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Current
Affairs

Day to Day

Questions and Related Facts

INDEX : (A) Chronological Order (B) Current Affairs Sections



63rd National Film Award



Hanan Al Hroub

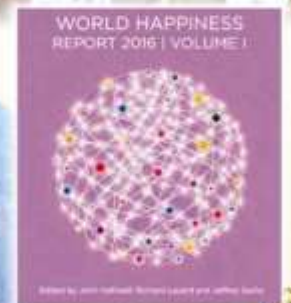


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**Agasthyamalai
Biosphere Reserve**



1 March, 2016 to 31 March, 2016

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

Agasthyamala Biosphere Reserve included in the UNESCO's World Network of Biosphere Reserves

Question: Recently, the International Coordinating Council of the Man and the Biosphere (MAB) Programme of United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) has added how many sites to the World Network of Biosphere Reserves?

- (a) 25
- (b) 18
- (c) 12
- (d) 20



Reference:

- The International Co-ordinating Council of the Man and the Biosphere (MAB) Programme of UNESCO added 20 sites to the World Network of Biosphere Reserves during its meeting in the capital of Peru on 18 and 19 March.
- The International Co-ordinating Council added the new sites during a two-day meeting in Lima, capital of Peru, bringing the total number of biosphere reserves to 669 sites in 120 countries, including 16 transboundary sites.
- The newly adopted sites include 18 national site and one transboundary site shared between Spain and Portugal.
- India's "unique" Agasthyamala Biosphere Reserve in the Western Ghats is among 20 new sites added by the UN's top cultural body UNESCO to its World Network of Biosphere Reserves.
- There are 18 biosphere reserves in India out of which only ten had been included in the network.
- **The other 9 included in UNESCO Biosphere Reserve are:**
 1. Nilgiri(Tamil Nadu, Kerala and Karnataka)
 2. Gulf of Mannar(Tamil Nadu)
 3. Sunderban(West Bengal)
 4. Nanda Devi(Uttarakhand)
 5. Nokrek(Meghalaya)
 6. Pachmarhi(Madhya Pradesh)
 7. Similipal(Odisha)
 8. Achanakmar-Amarkantak(Madhya Pradesh and Chattisgarh)
 9. Great Nicobar(Andaman and Nicobar Islands)

- The “Agasthyamala Biosphere Reserve” is situated at the southern-most end of the Western Ghats and spread over Kerala and Tamil Nadu and covers an area of 3,500 sq km at an altitude ranging from 100 metres to 1,868 metres above the Mean Sea Level.
- The site is home to 2,254 species of higher plants including about 400 that are endemic.
- Three wildlife sanctuaries, Shendurney, Peppara, Neyyar and Kalakad Mundanthurai Tiger reserve are included in the site.
- A number of tribal settlements with a total population of 3,000 are located in the biosphere reserve.
- The Agasthyamalai Biosphere Reserve (ABR) was established in 2001 and is spread across the two states of Kerala and Tamil Nadu.
- Others sites added by the UN's top cultural body UNESCO to its World Network of Biosphere Reserves includes Monts de Tlemcen (Algeria), Beaver Hills (Canada), Tsá Tué (Canada), Lake Bosomtwe (Ghana), La Hotte (Haiti), Balambangan (Indonesia), Hamoun (Iran), Collina Po (Italy), Barsakelmes (Kazakhstan), Bel-sur-Mer—Kirindy-Mitea (Madagascar) and Isla Cozumel (Mexico).
- It also includes Atlas Cedar (Morocco), Gran Pajatén (Peru), Albay (Philippines), Fajãs de São Jorge (Portugal), Tejo/Tajo (Portugal and Spain), Jozani-Chwaka Bay (Tanzania) and Isle of Man (United Kingdom).
- UNESCO gave extensions to existing 9 biosphere reserves.
- Biosphere reserves are places for learning about sustainable development aiming to reconcile the conservation of biodiversity with the sustainable use of natural resources.
- New reserves are designated each year by the International Co-ordinating Council of the Programme, which brings together elected representatives of 34 UNESCO Member States.

Reference:

http://www.unesco.org/new/en/media-services/single-view/news/20_sites_added_to_unescos_world_network_of_biosphere_reserve/#.VvnebOJ97IU
http://ptinews.com/news/7243741_Agasthyamala-among-20-world-biosphere-reserves-
<http://www.moef.nic.in/sites/default/files/BR%20List.pdf>

Prime Minister lays foundation stone for Dr. Ambedkar National Memorial

Question: Where did the Prime Minister laid the foundation stone for the Dr. Ambedkar National Memorial?

