been elected president of which of the following country?

(a) Germany (b) Mexico (c) Canada (d) Australia

Ans:(a)

Related facts:

- On 12 February 2017; Frank Walter Steinmeier, former foreign minister has been chosen to become the 12th president of Germany.
- He will succeed current President Joachim Gauck, whose term will end on 18 March 2017
- He got 923 seats in the assembly made up of 1,260 MPs and representatives of Germany's 16 states.
- On 12 March 2017, he will take over as the country's new president.



Reference:

<http://www.dw.com/en/german-special-assembly-elects-frank-walter-steinmeier-as-president/a-37516370>

Dubai gets first woman commercial pilot in royal family

Question: Recently who among the following became the first woman commercial pilot in royal family of Dubai?

(a) Shaikha Mozah Al Maktoum (b) Sheikha Maitha bint Mohammed
(c) Sheikh Latifa (d) None of the above

Ans: (a)

Related facts:

- Shaikha Mozah Al Maktoum, one of the female members of Dubai's ruling family became the first woman commercial pilot.
- She assisted flight as a commercial pilot for Emirates.
- In recent years, an Emirati woman fighter pilot – Major Mariam Al Mansouri – made headlines around the world when she led an aerial raid against ISIS in Syria.



Reference:

<http://gulfnews.com/news/uae/society/meet-the-first-commercial-female-pilot-from-al-maktoum-family-1.1973752>

<http://indianexpress.com/article/world/dubai-gets-first-woman-commercial-pilot-in-royal-family-4511131/>

Satinder Sartaj

Question: United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) has recently started the project 'Blue Heart Campaign', which is related to-

(a) Human trafficking (b) Cease fire (c) Poverty alleviation
(d) Awareness of heart related diseases

Ans:(a)

Related facts:



- On 9 February 2017; The United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) has chosen Punjabi folk singer Satinder Sartaaj for the Blue Heart Campaign, an awareness project against human trafficking.
- More than 60 artists from around the world — including music director AR Rahman and singer Sonu Nigam — have united against the social cause and released an album 'Music to Inspire' by label Rukus Avenue, which launched this album.
- The album, which was launched at UN Office in New York, will be available online on Friday at iTunes, Amazon and Google play.
- The Blue Heart campaign seeks to encourage involvement and inspire action to help stop this crime and also people to show solidarity with the victims of human trafficking by wearing the Blue Heart.
- The campaign is also an initiative for raising awareness to fight human trafficking and its impact on society.
- It may be recalled that on 8 March 2008 UNODC launched Blue Heart campaign against human trafficking

Reference:

<https://www.facebook.com/unodc/photos/a.10151023522637331.415675.43559937330/10154047944122331/?type=3&theater>
<http://www.aninews.in/newsdetail-Mg/Mjk5MTAw/folk-singer-satinder-sartaaj-to-represent-awareness-project-against-human-trafficking.html>
<http://www.satindersartaaj.com/punjabi-folk-singer-satinder-sartaaj-work-human-trafficking/>

Pathani Patnaik

Question: Recently Pathani Patnaik passed way, he was a-

(a) Painter (b) Litterateur (c) Historian (d) Environmentalist

Ans: (b)

Related facts:

- On 4 February 2017; eminent educationist and litterateur Pathani Patnaik passed away. He was 89.
- He had served as president of Odisha Sahitya Academi.
- He received the Kendriya Sahitya Akademi Award in 2010 for his autobiography "Jeebanara Chalapatha".



Reference:

<http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/cuttack/noted-academician-pathani-patnaik-passes-away/articleshow/56975194.cms>
<http://indianexpress.com/article/india/eminent-litterateur-pathani-patnaik-passes-away-4508090/>

New President of Assocham

Question: Who has been appointed as the new president of industry chamber

Assocham?

(a) Sunil Kanoria (b) Sandeep Jajodia (c) B K Goenka
 (d) K.K Gandhi

Ans:(b)

Related facts:



- On 13 February 2017; Monnet Ispat & Energy Ltd. CMD Sandeep Jajodia has been appointed the new president of industry chamber Assocham.
- He will succeeds Sunil Kanoria
- Balkrishan Goenka, Chairman, Welspun Group and Kiran Kumar Grandhi, vice-chairman of GMR Infrastructure Ltd, have taken over as senior vice-president and vice-president respectively.

Reference:

<http://www.assochem.org/newsdetail.php?id=6194>

<http://www.thehindubusinessline.com/companies/sandeep-jajodia-appointed-assochem-president/article9538626.ece>

http://www.business-standard.com/article/pti-stories/sandeep-jajodia-appointed-assochem-president-117021300453_1.html

New chairman of SEBI

Question: Recently who has been appointed as the new chairman of Securities and Exchange Board of India (Sebi)?

- (a) Narendra Tyagi (b) Ajay Tyagi (c) Shaktikanta Das
(d) Arundhati Bhattacharya

Ans:(b)

Related facts:

- On 10 February 2017; the government appointed Ajay Tyagi, additional secretary in the finance ministry, as the new chairman of Securities and Exchange Board of India (Sebi).
- He will take over from U K Sinha on March 1, 2017.
- He has been appointment for a period not exceeding five years or till the age of 65 years.
- He is a 1984 batch IAS officer of Himachal Pradesh cadre, is at present Additional Secretary (Investment) in the Department of Economic Affairs and handles capital market, among others.
- The Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) is the regulator for the securities market in India.
- It was established in the year 1988 and given statutory powers on 30 January 1992 through the SEBI Act, 1992
SEBI has its headquarters in Mumbai, Maharashtra.



Reference:

<http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/business/india-business/ajay-tyagi-appointed-as-new-chairman-of-sebi-to-take-charge-on-march-1/articleshow/57089839.cms>

http://www.business-standard.com/article/markets/senior-ias-officer-ajay-tyagi-appointed-sebi-chief-for-five-years-117021000938_1.html

PLACES

Reservation for Women in Punjab Government Jobs

Question: How much reservation for women in government jobs has been approved by state of Punjab?

(a) 50% (b) 33% (c) 60% (d) 46%

Answer: (b)

Related facts:

- On March 19, 2017, Punjab government in its first cabinet meeting after formation approved a 33% reservation for women in government jobs.
- The government has decided to allow this reservation in contractual appointments too.
- The decision was taken in the cabinet meeting chaired by Punjab Chief Minister Amarinder Singh.
- Government has also decided to increase the reservation for women from 33% to 50% in Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs) and Urban Local Bodies (ULBs).
- An official told that increased reservation is a step towards affirming the Punjab Congress's commitment towards empowerment of women.



Reference:

<http://ddinews.gov.in/National/National%20-%20Headlines/Pages/Punjab.aspx>

<http://www.newsnation.in/india-news/punjab-cabinet-approves-33-percent-reservation-for-women-in-state-jobs-article-164973.html>

<http://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/politics-and-nation/punjab-government-okays-33-reservation-for-women-in-state-jobs/articleshow/57711405.cms>

Central government laid the foundation stone of the banana research center

Question- Where did the central government lay the foundation stone of the banana research center?

(a) Bhagalpur (b) Patna (c) Vaishali (d) Rewa

Ans: (c)

Related facts

- On March 11, 2017; the foundation stone of the Banana Research Center in Goraul, Vaishali (Bihar) was taken by the Central Government. Union Agriculture and Farmer Welfare Minister Radha Mohan Singh laid the foundation stone of this research center.
- It is known that banana production in India is 14.2 million tonnes.
- India is at first place in the production of banana and third in terms of area of its cultivation in the world.
- Maharashtra is the largest producer state and Tamilnadu at second place in terms of production of banana.



Related Links:-

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=159158>

Kaushambi

Question: Recently from which place, the statue of the 23rd Tirthankar of Jainism has been received, placed on the seven hoods of Sheshnag?

(A) Mathura (B) Kaushambi (C) Ujjain (D) Shravanabelagola

Ans: (b)

Related facts:-

- According to a report published on March 3, 2017, the statue of the 23rd Tirthankar Parsvnath of Jain religion has been received from Yamuna River in Kaushambi district.
- This idol is about 1000 years old.
- This statue was found hanging in fishermen's trap on the Gurbjan Ghat of Yamuna River in front of Garhva Kosam Inam village in Kaushambi district.
- In this statue, 23rd Tirthankara Lord Parshvanatha is served by seven hoods of Sheshnag.
- This idol is about four and a half feet high.
- It is important that Kaushambi has been the oldest center of Jain religion.
- Padma Prabhu was born in Kaushambi, the sixth Tirthankar of Jain religion.



Related Links:-

<http://www.hindustantimes.com/lucknow/ancient-jain-teerthankar-s-statue-found-in-kaushambi/story-ENDM2f42WBzTbEAIL2lp7H.html>

<http://hindi.oneindia.com/news/uttar-pradesh/built-8th-century-1200-years-old-statue-lord-parshwanath-gets-in-kaushambi/slider-pf66501-400043.html>

<http://www.amarujala.com/uttar-pradesh/allahabad/on-receipt-of-the-statue-of-lord-parshwanath-active-ivivi>

Government of Kerala announces people's free internet rights

Question: Recently, how did the Kerala government announce the free internet connections to the poor families in the state?

(a) 1 million (b) 1.5 million (c) 2 million (d) 2.5 million

Ans: (c)

Related facts:-

- On March 3, 2017; the Kerala government announced to provide free Internet connections to 20 lakh poor families in the state.
- This announcement was made by Finance Minister Thomas Isaac while presenting the budget for the fiscal year 2017-18.
- Under this, internet will be made like people's rights.
- Apart from this, the Internet gateway will be established through phone network in 18 months.
- For which an optical fiber pathway called K-Fon will be constructed.
- Its cost amount will be Rs. 1,000 crore.
- The Finance Minister said that by this, two million poor families will be able to get an internet connection for free, while others will be given this at a lower cost.



Related Links:-

<http://english.manoramaonline.com/in-depth/kerala-budget-2017/kerala-budget-focus-infrastructure-women-safety-isaac.html>

<http://www.deccanchronicle.com/nation/in-other-news/040317/kerala-budget-2017-20-lakh-families-to-enjoy-free-internet.html>

http://zeenews.india.com/kerala/kerala-budget-2017-govt-announces-20-lakh-free-internet-connections_1982959.html

Randhangar beach, Havelock Island

Question:-American Travel Website Trip Adviser released the list of World Traveler's Choice Award-Winning Beaches-2017, in this list what is the position of the Radhanagar beach the Havelock Island in Andaman?

- (a) First position (b) Second position (c) Fifth position
(d) Eighth position

Ans: (d)

Related facts:-

- On 23rd February, 2017; Trip Advisor American Travel Website announced the World Traveler's Choice Award winning beaches (25).
- In this year's list, Randhangar beach, Havelock Island, Andaman, India were ranked eighth. (First place in the context of Asia)
- The first five places in the list are the beaches –
 1. The Baia do Sancho Fernando de Noronha in Brazil
 2. Grace Bay Providenciales in Turks.
 3. Eagle Beach, Aruba.
 4. Playa Paraíso, Cuba
 5. Siesta Beach, Florida, US.
- It is notable that the winners are determined by Trip Advisor, based on the number of passengers and the quality related ratings given by the passengers during the 12 months.



Reference:

<https://www.tripadvisor.co.uk/TravelersChoice-Beaches-cTop-g1>

<http://profit.ndtv.com/news/life-and-careers/article-indias-radhanagar-beach-ranks-8th-in-the-world-tripadvisor-1664163>

India's second largest crude oil producing state

Question: Which is the second largest crude oil producing state of India after Bombay High?

- (a) Gujarat (b) Rajasthan (c) Maharashtra (d) Odisha

Answer- (b)

Related facts

- On 23 February, 2017; counting the achievements of the state government in the Rajasthan assembly Governor Kalyan Singh said Rajasthan has become the second largest crude oil producing state in the country.
- In the state of Rajasthan, oil fields are producing about 9 lakh tonnes of oil annually.



- It is 24 percent of the total domestic production.
- It is worth mentioning that Offshore Field Bombay High is the largest crude oil producer in the country.

Related Link:-

http://ptinews.com/news/8437634_Rajasthan-2nd-largest-crude-oil-producer-in-country-Governor-

Dharamsala

Question- Which state Cabinet has recently approved the proposal to make Dharamsala the second capital of the state?

(A) Arunachal Pradesh (B) Himachal Pradesh (C) Sikkim (D) Tripura

Ans: (b)

Related facts:-

- On March 2, 2017, the Himachal Pradesh Cabinet approved the proposal to make Dharamsala the second capital of the state.
- Recently, the state's Chief Minister Birbhadra Singh expressed his desire to make Dharamsala the second capital during his winter stay in Kangra.
- After the approval of Cabinet, a mini secretariat will be set up for the offices of ministers and senior officials in Dharamsala.



Related Links:-

<http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/india/himachal-pradesh-gets-its-second-capital-in-dharamsala/articleshow/57432184.cms>

<http://www.india.com/news/india/dharamsala-becomes-the-second-capital-of-himachal-pradesh-1888119/>

<http://himachalabhiabhi.com/dharmshala-second-capital-cabinet-seal.html>

Slovenia allows same-sex marriage

Question: Which of the country below does not legally recognize same-sex marriages?

(a) Britain (b) France (c) Slovenia (d) Germany

Ans: (c)

Related Fact :

- On 24th February, 2017, central European country Slovenia permitted same-sex marriages for the first time under a law giving gay couples largely the same rights as heterosexuals.
- However, they will not be entitled to jointly adopting children.
- First Homosexual marriage was performed in Maribor- the second largest city of Slovenia.



Reference:

<http://www.reuters.com/article/us-slovenia-rights-idUSKBN1630U0>

<https://www.pinknews.co.uk/2017/02/24/same-sex-marriage-is-legal-in-slovenia-from-today/>

Angola

Question: Name the Angolan stadium in which about several people have died and 100 injured when a stampede occurred during a local football match?

- (a) Yuge Stadium (b) Lamela Stadium (c) January 4 stadium
(d) Santiago Stadium

Ans: (c)

Related facts:

- On 11 February 2017; about several people have died and 100 injured in an Angolan stadium when a stampede occurred during a local football match.
- The stampede occurred at the January 4th stadium in Uige, a city in northern Angola.
- The football match was going between Santa Rita de Cassia and Recreativo de Libolo in Angola's domestic league season.
- The deaths were caused by a stampede (caused by the firing of teargas by police personnel at the stadium), it followed a controversial decision by the referee in a game between the top local sides, Accra Hearts of Oak and Kumasi Asante Kotoko.



Reference:

- <http://www.africanews.com/2017/02/10/17-dead-scores-injured-in-stampede-at-football-game-in-angola/>
<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-4213478/17-killed-stampede-Angolan-football-stadium.html>
<http://af.reuters.com/article/angolaNews/idAFL5N1FV6MI>
<http://www.thehindu.com/news/international/17-killed-in-stampede-at-Angolan-football-stadium-police/article17287704.ece>

Guwahati

Question: The Indian Olympic Association (IOA) will conduct the first ever Himalayan Region Games in which of the following city?

- (a) Dehradun (b) Guwahati (c) Shimla (d) Sri Lanka

Ans:(b)

Related facts:

- From April 21 to 30, 2017; The Indian Olympic Association (IOA) will conduct the first ever Himalayan Region Games in Guwahati, Assam.
- The countries which will participate in the event are Nepal, Myanmar, Thailand, and Afghanistan along with hosts India.
- The games will have various sports including, Archery, Athletic, Boxing, Fencing, Football, Judo, Kho-Kho, Squash, Table Tennis and Weightlifting.
- Guwahati has previously hosted the South Asian Games in 2016.
- The chairman appointed for the Games Technical Conduct Committee is D R Chaudhary.



Reference:

- <http://www.thehindu.com/todays-paper/tp-sports/Himalayan-Games-in-Assam-in-April/article17280639.ece>
https://www.telegraphindia.com/1170210/jsp/northeast/story_134966.jsp#.WKAH71V97IV
<http://indianexpress.com/article/sports/sport-others/first-ever-himalayan-region-games-to-be-held-in-guwahati-4515958/>

Donja

Question: Recently Cricket icon and Rajya Sabha MP Sachin Tendulkar has selected Donja village for development under the Sansad Adarsh Gram, the village is located in which of the following district of Maharashtra?

(a) Pune (b) Osmanabad (c) Nashik (d) Nagpur

Ans: (b)

Related facts:

- On 14 February 2017; Cricket icon and Rajya Sabha MP Sachin Tendulkar has selected Donja village in Osmanabad district for development under the Sansad Adarsh Gram Yojna.
- This is second village he adopted.
- Tendulkar has sanctioned over Rs 4 crore from his MPLAD fund for development of Donja.
- The amount will be spent on development of a new school building, a water supply scheme that would provide potable water to each household, concrete roads and a sewage line attached to the same.
- Sansad Adarsh Gram Yojana, launched in October 2014, is a rural development programme focusing on development of villages which include social and cultural development, and spread motivation among the people on social mobilisation of the village community.



Reference:

<http://www.thehindu.com/news/national/other-states/Tendulkar-adopts-village-in-Osmanabad-under-Sansad-Adarsh-Gram-Yojna/article14576130.ece>

<http://rajasthanpatrika.patrika.com/story/sports/tendulkar-adopts-village-in-maharashtra-2482057.html>

<http://www.hindustantimes.com/india-news/sachin-tendulkar-adopts-village-in-maharashtra-for-development/story-0gXn5saaKSClpyLpnHQul.html>

AWARDS & HONORS

Nitish bestowed with 'Anuvrata Puraskar 2016'

Question: Bihar's Chief Minister Nitish Kumar was recently awarded with 'Anuvrata Puraskar 2016'. The award was given by society belonging to which of the following communities?

(a) Buddhist (b) Jain (c) Sikh (d) Islam

Ans: (b)

- On 28th March, 2017, Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar was bestowed with the 'Anuvrata Puraskar 2016' for implementing total prohibition on liquor in the state.
- The Anuvrata Puraskar was given by Jain Swetambhar Terapanth Dharma Sangh Anuvrata Mahasamiti. Bihar's Chief Minister was bestowed with the award by prominent Jain priest Acharya Mahashraman jee.



- The award has been given in the past to former President Shankar Dayal Sharma, former Vice President Bhairon Singh Shekhawat and former Prime Minister Gulzari Lal Nanda.

Reference:

<http://www.outlookindia.com/newscroll/one-dead-in-shooting-outside-court-police-suspect-gang-war/1016621?scroll>

<http://www.jansatta.com/rajya/bihar/bihar-news-patna-news-cm-nitish-kumar-will-awarded-from-jain-saint-for-liquor-ban-in-bihar/286313/>

Global Teacher Prize-2017

Question: Who was recently announced to be awarded the Global Teacher Prize-2017?

- (a) Robin Chaurasia (b) Maggie McDonnell (c) Hunan al-Harub
(d) Nancy Atwell



Ans: (b)

Related facts:-

- On March 19th, 2017, the 'Global Teacher Prize' -2017, announced by the Varkey Foundation, will be awarded to Canadian teacher Maggie McDonnell.
- Her award was announced at the 'Global Education and Skills Conference' organized in Dubai. For this award, 10 teachers from around the world were selected, out of whom Maggi McDonnell won the award.
- She is being given this award to change the lives of her pupils and community in her village of the Canadian Arctic, one of the most remote areas in the world.
- It is known that this award is provided annually by the non-profit organization, Varkey Foundation, established to improve the level of education for the poor children of the world.
- This award is given to the extraordinary teacher who has made outstanding contributions in the field of education and whose effect of quality education has been accepted by his students as well as the surrounding community.
- Under this award, prize money of 1 million US dollars is provided.

Related Links:-

<http://www.globalteacherprize.org/meet-global-teacher-prize-winner-2017/>

<http://www.globalteacherprize.org/2017-finalists/>

<http://www.globalteacherprize.org/winner-2017/>

Mahabaleshwar Sail honoured with Saraswati Samman 2016

Question: Noted Konkani writer Mahabaleshwar Sail has been honoured with Saraswati Samman 2016 for which of his literary work?

- (a) Hawthian (b) Paltadcho Munis (c) Tarangan
(d) None of the above.

Ans: (a)

- On 9th March, 2017, eminent Konkani writer Mahabaleshwar Sail was honoured with the Saraswati Samman 2016 for his novel 'Hawthian'.
- His novel 'Hawthian' was shortlisted from 22 regional language books.
- 'Hawthian' is a work of fiction presenting the cultural map of the traditional potter community of Goa. It was published in 2009.
The award comprises a cash prize of Rs 15 lakh and a citation.
- Mr. Sail hails from Majoli in Uttara Kannada district and has settled down in Goa after his retirement. He served in the Indo-Pakistan war of 1965 and later joined the postal services.
- Mahabaleshwar Sail is best known for his work, 'Paltadcho Munis', which inspired a film by the same name.
- Mahabaleshwar Sail also won Sahitya Akademi award for anthology of short stories 'Tarangan' in 1993.



Reference:

<http://www.thehindu.com/news/national/konkani-writer-gets-saraswati-samman/article17436790.ece>

Viola Davis received Harvard Artist of the Year 2017

Question: Viola Davis won Oscar for Best Supporting Actress for her role in which of the films below?

- (a) Fences (b) Won't back down (c) The Help (d) Beautiful Creatures

Ans: (a)

- On 4th March, 2017 popular actress, producer, director, activist and philanthropist Viola Davis was awarded the Harvard Foundation's arts medal during the 32nd annual Cultural Rhythms Festival in Memorial Hall's Sanders Theatre for 2017.
- The actress has won Oscar for Best Supporting Actress for her role in 'Fences'.
- Viola Davis is an American actress and producer. She is the only black woman to be nominated for three Academy Awards, winning one, and is the only black actress or actor to win the Triple Crown of Acting.
- In 2012, she was listed by Time as one of the 100 most influential people in the world.



RELETED IINK

<http://news.harvard.edu/gazette/story/2017/02/actress-and-activist-viola-davis-named-harvard-artist-of-the-year/>

BCCI Annual Awards, 2015-2016

Question: On March 8, 2017, who among the following has been awarded the first Lifetime Achievement Award for women's player from BCCI ?