- (a) Nagpur
- (b) Mumbai
- (c) New Delhi
- (d) Jaipur

Ans (c)

Related facts:



- On 21 March 2016 Prime Minister, Narendra Modi, laid the foundation stone for the Dr. Ambedkar National Memorial.
- It is to be built at 26, Alipur Road in Delhi, the place of Mahaparinirvan of Dr. Ambedkar. It was dedicated to the nation by Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee, the then Prime Minister of India on 2nd December 2003.
- Government has organized year long celebrations to commemorate 125th anniversary of Dr Ambedkar and five places related with life and work Dr Ambedkar are being developed as '**Panch Theerath**'.
- These included his birthplace in **Mhow**, the place in London where he stayed while studying in the UK, **Deeksha Bhoomi** in Nagpur, **Mahaparinirvan Sthal** in Delhi, and **Chaitya Bhoomi** in Mumbai.
- This Mahaprinirvana Sthal will have Exhibition Halls, Office, Library, Cafeteria, Dormitory and other purposes. It will also have Bheem Stumbh at the Entrance and Meditation Hall at the back.
- The cost of this project is Rs. 95 crore and would be completed by end of March 2018.

Reference:

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=138203>

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=138205>

<http://www.narendramodi.in/pm-modi-lays-foundation-stone-for-dr-b-r-ambedkar-national-memorial-in-new-delhi-428687>

Election Commission of India announced the date for the elections in 5 states

Question: Name the Five states in which Election Commission of India announced the date for the elections?

- (a) Assam, Delhi, Haryana, Uttar Pradesh and Kerala
- (b) Punjab, Uttar Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, Rajasthan and Karnataka
- (c) Tamil Nadu, West Bengal, Kerala, Puducherry and Assam
- (d) Arunachal Pradesh, Kerala, Puducherry, West Bengal and Assam

Ans (c)

Related facts:

- On 4 March 2016 Election Commission of India announced the schedule for the Assembly elections in West Bengal, Tamil Nadu, Kerala and Assam and Union Territory of Puducherry.
- The announcement of the date was made by the Chief Election Commissioner Nasim Zaidi.
- Assam's 126 assembly constituencies will vote in two phases.
- In the first phase polling for 65 assembly seats will held on April 4, 2016.
- In the second phase polling for 61 assembly seats will held on April 11, 2016.
- West Bengal's 294 assembly constituencies will vote in maximum six phases.
- In the first phase polling for 49 assembly seats will held on April 4 and April 11, 2016.
- In the second phase polling for 56 assembly seats will held on April 17, 2016.
- The third phase polling for 62 assembly seats will held on April 21, 2016.
- In the fourth phase polling for 49 assembly seats will held on April 25, 2016.
- The fifth phase polling for 53 assembly seats will held on April 30, 2016.
- In the sixth phase polling for 25 assembly seats will held on May 5, 2016.
- Polling in Kerala, Tamil Nadu and Puducherry to be held in single phase - on 16th May for 140,234 and 30 assembly seats respectively.
- Counting of votes in all states to be held on **19th May**.

Reference:

http://eci.nic.in/eci_main1/current/PN16_hindi_04032016.pdf

http://eci.nic.in/eci_main1/current/PN16_04032016.pdf

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=137341>

<http://www.thehindu.com/news/national/election-dates-for-five-states-announced/article8313813.ece>



Winding up of National Manufacturing Competitiveness Council (NMCC)

Question: Recently the Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs has given its approval for winding up of National Manufacturing Competitiveness Council (NMCC) with immediate effect. It was established in-

- (a) 2005
- (b) 2004
- (c) 2003
- (d) 2006

Ans (b)

Related facts:

- On 2 March 2016 the Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs has given its approval for winding up of National Manufacturing Competitiveness Council (NMCC) with immediate effect.
- The NMCC was established in 2004 as a part of the Common Minimum Programme (CMP) of erstwhile government to provide a continuing forum for policy dialogue to energize and sustain the growth of manufacturing industry.
- It was set up as an autonomous organization with its Chairman in the rank of a Cabinet Minister and members from Government and Industry.