- (A) Sharmila Chakraborti (B) Shobha Pandit
(C) Shantha Rangaswamy (D) Jyotsna Patel

Answer- (c)

Related facts:

- Annual prizes of the Indian Cricket Board (BCCI) for year 2015-16 has been distributed in Bangalore. (March 8, 2017)
- Former Indian cricketers Rajinder Goyal and Padmakar Shivalkar have been conferred the Col. C.K. Nayudu Lifetime Achievement Award.
- The BCCI Lifetime Achievement Award, created for the first time, has been awarded to India's first Test captain Shantha Rangaswamy.
- BCCI Special Award has been awarded to V.V. Kumar and Ramakant Desai (posthumous) .
- Ravichandran Ashwin is selected for Dilip Sardesai Award.
- Virat Kohli has been awarded the Polly Umrigar Award for Best Indian Cricketer (2015-16).
- Other distributed awards are as follows:
- Lala Amarnath Award-
- For the best all-rounder in Ranji Trophy – Jalaj Saxena (Madhya Pradesh)
- For the best all-rounder's in domestic limited overs competition – Axar Patel (Gujarat)
- Madhavrao Scindia Award-
- For highest score in Ranji Trophy – Shreyash S. Iyer (Mumbai)
- For highest wicket-taker in Ranji Trophy – Shahbaz Nadeem (Jharkhand)
- M.A. Chidambaram Trophy-
- For highest score in (U-23) Col. C.k. Nayudu Trophy – Jai G. Bista (Mumbai)
- For the highest wicket-taker in (U-23) Col. C. K. Nayudu Trophy – Satyajeet Bachhav (Maharashtra)
- NKP Salve Award-
- For the highest score in (U-19) Cooch Behar Trophy – Arman Jaffer (Mumbai)
- For the highest wicket-taker in (U-19) Cooch Behar Trophy – Ninad Rathva (Baroda)
- Raj Singh Dungarpur Award-
- For the highest score in (U-16) Vijay Merchant Trophy – Abhishek Sharma (Punjab)
- For the highest wicket-taker in (U-16) Vijay Merchant Trophy – Abhishek Sharma (Punjab)
- Jagmohan Dalmiya Award-
- Best Women Cricketer (Senior) – Mithali Raj (Railways)
- Best Women Cricketer (Junior) – Deepti Sharma (Uttar Pradesh)
- Best Umpire in domestic cricket – Nitin Menon
- Best Performance in BCCI Domestic Tournaments – Mumbai Cricket Association

Reference:

<http://www.bcci.tv/news/2017/press-releases/15655/virat-kohli-to-receive-the-prestigious-polly-umrigar-award>



Hindi Academy Awards 2016-17

Question: Who among the following has been declared 'Hindi Shalaka Samman' for the year 2016-17 by Delhi-based Hindi Academy?

(A) Dr. Manager Pandey (B) Ms. Noor Zaheer (C) Ms. Savita Singh
(D) Rajesh Jain

Answer- (a)

Related facts:



- On March 06, 2017, Hindi Academy Announced Academy Award 2016-2017.
- The list of the Recipient and prize money is as follows:
- Shalaka Samman -Manager Pandey (Rs 5 lakhs)
- Delhi Shikhar Samman – Noor Zaheer (for special creative contribution) (Rs 2 lakhs)
- Santosh Koli Smriti Samman – Jagmati sangwan (Only for Hindi women Workeres or servers) (Rs 2 lakhs)
- Visist Yogdan Samman – Jai Prakash Kardam (Rs 1 lakh)
- Kavya (Poetry) Samman – Savita Singh (1 lakh rupees)
- Vidhya Samman – Ramesh Upadhyay (Rs 1 lakh)
- Gyan-Prodyogiki Samman -Rajesh Jain (Rs 1 lakh)
- Baal Sahitya Samman – Dr. Prabha kiran Jain (Rs 1 lakh)
- Drama Samman – Ramgopal Bajaj (Rs 1 lakh)
- Hasya Vyang Samman – Sahiram (Rs 1 lakh)
- Anuvaad (Translation) Samman – Dr. Rajendra Prasad Mishra (Translated to hindi language from other) (1 lakh rupees)
- Patrakarita (Journalism) Samman (Electronic Media) – Navin Kumar (Rs 1 lakh)
- Patrakarita (Journalism) Samman (print media) -Madhusudan Anand (Rs 1 lakh)
- Hindi Seva Samman – Dr. Janaki Prasad Sharma (Rs 1 lakh)
- Hindi Sahbhasha Samman – Mahesh Katare Sugam (Bundelkhandi) (Rs 1 lakh)
- Hindi Academy was established by the Delhi Administration in year 1981, as an autonomous institution for the promotion and development of Hindi language, literature and culture in Delhi.
- The Chairman of Hindi Academy (Chief Minister, Delhi Government) constitute a 25-member operational committee for a period of two years to consult and to take decision for the implementation and planning of the programs and activities of the Academy.
- Academy gives award every year to Litterateur, writers, journalists, poets and Hindi workers belonging to Delhi, Noida , Faridabad, and Ghaziabad etc. for their outstanding lifetime contributions for the promotion of Hindi language and Hindi literature.

Reference:

http://www.delhi.gov.in/wps/wcm/connect/DOIT_Hindi/hindiacademy/whats+new/academy+samman+2016+17

http://www.delhi.gov.in/wps/wcm/connect/doit_hindi/hindiacademy/Home+Page/Honors+and+awards+system

<http://hindi.firstpost.com/india/delhi-hindi-academy-gives-best-tv-journalist-award-to-navin-kumar-17134.html>

Howard University Humanitarian Award for the year 2017

Question: Who has recently been selected for Howard University 'Humanitarian Award' for the year 2017?

- A) Robin Rihanna Fenty (B) Malala Yusufzai
(C) Aung San Suu Kyi (D) Kailash Satyarthi

Ans (a)

Related facts:-

- On February 28, 2017; Barbados-born singer Robyn Rihanna Fenty was awarded with Howard University Humanitarian Award for the year 2017.
- This annual award, given in memory of Peter J.Gomes (Prof. J. Gomes) by Howard University.
- Rihanna has been given this award for establishing a state-of-the-art center for cancer science at Queen Elisabeth Hospital, Bridgetown.
- In addition, she also established the nonprofit Clara Leon Foundation Global Scholarship Program in the year 2012.

Some other prominent persons who received this award in the past are:

- Aung San Suu Kyi (2016), Kailash Satyarthi (2015), Bon Ke Ki Moon (2014), Malala Yusufzai (2013), Hans Rosling (2012)

Related Links:-

<http://news.harvard.edu/gazette/story/2017/02/rihanna-named-humanitarian-of-year/>

<http://www.nydailynews.com/entertainment/music/rihanna-accepts-harvard-humanitarian-year-award-article-1.2985795>



ESPN cricinfo Awards 2016

Question: Who among the below has been selected for ESPN cricinfo 2016 Best Captain Award?

- (a) Steve Smith (Australia)
(b) Virat Kohli (India)
(c) A B De Villiers (South Africa)
(d) Kane Williamson (New Zealand)

Ans: (b)

Related Fact :

- 10th ESPNcricinfo Awards were announced on 24th February, 2017.
- Indian Skipper Virat Kohli was selected for 'Captain of the Year Award'.
- Best Test Batsman- Ben Stokes (England)
- Best Test Bowler- Stuart Broad (England)
- Best Oeday Batsman- Quinton De Kock(South Africa)
- Best Oeday Bowler- Sunil Narayan (West Indies)
- Best T-20 Batsman- Carlos Brathwaite (West Indies)
- Best T-20 Bowler- Mustafijur Rahman (Bangladesh)
- Best Debut of the Year- Mehndi Hasan (Bangladesh)
- Best Associate Batsman- Mohammad Shahzad (Afghanistan)
- Best Associate Bowler- Mohammad Nabi (Afghanistan)



- The ESPNcricinfo Awards recognise the best individual batting and bowling performances in cricket over the calendar year. They are voted on by an independent jury of former cricketers, commentators, and ESPNcricinfo's senior writers.

Reference:

<http://www.espnricinfo.com/awards2016/content/site/awards2016/index.html>

<http://www.espnricinfo.com/awards2016/content/story/1078379.html>

<http://www.espnricinfo.com/awards2016/content/story/1083432.html>

Dr Satyapal Oja memorial award

Question: Recently who has been awarded with the Dr Satyapal Oja memorial award for his achievements in the activities of medical fraternity?

- (a) D.D Chowdhury (b) K.K Agarwal (c) J.P Sharma
(d) None of these

Ans:(a)

Related facts:

- On 25 February 2017; on the occasion of IMA day the state secretary of the IMA Uttarakhand, Dr D D Chaudhury also received the Dr Satyapal Oja memorial award for his achievements in the activities of medical fraternity.
- Dehradun chapter of Indian Medical Association (IMA) has won IMA award 2015-16 for best community service.
- The award was presented to the president of Dehradun chapter of IMA, Dr JP Sharma by the national president of IMA, Dr K K Agarwal.
- Indian Medical Association is the only representative voluntary organization of Doctors of Modern Scientific System of Medicine, which looks after the interest of doctors as well as the well being of the community at large.
- The Association was started in 1928 on the occasion of the 5th all India Medical Conference at Calcutta.



Reference:

<http://www.dailypioneer.com/state-editions/dehradun/doon-ima-awarded-for-best-community-service-on-ima-day.html>

<http://doonhorizon.com/imaawarded-best-community-service/>

<http://www.ima-india.org/ima/left-side-bar.php?scid=299>

70th BAFTA Awards 2017

Question: On 12 February 2017 the 70th BAFTA Award -2017 was announced, which film has been awarded as Best film?

- (a) La La Land (b) Lion (c) The Revenant (d) Mad Max Fury Road

Ans: (a)

Related facts:

- On 12 February 2017 70th British Academy Film Awards, and for sponsorship reasons the EE British Academy Film Awards, more commonly known as the BAFTAs, were held on at the Royal Albert Hall in London.



- Film, La La Land received the most nominations in eleven categories
- List of winners is as follows:
- Best Film: La La Land
- Best Director: Damien Chazelle (La La Land)
- Best Actor: Casey Affleck (Manchester by the Sea)
- Best Actress: Emma Stone (La La Land)
- Best Supporting Actor: Dev Patel (Lion)
- Best Supporting Actress: Viola Davis (Fences)
- Best Original Music: La La Land
- Best Original Screenplay: Manchester by the Sea
- Best Adapted Screenplay: Lion
- Best Cinematography: La La Land
- Best Editing: Hacksaw Ridge
- Best Production Design: Fantastic Beasts and Where to Find Them
- Best British Short Film: Home
- Best British Film: I, Daniel Blake
- Best Debut by a British Writer, Director or Producer: Babak Anvari (Writer/Director), Emily Leo, Oliver Roskill, Lucan Toh (Producers) for Under the Shadow
- Best Film Not in the English Language: Son of Saul
- Best Documentary: 13th
- Best Animated Film: Kubo and the Two Strings
- Best Costume Design: Jackie
- Best Make Up & Hair: Florence Foster Jenkins
- Best Sound: Arrival
- Best Special Visual Effects: The Jungle Book
- Best British Short Animation: A Love Story
- EE Rising Star Award: Tom Holland
- BAFTA Fellowship: Mel Brooks
- Outstanding British Contribution to Cinema: Curzon Cinemas
- The British Academy Film Awards are presented annually in an award show hosted by the British Academy of Film and Television Arts (BAFTA) to honour the best British and international contributions to film.
- The award was founded in 1947 by the British Film Academy.
- In 1958, the academy merged with The Guild of Television Producers and Directors to form The Society of Film and Television and later BAFTA in 1976.

Reference:

<http://www.bafta.org/film/awards/the-ee-british-academy-film-awards-in-2017>

<http://www.bafta.org/media-centre/press-releases/ee-british-academy-film-awards-winners-list-plain-text-2017>

59th Grammy Awards-2017

Question: In the recently announced 59th Grammy Award-2017 who has won the most awards in 5 different categories?

(a) Adele (b) De La Soul (c) Rihanna (d) None of the above

Ans: (a)

Related facts:

- On February 12, 2017; The 59th Annual Grammy Awards ceremony also called as Nobel Prize of Music held at the Staples Center in Los Angeles, California.
- The ceremony recognized the best recordings, compositions, and artists of the eligibility year, which runs from October 1, 2015 to September 30, 2016.
- The nominations were announced on December 6, 2016.
- British singer Adele won 5 awards in total and also created history by becoming first artist to win the top three categories twice.
- The first time she did that was in the year 2012.
- Also, Indian-American tabla player Sandeep Das won a Grammy Award this year for the Best World Music Album for his album Yo-Yo Ma.
- The prestigious awards that were presented in the various categories are as follows:
 - Album of the year: Adele for '25'
 - Record Of The Year: 'Hello' by Adele
 - Song Of The Year: Adele and Greg Kurstin for 'Hello'
 - Best New Artist: Chance The Rapper
 - Best Pop Solo Performance: Adele for 'Hello'
 - Best Rock Performance: Blackstar' by David Bowie
 - Best Rock Album: 'Tell Me I'm Pretty' by Cage the Elephant
 - Best Rap Album: 'Coloring Book' by Chance The Rapper
 - Best Urban Contemporary Album: Lemonade' by Beyonce
 - Best Country Solo Performance: Maren Morris for 'My Church'
 - Best Rock Song: 'Blackstar' by David Bowie
 - Best Pop Duo/Group Performance: 'Stressed Out' by Twenty One Pilots
 - Best Alternative Music Album: 'Blackstar' by David Bowie
 - Best Rock Performance: Blackstar' by David Bowie
 - Best New Artist: Chance The Rapper
 - Best Rap Performance: Chance The Rapper Featuring Lil Wayne & 2 Chainz for 'No Problem'
 - Best Rap/Sung Performance: Drake for 'Hotline Bling'
 - Best Rap Song: 'Hotline Bling' by Drake
 - Best R&B Performance: Solange for 'Cranes In The Sky'
 - Best Traditional R&B Performance: Lalah Hathaway for 'Angel'
 - Best R&B Song: 'Lake By The Ocean' by Maxwell
 - Best R&B Album: Lalah Hathaway for 'Lalah Hathaway Live'
 - Best Country Album: Sturgill Simpson for 'A Sailor's Guide to Earth'
 - Best Country Song: 'Humble And Kind' by Tim McGraw
 - Best Music Film: 'The Beatles: Eight Days A Week The Touring Years' by The Beatles
 - Best Music Video: Beyonce for 'Formation'



- Best Musical Theater Album: 'The Color Purple'
- Best World Music Album: 'Sing Me Home' by Yo-Yo Ma and the Silk Road Ensemble. Indian musician Sandeep Das was also a part of the Ensemble.
- The first Grammy Awards ceremony was held on 4 May 1959 and originally was called Gramophone Awards.

Reference:

<https://www.grammy.com/nominees>

<http://indianexpress.com/article/entertainment/music/grammy-awards-2017-live-complete-list-of-winners-see-pics-4521677/>

<https://www.grammy.com/nominees>

Dr B C Roy National Award-2016

Question: Dr B C Roy national award is awarded for outstanding service in which of the following field?

(a) Medical (b) Education (c) Public (d) Sports

Ans: (a)



Related facts:

- On 24 January 2017; Dr Jayshree Mehta, president, Medical Council of India announced Dr B C Roy national award for outstanding service in the field of socio medical relief for 2016.
- Dr P Raghu Ram, president of Association of Breast Surgeons of India, has won the prestigious Dr B C Roy national award.
- The award, the highest recognition for medical practitioners in India.
- It would be conferred on Ram by President Pranab Mukherjee on July 1, observed as Doctors day.
- The Medical Council of India instituted Dr. B.C. Roy National Award Fund in 1962 to perpetuate his memory. "The Fund" is registered under Societies Registration Act, 1860.
- "The Fund" invites nominations under the following categories as provided under the Memorandum of Association of the Society.
- The Award is of the value of Rs.1,00,000/- and a Silver Salver.

Reference:

<http://www.indiamedicaltimes.com/2017/01/29/dr-raghu-ram-dr-sanjay-kulkarni-selected-for-dr-b-c-roy-national-award/>

<http://indiatoday.intoday.in/story/hyderabad-surgeon-raghu-ram-wins-b-c-roy-award/1/877803.html>

OPERATIONS & CAMPAIGN

Operation Radd-ul-Fasaad

Question : Which of the following country's army has recently launched "Radd-ul-Fasaad", a military campaign to wipe out terrorist organizations and fundamentalists (orthodox) from the country?

(a) Syria (b) India (c) Pakistan (d) Iraq

Answer: (c)

Related Facts:

- On 22nd February, 2017, the Pakistani army launched a new military campaign named Radd-ul-fasaad across the country to wipe out terrorists, their organizations and fundamentalists (Orthodox).
- Pak Military has started the campaign after the killing of 88 people in suicide attack in Sufi Dargah Lal Shahbah Kaldar in Sindh province some days before.
- The Operation aims to indiscriminately eliminate the residual/latent threat of terrorism, consolidating the gains made in other military operations, and further ensuring the security of Pakistan's borders. Radd-ul- Fasaad literally means 'Elimination of discord'.
- Pakistan's Army, Air Force, Navy and all other security and intelligence agencies would participate in this all-out operation. A campaign named Zarb-e-Azhab was launched in 2014 by the Pakistani army to disperse the militants from the North Waziristan region on the Pakistan-Afghanistan border.



Reference :

<https://www.dawn.com/news/1316332>

Aman-17

Question: Aman-17 is a multinational naval exercise which has been holding every alternate year since 2007 by which of the following country?

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

Ans: (a)

Related facts:

- Exercise AMAN-17 was conducted in North Arabian Sea from 10-14 Feb 2017.
- Aman-17 is the fifth such exercise which Pakistan has been holding every alternate year since 2007.
- Navies' of 37 countries participated in this exercise.
- This was the 6th exercise of AMAN series.
- Slogan of AMAN exercise is "Together for Peace".
- The exercise will help in working against human trafficking, narcotics smuggling, and terrorism in the region.
- AMAN is an Urdu word meaning "PEACE".



Reference:

https://www.aman.paknavy.gov.pk/intro_more.aspx

<http://www.indiandefensenews.in/2017/02/pakistan-navy-fully-prepared-to-ensure.html>

COMMISSION & COMMITTEE

National Commission for Socially and Educationally Backward Classes

Question: When was National Commission for Backward Classes established?

- (a) 14 August, 1993 (b) 6 December, 1992 (c) 15 April, 1991
(d) None of the above.

Ans: (a)

- On 23rd March, 2017, the Union Cabinet approved a National Commission for Socially and Educationally Backward Classes (NSEBC) as a constitutional body.
- The new panel will replace National Commission for Backward Classes (NCBC) that looks into inclusion or exclusion of other backward castes for quotas, among other issues.
- The related bill is likely to be introduced in Parliament in the ongoing budget session.
- By making the new panel a constitutional body, the advice of the commission shall ordinarily be binding upon the central government.
- National Commission for Backward Classes is an Indian statutory body under the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment established on 14 August 1993. It was constituted pursuant to the provisions of the National Commission for Backward Classes Act, 1993.



Reference:

- <http://www.hindustantimes.com/india-news/govt-approves-new-national-constitutional-body-for-obcs-with-binding-recommendations/story-xLJCFFXUd5gzFSbyxrmeCK.html>
http://www.ncbc.nic.in/User_Panel/UserView.aspx?TypeID=1114

BCCI get new constitution

Question: New constitution of BCCI is formed on the line of reforms suggested by-

- (a) Mehta Committee (b) Kehar Committee
(c) Lodha Committee (d) Mandal Committee

Ans:(c)

Related Facts:-

- On 18th March, 2017 the Supreme Court-constituted Committee of Administrators finalised and uploaded a new constitution for the Board of Control for Cricket in India.
- The new constitution of BCCI is in line with the reforms suggested by the Justice Lodha Committee.
- As per the new constitution, 30 associations were deemed to be the controlling bodies for cricket in their respective states and were considered to be Full Members with voting rights.
- It has removed 41-time Ranji Trophy champions Mumbai as a Full Member and gave all north-eastern states Full Membership status



- The list also includes states like Bihar, Telangana, Arunachal Pradesh, Manipur and Meghalaya which were not considered Full Members earlier.
- In States with multiple Existing Members, the full membership shall rotate annually among such Existing Members.
- The new constitution also lays down some of the benchmarks of the Lodha ruling. BCCI office bearers cannot be over the age of the 70 or be a Minister or government servant. They also cannot hold any post in a sports athletic association or federation apart from cricket.

Related Links:-

<http://indianexpress.com/article/sports/cricket/on-paper-bcci-gets-new-constitution-4575339/>
www.hindustantimes.com/.../bcci...new-constitution...association...full-member/story-

Decision to constitute a high level committee to resolve the grievances and complaints of women sports persons

Question: On March 8, 2017, the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports decide to constitute a high level committee to resolve the grievances and complaints of women sports persons under the chairmanship of which of the followings ?

- (A) Secretary, Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports
- (B) Joint Secretary, Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports
- (C) Director, Sports Authority of India
- (D) Minister of Youth Affairs and Sports



Answer- (b)

Related facts:

- On March 8, 2017, the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports announced to constitute a high-level committee to resolve the grievances of women players.
- This high level committee will be constituted under the chairmanship of Joint Secretary, Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports.
- The committee will comprise athletes, advocate, and senior officer of MYAS and sports journalist (all women).

Reference:

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/hindirelease.aspx?relid=59882>
<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=158960>
<http://www.india.com/hindi-news/india-hindi/sports-minister-vijay-goel-decides-to-constitute-a-high-level-committee-to-resolve-the-grievances-and-complaints-of-women-sports-persons/>

Standing Committee on Cyber Security

Question: Who among the below has been appointed as the chairman of Inter-disciplinary Standing Committee on Cyber Security recently set up by The Reserve Bank of India?

- (a) S. S. Mundra (b) Meena Hemchandra (c) Dr. Viral V Acharya
- (d) Dr. Nachiket M Moore

Ans: (b)

Related Fact :



- On 28th February, 2017, The Reserve Bank of India set up an Inter-disciplinary Standing Committee on Cyber Security under the chairmanship of Meena Hemchandra (Executive Director, RBI).
- The Committee on Cyber Security will review the threats inherent in the existing/emerging technology; study adoption of various security standards/protocols; interface with stakeholders; and suggest appropriate policy interventions to strengthen cyber security and resilience.
- The formation of the standing committee comes in the light of the recommendations of the Expert Panel on Information Technology and Cyber Security headed by Meena Hemchandra that was formed by the central bank.
- The RBI has also instructed banks to mandate cyber security preparedness for addressing all cyber risks at their end as well.
- Reserve Bank of India had announced the formation of a committee on Cyber Security in its sixth bi-monthly policy statement for 2016-17 released on 8th February, 2017.

Reference:

https://www.rbi.org.in/Scripts/BS_PressReleaseDisplay.aspx?prid=39683

<http://paisa.khabarindiatv.com/article/rbi-sets-up-inter-disciplinary-standing-committee-on-cyber-security/>

<http://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/economy/policy/rbi-announces-setting-up-of-standing-committee-on-cyber-security/articleshow/57039290.cms>

D S Dhesi committee

Question: Recently the Haryana government constituted a five-member committee headed by Chief Secretary D S Dhesi for which of the following purpose?

- (a) Education (b) Reservation (c) Women and Child Development
(d) Environment

Ans:(b)

Related facts:

- On 7 February 2017 Haryana government on Tuesday constituted a five-member committee headed by Chief Secretary D S Dhesi to resolve the problems of those agitating for reservation and other issues in the state.
- Four other members of the Committee are Additional Chief Secretary, Home, Ram Niwas; Principal Secretary, Industries, Devender Singh; Secretary, General Administration, Vijayendra Kumar and Additional Director General of Police, Law and Order, Mohammad Akil.
- Any organisation, section of the society or an individual could submit their viewpoint and suggestions to the committee in writing or orally.



Reference:

<http://www.csharyana.gov.in/WriteReadData/Notifications%20&%20Orders/Political%20and%20Parliamentary%20Affairs/5961.pdf>

Share this:

PLANNING & PROJECT

101 new cold chain projects

Question: Who is the Food processing Minister?

- (a) Harsimrat Kaur Badal (b) Smriti Irani (c) Nirmala Sitaraman
(d) Nazma Heptullah

Ans: (a)

- On 27th March, 2017, Ministry of Food Processing Industries announced sanction of 101 new integrated Cold Chain Projects spread across the country.
- The decision has been taken with a view to reduce wastage of agricultural produce and add value to farmers' harvests ranging from fruits and vegetables to fish, dairy and marine products.
- The Ministry is focusing on creating Cold Chain infrastructure by strategic planning which eventually builds Cold Chain Grid in the entire country.
- The scheme of Cold Chain and Value Addition Infrastructure provides financial assistance up to Rs. 10 crore for entrepreneurs.
- These 101 new integrated cold chain projects will leverage total investment of Rs. 3100 crore for creation of modern infrastructure for the food processing sector. The total expected grant-in-aid to be released to these projects is Rs. 838 crore.
- The 101 new Cold chain Projects will create additional capacity of 2.76 lakh MT of Cold Storage/Controlled Atmosphere/Frozen Storage, 115 MT per hour of Individual Quick Freezing (IQF) capacity, 56 lakh litres per day of Milk Processing, 210 MT per batch of Blast Freezing and 629 Refrigerated/Insulated vehicles.
- These Integrated Cold Chain projects will not only provide a big boost to the growth of food processing infrastructure in the concerned states but also help in providing better prices to farmers.



Reference:

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=159970>

Bhadla Solar Power Project

Question: In which of the followings States Bhadla Power project is located?

- (a) Jammu and Kashmir (b) Rajasthan (c) Madhya Pradesh
(d) Chhattisgarh

Answer- (b)

Related facts:

- On March 27, 2017, NTPC launched a 55 MW solar power project in Rajasthan.



- NTPC is a largest public sector energy conglomerate, accelerating power development in India.
- After commissioning this project , the installed capacity of Bhadla Solar Power project has become 260 MW.
- The total installed capacity of the company is 49,998 MW (including JVs) with 19 coal based, 7 gas based stations and 1 Hydro based station.
- The total installed capacity of NTPC on standalone basis has become 43,032 MW.
- NTPC aims to generate about 1000 MW of electricity from renewable energy sources by 2017.

Related links:

<http://www.ntpc.co.in/en/about-us/ntpc-overview>

<http://www.samaylive.com/business-news-in-hindi/378024/55-mw-solar-power-project-in-bhadla.html>

Work on World herbal plantation forest begins in Haryana

Question- On March 25th, 2017, the construction of the first phase of the World herbal plantation forest in the Morni Hills near Chandigarh was started by the Government of Haryana. How many different types of medicinal plants will be identified and planted here?

(A) 500 (B) 1000 (C) 1500 (D) 2000

Ans: (b)

Related facts:-

- On March 25th, 2017, the work of construction of the first phase of World herbal plantation forest in the Morni Hills near Chandigarh was started by the Haryana Government.
- Patanjali's Acharya Balkrishna has identified 465 types of plants so far with the help of a team of 40 experts.
- Here, about 1000 medicinal plants of different types will be identified and planted.
- This herbal plantation forest will create employment opportunities for the local people.
- In this area ginger, turmeric and myrobalan (harad) are produced extensively.
- Patanjali will purchase those products at reasonable prices.



Related Links:-

<http://www.tribuneindia.com/news/haryana/work-begins-on-world-herbal-forest-in-morni-hills/382169.html>

<http://indiatoday.intoday.in/story/work-starts-on-first-phase-of-world-herbal-forest-in-hr/1/912901.html>

Starting of MoP&NG e-Seva

Question: Recently the Central Government has started 'MoPNG e-service'. It is a dedicated grievance redressal platform on social media for questions and complaints related to which area?

(A) Energy sector (B) Rail sector (C) Oil and gas fields (D) Mining sector

Answer- (c)

Related facts:



- On March 24, 2017, Minister of State (I/C) for Petroleum and Natural Gas, Shri Dharmendra Pradhan launched MoP&NG e-Seva.
- This e-Seva is an integrated grievances redressal platform across social media for all Oil & Gas related service issues.
- Portal will be a single point interface for all customers to reach out to the government for addressing their feedback or grievances.
- The e-Seva portal will serve as a single point for queries on Twitter and Facebook to begin with; and other social media platforms in due course.
- A team of Nodal Officers from Oil Companies and Allied Services have been formed to address issues on real-time basis.
- MOPNG e-Seva will also deliver 24 x 7 support for consumers.

Related links:

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/hindirelease.aspx?relid=60125>

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=159873>

National Dental and Oral Health Information IVR Portal, toll free number

Question: When World’s Oral Health Day is celebrated?

(A) March 19 (B) March 20 (C) March 21 (D) March 22

Answer- (b)

Related facts:

- On March 20, 2017, Minister of State for Health and Family Welfare, Faggan Singh Kulaste launched the National Dental and Oral health Information IVR Portal on the occasion of ‘World Oral (Homecoming) Health Day’.
- The toll free number for addressing oral health queries is (1XXX-XX-2032).
- Information, Education and Communication (IEC) material has also been launched alongwith this portal and toll free number.
- Main Causes of these oral diseases for being the leading health problems is rapidly changing lifestyles, wide-spread use of tobacco and increased consumption of alcohol.



Related links:

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/hindirelease.aspx?relid=60052>

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=159527>

<http://indiatoday.intoday.in/story/govt-launches-a-dental-and-oral-health-portal/1/908347.html>

World’s first app for breast health

Question: Who amongst the following has recently launched the world’s first mobile app ‘ABC of Breast Health’ at an event organized by Ushalaskhmi Breast Cancer Foundation.

(A) J.P. Nadda (B) Amitabh Bachchan (C) Shahrukh Khan
(D) Aamir Khan

Answer- (b)

Related facts:

- On March 15, 2017, Amitabh Bachchan launched the world’s first mobile app on ‘ABC of Breast Health’ in an event organized by



Ushalakshmi Breast Cancer Foundation at Mumbai's JW Marriott Hotel.

- The objective is to create awareness without evoking fear. The app aims to empower every aspect in the context of breast cancer and breast cancer health issues in country.
- The app also provides information on genetic risks of breast cancer.
- This app provides information in 12 languages (English, Hindi, Marathi, Gujarati, Punjabi, Bengali, Telugu, Tamil, Kannada, Malayalam, Oriya and Assamese).
- App has been designed and manufactured by Ushalakshmi Breast Cancer Foundation Hyderabad.
- A proposal has also been submitted to the Health Ministry to consider incorporating the application in the official health portal of the Union Government.

Related links:

<http://www.ubf.org.in/Home/NewsndEvents>

<http://www.thehindu.com/news/cities/Hyderabad/big-b-launches-app-developed-by-city-based-foundation/article17529814.ece>

<http://www.deccanchronicle.com/gallery/entertainment/160317/amitabh-bachchan-launches-worlds-first-app-for-breast-health.html>

‘KCR Kit’ Scheme

Question: Which state has recently started the ‘KCR Kit’ scheme?

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

Ans: (b)

Related facts:-

- On March 13, 2017; the Chief Minister of Telangana Chandrashekar Rao has announced the launch of ‘KCR Kit’ scheme for maternal and child welfare.
- This scheme has been designed to overcome complications during pregnancy.
- Its goal is to reduce child mortality and to encourage institutional delivery.
- There are 16 essential things for a newborn in KCR Kit, which is useful for up to three months.
- In this kit, there are soaps, baby oils, baby beds, mosquito nets, clothes, sarees, hand bags, towels, napkins, powders, diapers, shampoo and toys for mother and baby.
- The State Government has made a provision of Rs. 605 crores for the scheme.

Related Links:-

<http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/hyderabad/govt-rocks-cradle-with-kcr-kit-for-moms-aims-to-curb-mortality/articleshow/57624988.cms>

<http://www.thehindubusinessline.com/news/national/605crore-kcr-kit-scheme-for-pregnant-women-new-born/article9582330.ece>



Launch of National Quality Submissions on Arsenic and Fluoride

Question-Clean India Mission When Was Launched in-

(a) March, 2014 (b) April 2014 (c) September, 2014 (d) October, 2014

Ans : (d)

Related Facts:-



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

- On March 22, 2017, Union Rural Development, Drinking Water and Sanitation and Panchayati Raj Minister Narendra Singh Tomar launched National Water Quality Submission on Arsenic and Fluoride.
- It aims to provide safe drinking water to about 28,000 affected habitations in the country by March, 2021.
- The outlay for these submissions is Rs. 25,000 crore for 4 years.
- Both the state and the center will participate in the mission.
- There are about 17 lakh 14 thousand rural settlements in India, out of which about 77 percent of the habitations are being provided safe drinking water more than 40 liters per day.
- Nearly 4 percent of these habitats are suffering from water quality problems.
- On this occasion the Ministries of Drinking Water and Sanitation in 12 States participated in the National Workshop organized on 'Water and Clean India for All'.
- The objective of the Government is to provide continuous water to each household by 2030, according to the United Nations Sustainable Development Goal.
- Swachh Bharat Mission was launched in October 2014.
- Since its launch, sanitation coverage has increased from 42 percent to 62 percent level so far.
- So far, 119 districts and 1.75 lakh villages have been discharged from open defecation.
- More than 3.6 million toilets have been constructed in rural areas so far.
- Under MNREGA, 16.41 lakh toilets have been constructed.
- On this occasion, Narendra Singh Tomar along with Minister of State for Drinking Water and Sanitation Ramesh Jigajenagi launched the 'Water App'.
- Apart from this, the Minister also provided prizes to various State Governments for significant contributions in the areas of cleanliness and drinking water.
- It is worth noting that the goal of the government is to realize the dream of 'water every house ' by the year 2030.

Related Links:-

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/hindirelease.aspx?relid=60073>

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=159709>

<http://navbharattimes.indiatimes.com/other/good-governance/dream-of-har-ghar-jal-will-be-realized-by-2030-narendra-singh-tomar/articleshow/57778243.cms>

Nama Canteen

Question: Which state government has recently announced to open Nama Canteen?

(a) Karnataka (b) Tamil Nadu (C) Kerala (D) Andhra Pradesh

Ans: – (a)

Related facts:-

- On March 15, 2017, Nama Canteen was announced for the city of Bangalore during the presentation of the budget of State Karnataka in fiscal year 2017-18.
- On this occasion Chief Minister of Karnataka, Siddaramaiah said that this canteen will be opened on the lines of Tamil Nadu Amma Canteen.
- Under this canteen, the common man will have breakfast, lunch and dinner at affordable prices under subsidy.



- In the canteen, breakfast will be provided for 5 rupees and food for 10 rupees will be provided.
- Nama Canteen will be established in 198 wards of Bangalore city.
- For this, the state government has made a provision of Rs 100 crore in the budget.
- This initiative was proposed almost 2 years ago.
- This proposal was first proposed by Karnataka Planning Commission Deputy Chairman C.M. Ibrahim.

Related Links:-

<http://www.thehindu.com/news/national/karnataka/bengaluru-to-get-namma-canteens/article17466008.ece>

<http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/bengaluru/karnataka-budget-2017-highlights/articleshow/57643749.cms>

<http://money.bhaskar.com/news/MON-INDU-COMP-karnataka-government-allocates-rs-100-crores-for-setting-up-of-namma-canteens-bu-55508.html>

<http://www.amarujala.com/india-news/karnataka-govt-will-start-soon-namma-canteen-in-state>

India`s Longest Road Tunnel Completed trial run

Question:-Cheneni Nashiri Road Tunnel in India is located in which of the following state?

(a) Maharashtra (b) Chennai (c) Karnataka (d) J&K

Ans:(d)

Related Facts:-

- On 19th March, 2017, Cheneni-Nashiri Road Tunnel completed its trial run.
- Work on Cheneni-Nashiri Road Tunnel in Jammu's Udhampur was started in May 2011.
- It took nearly six years for completion of the project at a cost of over Rs. 3,720 crore.
- It will be open to traffic soon following successful completion of trial run recently.
- The 9-km-long twin-tube tunnel is located at an elevation of 1,200 metres.
- It is an important part of a 286-km-long four-lane project on the highway.
- It is India's first tunnel equipped with world class integrated tunnel control system through which ventilation, signals, fire control, communication and electrical systems are automatically actuated.
- It reduces travel distance between Jammu and Srinagar by 30 kilometers and save time by three to four hours.
The road distance from Chenani and Nashiri will now be 10.9 km, instead of present 41 km.
- The tunnel will provide all-weather road connectivity to the Valley and avoid landslide-prone stretch. It will help to boost the trade and commerce and tourism in the valley.



Related Link:-

www.thenewsnow.co.in/newsdet.aspx?q=24649

http://www.ptinews.com/news/8515068_India-s-longest-road-tunnel-to-be-thrown-open-to-traffic-soon

NTPC installs India's largest Floating Solar PV Plant

Question: What is the capacity of the floating Solar Photo Voltaic plant installed at Rajiv Gandhi Combined Cycle Power Plant Kayamkulam, Kerala?

(a) 50 KWp (b) 75 KWp (c) 100 KWp (d) 25 KWp

Ans:(c)

- On 10th March, 2017, A 100 kWp Floating Solar Photo Voltaic plant was inaugurated at Rajiv Gandhi Combined Cycle Power Plant (RGCCPP) Kayamkulam, Kerala.
- This is the largest of its kind in India as on date and has been indigenously developed as a part of 'Make In India' initiative.
- This floating platform has been developed by NETRA (NTPC Energy Technology Research Alliance), the R&D arm of NTPC Ltd, in collaboration with Central Institute of Plastic Engineering & Technology (CIPET), Chennai and patent has been applied.
- The system was installed by Swelect Energy Systems Ltd, Chennai with support from NETRA & NTPC Kayamkulam station in a short span of 22 days.
- It has various benefits like conserving water through reduction of evaporation, increased generation due to cooling effect on the panels, reduced installation time etc and could be installed on saline water environment.
- Installation potential of such type of systems in India is huge because of abundance of water bodies, within NTPC, the potential is approx. 800 MWp in various reservoirs in existing stations.
- Particularly in Kerala, due to availability of water bodies and lack of presence of enough land, this type of system has a great potential.



Reference:

<http://www.ntpc.co.in/en/media/press-releases/details/ntpc-installs-india%E2%80%99s-largest-floating-solar-pv-plant-rgccpp-kayamkulam-kerala>

Cabinet approves setting up of 50 New Kendriya Vidyalayas

Question: When was the Kendriya Vidyalaya Sangathan (KVS) established?

(a) 1951 (b) 1962 (c) 1958 (d) 1957

Ans:(b)

- On 15th March, 2017, the Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs, chaired by the Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi approved the proposal for opening of 50 new Kendriya Vidyalayas under Civil / Defence Sector in the country.
- The decision was taken keeping in view the high demand for these schools for their quality of education and excellent results.
- The total project cost based on Kendriya Vidyalaya Sangathan norms for the proposed 50 new KVs is Rs.1160 crore.
- New KVs will be opened from classes I to V. Every year one higher class upto class XII with two sections in each class will be added.



- These new KV's when fully functional will provide quality education to approximately 50,000 students in addition to the approximately 12 lakh students already studying in present KV's.
- Kendriya Vidyalaya Sangathan was established in November, 1962 to cater to the educational needs of children of transferable Central Government employees including Defence and Para-military personnel by providing a common programme of education.
- There are at present 1142 functional Kendriya Vidyalayas under the KVS including three abroad at Moscow, Kathmandu and Tehran.
- The Kendriya Vidyalayas are considered as model schools in the country in terms of physical infrastructure, teaching resources, curriculum and academic performance.

Reference:

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=159284>

Launch of Helpline for Women in Odisha

Question: On the occasion of International Women's Day, a helpline was launched by Odisha Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik to help women in crisis situation. What is the number of this helpline?

(a) 1581 (b) 182 (c) 181 (d) 185

Ans : (c)

Related facts

- On March 8, 2017; a helpline was launched by Odisha Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik to help women in crisis situation.
- The service number of this toll free helpline is 181.
- This Helpline will be available 24 x 7 in all the districts of the state.
- This helpline will provide instant help to women affected by violence.
- Apart from this, information will be provided about government schemes and programs related to women and many other services.



Related Links:-

<http://www.thehindu.com/news/national/other-states/tollfree-womens-helpline-launched/article17431067.ece>

<http://www.newindianexpress.com/states/odisha/2017/mar/08/odisha-women-get-24x7-helpline-number-181-on-international-womens-day-1579110-1.html>

<https://odishatv.in/odisha/body-slider/cm-launches-181-helpline-for-women-198904/>

Post Office Passport Sewa Kendra

Question: Post office Passport Seva Kendra will be opened in the first phase of the new initiative by the Ministry of External Affairs in three districts of Haryana. In which of the following district the 'POPS Kendra' is not going to be opened in first phase?

(a) Hisar (b) Karnal (c) Rohtak (d) Faridabad

Answer- (c)

Related facts:

- According to a report published on March 7, 2017, the Post Office Passport Seva Kendra will be started in the



first phase of the new initiative by the Ministry of External Affairs in three districts of Haryana.

- Under the program, passport related services will be started by the center in the Head post offices of Hisar, Karnal and Faridabad.
- The opening of these Seva Kendra would be beneficial for people.

Reference:

<http://indiatoday.intoday.in/story/3-haryana-districts-to-have-post-office-passport-sewa-kendra/1/898638.html>

<http://www.tribuneindia.com/news/haryana/hisar-karnal-and-faridabad-to-have-post-office-passport-sewa-kendra/373962.html>

Approval of projects worth Rs. 1050 crores to prevent sewage pollution in Ganga

Question: Recently, how many crores of rupees have been decided to sanction projects to create a sewage treatment system to prevent sewage pollution in the Ganga in Patna?

(a) 850 crores (b) 950 crores (c) 1050 crores (d) 1150 crores

Ans: (c)

Related facts:-

- On March 1, 2017; the Central Government took a major decision to sanction projects worth Rs 1050 crore to prepare a sewage treatment framework to prevent sewage pollution in Ganga in Patna.
- This project will be implemented under Namami Ganges Program.
- This amount will be spent to make two sewage treatment plant (SDT), renewal of existing STP, construction of two pumping stations and on laying 400 km new underground sewage network.
- Under the project, the contract for laying of STP and laying of new underground sewage network in the zone of Saidpur area of Patna city has been given to UEM India Private Limited and Jyoti Buildtech Pvt.
- Both companies will undertake the construction of STP of 60 MLD capacity and laying new underground sewage network (227 km) from the total amount of 600 crores in this zone.
- All other firms Larsen & Turbo Ltd, Voltas Ltd and GAA Germany JV will allocate Rs. 450 crore for different projects in the city's Beur area.
- These companies will be working with this amount to construct the STP (Capacity 23 MLD), Renovation of existing STP (capacity 20 MLD) and new underground sewage network (about 180 km).
- In addition to this, the construction of major pumping stations of 83 MLD and 50 MLD in Saidpur and Beur area are also included in its jurisdiction.
- The contract includes the cost of operation and maintenance of STP and sewage network for a period of 10 years.
- The objective of these projects is not only to improve the existing sewage system of Patna but to the next decade, the target of sewage treatment is also seen in the view of the urban population.
- The National Clean Ganga Mission will monitor the progress of construction work.



- 100 square kilometers Spread over more than the areas of Patna, the city is divided into six sewerage areas – Digha, Beur, Saidpur, Kankadbagh, Pahadi and Karmali Chak.
- There is a possibility of contracting for sewage related projects in Karmali Chak area soon.

Related Links:-

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=158751>

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/hindirelease.aspx?relid=59777>

<http://www.indiaeyeihro.com/coverage-1050-418>

Mera Hunar HP

Question: ‘Mera Hunar HP’ mobile App and website has been recently launched by which of the following states?

(a) Himachal Pradesh (b) Bihar (c) Haryana (d) Uttar Pradesh

Ans: (a)

- On 8th March, 2017, Himachal Pradesh Chief Minister Virbhadra Singh launched mobile App and website ‘Mera Hunar HP’, a first of its kind in the country.
- ‘Mera Hunar’ is a web based platform where the skilled, semi-skilled persons can apply for various jobs as per their convenience like plumber, carpenter, mechanic, security guards, drivers, tourist’s guides, etc online. The platform is available both in English and Hindi.
- This platform will directly connect the prospective employers with the job seekers as the application will contain the address and the phone numbers of those looking for jobs and other details as well.
- This would further supplement the Skill development scheme of the state government and would be of great help to those passing out fresh from Industrial Training Institutes.



Reference:

<http://himachalpr.gov.in/OneNews.aspx?Language=2&ID=8877>

Mobile App Launch for GST

Question: – Recently in the view of the government’s digital campaign, by whom a mobile app has been launched for the goods and services?

- (a) Ministry of Finance
 (b) Ministry of Heavy Industries and Public Enterprises
 (c) Ministry of Corporate Affairs
 (d) Central Board of Excise and Customs

Ans: (d)

Related facts:-

- On February 23, 2017, a mobile app was launched for the goods and services tax (GST) by the Central Board of Excise and Customs (CBEC) in view of the government’s digital campaign.
- The taxpayers can get the following information related to GST through this:
 - (1) Guidelines related to adoption and adoption of GST system.



- (2) Draft law-model information on GST law, IGST law and GST compensation law
 - (3) Rules relating to registration rules, returns, payments, refunds and invoices.
 - (4) Frequently asked questions on GST.
 - (5) Various resources related to GST such as videos, articles etc.
 - (6) Related website link
 - (7) Helpdesk / Email Contact
- With this mobile application, taxpayers will have access to all the latest GST related information well.
 - Apart from this, the taxpayers can also give suggestions on their behalf.
 - Taxpayers can contact the CBEC's helpdesk 'CBEC friend' 24 hours a day.
 - This mobile app can be downloaded for free on Android platforms.
 - Its iOS version will be available shortly.
 - It is a good initiative of CBEC to ensure greater access to business from mobile applications and to provide excellent services to taxpayers.

Related Links:-

- <http://www.cbec.gov.in/resources//htdocs-cbec/press-release/launch-cbec-mobileapp.pdf>
- <http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=158661>
- <http://pib.nic.in/newsite/hindirelease.aspx?relid=59706>

Antyodaya Express

Question- On February 27, 2017, Railway Minister Suresh Chagechak Prabhu flagged off the country's first Antyodaya Express train with video conferencing from Rail Bhawan.

From where will this train run?

- (a) Kochi to Howrah
- (b) Ernakulam to Howrah
- (c) Thiruvananthapuram to Howrah
- (d) Sriganganagar to Tiruchirappalli

Ans: (b)



Related Facts:-

- On February 27, 2017; Railway Minister Suresh Prabhakar Prabhu flagged off the first Antyodaya Express train and the third Hamsafar train with video conferencing from Rail Bhawan.
- These two trains were announced in the Rail Budget 2016-17.
- Antyodaya Express (Weekly) will run between Ernakulam and Howrah.
- The new Hamsafar Express train (weekly) will run between Sri Ganganagar and Tiruchirappalli.
- This train will travel from North to South India.
- Hamasafar is a fully air-conditioned AC train.
- It has facilities such as GPS based passenger information system, passenger announcement system, fire and smoke information system, CCTV, comfortable seats, mobile and laptop charging point, and display in braille script etc.
- Antyodaya Express is a completely unreserved superfast train.
- In this train there are modern amenities like drinking water machine, Mobile Charging Point, Modular Toilets, LED Light, comfortable seats and racks for luggage.