Reference:

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=137232>



World Happiness Report 2016 Update

Question: Which country has been named happiest country in the world as per latest World Happiness Report

2016 Update?

- (a) Norway
- (b) Denmark
- (c) Switzerland
- (d) Iceland

Ans (b)

Related facts:



- On 16 March 2016 The United Nations Social Development Network (UNSDN) released World Happiness Report (WHR) 2016 in Rome.
- World Happiness Report, 2016 list includes 157 member countries.
- The first, second and third edition of this report was published in 2012, 2013 and 2015 respectively.
- The World Happiness Report is based on six key variables, each of which digs into a different aspect of life.
- The **six factors** are:
 1. GDP per capita
 2. Healthy years of life expectancy
 3. Social support (as measured by having someone to count on in times of trouble)
 4. Trust (as measured by a perceived absence of corruption in government and business)
 5. Perceived freedom to make life decisions, and
 6. Generosity (as measured by recent donations).
- Denmark took the top spot as the 'happiest country' in the world, displacing Switzerland.
- Switzerland was ranked second on the list, followed by Iceland (3rd), Norway (4th) and Finland (5th), Canada (6th), Netherlands (7th), New Zealand (8th), Australia (9th) and Sweden (10th).

- Five Least happy countries are ranked as Rwanda (152nd), Benin (153rd), Afghanistan (154th), Togo (155th), Syria (156th) and Burundi (157th).
- The U.S. is ranked 13th, United Kingdom, Singapore and Japan are ranked 23, 22 and 53 respectively.
- In the report, **India was ranked 118th** out of 157 countries compared to 117th out of 158 countries in the 2015 World Happiness Report.
- Among BRICS countries the ranking are Brazil (17th), Russia (56th), China (83rd), South Africa (116th) and India (118th).
- India's Neighbors are ranked as Nepal (107th), China (83rd), Bhutan (84th), Pakistan (92nd), Bangladesh (110th), Sri Lanka (117th) and Afghanistan (154th).
- The report said that India was among the group of 10 countries witnessing the biggest happiness declines, along with Venezuela, Saudi Arabia, Egypt, Yemen and Botswana.
- It should be noted that that none of the top 10 countries in the Asian country.
- Highest ranked Asian country is Israel ranked 11th place followed by United Arab Emirates at 28th place.
- The report, released ahead of the UN World Happiness Day on March 20, for the first time gives a special role to the measurement and consequences of inequality in the distribution of well-being among countries and regions.
- The report aims at influencing government policy and is prepared based upon study undertaken by Gallup World Poll.
- The World Happiness Index ranks nations based upon score of different variables on a scale running from 0 to 10.

Reference:

<http://worldhappiness.report/>

http://5c28efcb768db11c7204-4ffd2ff276d22135df4d1a53ae141422.r82.cf5.rackcdn.com/HR-V1_web.pdf

RBI floats draft framework for account aggregator NBFCs

Question: When did the RBI issued a “Non-Banking Financial Company - Account Aggregator (Reserve Bank) Directions, 2016”?

- (a) 1 March 2016
- (b) 2 March 2016
- (c) 3 march 2016
- (d) 28 March 2016

Ans (c)

Related facts:

- On 3 march 2016 RBI has issued a draft of the directions (Non-Banking Financial Company - Account Aggregator (Reserve Bank) Directions, 2016).
- It has been issued to put in place the regulatory framework to allow a new kind of Non-Banking Financial Company (NBFC), which could act as an account aggregator.
- At present, persons holding financial assets, such as, savings bank deposits, fixed deposits, mutual funds, insurance policies, do not get a consolidated view of their financial asset holdings, especially when the entities fall under the purview of different financial sector regulators.
- Account Aggregators would fill this gap by collecting and providing the information of customers' financial assets in a consolidated, organised and retrievable manner to the customer or any other person as per the instructions of the customer.
- The investors will be able to avail the service of an Account Aggregator purely at their option.
- The Reserve Bank will regulate and supervise the activity of account aggregation with a view to ensuring that the services provided and the terms at which these are provided conform to prescribed standards.
- According to the draft directions:
- Only companies registered with the Reserve Bank as NBFC – AA will be able to undertake the business of an account aggregator.
- Entities being regulated by other financial sector regulators and aggregating only those accounts relating to the financial assets of that particular sector will not need to register with the Reserve Bank.
- The Net Owned Fund of such companies should not be less than ₹ 2 crore.
- An account aggregator will not be able to undertake any other business other than the business of account aggregator.
- Business of an account aggregator will entirely be Information Technology (IT) driven.
- Initially, only financial assets whose records are stored electronically and are under the regulation of the financial sector regulators, namely, RBI, SEBI, IRDA, and PFRDA shall be considered for aggregation.
- Account aggregation services will be provided under specific application by the customer for availing such services and would be backed by appropriate agreements/ authorisations.
- Pricing of services would be as per the account aggregator's Board approved policy.
- No financial asset related customer information pulled out by the account aggregator from the financial service providers should reside with the account aggregator.
- An account aggregator will not support transactions in financial assets.