- According to the Railway Minister, by the new commercial parcel policy booking for the premises can be done not only for the Indian post but for sending parcel through private sector.
- After successful testing of the new commercial parcel policy, it was implemented in the whole country on 27th February, 2017.
- Prior to implementing the entire scheme, the scheme was conducted between two trains between Howrah and Guwahati between Howrah-Guwahati-Dibrugarh Express (15959) and Hyderabad and Nizamuddin in Hyderabad-Nizamuddin Deccan Express (12721).
- According to the Railway Minister, Tejas and Uday Express trains will be launched soon.

Related Links:-

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=158709>

<http://www.itln.in/railway-minister-flags-off-first-antyodaya-express-running-between-ernakulam-howrah/>

<http://www.pib.nic.in/newsite/hindirelease.aspx?relid=59745>

Pilot Project on Ornamental Fisheries

Question: which of the following will be the implanting agency for Pilot Project on Ornamental Fisheries recently announced by the government of India?

- (a) National Fisheries Development Board
- (b) Department of Animal Husbandry, Dairying and Fisheries
- (c) Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers welfare
- (d) None of the above.



Ans: (a)

- According to a press release dated 9th March, 2017 by the Department of Animal Husbandry, Dairying and Fisheries, the Ministry of Agriculture, the Government has envisaged a pilot scheme for the development of ornamental fisheries.
- Total outlay of the Project is estimated at Rs. 61.89 crore.
- The project shall be implemented by the National Fisheries Development Board (NFDB) through the Fisheries Departments of States/UTs.
- The broad funding patterns proposed under the pilot project on ornamental fisheries are in line with the funding patterns under CSS Blue Revolution: Integrated Development and Management of Fisheries. The implementation of proposed pilot project on ornamental fisheries will require a minimum time frame of one year.
- The project focuses mainly on creating an enabling environment for a sustainable and holistic development of Ornamental Fisheries for the socio-economic development of the people involved in this activity as well as for exports.
- The focus will be on cluster-based farming and conservation of natural resources, both inland and marine, through habitat restoration and creating awareness amongst the stakeholders.
- **Objective of the project:**
- to promote ornamental fish culture with cluster-based approach,

- to augment ornamental fisheries trade and export earnings
- to create employment opportunities for the rural & periurban population and
- Use of modern technology and innovation to make ornamental fisheries a thriving activity.
- The project activities involves setting up of backyard rearing units, medium scale units, integrated breeding-cum-rearing units, aquarium fabrication, trade and marketing and promotional activities.
- For the purpose of implementation of the pilot project, a total of 8 potential States have been identified, viz., Assam, West Bengal , Odisha, Maharashtra , Gujarat , Karnataka , Tamil Nadu and Kerala.
- **About Ornamental Fisheries:**
- Ornamental fishery is a sub-sector of the fisheries sector dealing with breeding and rearing of coloured fish of both freshwater and marine water.
- Though ornamental fisheries does not directly contribute to the food and nutritional security, it generates livelihood and income for the rural and periurban population, especially women and unemployed youth as part-time activities.
- The ornamental fish industry in India is small but vibrant. The low production cost and high returns within a short span of time and the ever growing demand, both in domestic and international markets, are the major attractions. About 400 species of marine ornamental fishes and 375 freshwater ornamental varieties are available in various parts of our country. Fisheries and Aquaculture sector mainly focus on the production of table fish. Consequently, the major funding, both in the Government & private sector, is aimed at increasing the production and productivity of fish.

Reference:

http://www.business-standard.com/article/government-press-release/pilot-project-on-ornamental-fisheries-8-potential-states-identified-for-pilot-117030900560_1.html

Deendayal Kitchen Scheme

Question- Which state government has recently announced the Deen Dayal Kitchen Scheme?

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

Answer- (c)

Related facts:-

- On March 1st , 2017; the budget of fiscal year 2017-18 was presented by Madhya Pradesh Finance Minister Jayant Malaiya.
- In this budget, the Finance Minister announced the launch of Deendayal Kitchen Scheme.
- The Scheme will start from 1st April, 2017.
- Under this scheme, the state government will provide food to the poor for 5 rupees.
- Deendayal kitchen scheme will be operated from Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) Fund.



Related links:-

<http://www.pmawasyojana.co.in/deendayal-canteen-subsidized-meal-yojana-mp/>

Cabinet's approval for Hydro Electric Project

Question : In which of the following countries the hydro power project named 'Arun-III' will be set up?

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

Answer: (c)

Related Facts:

- On 22nd February, 2017, the Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs chaired by the Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi approved proposal for generation component of Arun-3.
- 'Arun-III' is a 900 MW Hydro Electric Project, in Nepal.
- The project is located on Arun River in Sankhuwasabha District of Eastern Nepal.
- The estimated cost for this project is Rs. 5723.72 crore.
- Completion period of the project shall be 60 months from the date of financial closure which is planned for September 2017.
- The project is implemented by Satluj Jal Vidyut Nigam (SJVN) Limited which is a Central Public Sector Enterprises of Government of India.
- SJVN Limited (a Mini Ratna: Category-I and Schedule –'A' CPSE company under Ministry of Power, Govt. of India) is a joint venture of the Government of India (with 64.46% shares)) and the Government of Himachal Pradesh (with 25.51% shares).
- SJVN Arun-3 Power Development Company Pvt. Ltd (SAPDC) was incorporated & registered on 25th April, 2013 as a private limited company under the Nepalese Companies Act.
- The power from the project shall be exported from Dhalkebar in Nepal to Muzaffarpur in India.



Reference:

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=158627>

<http://sjvn.nic.in/project-details.htm?13>

Tirtha Darshan scheme

Question : Which of the following States has recently started Tirtha Darshan Scheme ?

(a) Chhattisgarh (b) Jharkhand (c) Haryana (d) Gujarat

Answer:(c)

Related Facts:

- On March 3, 2017 Haryana Chief Minister Manohar Lal Khattar announced "Thirtha Darshan scheme".
- This Scheme is reserved for domicile of Haryana.
- More than 400 destinations have been listed under the scheme that can be visited by pilgrims.
- Under this scheme senior citizens (above 60) of the State will be able to go on pilgrimage within the country on Government expenses.
Maximum 250 pilgrims (persons) would be selected on the basis of draw of lots every year.



- The entire cost of tour of pilgrims (including their spouse) belonging to the Below Poverty Line shall be borne by the Government while only 70% of expense relating to Non -BPL class pilgrims shall be borne by the Government.
- This package shall cover sleeper class train fare and night accommodation on multi-sharing basis but will not cover expense on entertaining activities like boating etc.

Reference:

http://www.ptinews.com/news/8467095_-Tirtha-Darshan-scheme-announced-by-Haryana-govt.html

<http://www.uniindia.com/govt-prepares-tirtha-darshan-scheme-for-senior-citizens-haryana-cm/states/news/799131.html>

<http://indiatoday.intoday.in/story/tirtha-darshan-scheme-announced-by-haryana-govt/1/896431.html>

Cabinet approves Revised Cost Estimate-I of Koteshwar Hydro Electric Project

Question: 400 MW Koteshwar Hydro Electric Project is being established in which of the following states?

(a) Uttarakhand (b) Himachal Pradesh (c) Sikkim (d) Meghalaya

Ans: (a)

Related Fact :

- On 6th March, 2017, The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs, chaired by the Prime Minister Narendra Modi has approved the Revised Cost Estimate-I of 400 MW Koteshwar Hydro Electric Project in Uttarakhand at an estimated completion cost of Rs.2,717.35 crore.
- The project is being implemented by Tehri Hydro Development Corporation India Ltd.
- In addition to additional generating capacity of 400 MW of peaking power, it will regulate releases from Tehri reservoir for irrigation and drinking water supply.
- The reservoir of Koteshwar HEP will also act as lower reservoir for under-construction 1000 MW Tehri Pumped Storage Plant.
- The project was commissioned fully in March 2012. Only balance works are to be completed which are not linked with operation of the plant but essential for safety and completion of the project.



Reference:

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=158886>

50 un-served and under-served air strips to be developed

Question: What is the total estimated cost of Project for revival of 50 un-served/ under-served airports?

(a) 4500 crore (b) 9000 crore (c) 3000 crore (d) 2000 crore

Ans: (a)

Related Fact :

- On 6th March, 2017, the Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs, chaired by the Prime Minister Narendra Modi approved the proposal for revival of 50 un-served/under-served airports/airstrips in three financial years starting from 2017-18.



- The total cost of the project is estimated to be Rs. 4500 crore. 15 airports/airstrips each would be revived during 2017-18 and 2018-19 each while 20 airports/airstrips would be revived during 2019-20.
- The Revival of airstrips/airports will be 'demand driven', depending upon firm commitment from airline operators as well as from the State Governments for providing various concessions as Airports will be developed without insisting on financial viability.
- The announcement for making adequate provisions for revival of un-served and under-served airports was made by the Finance Minister in Union Budget 2016-17.
- This will facilitate better connectivity and will further boost the economic development in these areas as well as surrounding areas in terms of job creation and related infrastructure development.

Reference:

[http://www.ptinews.com/news/8476190 Govt-okays-Rs-4-500-cr-project-to-revive-50-airports-airstrips-](http://www.ptinews.com/news/8476190_Govt-okays-Rs-4-500-cr-project-to-revive-50-airports-airstrips-)

Cattle Feed Knowledge Portal

Question: Recently launched 'Cattle Feed Knowledge Portal' will be managed by...

- (a) Ministry of Agriculture (b) National Dairy Development Board
 (c) Agriculture Research and Training Department
 (d) Farmers Welfare Ministry

Ans: (b)

Related Fact :

- On 28h February, 2017, The Union Minister of State for Agriculture & Farmers Welfare, Shri Parshottam Rupala launched National Dairy Development Board's 'Cattle Feed Knowledge Portal'.
- It is an interactive knowledge platform on various aspects of compound cattle feed production. The portal will also have information on least cost formula for feeds, suppliers of feed ingredients, raw material specifications as well as a discussion forum to share information.
- He also inaugurated a National Workshop on Improving Feed Production Efficiency & Quality Control Aspects of Cattle Feed Plants organized by the National Dairy Development Board (NDDDB).
- The Minister hoped that this workshop will discuss ways to achieve global standards in the feed production and requested NDDDB to take benefit from budget allocation by Government of India for modernization of dairy technology.
- Shri Dilip Patel released a booklet titled Understanding Your Bovine. The booklet creates awareness on easily discernible signs of bovines so that corrective measures can be taken for management, feeding, health, hygiene practices, levels of discomfort etc.,.
- India's model of milk production is based on feeding crop residues and agricultural by-products and using family labour to add value to resources which otherwise have limited alternative economic value.
- It is in this context that the role of compound cattle feed in animal nutrition to help support the increase in milk production becomes significant.



- Feeding balanced ration can help the milk animals produce milk commensurate with their genetic potential with the attendant benefits of lower cost, increased SNF, higher immunity to disease, improved reproductive efficiency and reduced methane emissions.
- The Chairman, NDDB informed that the dairy cooperative network produces about 3.6 million tonnes per annum with an installed capacity of about 5 million tonnes in 70 cattle feed plants. In addition the private sector produces an additional 4.5 million tonnes. A total of 8 million tonnes per annum is sufficient for only about 8 million of the more than 100 million breedable animals.
- During the workshop issues related to cattle feed production, quality control aspects in a feed plant, improving feed production efficiency, latest trends in feed milling operation, least cost feed formulation and modernization of a quality control lab were discussed in details.

Reference:

<http://www.nddb.org/>

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=158732>

Andhra Pradesh signed MoUs with VISA, Thomson Reuters for fintech

Question: The two MoU signed recently by the Andhra Pradesh Government are intended to develop which city as the national and global hub for financial technologies (fintech) innovation?

(a) Visakhapatnam (b) Kannur (c) Hyderabad (d) Rajmundri

Ans: (a)



Related Fact :

- On 22nd February, 2017, the Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh, Shri Nara Chandrababu Naidu today presided over the signing of two significant Memoranda of Understanding (MoU) with fintech multinationals Visa and Thomson Reuters at Mumbai.
- The milestone represents another firm step by the state government designed to catapult Fintech Valley Vizag (Visakhapatnam) as the national and global hub for financial technologies (fintech) innovation.
- The Government of Andhra Pradesh is also hosting the first Fintech Valley Vizag Spring Conference 2017 on March 9-10, 2017.
- The conference will bring together fintech companies, start-ups, researchers and key government officials who are working in the fintech sector, and will provide opportunities for disruptive business solutions.
- With a special focus on nurturing start-ups, the Conference will also announce the winners of the Fintech Startup Challenge who will receive INR 15 lakh prize and free infrastructure for six months in the Fintech Tower.

About MoU with Visa:

- Visa is a global payments brand, technology and processing company with more than 2 billion credit, debit and prepaid accounts provided across more than 200 countries and territories. Consistent with the company's global commitment to help build more inclusive societies, the company has offered its support to the Andhra Pradesh government. As per the MoU between Visa and Government of Andhra Pradesh, the parties intend to collaborate to develop a robust digital payment ecosystem in Vizag through a multi-level approach that targets several stakeholders. Through the promotion of awareness campaigns and educational programmes, the MoU sets out to encourage both merchants and consumers to accept and adopt digital payments.

About MoU with Thomson Reuters:

- Thomson Reuters (TR) Corporation is a provider of news and information for a range of professional markets. The company operates through three segments: Financial & Risk, Legal, and Tax & Accounting. The Financial & Risk segment is a provider of critical news, information and analytics, enabling transactions and connecting communities of trading, investment, financial and corporate professionals, as well as provides regulatory and operational risk management solutions. As world's oldest fintech company, with 150 years of financial innovation history, Thomson Reuters will serve as an accelerator in this journey. It's technology platform and access to global best practices, will provide the right enablers and expertise to the Andhra Pradesh government as they pursue the goal of building a global fintech hub.

Reference:

<http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/visakhapatnam/improveinfrastructure-before-vizag-becomes-a-fintech-hub/articleshow/57336849.cms>

Capacity enhancement of Solar Parks and Ultra Mega Solar Power Projects

Question: What is the amount committed by the Government for development of Solar Parks and Ultra Mega Solar Power Projects by 2019-20?

(a) 8100 crore (b) 1000 crore (c) 5600 crore (d) 5000 crore

Ans: (a)

Related Fact :

- On 22nd February, 2017, the Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs, chaired by the Prime Minister, Narendra Modi, approved the enhancement of capacity from 20,000 MW to 40,000 MW of the Scheme for Development of Solar Parks and Ultra Mega Solar Power Projects.
- The enhanced capacity would ensure setting up of at least 50 solar parks each with a capacity of 500 MW and above in various parts of the country.
- Smaller parks in Himalayan and other hilly States where contiguous land may be difficult to acquire in view of the difficult terrain, will also be considered under the scheme.



- The capacity of the solar park scheme has been enhanced after considering the demand for additional solar parks from the States.
- The Solar Parks and Ultra Mega Solar Power Projects will be set up by 2019-20 with Central Government financial support of Rs.8100 crore. The total capacity when operational will generate 64 billion units of electricity per year which will lead to abatement of around 55 million tonnes of CO2 per year over its life cycle.

How it will work:

All the States and UTs are eligible for benefits under the scheme. The State Government will first nominate the Solar Power Park Developer (SPPD) and also identify the land for the proposed solar park. It will then send a proposal to Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE) for approval along with the name of the SPPD. The SPPD will then be sanctioned a grant of upto Rs.25 Lakh for preparing a Detailed Project Report of the Solar Park. Thereafter, Central Financial Assistance (CFA) of up to Rs. 20 lakhs/MW or 30 percent of the project cost including Grid-connectivity cost, whichever is lower, will be released as per the milestones prescribed in the scheme. Solar Energy Corporation India (SECI) will administer the scheme under the direction of MNRE. The approved grant will be released by SECI.

- The solar parks will be developed in collaboration with State Governments/UTs. The State Governments/UTs are required to select the SPPD for developing and maintaining the solar parks.
- Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE) is already implementing a scheme for development of at least 25 solar parks with an aggregate capacity of 20,000 MW, which was launched in December 2014. As on date, 34 solar parks of aggregate capacity 20,000 MW have been approved which are at various stages of development.

Benefits:

It would also contribute to long term energy security of the country and promote ecologically sustainable growth by reduction in carbon emissions and carbon footprint, as well as generate large direct & indirect employment opportunities in solar and allied industries like glass, metals, heavy industrial equipment etc. The solar parks will also provide productive use of abundant uncultivable lands which in turn facilitate development of the surrounding areas.

Reference:

- <http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=158621>
- <http://pib.nic.in/newsite/pmhindirelease.aspx?mincode=63>

First Phase of the Station Redevelopment Program launched

Question: Recently Minister of Railways Suresh Prabhakar Prabhu Launched the first Phase of the Station Redevelopment Program comprising how many Railway Stations of Indian Railways?

- (a) 20 (b) 22 (c) 23 (d) 25

Ans:(c)

Related facts:

- On 8 February 2017; Minister of Railways, Suresh Prabhakar Prabhu launched the first Phase of the World's largest Station Redevelopment Program.



- It comprises 23 major Railway Stations on Indian Railways network.
- The 400 stations to be redeveloped will provide amenities and services to the passengers in line with best in class railway stations.
- The stations will be redeveloped through public-private-partnership (PPP) model without straining Railways' finances.
- In the first phase, 23 stations will be bid out some of which include Chennai Central, Ranchi, Udaipur City, Indore, Yesvantpur, Bangalore Cantt., Visakhapatnam, Howrah, Kamakhya, Faridabad, Jammu Tawi, Secunderabad, Vijayawada, Kozhikode and Bhopal.
- Railways will provide approximately 140 acres of encroachment free land at these stations to the developers on a 45 year lease.
- Indian Railways has also appointed nodal officers in each zone to ensure smooth interactions with the developers.
- These stations have been selected for this phase after detailed feasibility studies carried out by our Strategic Advisors, The Boston Consulting Group.
- Railways mission is to redevelop railway stations using the surplus revenue that will be generated from commercial development of spare railway land.

Reference:

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=158286>

<https://twitter.com/sureshpprabhu/status/829359230360510464>

Ministry of Urban Development approves Atal Mission Plans of 6 more States

Question: Recently Ministry of Urban Development has approved Atal Mission Plans in six States for improving basic urban infrastructure over the next three financial years, which of the following is not in the list?

(a) Tripura (b) Puducherry (c) Himachal Pradesh (d) Jharkhand

Ans:(a)

Related facts:

- On 3 February 2017; Ministry of Urban Development has approved in one go investment in six States for improving basic urban infrastructure over the next three financial years i.e. 2017-20 under Atal Mission for Rejuvenation and Urban Transformation (AMRUT).
- The states include, Karnataka, Jharkhand, Himachal Pradesh, Arunachal, Nagaland and Puducherry.
- A total investment of Rs.2,863 cr has been cleared in 42 mission cities in these six States with a central assistance of Rs.1,432 cr for providing water taps to all urban households besides increasing water supply to the normative 135 litres per head per day, improving sewerage and drainage networks, promoting non-motorised transport and development of parks and green spaces.
- Details of investments to be made over the next three fiscals are: Karnataka –Rs.2,070 cr with a central assistance of Rs.955 cr, Jharkhand-Rs.555 cr in 7 cities with central assistance of Rs.262 cr, Himachal Pradesh-Rs.115 cr with central assistance of Rs.103 cr, Arunachal Pradesh-Rs.53 cr with central assistance of Rs.47 cr, Nagaland-Rs.45 cr



with central assistance of Rs.41 cr and Puducherry- Rs.24 cr with central government funding the whole project expenditure.

Reference:

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=157980>

TREATY & AGREEMENTS

India Signs Financing Agreement with World Bank worth \$ 100 Million

Question: The recent financing agreement of \$100 Million with World Bank is related to the development of Health Systems of which of the following states?

(a) Uttar Pradesh (b) Bihar (c) Meghalaya (d) Uttarakhand

Ans: (d)

- On 25th March, 2017 India signed a financing agreement for IDA credit of US\$ 100 (equivalent) for the “Uttarakhand Health Systems Development Project” with the World Bank.
- The objective of the project is to improve access to and quality of health care services in all 13 districts of Uttarakhand.
- The project will benefit the residents of hilly districts in particular. The project has two main components, (i) Innovations of engaging the private sector; and (ii) Stewardship and system improvement.
- Out of the total project size of USD 125 million, USD 25 million will be the counterpart contribution of the State Government.
- The planned design of the Project consists of multiple self-contained clusters of clinical services managed by operators on a PPP basis, providing services for free or at nominal charges.
- There will be a robust monitoring mechanism fully integrated with the expanded health insurance program in the State. This will be concurrent with strengthening the state’s capacity to implement the project.
- The closing date of Uttarakhand Health Systems Development Project is 30th September, 2023.



Reference:

<http://www.worldbank.org/en/news/press-release/2017/03/23/project-signing-government-world-bank-sign-usd100-million-agreement-better-healthcare-uttarakhand>

India and ADB Sign \$350 Million Loan for Upgrading 1,500 kms Roads in Madhya Pradesh

Question: In terms of size, Madhya Pradesh is the ... state of India.

(a) largest (b) second largest (c) fourth largest (d) third largest

Ans: (b)

- On 22nd March, 2017, The Asian Development Bank (ADB) and the Government of India signed a \$350 million loan for improving



about 1,500 kilometers of major district roads in Madhya Pradesh.

- This will complement the efforts of Government of Madhya Pradesh to bring about seamless road connectivity across the State by linking State Highways and Rural roads through District roads.
- The Project will involve upgrading roads with concrete pavements, strengthening culverts and bridges, and maintaining the improved road assets for a period of five years after construction, on a performance based payment format.
- The Project will also develop and introduce a cashless accident victim treatment facility in the state, and improve the accident response system.
- Along with ADB's loan, the Government of Madhya Pradesh will provide counterpart support of \$150 million.
- The project will run for almost four years with an expected completion date of March 2021.
- Madhya Pradesh is the second-largest State in the country, with an area of about 308,000 square kilometers and a population of about 73 million.
- Agriculture still underpins the State's economy and about 70% of the people live in rural areas. The State has also been undertaking a number of development initiatives to boost industrial activity. Since industrial development and agricultural production are dispersed, the road network is a vital element of the economic infrastructure.

Reference:

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=159733>

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

MoUs with Indonesia and the Kyrgyz Republic

Question: On 15th March, 2017, the Union Cabinet approved two MoUs with Indonesia and Kyrgyz Republic. These MoUs pertain to ...

- (a) Health and wellness (b) Renewable energy
(c) Youth and sports matters (d) None of the above.

Ans: (c)

- On 15th March, 2017, Union Cabinet chaired by the Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi was apprised of the memorandum of understanding between India and Indonesia for cooperation in youth and sports matters.
- The cabinet also approved another MoU signed between India and Kyrgyz Republic for cooperation in the field of youth development.
- The MoUs aim to organize Youth Exchange Programmes with Indonesia and Kyrgyz Republic, and cooperation in other youth and sports related matters.
- The selection of youth for participation in youth exchange and other programmes shall be done in an objective and transparent manner and the outcomes of the programmes under the MoUs shall be open for public scrutiny.
- Youth exchange and other programmes will help in developing international perspective among the youth and expanding their knowledge and expertise.



Reference:

<http://www.uniindia.com/cabinet-apprise-pm-of-mous-in-youth-and-sports-matters-with-indonesia-kyrgyz-republic/sports/news/811837.html>

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=159299>

MoU between India and Namibia in the field of capacity building of public officials

Question: Where is the Lal Bahadur Shastri National Academy of Administration situated?

(a) Mussoorie (b) Shimla (c) Delhi (d) Hyderabad

Ans: (a)

- On 15th March, 2017, the Union Cabinet chaired by the Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi gave its approval for signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between Lal Bahadur Shastri National Academy of Administration (LBSNAA), Mussoorie and Namibia Institute of Public Administration and Management (NIPAM), Namibia.
- The MoU envisages cooperation in the field of capacity building of public officials of Namibia and other training activities for the benefit of both the institutes.
- The MOU will help the Academy to disseminate some of its experience in running a training institution for higher civil services in the country to NIPAM. It will also help the two sides to engage in collaborative activities in the sphere of public administration and capacity building.
- It is to be noted that Lal Bahadur Shastri National Academy of Administration was established in 1959 in Mussoorie as the National Academy of Administration by merging the IAS Training School, Delhi and IAS Staff College, Shimla.



Reference:

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=159293>

MoU between India and Bangladesh on Aids to Navigation

Question: The Directorate General of Lighthouses and Lightships is a subordinate office under the Ministry of ...

(a) Shipping (b) Electricity (c) Defence (d) none of the above.

Ans: (a)

- On 15th March, 2017, the Union Cabinet chaired by the Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi approved signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on Aids to Navigation between the Directorate General of Lighthouses & Lightships (DGLL), Ministry of Shipping, Government of India and the Department of Shipping, Government of Bangladesh.
- The memorandum of understanding aims cooperate
- To extend advice on lighthouses and beacons
- To extend advice on Vessel Traffic Service and chain of Automatic Identification System (AIS);
- To impart training as per International Association of Marine Aids to Navigation and Lighthouse Authorities (IALA) training module to Bangladesh.
- The MoU will enable both the countries to collaborate in providing advice on navigation, training to navigation personnel and provide necessary cooperation in organizing workshops/conferences for enhancement of skills the concerned field.
- Background:



- As per International Maritime Organisation's (IMO's) requirement, authorities in various countries, provide appropriate Aids to Navigation in their waters as per international recommendations and guidelines.
- Marine aids to navigation such as lighthouses, beacons, DGPS, navigational and mooring buoys are operated to enhance the safe and efficient navigation of vessels and/or vessel traffic.
- Directorate General of Lighthouses & Lightships establishes and maintains Aids to Navigation in India, for safe navigation in Indian waters. DGLL having expertise in lighthouse engineering maintains large inventory of Aids to navigation which includes 193 lighthouses, 64 Racons, 22 Deep Sea lighted buoys, 23 DGPS stations, 01 Lightship, 04 tender vessels, National AIS Network, Vessel Traffic Service in Gulf of Kutch.
- "International Association of Marine Aids to Navigation and Lighthouse Authorities" (IALA) is the international body coordinating and harmonizing the use of all Aids to Navigation. India represented through DGLL, is a member of IALA Council.

Reference:

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=159296>

Agreement between the Ministry of Railways and the UNEP

Question: Recently, intent was signed with the United Nations Environment Program (UNEP) in the Rail Bhawan to formalise joint cooperation in which area by the Ministry of Railways?

- (a) Environmental protection (b) Rail safety (c) Rail Protection
(d) None in the above

Ans: (a)

Related facts:-

- On 9th March, 2017; the Ministry of Railways has signed, intent to compile joint cooperation with the United Nations Environment Program (UNEP) in the Rail Bhawan to formulate a joint venture in the field of environmental protection.
- Railway Minister Suresh Prabhakar Prabhu was also present on this occasion.
- Representatives of India and UNEP exchange of the letter of intent for jointly exploring opportunities and arranging cooperation in the field of environment and sustainability.
- Focus areas marked for the initiative include:
 - To assist in the preparation of a specific road map to achieve 20% reduction in water consumption at Railway establishments.
 - To assist in developing a draft work plan for setting up a waste management center at the major stations of Indian Railways.
 - Cooperate in developing a draft action plan for Indian Railways on sustainable public procurement for Green Technology.
 - This will make Indian Railways go ahead in ensuring more green and better transport system.

Related Links:-

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=159041>

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/hindirelease.aspx?relid=59922>



India and Belgium sign Protocol to amend Double Taxation Avoidance Agreement

Question: What is the currency of Belgium?

(a) Euro (b) Dollar (c) Frank (d) Pound

Ans: (a)



- On 9th March, 2017 India and Belgium signed a Protocol amending the existing Agreement and Protocol between the two countries for Avoidance of Double Taxation and the Prevention of Fiscal Evasion.
- The Protocol will broaden the scope of the existing framework of exchange of tax related information. This in turn will help curb tax evasion and tax avoidance between the two countries and will also enable mutual assistance in collection of taxes.
- To fight the menace of black money, India has either signed or amended international agreements, for the Avoidance of Double Taxation & Prevention of Fiscal Evasion with respect to Taxes on Income and for the Exchange of Information with Switzerland, Mauritius, Cyprus, Japan, Republic of Korea, Kazakhstan, Singapore and Austria during the financial year 2016-17.
- The Kingdom of Belgium is a west European country bordered by France, the Netherlands, Germany, Luxembourg, and the North Sea. Brussels is the capital city of this small, densely populated country of about 11 million people. Currency of Belgium is Euro.
- What is DTAA?
- A Double Taxation Avoidance Agreement (DTAA) is a tax treaty signed between two or more countries. Its key objective is that tax-payers in these countries can avoid being taxed twice for the same income. A DTAA applies in cases where a tax-payer resides in one country and earns income in another.
- DTAAs can either be comprehensive to cover all sources of income or be limited to certain areas such as taxing of income from shipping, air transport, inheritance, etc. India has DTAAs with more than eighty countries, of which comprehensive agreements include those with Australia, Canada, Germany, Mauritius, Singapore, UAE, the UK and US.

Reference:

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=159028>

CBDT signs Bilateral Advance Pricing Agreement with Japanese Company

Question: What is the total number of Advance Pricing Agreements entered into by the Central Board of Direct Taxes so far?

(a) 145 (b) 140 (c) 142 (d) 141

Ans: (d)

- On 6th March, 2017, the Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT) entered into a bilateral Advance Pricing Agreement (APA) with rollback provision with a Japanese subsidiary.



- The total number of APAs entered into by the CBDT has reached 141 with this signing. The CBDT expects more APAs to be concluded and signed before the end of the current fiscal.
- With this signing, the total number of bilateral APAs with Japanese subsidiaries has reached five, all with rollback provisions.
- Four APAs out of these five have been signed in the current financial year. All these five bilateral APAs are with Japanese trading companies (Sogo Soshas).
- Certainty in tax treatment for Sogo Soshas has been a long standing demand of the Japanese industry. The bilateral signing of APAs in this sector provides tax certainty up to nine years in each of these cases.

Reference:

http://www.business-standard.com/article/news-ians/cbd-t-japanese-firm-subsidiary-sign-advance-pricing-agreement-117030700893_1.html

Union Cabinet approved two MoU with Portugal

Question: Which of the below is the capital city of Portugal?

(a) Lisbon (b) Porto (c) Braga (d) Guimaraes

Ans: (a)

Related Fact :

- The Union Cabinet chaired by the Prime Minister Narendra Modi has given its ex-post facto approval for signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on Renewable Energy between India and Portugal. The MoU was signed on 6th January, 2017 in New Delhi.
- Both sides aim to establish the basis for a cooperative institutional relationship to encourage and promote technical bilateral cooperation on new and renewable energy issues on the basis of mutual benefit equality and reciprocity.
- The MoU envisages constitution of a Joint Working Group which can co-opt other members from Scientific Institutions, Research Centers, Universities, or any other entity.
- The Cabinet also provided its ex-post facto approval for the MoU between the two countries for cooperation in the field of IT&E. The MoU was signed on January 6, 2017 in New Delhi.
- It is to be noted that Lisbon is the capital and largest city of Portugal.



Reference:

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=158888>

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=158892>

MoU between India ‘UN-Women’

Question: In how many states will the technical support be provided to the Ministry of Panchayati Raj by ‘UN-Women’ in strengthening capacities of governance institutions to better leverage opportunities created for gender equality as per a recent MoU approved by the cabinet?

(a) 5 (b) 6 (c) 8 (d) 9

Ans: (b)

Related Fact :



United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women

- On 6th March, 2017, the Union Cabinet chaired by the Prime Minister Narendra Modi approved the signing of Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between India and the United Nations Entity of Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women).
- The proposal seeks to provide technical support to the Ministry of Panchayati Raj in strengthening capacities of governance institutions to better leverage opportunities created for gender equality through legislation, policies and programmes.
- Ministry of Panchayati Raj and UN-Women have worked in collaboration with each other to promote participation of women in Panchayati Raj Institutions to focus on building capacities of Elected Women Representatives to empower them and enhance their effectiveness.
- The parties agree that engendering the initiatives of the ministry including capacity development efforts, will be of mutual benefit, and will further their shared mission of good governance, gender equality and women's empowerment.
- In the long run, it will enable an improvement in the status of rural women in India, as well as contribute to meeting India's commitment to the Convention to Eliminate All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW), the Beijing Platform for Action and the Sustainable Development Goals.
- The proposed MoU will facilitate the achievement of time-bound results in the implementation of specific activities identified jointly by MoPR and UN Women within the broader framework for cooperation under the United Nations Development Assistance Framework.
- Activities under this MoU will be implemented at the district and sub-district level in six States i.e. Andhra Pradesh, Telengana, Odisha, Karnataka, Rajasthan and Madhya Pradesh.

Reference:

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=158901>

MoU between India and the UAE for providing Energy Efficiency Services

Question: United Arab Emirates established on December 2, 1971, is a federation of ... emirates.

(a) seven (b) Ten (c) Five (d) three

Ans: (a)

Related Fact :

- On 6th March, 2017, the Union Cabinet chaired by the Prime Minister Narendra Modi gave its ex-post facto approval to the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between the National Productivity Council and Al Etihad Energy Services UAE, to provide various services in the field of energy management and conservation.
- National Productivity Council is an autonomous body under the Department of Industrial Policy & Promotion, Ministry of Commerce & Industry.
- Under the MoU, the NPC will provide Energy Assessment Services, Training & Certification of Energy Auditors and Demand Side Management.



- Meanwhile, Al Etihad Energy Services will provide customer Support, all local support for Field Auditing Professionals, Training & Certification of Energy Auditors, and all support related to Demand Side Management of industries based in UAE.
- The MoU will enable NPC avail high value opportunities such as energy building and develop institutional mechanism in area of energy efficiency in Dubai and other Gulf Cooperation Council member countries. It will provide recognition and exposure to further build NPC's capacities and competencies. MoU will be a precedent for engagements with other International collaboration partners and will enhance NPC's visibility in arena. The MoU will help promote NPC in GCC member countries and will generate business for NPC in the area of energy.
- Apart from this, the Cabinet also provided its ex-post facto approval for signing of the Definitive Agreement on Oil Storage and Management between Indian Strategic Petroleum Reserve Ltd (ISPRL) and Abu Dhabi National Oil Company (ADNOC) of UAE.
- According to the Agreement, the ADNOC will fill up 0.81 MMT or 5,860,000 million barrels of crude oil at ISPRL storage facility at Mangalore, Karnataka.
- A major part of the stored crude oil will be purely for strategic purposes. The signing of the Agreement will augment India's energy security.
- It is notable that United Arab Emirates was established on December 2, 1971. It is a federation of seven emirates.

Reference:

http://www.business-standard.com/article/government-press-release/cabinet-gives-ex-post-facto-approval-to-the-mou-between-india-117030601214_1.html

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=158903>

National Mission for Clean Ganga Signs MoU with Rotary India

Question: The main stem of the river Ganga flows through ... states of India.

(a) 5 (b) 6 (c) 4 (d) 8

Ans: (a)

- On 2nd March 2017, National Mission for Clean Ganga under Ministry of Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation signed an MoU with Rotary India in New Delhi.
- Rotary India will support clean Ganga mission through their 'WASH in Schools' program in various schools. The program includes the implementation of Water, Sanitation and Hygiene services in the targeted government schools. Awareness about sanitization is raised among all the stakeholders including school children, teachers and school management communities etc.
- This will be achieved through an integrated learning environment and enabling children to serve as agents of change for their siblings and communities at large. Rotary India has planned to undertake 'WASH in Schools' programme in 20,000 Government Schools.
- The MoU will pave the way for integrating the theme of Ganga Rejuvenation with Rotary's program of WASH which is to be undertaken in government schools and



communities located along the river Ganga in the states of Bihar, Jharkhand and Nadia District of West Bengal and other states where Rotary has a strong presence.

- It will undertake activities and campaigns to create awareness in schools and communities about Ganga rejuvenation and thereby reducing the pollution flowing into the river.
- The emphasis will be on public outreach and community participation. The MoU shall remain in force for two years.
- The collaboration between NMCG and Rotary is a significant step in involving various stake holders and communities in Ganga Rejuvenation.
- It is notable that the main stem of the river Ganga flows through 5 states of India. These are Uttarakhand, Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Jharkhand and West Bengal.

Reference:

http://nmcg.nic.in/writereaddata/fileupload/22_NMCG%20Signs%20with%20Rotary%20India%20for%20the%20Success%20of%20Namami%20Gange.pdf

ADB's \$375 Million loans and grant for East Coast Economic Corridor

Question: Total assistance Asian Development Bank has agreed to provide to the East Coast Economic Corridor project is...

- (a) \$631 Million (b) \$500 Million (c) \$215 Million
(d) \$846 Million

Ans: (a)

Related Fact:



- On 23rd February, 2017 The Asian Development Bank (ADB) and the Government of India signed \$375 million loans and grants to develop the 800-kilometer Visakhapatnam-Chennai Industrial Corridor, which is the first phase of a planned 2,500-kilometer long East Coast Economic Corridor (ECEC).
- The ADB has approved to provide \$631 million in loans and grants in September 2016 to develop the Corridor. The Government of India will provide extra funding of \$215 million to the \$846 million project.
- Asian Development Bank's assistance includes a \$500 million multi-tranche facility to build key infrastructure in the four main centers along the corridor — Visakhapatnam, Kakinada, Amaravati, and Yerpedu-Srikalahasti in the state of Andhra Pradesh.

Key Highlights of the Agreement:

- The first tranche of \$245 million was signed on 23rd February, 2017. This will finance subprojects to develop high-quality internal infrastructure in 2 of the 4 nodes of the corridor — Visakhapatnam and Yerpedu-Srikalahasti.
- Another component of the approved ADB funds was a \$125 million policy-based loan that will be used for capacity development of institutions engaged in corridor management, provide support to enhance ease of doing business and for supporting industrial development policies.
- Another agreement signed was for a \$5 million grant from the multi-donor Urban Climate Change Resilience Trust Fund that is managed by ADB to build climate change resilient infrastructure.

- The tranche 1 loan will have a 25-year term, including a grace period of 5 years.
- **Benefits:**
The Corridor is expected to spur development on India's eastern coast in line with the Government of India's 'Make in India' and 'Act East policy' to integrate the Indian economy with Asia's dynamic global production networks. Among the outputs envisaged under the \$245 million tranche 1 loan include strengthening and widening of a 29.6-kilometer section of state highway to four lanes to improve connectivity from Kakinada Port to National Highway 16. Besides, investments will increase in smart water management in Visakhapatnam to reduce nonrevenue water and provide continuous water supply, upgrading 7 power substations to for reliable power supply to Visakhapatnam, Naidupeta, and Yerpedu-Srikalahasti industrial clusters, and effluent treatment facility in Atchutapuram and Naidupeta clusters. The project is an important milestone in the process of developing the corridor and realizing the objectives of Make in India. ADB estimates that by 2025, annual industrial output along the corridor will increase fourfold to \$64 billion from about \$16 billion in 2015 if investment opportunities are maximized over the next few years.
- **About ADB:**
ADB, based in Manila, is dedicated to reducing poverty in Asia and the Pacific through inclusive economic growth, environmentally sustainable growth, and regional integration. Established in 1966, ADB is celebrating 50 years of development partnership in the region. It is owned by 67 members—48 from the region.

Reference:

<https://www.adb.org/news/adb-india-sign-375-million-assistance-first-phase-east-coast-economic-corridor>

\$63 Million Financing Agreement with World Bank for Tejaswini Project

Question: 'Tejaswini' Socio-Economic Empowerment of Adolescent Girls and Young Women Project" targets ... districts in Jharkhand.

(a) 17 (b) 18 (c) 20 (d)10

Ans: (a)

Related Fact :



- On 23rd February, 2017, India signed a financing agreement of US\$ 63 million (equivalent) for the "Tejaswini" Socio-Economic Empowerment of Adolescent Girls and Young Women Project" with the World Bank.
- Tejaswini is a welfare project which aims at empowering adolescent girls & young women socially and economically in Jharkhand. This will support adolescent girls and young women, aged 14-24, to complete their secondary level education and acquire relevant skills for the job market.
- The project seeks to provide basic life skills and market driven skill training or completion of secondary education, depending on the inclination of the beneficiary.
- The credit is from the International Development Association (IDA) – the World Bank's concessionary lending arm with a maturity of 25 years, including a 5 year grace period.

Project and it's Benefits:

Tejaswini project will be delivered in 17 Districts of Jharkhand. In these districts, there are about 2.1 million adolescent girls and young women in the 14-24 age group. Out of this

population, 13 percent belong to Scheduled Castes and 25 percent to Scheduled Tribes. The project will intervene at two levels – at the community and at the institutional level. The community-based platforms (“clubs” and “centers”) will hold regular counseling and guidance sessions, life skills education, livelihood support services, and provide information on opportunities. Life skills will include training on ‘soft skills’, increasing awareness about Rights and protections, health and nutrition and financial literacy. At the institutional level, it will work with partner institutions through performance-based contracts to deliver vocational training, business skills training, and non-formal education to a subset of adolescent girls and young women. About 680,000 adolescent girls and young women in the project Districts are expected to benefit from the program.

Reference:

<http://www.worldbank.org/en/news/press-release/2016/06/21/world-bank-approves-usd63-million-socio-economic-empowerment-adolescent-girls-young-women-in-jharkhand-india>
<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=158720>

Cabinet approves signing of Air Services Agreement between India and Rwanda

Question: When did the Cabinet approves signing of Air Services Agreement between India and Rwanda?

- (a) 14 February 2017 (b) 15 February 2017 (c) 13 February 2017
(d) 10 February 2017

Ans: (b)

Related facts:

- On 15 February 2017; Union Cabinet chaired by the Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi has approved the signing of Air Services Agreement between India and Rwanda.
- The Agreement has the potential to spur greater trade, investment, tourism and cultural exchange between India and Rwanda, bringing it in tune with developments in the civil aviation sector.
- It will provide enabling environment for enhanced and seamless connectivity while providing commercial opportunities to the carriers of both the sides ensuring greater safety and security.

Reference:

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/erelease.aspx>



Agreement between India and Croatia

Question: Recently an agreement between India and Croatia was signed on-

- (a) Economic Cooperation (b) Agricultural Cooperation
(c) Space (d) Medical Cooperation

Ans: (a)

Related facts:

- On 14 February 2017; an agreement between the Government of the Republic of India and the Government of the Republic of Croatia on Economic Cooperation.



- It was signed by Commerce and Industry Minister Smt. Nirmala Sitharaman, Government of India and Ms. Martina Dalic, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of the Economy, Government of the Republic of Croatia in Zagreb, Croatia.
- India and Croatia had earlier signed an Agreement on Trade and Economic Cooperation in September, 1994 with an aim to promote and develop bilateral trade and economic relations.
- The present Agreement between India and Croatia would be a step in continuity as the last one expired in November, 2009.
- India's bilateral trade with the Republic of Croatia during 2013-14, 2014-15 and 2015-16 were US\$ 148.86 million, US\$ 205.04 million and US\$ 148.44 million respectively.
- The bilateral trade during the last three years has remained stable despite global slowdown.

Reference:

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/erelease.aspx>

http://www.business-standard.com/article/government-press-release/agreement-between-india-and-croatia-on-economic-cooperation-117021500314_1.html

MoU between India and France

Question: Recently Cabinet apprised of MoU between India and France signed in which of the following field?

- (a) Science, Technology and Innovation (b) Defence
(c) Nuclear (d) Agriculture

Ans:(a)

Related facts:

- The Union Cabinet chaired by the Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi has been apprised of the signing of the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) of Cooperation between Technology Development Board (TDB), Department of Science & Technology, Govt. of India and Bpifrance, a Public Investment Bank, France.
- The agreement will ensure exchange of best practices and setting up of coordinated measures to foster technological exchanges in the field of Science, Technology and Innovation through collaboration between companies, organizations and institutions of France and India.
- The agreement aims to carry out activities related to exchange of best practices in the field of Science & Technology through the Technology Development Board and Bpifrance.



Reference:

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=158290>

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CONFERENCE

Conference on Restructuring of NSS

Question: When was the National Service Scheme introduced?

(a) 1969 (b) 1970 (c) 1968 (d) 1967

Ans: (a)

- Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports, Department of Youth Affairs is organizing a Conference on 'Restructuring of NSS' on 31 March, 2017 in New Delhi.
- The Objective of organizing the one-day Conference is to generate ideas for restructuring of the Scheme, in order to make it more robust and effective.
- All the stakeholders of the Scheme are being invited to the Conference so that a balanced view can be taken. The total number of participants in the Workshop would be around 100.
- National Service Scheme (NSS) was introduced in 1969 with the primary objective of developing the personality and character of the student youth through voluntary community service. NSS was launched initially in 37 Universities involving about 40,000 volunteers.
- Till March 2016, NSS had about 36.58 lakh volunteers enrolled in 39,695 NSS units spread over 391 Universities/ +2 Councils, 16,278 Colleges/ Technical Institutions and 12,483 Senior Secondary Schools.
- The structure of the NSS has largely remained unchanged over the years. The conference will primarily focus on making it more useful platform with a view to the changing circumstances the needs of the community and the aspirations of the young students.



Reference:

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=160196>

<http://yas.nic.in/sites/default/files/OM%2013-39-2015%20nyks%2028%20april%202016.pdf>

23rd Conference of Auditors General of Commonwealth Countries and British Overseas Territories

Question: In which of the following cities the 23rd Conference of Auditors General of Commonwealth Countries and British Overseas Territories has been organised?

(a) New Delhi (b) Malta (c) Cyprus (d) Bermuda

Answer- (a)

Related facts:

- The 23rd Conference of Auditors General of Commonwealth Countries and British Overseas Territories has been organized in New Delhi from 21st to 23rd March 2017.
- India hosted this prestigious conference for the first time. The conference was hosted by the Comptroller and Auditor General of India.



- The main theme of the conference was “Fostering Partnerships for Capacity Development in Public Audit” with the following two sub-themes:
 - 1.Leveraging Technology in Public Audit, and
 - 2.Environment Audit: A Commonwealth Perspective.
- The discussions on these two sub-topics in the conference were led by the auditor of Tanzania and Canada.
- The Conference was attended by 52 Commonwealth Countries and 9 British Overseas Territories.
- The auditing organizations in these countries come together in conference on every three years.
- The last such conference was held in Malta in 2014.
- This year, about 80 delegates from 37 countries participated in this conference, which are the heads of 24 Supreme Audit Institutions (SAI).

Related links:

<https://twitter.com/arunjaitley/status/844462360995790848>

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=159584>

<http://www.aninews.in/keysearchMTA/keyword-search/23rd-conference-of-auditors-general-of-commonwealth-nations-and-9-british-overseas-territories.html>

Two day Conference of Directors of Fingerprint Bureaux

Question: When was the National Crime Records Bureau set up?

(a) 1967 (b) 1977 (c) 1987 (d) 1986

Ans: (d)

- A two day Conference of Directors of Fingerprint Bureaux (FPBx) is being organized at Haryana Police Academy Madhuban, Karnal, Haryana by National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB) in joint collaboration with Haryana Police on March 30-31, 2017.
- The conference is expected to be attended by more than 100 delegates from various FPBx. Senior officials of National Crime Records Bureau and States/ UT Police would participate in the conference.
- Latest developments, research papers, capacity building, R&D, administrative matters concerning various FPBx, and other related legal issues of Fingerprints would be deliberated in the two day conference. A few research papers will also be presented by universities of Punjab & Delhi.
- It's notable that NCRB was set-up in 1986 to function as a repository of information on crime and criminals so as to assist the investigators in linking crime to the perpetrators.
- It was set up based on the recommendation of the Task force and National Police Commission by merging the Directorate of Coordination and Police Computer (DCPC), Statistical Branch of BPR&D, Inter State Criminals Data Branch of CBI and Central Finger Print Bureau of CBI.
- The Central Finger Print Bureau (CFPB) came into existence in the year 1955 at Kolkata. The CFPB is an apex body in the country which coordinates, guides, monitors and provides technical support to the State Finger Print Bureaux, as well as investigating agencies and international organizations like INTERPOL.



- It maintains the records of 10-digit fingerprint slips of convicted persons and those belonging to specified categories (repository of over one million digitized 10 digit fingerprint slips).

Reference:

<http://ncrb.nic.in/Flyers/ncrbFlyer2017.pdf>

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=160109>

National Conference on Down Syndrome

Question: National Conference on Down syndrome has recently held at-

(a) New Delhi (b) Bhubaneswar (c) Raipur (d) Bangalore

Answer- (a)

Related facts:

- A “National Conference on Down Syndrome” inaugurated on March 25, 2017, by Shri Thaawarchand Gehlot, Minister for Social Justice and Empowerment.
- The Conference was organized by The National Trust for the welfare of persons with Autism, Cerebral Palsy, Mental Retardation and Multiple Disabilities in collaboration with Muskaan, a registered organisation of the National Trust.
- This organization is working as a registered organization under the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment.
- conference was attended by a panel of experts and professionals.
- Many experts, representatives from civil societies and parents of Persons with Down Syndrome were present at the conference.
- During the conference, discussions on important topics related to Down syndrome were organized.
- Down Syndrome is a chromosomal condition associated with intellectual and learning disabilities.
- Persons with Down Syndrome have 47 chromosomes as compared to 46 in majority of people.
- Delayed development and behavioural problems are often reported in children suffering with Down Syndrome.
- Every year 20 to 22 thousand children take birth with Down Syndrome in our country.



Related links:

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/hindirelease.aspx?relid=60139>

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=159940>

Third Conference of Health / AYUSH Ministers of States / UTs

Question: Where was the third conference of Health / AYUSH Ministers of States / Union Territories organized recently?

(a) Bhubaneswar (b) Raipur (c) New Delhi (d) Jaipur

Ans: (c)

Related facts:-

- On March 22, 2017, the third conference of ministers of the State /



Union Territories Health / AYUSH of the States / Union Territories was inaugurated by the Minister of State for AYUSH (Independent Charge) Shri Shripad Yesso Naik in New Delhi.

- This conference was organized by the Ministry of AYUSH, Government of India.
- The purpose of the conference was to provide an opportunity for States / Union Territories to interact with each other for the development of the AYUSH region.
- At this conference, representatives of AYUSH / Health / Ministers / Secretaries and officers of 23 States / Union Territories, Senior Officers of AYUSH Ministry and representatives from AYUSH organizations participated.
- During the conference, the Minister urged all State Governments to consider amending the State Medical Practitioner Act.
- As such, the AYUSH system can be used to deal with medical emergencies.

Related Links:-

<https://twitter.com/moayush/status/844415288363880449>

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/hindirelease.aspx?relid=60075>

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/hindirelease.aspx?relid=60059>

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=136563>

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=159636>

105th Indian Science Congress

Question: Where will the 105th Conference of Indian Science Congress be held?

(a) Hyderabad (b) New Delhi (c) Allahabad (d) Varanasi

Ans: (a)

- The 105th session of Indian Science Congress will be hosted by Osmania University (O.U) Hyderabad from January 3-7, 2018.
- The theme for 2018 Indian Science Congress will be 'Science and Technology – Reaching the Unreached'.
- Osmania University will also celebrate its centenary in 2018.
- This will be sixth time that the university will be hosting the conference.



Reference:

<http://www.thehindu.com/news/cities/Hyderabad/ou-to-host-indian-science-congress/article17468687.ece>

Smart India Hackathon 2017 Grand Finale to be held at Kolkata

Question: Which of the following is the organizer of Smart India Hackathon 2017?

- (a) All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE)
(b) Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR)
(c) NASSCOM (d) My Gov

Ans: (a)

- On 27th March, 2017, Ministry of Human Resource Development announced that the much awaited Smart India Hackathon 2017 Grand Finale is scheduled to be held on April 1 & 2, 2017 simultaneously at 26 different nodal centers across India.



- Smart India Hackathon 2017 was launched on Nov 9, 2016 in New Delhi. It aims to harnesses creativity & expertise of students for 'Startup India, Standup India' campaign, and come up with solutions for improving governance and quality of life by providing innovative solutions.
- Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) is a 'Premier Partner' in this initiative.
- Out of the 7531 idea submissions received for the 598 problems posted by 29 govt. departments, 1266 ideas have been shortlisted for the 'Grand Finale' on April 1 & 2, 2017, during which these teams will work nonstop for 36 hours to build products based on their ideas, across 26 locations in India.
- For the first time, 10,000+ youngsters (6 students & 2 mentors per team) will work non-stop for 36 hours to develop products for our nation. To ensure the success of Smart India Hackathon 2017, multiple online training sessions and awareness workshops were organized for training 30,000+ students.
- Winners stand to get cash prizes and a chance to be part of the NASSCOM's 10,000 Startups program.
- Smart India Hackathon 2017 is expected to become the 'world's biggest open innovation model'.
- It is notable that a Hackathon (also known as a hack day, hackfest or codefest) is an event in which computer programmers and others involved in software development, including graphic designers, interface designers, project managers, and others, often including subject-matter-experts, collaborate intensively on software projects.
- All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE) under the aegis of Ministry of Human Resource Development (MHRD) and in collaboration with i4c, My Gov, Persistent Systems, NASSCOM and Rambhau Mhalgi Prabodini is conducting a unique initiative 'Smart India Hackathon 2017'.

Reference:

<https://innovate.mygov.in/sih2017/>

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=159972>

World Conference on Environment

Question: Where was the World Conference on Environment organized?

(a) New Delhi (b) Bengaluru (c) Dharwad (d) Belgaum

Ans: (a)

- On 25th March, 2017, The President of India, Shri Pranab Mukherjee inaugurated the 'World Conference on Environment' organized by the National Green Tribunal in New Delhi.
- The President mentioned that studies and systematic reviews indicate that environmental factors are responsible for an estimated 24% of the global burden of disease in terms of healthy life years lost and 23 % of all deaths.
- Children are the worst sufferers of the adverse impact of environmental diseases. 24% of all deaths under the age of 15 are due to diarrhoea, malaria and respiratory diseases – all of which are environment related.
- 19% of the deaths caused by Cancer worldwide are attributed to carcinogens that un-mindful industrialization produces.



- The event was facilitated by National Green Tribunal – India’s premier environment watch dog.

Reference:

<http://presidentofindia.nic.in/press-release-detail.htm?2831>

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=159942>

‘FICCI FRAMES, 2017’

Question- On 21-23 March, 2017 Where was the ‘Ficci Frames, 2017’ organized for the annual Conference of Media and Entertainment Industry?

(a) Goa (b) Pune (c) Jaipur (d) Mumbai

Ans: (d)

Related facts:-

- On 21-23 March 2017; ‘FICCI FRAMES, 2017’; the three-day annual conference of the Media and Entertainment Industry was organized in Mumbai.
- This is the 18th edition of this conference.
- ‘Ficci Frames, the main theme of 2017, was’ Digital: Divide or Dividend’.
- Union Information and Broadcasting Secretary Ajay Mittal and actress Jacqueline Fernandes inaugurated the conference.
- It is worth mentioning that ‘FICCI FRAMES’ is a leading business conference to attract almost all the key stakeholders of the entertainment sector.
- This is the largest conference of its kind in Asia.



Related Links:-

<http://www.ficci-frames.com/frames/about-frames.html>

<http://www.ficci-frames.com/frames/programme.html>

<http://www.bestmediainfo.com/2017/03/ficci-frames-2017-challenges-facing-the-me-industry/>

<http://www.adageindia.in/marketing/news/the-openness-of-the-internet-has-created-a-violent-polarity-says-uday-shankar-at-ficci-frames-2017/articleshow/57750159.cms>

Second Conference of India-UAE on Globalization

Question- Where was the Second India-UAE Conference on Globalization organized on March 20, 2017?

(a) New Delhi (b) Aboudhabi (c) Dubai (d) Sharjah

Ans: (c)

Related facts:-

- On March 20, 2017, the second India-UAE conference on globalization between India and the United Arab Emirates was held in Dubai.
- The purpose of this conference was to promote cooperation among the two countries.
- This conference was organized by the All India Management Association (AIMA).
- The leaders of both the countries joined the conference to discuss strategies in the fast changing world.
- The theme of this conference was ‘Resetting Globalization Collaborating in a ‘Fast Changing World’.



- During this conference, health care innovation was discussed along with many topics as well.
- In which the strategies for enhancing cooperation between the two countries were discussed.

Related Links:-

<http://indianexpress.com/article/india/dubai-india-uae-all-india-management-association-health-care-industry-uae-health-care-providers-4576182/>

<http://www.amarujala.com/world/rest-of-world/second-india-uae-conference-on-globalisation-to-be-held-in-dubai>

International Diamond Conference

Question:- ALROSA a diamond mining company is associated with which of the following countries?

(a) U.S.A (b) Russia (c) China (d) South Africa

Ans: (b)

Related Facts:-

- On 19-20 March 2017; the Gem and Jewellery Export Promotion Council of India (GJEPC) organised International Diamond Conference at Hotel Hyatt Mumbai.
- The theme of this session was “Mines to Market 2017”.
- The conference was held with an objective of bringing together the leading Miners, Diamantaires, Retailers, Bankers and Analysts from across the globe on a platform to discuss the supply and demand issues faced by the Global Diamond Industry.
- The conference covered all aspects of the diamond pipeline including mining, midstream, marketing & retail, international finance, valuation with KP and Diamond certification.
- Mining Companies like De Beers and ALROSA participated in the event.
- It is to be noted that the Gem & Jewellery Export Promotion Council (GJEPC) was set up by the Ministry of Commerce and industry, Government of India (GoI) in 1966.



Related Links:-

<http://diamonddigest.in/gjepc-to-host-international-diamond-conference-mines-to-market-2017/>

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=159521>

3 Day International Buddhist Conference

Question: Where is the Central Tibetan Administration (Exile Tibetan People's Organization) headquartered?

(a) Shimla (b) Dharamsala (c) Chandigarh (d) Surat

Ans: (b)

- A three days “International Buddhist Conference” organized by Ministry of Culture and Nava Nalanda Mahavihara, Deemed University was inaugurated by His Holiness The Dalai Lama and Dr. Mahesh Sharma, Minister of Culture and Tourism on 17th March, 2017 at Rajgir International Buddhist Conference, Bihar.
- On this occasion the reprint of the Pali Tripitaka in Devanagiri script was released by His Holiness the Dalai Lama.



- An announcement was also made for opening of the department of the Buddhist science for the first time in Asia.
- It is to be noted that the Central Tibetan Administration (Exile Tibetan People's Organization) is headquartered at McLeod Ganj, Dharamsala, India.
- The territory of Tibet is administered by the People's Republic of China following an illegitimate military occupation. Before that Tibet had been a distinct nation with a long history of independence.

Reference:

<http://www.dalailamahindi.com/>

International conference on the Vision Zero

Question: The international conference on the Vision Zero is being organized in which of the following cities?

(a) New Delhi (b) New York (c) Montreal (d) St. Petersburg

Ans: (a)



- The international conference on the VISION ZERO and its relevance to Occupational Safety and Health is being organized from 15th to 17th, March 2017 at Vigyan Bhawan, New Delhi.
- The conference is being organized by Directorate General Factory Advice and Labour Institutes (DGFASLI), Ministry of Labour and Employment, Government of India and German Social Accident Insurance (DGUV), Germany in association with International Social Security Association (ISSA).
- The conference aims to focus on the Occupational Safety and Health issues and challenges in the Manufacturing, Construction and Mining sector. The conference will provide a forum for promoting safety and health at work by exchanging knowledge, practices and experience.
- The concept of 'VISION ZERO' is about improving the occupational safety and health status worldwide and in achieving the goal of 'zero accidents and diseases'.
- To achieve this, the International Social Security Association (ISSA) sets Seven Golden Rules and describes measures which contribute to meeting the objectives.
- This include leadership commitment on safety always as the number one priority, identification of hazards and risks by a systematic risk assessment, ensuring a safe system by increasing the responsibility of all managers, focus on use of safe & healthy technology, improving qualification by defining the required qualification for each workplace, and investing in employees.

Reference:

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=159150>

Third National Dam Safety Conference

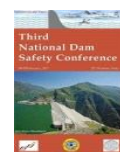
Question: – Where did the third National Dam Safety Conference be organized?

A) Roorkee(B) Dehradun (C) Kharagpur (D) Mysore

Ans: (a)

Related facts:

- On 18-19 February, 2017; the third National Dam Safety Conference was



organized in Roorkee, Uttarakhand.

- The conference was organized by the Central Water Commission in association with Uttarakhand Jal Vidyut Nigam and IIT Roorkee.
- During the conference, focus was on key challenges in the field of dam safety.
- Which are being faced for the implementation of the ongoing Dam Safety and Rehabilitation and Improvement Project (DRIEP).
- In the conference, knowledge, experience, innovation, innovative technologies etc. were shared by various national and foreign experts.
- This will help in shaping the work policies to effectively manage the uncertainties related to the design, construction, operation and maintenance of the dam.
- Over 400 delegates attended the conference.
- More than 70 research papers of national and foreign experts were presented during the conference.
- In this conference, our technologies, products and services were displayed through exhibition organized by about 40 national and foreign organizations.
- The function was attended by professionals from America, Australia, Japan, Britain, France, Italy, Spain, Netherlands and Germany.
- With a total storage capacity of about 283 billion cubic meters, India is at third place in terms the number of large dams in the world, after China and the US.
- About 80 percent of the big dams in India are more than 25 years of age.
- In the year 2012, the Ministry of Water Resources, River Development and Ganga, with the help of the World Bank, started the 6-year-old Dam Safety Rehabilitation and Correctional Project (DRIEP).
- Its purpose is to strengthen the regulatory measures related to institutional reforms and safe and financially sustainable dam operations.
- Under this project, provision of comprehensive rehabilitation and improvement has been made in 225 major dam projects in seven states of India.
- The project is being implemented in 7 states like Jharkhand, Karnataka, Kerala, Madhya Pradesh, Odisha, Tamil Nadu and Uttarakhand.

Related Links:-

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=158555>

<http://hdnewsindia.in/post/29577>

<https://damsafety.in/ecm->

includes/PDFs/Conference/3NDSC/3NDSC_Conference%20Brochure_Revised_A3%203Folds-V6%20Final.pdf

11th North East Business Summit

Question: 11th North East Business Summit was organized by ...

- (a) The Indian Chamber of Commerce
- (b) Ministry of Development of North Eastern Region
- (c) Ministry of commerce and industry
- (d) None of the above.

Ans: (a)



- The Indian Chamber of Commerce is organizing the 11th North East Business Summit (NEBS) in the national capital on March 9-10, 2017.
- The 11th NEBS will aim to display strengths, potentials and initiatives of the North East.
- It envisages promoting investment in the region and also focused deliberations on strategic areas like infrastructure and connectivity, agri-horti, food processing, service sector and energy to highlight the investment and business opportunities in these sectors.
- According to the organizers NEBS will discussions over ease of doing business in the region which would help stakeholders address key issues.
- Secretary, Ministry of Development of North Eastern Region Mr. Naveen Verma emphasized on the need of faster and reliable transit facilities and freight modes to make the North Eastern Region products competitive.
- Union Minister for Railways, Shri Suresh Prabhu, briefed that an e-commerce portal will soon be launched to sell NER handicrafts and handloom worldwide on the IRCTC website. He also mentioned that Darjeeling Gorkha Hill Council has assured providing land for expansion of the rail link to Darjeeling, which will be further extended to Sikkim.

Reference:

<http://knnindia.co.in/news/newsdetails/state/11th-north-east-business-summit-nebs-in-new-delhi-on-march-9-10-2017>

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=159018>

12th CII-Exim bank conclave on India Africa Project Partnership

Question: Where was the 12th CII-Exim bank conclave on India Africa Project Partnership held?

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

Ans: (a)

- On 9th March, 2017, The President of India, Shri Pranab Mukherjee inaugurated the 12th CII-EXIM Bank Conclave on India Africa Project Partnership at Hotel Taj Palace in New Delhi.
- The Conclave is an annual event witnessing the participation of high-level official and business delegations from African countries. This year, the King of Swaziland His Majesty, Mswati – III, and the Prime Minister of Uganda Dr Ruhakana Rugunda attended the event as Guests of Honour.
- Business-to-business meetings were organised as part of the Conclave apart from several sessions covering various sectors such as Trade & Investment, Development Partnership, Agriculture, Health, Infrastructure, Power, Skill Development, Irrigation, Water Supply, Small & Medium Enterprises, Rural Electrification, Railways etc.
- **Emphasis of the conclave has been on :**
- Increasing outreach of information on Indian enterprise in the identified sectors to Africa.



- Increasing interaction between the Indian Industry and Africa to address specific opportunities.
- Discussing possibilities for Indian participation on long term projects.
- Initiation of programs related to capacity building, including resource mobilization for the same.
- Building upon the momentum gathered with the launch of the “India Africa Forum Summit” and taking ahead the actionable agenda put forward during the deliberations.
- The President emphasized India’s cooperation in development in Africa through Lines of Credit estimated at over US\$7 billion under the India – Africa Forum Summit process. India’s collaboration extends across a wide spectrum. India has offered fifty thousand scholarships to African students. Six thousand Africans have since been trained under India – Africa Forum Summit-3.
- **About the Conclave:**
The first CII- EXIM Bank Conclave on India Africa Project Partnership was held in the year 2005. The initiative was launched by CII in partnership with EXIM Bank of India and with the support of the Ministry of External Affairs and the Ministry of Commerce & Industry, Government of India. It has emerged as the pioneer event in building partnerships and enhancing the economic engagement between the two regions. The essence of the CII Conclave has been to encourage Indian exporters to access the African countries and increase their presence in the region. A measure of success is the increasing participation level at the event. The other measure is the number of MOUs that are signed and the value of projects that are discussed. 2534 projects worth USD 256.63 billion have been discussed in the 10 past editions.

Reference:

<http://www.ciafricaconclave.com/Project-Opportunity.aspx>

Swachh Shakti 2017 – A Convention of Women Sarpanches

Question: ‘Swachh Shakti 2017 – A Convention of Women Sarpanches’ was organized at...

(a) Gandhinagar (b) Shivamogga (c) Dharwad (d) Belgaum

Ans:(a)

- On 8th March, 2017, The Ministry of Drinking Water and Sanitation organized ‘Swachh Shakti 2017 – A Convention of Women Sarpanches’ to honour Sarpanches who have contributed immensely to the movement towards a Clean India.
- It was a mass event on the occasion of International Women’s Day in the presence of Prime Minister Shri. Narendra Modi.
- The objectives of the event was to honour women Sarpanches and grassroots champions who have played a pivotal role in making their villages Open Defecation Free.
- It also wanted to bring to light various aspects of sanitation, poverty alleviation, skill India, digital India, housing, and Beti Bachao/ Beti Padhao.
- Besides the event was aimed at appraising the women sarpanches of various development innovations in Gujarat such as Dairy Development, Water Conservation etc.



- Prime Minister, Narendra Modi addressed Swachh Shakti 2017 at Gandhinagar.

Reference:

http://www.mdws.gov.in/sites/default/files/Swachh%20Shakti%202017_0.pdf
<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=158968>

First IORA summit

Question: Where was the first IORA summit held?

- (a) Jakarta (b) Colombo (c) Dhaka (d) Hanoi

Ans:(a)

- The first ever Indian Ocean Rim Association (IORA) Leaders’ Summit was held in Indonesia’s capital city of Jakarta at the Jakarta Convention Center from 5th March to 7th March 2017.
- The IORA Summit was officially opened by the President of the Republic of Indonesia, Joko Widodo, who is also current Chairman of IORA.
- The theme for the summit was “Strengthening Maritime Cooperation for a Peaceful, Stable and Prosperous Indian Ocean”.
- The Vice President of India, Shri M. Hamid Ansari represented the country in the First Indian Ocean Rim Association (IORA) Leaders’ Summit.
- The Association comprises of 21 Member States, namely: Australia, Bangladesh, Comoros, India, Indonesia, Iran, Kenya, Madagascar, Malaysia, Mauritius, Mozambique, Oman, Seychelles, Singapore, Somalia, South Africa, Sri Lanka, Tanzania, Thailand, United Arab Emirates, and Yemen.
- Currently, IORA has 7 Dialogue Partners which consists of China, Egypt, France, Germany, Japan, United Kingdom, and United States of America.
- The IORA Summit is the first meeting of the leaders of IORA member states since its establishment in Mauritius in 1997. The summit provides momentum for the strengthening of cooperation in the Indian Ocean region.



Reference:

<http://iorasummit2017.id/>

4th Annual Devolution Conference

Question: 4th Annual Devolution Conference is being held from 06th to 09th March, 2017 In which of the following countries?

- (a) Bharat (b) China (c) West Indies (d) Kenya

Ans: (d)

Related Fact :

- 4th Annual Devolution Conference is being held from 06th to 09th March, 2017 at Nakuru County of Kenya.
- The theme of the conference is: Devolution- Transforming Lives: Tell your story!

Objective of the Conference:

- The overall objective of the conference will be to safeguard the gains, enhance the understanding and appreciation of devolution as a system of governance that focuses on



public accountability and learning new ways of socio-economic development and delivering services. The conference has the following objectives:

- To review the socio-economic impact of devolution over the past four years.
- To discuss how devolution has been a tool for socio-economic integration in the country in promoting equity and inclusivity.
- To demonstrate the achievements in adopting the “Big Bang” Devolution implementation approach over the past four years.
- To identify opportunities for change, growth and enhanced cooperation in changing perspectives, changing the narrative and entrenching devolution in Kenya.
- Review the financial burden in applying two thirds gender principle as opposed to an inclusive policy in an electoral system.

India’s Participation:

- The Union Minister of State for Finance and Corporate Affairs, Arjun Ram Meghwal will represent India in the 4th Annual Devolution Conference .
- Mr. Meghwal would specifically highlight the 73rd-74th Constitutional Amendments and provisions there under for strengthening the local governance.
- He will also brief the Conference on the revenue sharing between the Centre and the States as well as showcase the smooth devolution from the earlier 32% share in 13th Finance Commission to 42% of Union’s net tax receipts, to the States.

Reference:

<http://www.devolution.cog.go.ke/>

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=158859>

ICEGOV 2017

Question: 10th International Conference on Theory and Practice of Electronic Governance: ICEGOV 2017 is being organized in which of the following cities?

(a) Bengaluru (b) Mumbai (c) Delhi (d) Surat

Ans: (c)

Related Fact :

- The Ministry of Electronics & Information Technology, Government of India is organizing a three-day International Conference – 10th ICEGOV 2017 in Delhi from 7th March to 9th March, 2017.
- The conference is being organized in collaboration with United Nations University and UNESCO.
- The Theme of ICEGOV 2017 will be “Building Knowledge Societies: From Digital Government to Digital Empowerment”.
- The key objective of ICEGOV2017 is to explore how Digital Government can lead to Digital Empowerment by local knowledge. It is recognition of India’s emerging role as a massive cyber power, accelerated by the Digital India push which has acquired international acknowledgment.
- The 10th ICEGOV will bring together academia, governments, international organizations, civil society, and the private sector to share the insights and experiences in theory and practice of Digital Government.



- This is the first time the conference is being hosted in India, in collaboration with United Nations University and UNESCO.
- 560 papers from around 60 countries will be presented, which is highest number of paper submission in the history of ICEGOV.

Reference:

<http://www.icegov.org/>

Destination North East, 2017

Question: 'Destination North East, 2017' aims at...

- (a) Planning visit of the President to north east region.
- (b) Improving transport infrastructure in the region
- (c) Highlighting the region as a potential destination for investment in various sector.
- (d) None of the above.



Ans: (c)

Related Fact :

- Destination North East, 2017 is scheduled to be held in Chandigarh from March 6-8, 2017 by Ministry of Development of North Eastern Region in association with PHD Chamber of Commerce and Industry.
- The objective of Destination North East, 2017 is to showcase North East as a potential destination for investment and highlight the rich traditions and customs of the region.
- It will also highlight the use of appropriate technologies in all sectors of development for North Eastern Region, with the major participation of Office of Principal Scientific Adviser to Government of India and Council of Scientific & Industrial Research (CSIR).
- Destination North East, 2017 will include round table discussions and exhibition stalls showcasing various features of the North East Region in order to attract investments in Tourism, Food Processing, Handlooms and Handicrafts,, Horticulture and Floriculture, Medicinal & Aromatic Plants, Organic Farming and Bamboo Development etc.
- The mega event will also include cultural programmes to highlight the rich tradition and culture of the North Eastern Region.

Reference:

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=158825>

Maiden regional conference on enhancing steel consumption

Question: Which one of the below is the world's largest steel crude producing country?

- (a) India (b) USA (c) Japan (d) China

Ans: (d)

- On 2nd March, 2017, Minister of Steel Chaudhary Birender Singh will inaugurate and chair the proceedings of maiden regional conference of Eastern States at Gangtok, Sikkim.
- The Theme of the conference is 'Enhancing steel consumption in India'.



- This will be first of the four regional conferences being planned across India. While elaborating on the idea, Mr. Singh remarked that India needs to become a leader in innovative use of steel in India.
- The delegates in the conference would deliberate on measures to increase steel demand, advantages of steel intensive construction & steel in high-rises, rural sector, bridges and other fields. The occasion would provide a unique platform for exchange of user perspective and producers response.
- The delegates in the conference would include decision makers in projects in central and state Governments, architects, structural designers and consultants, project financiers, contractors, fabricators, erectors, Faculties from Metallurgy, Mechanical and Civil Engineering departments, representatives from large infrastructure industry and architect associations.
- It is to be noted that China is world's largest Steel crude producing country with 803.83 million metric tons in 2015.

Reference:

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=158757>

43rd edition of IHGF Delhi Fair Spring 2017

Question: The 43rd edition of “IHGF- Delhi Fair Spring 2017” was held in which of the following city?

(a) Greater Noida (b) Gurugram (c) New Delhi (d) None of the above

Ans: (a)

Related facts:

- On 16 February 2017; Textiles Secretary, Rashmi Verma inaugurated the 43rd edition of “IHGF- Delhi Fair Spring 2017 in a colourful ceremony at India Expo Centre & Mart, Greater Noida.
- The fair was organised from 16 to 20 February, 2017; at the state-of-the art India Expo Centre, Greater Noida.
- The Limca Book of World Records has recognized it as the world's largest congregation of handicraft exhibitors under one roof.
- More than 3,000 exhibitors including 900 permanent marts from all over the country displayed a wide range of products belonging to fourteen product categories, namely houseware, home furnishing, furniture, gifts and decoratives, lamps and lighting, Christmas & festive décor, fashion jewellery & accessories, spa and wellness, carpets and rugs, bathroom accessories, garden accessories, educational toys & games, handmade paper products and stationery and leather bags.
- Over 6,500 foreign buyers from more than 80 countries, buying agents based in India and domestic retail volume buyers are expected to visit the mega fair to source their requirements.



- One of the main highlights of the show will be a thematic display of products from North Eastern Region and Jodhpur Mega cluster.
- A theme pavilion on wooden handicrafts items produced from legally procured wood and certified under Vriksh – an indigenous Indian Timber Legality assessment and Verification scheme, will also be set up to showcase the best of wooden handicrafts items.
- It should be known that the exports of handicrafts during April 2016 – December 2016 has registered a growth of 12.10% in rupee terms and stands at Rs. 17,937.05 crores.
- The growth in dollar terms is 8.25% with exports of US \$ 2673.48 million. ED, EPCH said that the export target for the year 2016-17 is US\$ 3600 million (Rs. 23,560.00 crores) and that the Council hopes to achieve the target.

Reference:

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/erelease.aspx>

38th Desert Festival-2017

Question: 38th Desert Festival was held on 8-10 February 2017 in which of the following city of Rajasthan?

(a) Udaipur (b) Jaisalmer (c) Ajmer (d) Jaipur

Ans: (b)

Related facts:

- On 8-10 February 2017 38th Desert Festival was held in Jaisalmer.
- The desert festival in Jaisalmer was started to attract foreign tourists, who always wanted to explore as many facets of Rajasthan as they could in the possible crunch of time.
- The Jaisalmer Desert Festival is an annual event that takes place in February month in the beautiful city Jaisalmer.
- Famous Gair and Fire dancers that are the major attraction of the desert festival celebrations.
- The festival is celebrated amidst the beautiful dunes of the Thar Desert in the Sam dunes (42 kilometers from Jaisalmer).
- The three-day event stresses more on local elements and heritage.
- This festival will showcased Rajasthani folk songs and dance.



Reference:

<http://www.jaisalmer.org.uk/desert-festival.html>

4th BIMSTEC Summit-2017

Question: Which of the following country will host the fourth summit of the Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation?

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

Ans: (c)

Related facts:

- Nepal has proposed to host the fourth summit of the Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation (BIMSTEC)-2017.



- On 7 February 2017; the meeting of the seventh session of senior officials of BIMSTEC was held at Kathmandu.
- Earlier in 2015 the third BIMSTEC Summit was held in Naypyitaw, Myanmar.
- The Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation (BIMSTEC) is an international organisation involving a group of countries in South Asia and South East Asia.
- These are: Bangladesh, India, Myanmar, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Bhutan and Nepal.
- On 6 June 1997, a new sub-regional grouping was formed in Bangkok and given the name BIST-EC (Bangladesh, India, Sri Lanka, and Thailand Economic Cooperation)

Reference:

http://www.business-standard.com/article/news-ians/nepal-offers-to-host-bimstc-summit-towards-year-end-117020801013_1.html

<http://www.dailypioneer.com/business-and-finance/nepal-offers-to-host-bimstc-summit-towards-year-end.html>

<http://kathmandupost.ekantipur.com/news/2017-02-08/nepal-proposes-date-for-bimstec-summit-at-senior-officials-meeting.html>

Indian Birding Fair

Question: Man Sagar lake is located in which of the following state?

- (a) Rajasthan (b) Uttarakhand (c) Jammu and Kashmir
(d) Himachal Pradesh

Ans:(a)

Related facts:

- On 9-10 February 2017; The 20th edition of the fair organised by the Tourism and Wildlife Society of India (TWSI) at the historic Man Sagar lake, Jaipur, Rajasthan.
- The theme of the fair this year is 'Fair Conservation'.
- 32 species of birds were spotted at the lake.
- Nature experts were present to help them observe the birds and answer their queries.
- The children also participated in drawing and quiz competitions as well as origami workshops.
- Various institutions engaged in conservation of the flora and fauna showcased their activities at the stalls put up in the fair.
- The organisations included the Bird Treatment Camp, Indian Human Ecology Council, Federation of Indian Animal Protection Organisations and Angel Eyes.
- British environmentalist and co-founder of the British Bird Watching Fair, Tim Appleton, took part in the birding fair.



Reference:

<http://www.thehindu.com/todays-paper/tp-national/tp-newdelhi/30-bird-species-spotted-at-birding-fair/article17281710.ece>

<http://rajasthanpost.com/index.php/2017/02/09/students-day-out-at-bird-fair/>

Second International Spice Conference

Question: Recently the three-day International Spice Conference was held in which of the following state?

(a) Kochi (b) Panaji (c) Thiruvananthapuram (d) Aizawl

Ans:(c)

Related facts:

- On 12-14 February 2017; the three-day International Spice Conference was held at The Leela, Kovalam, Kerala.
This is its second edition.
- The central theme of the conference was “21st Century Spice Industry – Disrupt or be Disrupted”.
- More than 700 delegates representing various states, Industry leaders from 40 countries, International Spice Associations representatives, Policy makers and End-Users are among those, participated.
- The second edition of the conference addresses food safety concerns, demand supply disparity and ways to foster sustainable growth.
- The first edition of International Spice Conference was held in Goa.

Reference:

<http://www.internationalspiceconference.com/ISC2017theme/>

<http://www.thehindubusinessline.com/economy/agri-business/kerala-to-host-international-spice-conference-from-sunday/article9532577.ece>



NxGnMiFu-2017

Question: International Conference on “NexGen Technologies for Mining and Fuel Industries” [NxGnMiFu-2017] was held in which of the following city?

(a) Jaipur (b) Dhanbad (c) New Delhi (d) Raipur

Ans:(c)

Related facts:

- On 15 February 2017; Union Minister for Science & Technology and Earth Science Dr. Harsh Vardhan Inaugurated the International Conference on “NexGen Technologies for Mining and Fuel Industries” [NxGnMiFu-2017] in New Delhi.
- CSIR-Central Institute of Mining and Fuel Research, Dhanbad has organised this International Conference.
- The conference was focused mainly on issues related to Innovative Mining Technologies for Complex Geo-mining Conditions; Mine Safety, Monitoring and Risk Management; Clean Coal Initiatives; Coal to Liquid, Methanol and Urea; Harnessing Coal Bed Methane, Shale Gas and Underground Coal Gasification; Technological Developments in Oil and Gas Sectors and Alternate Clean Energy Initiatives.
- The conference was held on the occasion of CSIR-Platinum Jubilee Celebration to commemorate 75th year of its foundation.



Reference:

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=158481>

http://cimfr.nic.in/upload_files/event_news/1470221224_NxGnMiFu%202017%20-Flyer.pdf

Nature Fest

Question: The two-day Nature Fest is being organized at the Great Himalayan National Park (GNHP) in Kullu district by-

(a) UNESCO (b) Ministry of Environment (c) UNICEF (d) UNEP

Ans: (a)

Related facts:

- On February 11 and 12, 2017; The UNESCO organising the two-day Nature Fest at the Great Himalayan National Park (GNHP) at Sairopa in Kullu, Himachal Pradesh.
- The fest is being held in collaboration with the Wildlife Institute of India (WII).
- It is attended by prominent conservationists, including Dr George Schaller and Dr A J T Johnsingh, a WII spokesman.
- GHNP was given UNESCO World Heritage Site status in 2014 in recognition of its outstanding significance for bio-diversity conservation.



Reference:

http://www.business-standard.com/article/pti-stories/unesco-s-nature-fest-to-begin-on-feb-11-117020701095_1.html

National Productivity Day-2017

Question: National Productivity Day is celebrated on-

(a) 13 February (b) 12 February (c) 10 February (d) 14 February

Ans:(b)

Related facts:

- The National Productivity Day is observed every year on 12 February.
 - Besides, 12th-18th February is celebrated as the 'National Productivity Week' every year.
 - The theme chosen for this year's observance is "From Waste to Profits-through Reduce, Recycle and Reuse"
- The day is celebrated by National Productivity Council for encouraging all stakeholders in implementation of productivity tools and techniques with contemporary relevant themes.
- National Productivity Council, an autonomous body under Department of Industrial Policy & Promotion, Ministry of Commerce & Industry, Government of India was established on 12th February, 1958.
 - It was formed with the objective of stimulating and promoting productivity and quality consciousness across all sectors in the country.



Reference:

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=158385>

<http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/kanpur/National-Productivity-Week-from-today/articleshow/30269463.cms>

ASSOCIATIONS & ORGANIZATIONS

ONGC to buy out GSPC's KG block stake

Question: Oil and Natural Gas Corporation has signed an agreement to buy KG block stake of Gujarat State-Petroleum-Corporation for a sum of –

(a) \$1.0 billion (b) \$1.2 billion (c) \$1.5 billion (d) \$1.8 billion

Answer: (b)

Related facts:

- On March 19, 2017, Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC) signed definitive agreement to buy out stake in KG-basin natural gas block of debt ridden GSPC.
- ONGC will buy out its entire 80% stake for \$1.2 billion.
- Board of ONGC had approved the deal on 23 February.
- After regulatory approvals like government nod for transfer of PI (participating interest) and change of operatorship the deal will come to an end.
- Previously GSPC had offered ONGC its 50 per cent stake in the block together with operatorship, but the state-owned firm was not interested.
- Gujarat State-Petroleum-Corporation was incorporated in 1979.
- ONGC will pay \$995.26 million for three discoveries in the KG-OSN-2001/3 block that are under trial production.
- A \$200 million will also be paid for six other discoveries for which GSPC has been finalizing an investment plan to bring them to production.

Reference:

<http://economictimes.indiatimes.com/industry/energy/oil-gas/ongc-signs-pact-to-buy-out-gspcs-kg-block-stake-for-1-2-billion/articleshow/57714475.cms>

http://www.business-standard.com/article/companies/ongc-signs-pact-to-buy-out-gspc-s-kg-block-stake-for-1-2-bn-117031900086_1.html

<http://www.gspcgroup.com/vision>



Restructuring of Fisheries Welfare Board in Madhya Pradesh

Question- Recently, the Fisheries Welfare Board has been reconstituted by the Madhya Pradesh government. Who is the chairman of this board?

(a) Sitaram Batham (b) Dr. Kailash Vinay (c) Servant Batham
(d) Rajmani Kavte

Answer- (b)

Related facts

- On February 28th, 2017; Fishermen Welfare Board was reconstituted by the Government of Madhya Pradesh.
- Dr. Kailash Vinay has been made the Chairman of this board whereas Sitaram Batham has been made Vice Chairman.
- The other members of the Board will be Rajmani Kawat, Madan Kahar, Rajulal Raikwar, Pritam Kewat and Sevak Batham.



Related Links:-

<http://m.mpinfo.org/MobApp/mobNewsDetails.aspx?newsid=20170228N29&PDt=2/28/2017%2012:00:00%20AM>

<http://www.socialmediamp.com/?p=19504>

<http://www.dprmp.org/NewsDetail.aspx?newsid=421760&disid=37>

YEAR, DAY & WEEK

World Theater Day

Question- 'World Theater Day' is celebrated on-

(a) 25th March (b) March 27 (c) March 23 (d) March 24

Ans: (b)

Related facts:-

- On March 27, 2017; World Theater Day was celebrated all over the world.
- The celebration of this day was started in the year 1962 by the 'International Theater Institute' (ITI).
- This time the message was given by France's stage and cinema actress Isabelle Huppert.
- It is notable that on this day, some of the world's specialized theater artists send messages to all the colleagues on 'Peace of Culture and Theater' on the International Theater Institute's invitation.



Related Links:-

<https://www.world-theatre-day.org/mainevent.html>

<https://www.world-theatre-day.org/>

Earth Hour 2017

Question: When was Earth Hour celebration started?

(a) 2005 (b) 2006 (c) 2007 (d) 2008

Ans:(c)

- The Earth Hour was marked at 8:30pm on 25 March 2017. The event reached its 10th anniversary this year.
- Earth Hour is a worldwide movement organized by the World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF)
- The event is held annually encouraging individuals, communities, households and businesses to turn off their non-essential lights for one hour, from 8:30 to 9:30 p.m. towards the end of March, as a symbol for their commitment to the planet.
- It was started as a lights-off event in Sydney, Australia, in 2007. Since then, it has grown to engage more than 7,000 cities and towns across 172 countries worldwide.
- WWF's mission is to stop the degradation of the planet's natural environment and to build a future in which humans live in harmony with nature.
- It aims to conserve biodiversity promote use of renewable natural resources in a sustainable manner and bring down pollution and wasteful consumption.



- Since its founding, WWF has invested nearly US\$10 billion in more than 13,000 conservation projects in over 150 countries.
- In carrying out its work, WWF cooperates with many partners, including UN organizations, IUCN, and development agencies such as USAID and the World Bank. WWF also works with business & industry partners.

Reference:

http://wwf.panda.org/how_you_can_help/earth_hour_2017/

World Water Day

Question: When ‘World Water Day’ is celebrated?

(A) March 23 (B) March 24 (C) March 22 (D) March 26

Answer- (c)

Related facts:

- World Water Day was celebrated on March 22, 2017 all over the world. The theme of this day for year 2017 is ‘Why Waste.’
- In 1992, the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED), held in Rio de Janeiro, was initiated to celebrate ‘World Water Day’.
- The United Nations General Assembly had announced in 1993 to celebrate this day every year on March 22.



Related links:

<http://www.un.org/en/events/waterday/background.shtml>

<http://www.unwater.org/news-events/news-details/en/c/853651/>

International Day of Forests

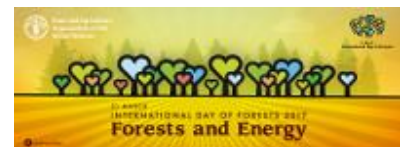
Question: ‘International Day of Forest ‘ was celebrated all over the world on March 21, 2017. What is the main theme of this day for year 2017?

(A) Forests and Employment (B) Forests and Water
(C) Forests and Energy (D) Forests and Climate change

Answer- (c)

Related facts:

- On March 21, 2017, International Day of Forests was celebrated all over the world.
- In the year 2017, the theme of this day is “Forests and Energy”.
- The theme for each International day of Forests is chosen by the collaborative partnership on Forests.
- The aim to celebrate this day is to increase awareness of forest conservation and strengthen the development of the present and future generations.
- Global celebration raises awareness of the importance of all types of woodlands and trees, and celebrates the ways in which they sustain and protect us.
- It is notable that the United Nations Generally Assembly proclaimed 21 March the International Day of Forests in 2012.



Related links:

<http://www.un.org/en/events/forestsday/>

<http://www.fao.org/international-day-of-forests/en/>

International Day of Happiness

Question: When 'International Day of Happiness' is celebrated?

(A) March 19 (B) March 20 (C) March 23 (D) March 22

Answer- (b)

Related facts:

- On March 20, 2017, 'International Day of Happiness' was celebrated all over the world.
- This day is celebrated worldwide every year from 2013 to understand the importance of happiness.

Related links:

<http://www.un.org/en/events/happinessday/>

<http://www.happinessday.org/>



International Racial Discrimination Eradication Day

Question: 'International Racial Discrimination Elimination Day' is celebrated?

(A) March 15 (B) March 19 (C) March 16 (D) March 21

Ans: (d)

Related facts:-

- On March 21, 2017, 'International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination' was observed throughout the world.
- In the year 2017, the theme of this day – "Racial profiling and incitement to hatred, including in the context of migration".

Related Links:-

<http://www.un.org/en/events/racialdiscriminationday/>

<http://www.unesco.org/new/en/unesco/events/prizes-and-celebrations/celebrations/international-days/international-day-for-the-elimination-of-racial-discrimination/>



World Meteorological Day

Question- 'World Meteorological Day' was celebrated on March 23, 2017. What was the theme of this day in 2017?

- (a) 'Allure weather and climate youth' (b) Understand the clouds
(c) Climate change and rainfall (d) Prevent carbon emissions

Ans: (b)

Related Facts:-

- On March 23, 2017; World Meteorological Day was observed all over the world.
- In the year 2017, the main theme of this day is – 'Understanding Clouds'.
- The purpose of this day is to make people aware about meteorology and changes in it.
- This day is celebrated by the World Metrological Organization.



- WMO was born from the International Meteorological Organization (IMO), established in the year 1873.
- WMO was founded in the year 1950.
- In the year 1951, it became a UN agency.
- At present, 191 countries are its members.
- Its headquarters are in Geneva (Switzerland)

Related Links:-

<https://public.wmo.int/en/WorldMetDay2017>

<https://www.environment.gov.za/event/international/worldmeteorologicalday2017>

<https://www.ksndmc.org/PDF/Invitation%20WMO-OPEN%20DAY.pdf>

World poetry day

Question: When is 'World poetry Day' celebrated?

(a) March 22 (b) March 21 (c) March 20 (d) March 18

Ans: (b)

Related facts:-

- On March 21, 2017; World Poetry Day was celebrated.
- The purpose of celebrating this day is to promote creativity in the world, along with the writing, publication-study and teaching of poetry.
- It is notable that in the year 1999, in the UNESCO 30th session in Paris, '21 March 'was announced to be celebrated as' World Poetry Day'.

Related Links:-

<http://www.un.org/en/events/poetryday/>

<http://www.unesco.org/new/en/poetry-day>



World Consumer Rights Day

Question: When 'World Consumer Rights Day' is celebrated?

(a) March 18 (b) March 13 (c) March 15 (d) March 17

Answer- (c)

Related facts:

- World Consumer Rights Day was celebrated on March 15, 2017, across the world. The theme of this day for the year 2017 is "Building a Digital World Consumers Can Trust".
- The object of the day is to make consumers aware of their rights and responsibilities.
- Significantly, on March 15, 1962, US President John F. Kennedy had first defined the Consumer Rights. On March 15, 1983, the day was celebrated for the first time.



- It is notable that in India 'National Consumer Day' is observed every year on 24 December. It is to be noted that the 'Consumer Protection Act' was enacted on the same day (December 24th) in year 1986.

Reference:

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=159261>

<http://www.consumersinternational.org/our-work/wcrd/>

<https://consumersinternational.blogspot.in/2017/03/a-digital-world-that-is-all-of-ours.html>

International Women’s Day, 2017

Question: What is the theme of International Women’s day 2017?

- (a) Be Bold for Change (b) Women in the Changing World of Work: Planet 50-50 by 2030
(c) Equality to all (d) None of the above.

Ans:(b)

- International Women’s day was celebrated on 8th March across the world.
- The theme for 2017 is : “Women in the Changing World of Work: Planet 50-50 by 2030”.
- The idea of this theme is to consider how to accelerate the 2030 Agenda, building momentum for the effective implementation of the new Sustainable Development Goals, especially goal number 5: Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls; and number 4: Ensure inclusive and quality education for all and promote lifelong learning.
- A Campaign themed ‘BeBoldForChange’ has also been launched on this occasion.
- The President of India Mr. Pranab Mukherjee greeted women on International Women’s Day. He also mentioned that Prime Minister’s Beti Bachao Beti Padhao campaign has been launched in response to the falling Child Sex Ratio in many parts of the country. It is designed to also motivate girl children in every part of our country to enroll in primary education. The programme entails selective intervention – 100 districts across India have been targeted in 2015 and expanded to 61 additional districts in 2016.



Reference:

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

<http://www.un.org/en/events/womensday/>

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=158958>

Inauguration of Safety Week at V.O. Chidambaranar Port Trust

Question: V.O. Chidambaranar Port is located in the ...

- (a) gulf of Munnar (b) Bay of Bengal (c) Arabian Sea
(d) None of the above.

Ans: (a)

Related Fact :

- 46th Safety Week Celebration was inaugurated in V.O. Chidambaranar Port on 4th



March, 2017.

- The Safety Week Celebration for the year 2017 commenced with the flagging off of safety procession by Shri U. Rajendran, Traffic Manager, V.O. Chidambaranar Port Trust.
- As a part of the week- long celebration from 4th March, 2017 to 10th March, 2017, a conference emphasizing the general safety, road safety & first aid will be conducted at the Administrative office of the Port.
- Essay writing, slogan writing and drawing competition on safety aspects will be conducted for the staff of the Port, college students & port users.
- It is notable that the V.O. Chidambaranar Port is located in the gulf of Munnar strategically close to the East-West international sea routes on the South Eastern coast of India.

Reference:

<http://www.vocport.gov.in/location.aspx>

World Wildlife Day 2017

Question: What was the theme of World Wildlife Day 2017?

- (a) Listen to the Young Voices (b) Protect the Wildlife
(c) Youth and our Habitat (d) Harmony with Nature

Ans: (a)

Related Fact :

- World Wildlife Day was celebrated on 3rd March, across the world.
- The theme for World Wildlife Day 2017 was “Listen to the Young Voices.”
- World Wildlife Day 2017 encourages youth around the world to rally together to address ongoing major threats to wildlife including habitat change, over-exploitation or illicit trafficking.
- Given that almost one quarter of the world’s population is aged between 10 and 24, vigorous efforts need to be made to encourage young people, as the future leaders and decision makers of the world, to act at both local and global levels to protect endangered wildlife.
- On 20 December 2013, at its 68th session, the United Nations General Assembly proclaimed 3 March, as UN World Wildlife Day.
- On this day Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES), to celebrate and raise awareness of the world’s wild animals and plants, was signed.

Reference:

<http://www.wildlifeday.org/>



Zero Discrimination Day

Question: What is the slogan for Zero Discrimination Day 2017?

- (a) Make some noise for zero discrimination
(b) Stand against discrimination
(c) Equal treatment to all (d) None of the above



Ans: (a)

Related Fact:

- United Nations Organization observed Zero Discrimination Day on 1st March as part of the organization's policy to work towards ending all form of discrimination.
- This year, on 1 March, Zero Discrimination Day, UNAIDS urged people to make some noise around zero discrimination, to speak up and prevent discrimination from standing in the way of achieving ambitions, goals and dreams.
- Zero discrimination is an integral part of UNAIDS' vision and for this year's Zero Discrimination Day UNAIDS is calling for zero discrimination in health-care settings.
- The Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS) leads and inspires the world to achieve its shared vision of zero new HIV infections, zero discrimination and zero AIDS-related deaths. UNAIDS works closely with global and national partners towards ending the AIDS epidemic by 2030 as part of the Sustainable Development Goals.

Reference:

http://www.unaids.org/en/resources/campaigns/2017_zerodiscriminationday

41st Civil Accounts Day

Question: Indian Civil Accounts Service (ICAS) was created in

...

(a) 1976 (b) 1977 (c) 1987 (d) 1990

Ans: (a)

- 41st Civil Accounts Day function was held on March 1, 2017 at Vigyan Bhawan, New Delhi to mark the 41st anniversary of the inception of the Indian Civil Accounts Service (ICAS).
- Indian Civil Accounts Service was created by the amendment of the C&AG (Duties, Powers & Conditions of Service) Act, 1973 w.e.f March 1, 1976.
- Since its inception, the ICAS has been a pioneer in the use of Information Technology in Payments, Accounting and Financial Reporting catering to the real time demand for accounting data on public finances by the decision makers.
- In financial year 2016-17 so far, Government payments to the tune of Rs 5.95 lakh crore (out of the total payment of R 6.05 lakh crore) were routed through the electronic mode. 98% of total payments of the Government in value terms and 95% in volume terms have been routed through the e-payment mode.
- The online Non Tax Receipts Portal (NTRP) that enables a citizen or a corporate entity to make online payment for availing specific services provided by Departments, has also been operationalised. The receipts processed through NTRP in 2016 -17 as on date are to the tune of Rs 90,000 crore and reflect a growth by almost 30 times in terms of value and 24 times in terms of volume in comparison to 2015-16.
- A MoU has also been signed by the office of CGA with the Institute of Internal Auditors (IIA) –India aimed at strengthening of Internal Audit function in line Ministries. The MoU will facilitate the use of professional knowledge and skills in the conduct of Risk based Internal Audit and in the capacity building of Government Internal Auditors.
- **Benefits:**
The Public Financial Management System (PFMS) has helped the Government to



effectively monitor utilization of funds transferred to States and implementing agencies, especially in respect of national priority schemes, through Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT). Beneficiaries of these schemes now receive funds directly into their bank accounts at the local level. Consequently, there has been significant reduction in leakages and increase in savings to the Government. Benefits of automation in the payment processes have led to further improvements in financial reporting and accounting. Significant progress has also been made in the area of Treasury Integration. At present 23 states have been integrated. Efforts are on to achieve 100% integration by 31st March, 2017.

Reference:

<http://cga.nic.in/writereaddata/file/41stCADRapporateursOM166827022017.pdf>

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=158787>

Swachhta Pakhwada by the Ministry of Women & Child Development

Question: Which one of the cities below topped the Swachhata Index 2016?

(a) Mysore (b) Chandigarh (c) Surat (d) Rajkot

Ans: (a)

- The Ministry of Women & Child Development is observing the Swachhta Pakhwada from 1st March 2017 to 15th March 2017.
- Swachhta Pakhwada aims to raise awareness about Swachh Bharat Abhiyan among women and children.



The Swachhta Pakhwada is observed by various Ministries of Government of India to achieve the goal of universal sanitation, hygiene and 'open defecation free' India by 2019.

- As a part of nationwide activities, the Ministry has written to all the states to observe the Swachhta Pakhwada through the wide network of Anganwadi Centres across the country. The states have been asked to carry out the following activities at the AWCs:
 - White-washing AWCs involving local communities;
 - Pictures, local logos on walls by local people free of cost;
 - Cleanliness in and around AWCs;
 - Weeding out of obsolete records etc;
 - Divyang access to toilets may be reviewed;
 - Review of toilets constructed;
 - Involving private sector under CSR for Swachhta;
 - Sketch competition, etc;
 - Swachhta drive in and around AWCs on the banks of rivers;
 - Celebrating International Women's Day on 8th March, 2017.
- Several activities like Swachhta Pledge, slogan writing and poster making competition, street play and film screening on Swachh Bharat Abhiyan, demonstration and sessions on health, hygiene and sanitation for children, waste management etc, will be organised by senior officials from the Ministry and associated organisations.
- Cleanliness activities and pledges on Swachh Bharat will also be undertaken at the WCD Ministry in Delhi and its associated organisations such as CARA, CSWB, NCPCR, NCW and RMK.

- Joint Secretary for Beti Bachao Beti Padhao will be leading specialised programmes in Beti Bachao Beti Padhao Districts with activities for girl children on the theme of Swachh Bharat.
- Senior officials will be leading visits to childcare institutions and creches and will hold sessions on proper cleaning of toys, health and hygiene, food habits and safety.
- The officials will cover all corners of the country, travelling to Haryana, Jharkhand, Sikkim, Tripura, Odisha, Rajasthan, Telangana, Tamil Nadu, Kerala as well as conducting activities in New Delhi.

Reference:

<http://sbm.gov.in/SwachhSamiksha/index.aspx>

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=158763>

National Science Day

Question: What is the theme of National Science Day 2017?

- (a) Make in India: S&T driven innovations
- (b) Science for Nation Building
- (c) Fostering Scientific Temper and Energy conservation
- (d) Science and Technology for specially-abled persons

Ans: (d)

Related Fact :

- National Science Day was observed across the country on 28th February, 2017.
- National Science day is celebrated to commemorate the invention of the Raman Effect as on this day in 1928, Indian physicist Sir Chandrasekhara Venkata Raman discovered the Raman Effect.
- For his great success in the field of science in India, Chandrasekhara Venkata Raman was awarded and honored with the Nobel Prize in Physics in the year 1930.

• **What is Raman Effect?**

Raman Effect is a phenomenon in spectroscopy discovered by eminent physicist C V Raman while working in the laboratory of the Indian Association for the Cultivation of Science, Kolkata.

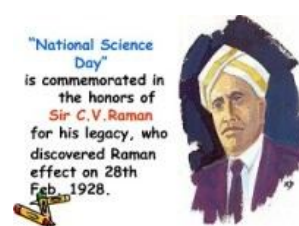
Raman Effect is change in the wavelength of light that occurs when a light beam is deflected by molecules. When a beam of light traverses a dust-free, transparent sample of a chemical compound, a small fraction of the light emerges in directions other than that of the incident (incoming) beam. Most of this scattered light is of unchanged wavelength. A small part, however, has wavelengths different from that of the incident light; its presence is a result of the Raman Effect.

• **Beginning of National Science Day:**

In 1986, the National Council for Science and Technology Communication proposed to designate 28 February as National Science Day which the then Govt. of India accepted and declared the day as National Science Day in 1986. The first National Science Day was celebrated on February 28, 1987.

Purpose of the Celebration:

The basic objective of observation of National Science Day is to spread the message of importance of science and its application among the people. National science day is celebrated as one of the main science festivals in India every year –



- To widely spread a message about the significance of scientific applications in the daily life of the people.
- To display all the activities, efforts and achievements in the field of science for welfare of human being.
- To discuss all the issues and implement new technologies for the development of the science.
- To give an opportunity to the scientific minded citizens in the country.
- To encourage the people as well as popularize the Science and Technology.

Reference:

<http://www.indiacelebrating.com/events/national-science-day/>

<http://ncsm.gov.in/?p=3430>

MISCELLANEOUS

Curriculum focused on genocide

Question: Which University of India recently introduced a course to study the Holocaust?

(a) Allahabad University, Allahabad (b) Presidency University, Kolkata
(c) Prayag University, Allahabad (d) Kashi Hindu University, Varanasi

Ans (b)

Related facts:-

- On March 21, 2017; the Presidency University of Kolkata has started the study of Holocaust Focused Course.
- Study of such courses has been started for the first time in India.
- This is a postgraduate course titled 'A History of Mass Violence: Twentieth Century to the Present'. It will be taught in the third semester of M.A History.
- Coordinator of this course is Navaras Jat Afridi.
- According to Afridi, outside China and Israel, the Presidency University is the only Asian institution to present a course on the study of the Holocaust.
- The curriculum includes the Armenian massacres, the Indonesian murders of 1965-1966, Burundi, the Pol Pot and the Cambodian massacre, the Rwanda episode and massacres between the war in Bosnia-Herzegovina.
- This course tells students about the challenges of rehabilitation and reconciliation.
- According to University Vice-Chancellor Anuradha Lohia, it is one of the most social and relevant topics in the world.
- It is notable that in Holocaust in Germany, there was a thought and planned effort to eliminate all Jewish people from the roots.
- In addition to the Holocaust, this course has given enough space to other genocide in the world.



Related Links:-

http://zeenews.india.com/education/presidency-universitys-holocaust-focused-course-on-history-of-mass-violence_1988573.html

<http://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/politics-and-nation/first-for-india-presidency-holocaust-focused-course-on-history-of-mass-violence/articleshow/57748790.cms>

NASSCOM estimates 730 million Internet users in the country by 2020

Question: Who is the current chairman of NASSCOM?

- (a) C P Gurnani (b) Aditya Bidla (c) Aditya Puri
(d) Arundhati Bhattacharya

Ans: (a)

- On 27th March, 2017, Minister of Communications Shri Manoj Sinha informed the Upper House that as per information received from Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI), there were 391.50 million Internet subscribers as on 31.12.2016.
- Government expects the number of internet users to increase in the country due to fast adoption of digital technology.
- In this context as per National Association of Software & Services Companies (NASSCOM) –Akamai report launched on 17.08.2016 regarding “The Future of Internet in India”, 730 million Internet users are anticipated in the country by 2020.
- The National Telecom Policy-2012 has envisaged 600 million broadband connections by the year 2020 at minimum 2 Mbps download speed.
- Government has allocated 965 Megahertz spectrum through auction in October 2016 to various telecom service providers for access services. This will enable the telecom service providers to roll-out 3G and 4G services which will facilitate proliferation of high speed internet facility.
- Further, for provision of broadband facility in rural areas, BharatNet project is also being implemented to provide 100 Mbps broadband connectivity to all Gram Panchayats (approx. 2.5 lakh) in the country by using an optimal mix of underground fibre, fibre over power lines, radio and satellite media.
- NASSCOM is the industry association for the IT-BPM sector in India. A not-for-profit organisation funded by the industry, its objective is to build a growth led and sustainable technology and business services sector in the country.
- It was established in 1988 and it's membership has grown over the years and currently stands at 1,400. These companies represent 95 percent of industry revenues and have enabled the association to spearhead initiatives and programs to build the sector in the country and globally. Mr. CP Gurnani is the chairman of NASSCOM for 2016-2017.

The logo for NASSCOM (National Association of Software & Services Companies) is displayed in a bold, red, sans-serif font with a registered trademark symbol (®) to the upper right.

Reference:

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=159967>

<http://indiatoday.intoday.in/story/digital-india-internet-users/1/913797.html>

Shuffle in NPS fund allocation

Question: Recently, changes in investment rules have been made by Pension Fund Regulatory Authority PFRDA. From which date will the new rule apply?

- (a) March 3, 2017 (b) March 25, 2017 (c) March 31, 2017
(d) April 1, 2017

Ans: (d)

Related Facts:-

- On March 1, 2017; changes in investment rules have been



made by the Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority (PFRDA).

- Under the new rule, the shareholders in National Pension System (NPS) will be allowed to make changes in their asset allocation twice in a financial year.
- The new rule will apply from April 1, 2017.
- Although NPS shareholders can shift their investments once in a year in equity, corporate bonds and government securities.

Related Facts:-

<http://pfrda.org.in/WriteReadData/Links/multiplechoice123ea68491f-d4cf-44ca-bcb6-61f9c3db58e2.pdf>

<http://nupeap.blogspot.in/2017/03/pfrda-circular-on-multiple-choice-to.html>

Digital Payment

Question: Recently, which department has been entrusted with the task of promoting digital transactions by the Central Government, withdrawing from the NITI Ayog?

- (a) Ministry of Energy (b) Ministry of Labor and Employment
(c) Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology
(d) Ministry of Finance

Ans: (c)

Related Facts:-

- On March 2, 2017, the Central Government withdrew the work of promoting digital transactions from the NITI Ayog.
- The reason for this is poor performance.
- Now this work has been entrusted to the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology.
- For this decision, the government had to make changes in the rules of (business rules) over the years.
- The notification for this change has been issued by the government.



Related Links:-

<http://www.thehindubusinessline.com/info-tech/ministry-of-electronics-and-it-to-spearhead-digital-payments/article9562372.ece>

<http://indiatoday.intoday.in/story/meity-to-promote-digital-transactions-in-place-of-niti/1/892781.html>

2017 'YEAR OF APPLE'

Question: Which of the following States government has declared 2017 as 'Year of Apple'?

- (a)Himachal Pradesh (b)Jammu & Kashmir (c)Kerala (d)Manipur

Answer: (b)

Related facts:

- On February 19th , 2017, Chief minister of Jammu & Kashmir Mahbooba Mufti declared to observe year 2017 as 'Year of Apple' to promote the famous Kashmiri apple in domestic and overseas markets.
- On the same day the Chief Minister termed Horticulture as the backbone of State's economy and launched the High Density Apple Plantation Scheme.



- This scheme is to be operated with the subsidy by J&K bank.
- The Chief Minister has asked the bank authorities to slash down the interest rates further on the credit to be given to farmers under the scheme.
- In first stage this scheme will be available at Jablipora in Anantnag and Aglar in Pulwama.
- Under this scheme 50% subsidy would be provided by the Government.
- Besides establishment of e-markets for the online sale of the produce, Mega mandies and Cold stores would be set up in the State.
- It is Notable that J&K is the largest apple producer in the country.
- It produces 1.2 metric tonnes apples, which is 71% of the total national production.

Reference :

<http://www.thehindu.com/news/national/other-states/kashmir-to-observe-2017-as-the-year-of-apple/article17326453.ece>

<http://onlykashmir.in/mehbooba-launches-apple-plantation-scheme-2017-to-be-observed-as-year-of-apple>

Cabinet approved cash credit to Punjab for food procurement

Question: What percentage of state gross domestic product has the 14th Finance Commission pegged the fiscal deficit at, for award period 2015-20?

(a) 7 percent (b) 9 percent (c) 10 percent (d) 3 percent

Ans (d)

Related Fact :

- On 6th March, 2017, The Cabinet today approved settlement of legacy food cash credit accounts (up to crop season 2014-15) of Punjab government for food procurement operations.
- This proposal of Department of Expenditure was approved by Prime Minister under Rule 12 of (Transaction of Business) Rules, 1961 on January 2, 2017
- It further said that early settlement of legacy issues will help the banks in disbursement of food credit in the larger interest of numerous farmers of the state and uninterrupted continuity in food procurement operations to ensure food security for the nation.
- The outstanding amount in Cash Credit Accounts of Punjab up to Kharif Marketing Season 2014-15 amounting to about Rs 31,000 crore shall be converted into a term loan.
- It will be repayable in half yearly instalments over a period of 20 years with the option for pre-payment. The terms and conditions of the loan shall be as prescribed by the RBI and the lending banks. Punjab government shall enter into a tripartite agreement with Government of India (Gol) and RBI irrevocably authorising the Gol to deduct, in case Punjab government fails to make any payment towards principal or interest of the term loan on due dates, such defaulted amount from the states share in central taxes and pay the same to SBI consortium. It is notable that the 14th Finance Commission has prescribed the fiscal roadmap for each state for its award period 2015-20 and anchored their fiscal deficit to an annual limit of 3 per cent of states gross state domestic product.



Reference:

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=158894>

India tallest Tricolour

Question: Where was India's tallest Tricolour hoisted recently?

(a) Pathankot (b) Laddakh (c) Attari (d) Hyderabad

Ans: (c)

Related Fact :

- On 5th March, 2017, India hoisted the tallest tricolour in the country at the Attari border. The 360-foot tall flag is high enough to be spotted from Lahore in Pakistan.
- It was hoisted on a 110-meter high mast, the flag is 120-foot long and 80-foot wide. The weight of the flag pole is 55 tonnes.
- Punjab government spent an estimated Rs 3.50 crore rupees on this project.
- The decision to install tallest tricolour at the Attari border was taken by the Amritsar Improvement Trust.
- Before this, the title of the tallest national flag in India belonged to a 293-foot-high tricolour that was hoisted in Jharkhand's Ranchi.

Reference:

<http://indiatoday.intoday.in/story/india-tricolour-attari-wagah-tallest-flagpole-pakistan-spying/1/897492.html>



Secretaries recommend merging of two ministries

Question: Which of the two ministries below have been recommended to be merged by a panel of secretaries?

- (a) AYUSH and the Health ministry
(b) Housing and Urban Poverty Alleviation (HUPA) and Urban Development ministry
(c) Finance and commerce and industry ministry (d) None of the above.

Ans: (b)

Related Fact :

- On 24th February, 2017, a panel of secretaries recommended the government to merge the ministries of Housing and Urban Poverty Alleviation (HUPA) and Urban Development to improve implementation of central schemes.
- The group of secretaries on urban development, health and sanitation has also suggested that pharmaceuticals and AYUSH Ministries be brought under the health ministry.
- The mergers envisage improve planning and implementation of government schemes. Housing is an integral component of urban planning and development.
- Similarly, smart Cities scheme, which is under Urban Development Ministry, also seeks to provide quality houses and so on. It would be higher efficiency if both the ministries are merged.



- He said a concept note would be prepared which would delve into financial implications and would also consider the new names that could be given to the merged ministries.
- Urban Development and HUPA Ministries were one entity before being separated into two independent ministries in 2004.

Reference:

http://www.business-standard.com/article/pti-stories/secretaries-look-merging-of-two-ministries-117022400585_1.html

http://www.ptinews.com/news/8441624_Secretaries-look-merging-of-two-ministries.html

Compensation fund for child victims of sexual crimes

Question: Protection of Children from Sexual Offences Act was formulated in which of the following year?

(a) 2015 (b) 2014 (c) 2013 (d) 2012

Ans: (d)

Related Fact :

- On 22nd February, 2017, Women and Child Development Minister Maneka Gandhi announced the setting up of a compensation fund under Nirbhaya scheme to provide financial help to children who are victims of sexual crimes. A Central Victim Compensation Fund was set up with an initial corpus of Rs 200 crore in 2015 but has not been operating.
- It is notable that POCSO Act or Protection of Children from Sexual Offences Act was formulated in 2012 to address sexual abuse and sexual exploitation of children.



Reference:

<http://indiatoday.intoday.in/story/maneka-gandhi-announces-compensation-fund-for-children/1/889154.html>

Adiyogi: World’s tallest Shiva statue unveiled

Question: Recently Prime Minister Narendra Modi unveiled world largest Shiva statue at which of the following place?

(a) Rameswaram (b) Coimbatore (c) Visakhapatnam (d) Thrissur

Ans:(b)

Related facts:

- On 24 February 2017 Prime Minister Narendra Modi unveiled world largest Shiva statue at the foothills of Velliangiri Mountains, Coimbatore, Tamil Nadu. It is 112 feet high and weighs 500 tonnes and it took 2.5 years to design it and in eight months to build it. It is World’s tallest Shiva statue. The statue is made of steel.
- On this occasion, the Prime Minister released Vasudeva ‘Adiyogi: The Source of Yoga’ a book written by Sadhguru Jaggi Vasudev.
- It has been built by Isha Foundation.



Reference:

http://www.business-standard.com/article/news-ani/coimbatore-pm-modi-unveils-112-feet-tall-bust-of-adiyogi-shiva-117022400886_1.html

<http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/india/pm-modi-unveils-112-feet-shiva-statue-extols-yoga/articleshow/57335463.cms>