Reference:

https://www.rbi.org.in/Scripts/BS_PressReleaseDisplay.aspx?prid=36394

<http://www.dnaindia.com/money/report-rbi-floats-draft-framework-for-account-aggregator-nbfcs-2185376>



Forbes list of Billionaires 2016 released

Question: On 1 March 2016 the 30th edition of annual ranking of World's Billionaires- 2016 was released the by Forbes magazine. Who topped the list?

- (a) Warren Buffett
- (b) Bill Gates
- (c) Mark Zuckerberg
- (d) Amancio Ortega

Ans (b)



Related facts:

- March 2016 the 30th edition of annual ranking of World's Billionaires- 2016 was released the by Forbes magazine.
- Forbes included 1810 billionaires in 2016 with net worth \$6.48 trillion compared to 1826 in 2015.
- In this list US has maximum 540 billionaires followed by China with 251, Germany with 120, Russia with 77 and India with 84.
- With a net worth of \$75 billion Bill Gates has been declared the richest man in the world for the 17th time and for the third consecutive year by the magazine.
- During the last one year the assets of Bill Gates decreased by \$ 4.2 billion.
- It may be recalled that his net worth in 2015 was estimated at \$ 79.2 billion.
- The list is followed by Amancio Ortega (\$67 Billion) as second, Warren Buffett (\$60.8 Billion) as third and Carlos Slim Helu (\$50 Billion) as fourth.
- India's richest person Mukesh Ambani, Chairman of Reliance Industries was placed at 36th position with net fortune of \$19.3 billion. He was followed by Dilip Shanghvi (\$16.7Billion, 44th) the founder and managing director of Sun Pharmaceuticals and Azim Premji (\$15 Billion, 55th) the chairman of Wipro Limited.
- This year 190 women included in the list while in 2015 the number was 197.
- The highest ranking woman on the rich list is French businesswoman and socialite Liliane Bettencourt. The billionaire, who holds a 27.5% stake in L'Oreal.
- With assets of \$ 36.1 billion she is ranked 11th in the list.
- This year 198 newcomers joined the list.
- World's youngest billionaire is 19 year old Norwegian Alexandra Andresen was ranked 1,476th with fortune of \$1.2 billion.

Reference:

<http://www.forbes.com/sites/luisakroll/2016/03/01/forbes-2016-worlds-billionaires-meet-the-richest-people-on-the-planet/#b87c4c841cbf>
<http://www.forbes.com/billionaires/list/#version:static>

ExoMars 2016

Question: ExoMars 2016 is joint mission of which of the following two space agencies?

- (a) ISRO-NASA
- (b) ISRO-Roscosmos
- (c) NASA-ESA
- (d) ESA-Roscosmos

Ans (d)

Related facts:

- On 14 March 2016 European Space Agency (ESA) and Russian Federal Space Agency (Roscosmos) launched an unmanned spacecraft, named ExoMars 2016, to find evidence that life once existed on the Red Planet.
- The joint European/Russian ExoMars spacecraft successfully launched from the Baikonur Cosmodrome in Kazakhstan.
- ExoMars 2016, the first of a two-phase Mars exploration that lift-off on a Russian Proton rocket.
- With its suite of high-tech instruments, the Trace Gas Orbiter (TGO) shall arrive at the Red Planet on 19 October 2016 after completing a seven month long journey of 308 million kilometers through space.
- It also consists of Schiaparelli, an entry, descent and landing demonstrator module.
- The second mission of ExoMars will be launched in 2018.
- Trace Gas Orbiter (TGO) sole purpose is to search (trace) evidence of methane (CH₄) and other atmospheric gases that could be signatures of active biological or geological processes on Mars.
- The Trace Gas Orbiter (TGO) and Schiaparelli will travel to Mars together before separating on 16 October at distance of 900 000 km from the planet.
- Then, on 19 October, Schiaparelli will enter the Martian atmosphere, descending to the surface in just under six minutes.
- Schiaparelli will demonstrate key entry, descent, and landing technologies for future missions, and will conduct a number of environmental studies during its short mission on the surface.



Reference:

http://www.esa.int/Our_Activities/Space_Science/ExoMars/ExoMars_on_its_way_to_solve_the_Red_Planet_s_mysteries
<http://www.universetoday.com/127859/exomars-launch/>
https://fr.sputniknews.com/sci_tech/201603141023346750-exomars-mission-russie-europe/
<http://www.collectspace.com/news/news-031416a-exomars-2016-mission-launch.html>

India Test-Fires Agni-I Ballistic Missile successfully

Question: On 14 March 2016 India successfully test-fired its indigenously built nuclear-capable intermediate range Agni-I ballistic missile from launch pad-4 of the Integrated Test Range (ITR) at Abdul Kalam Island (Wheeler Island). It is a-

- (a) Surface to Surface missile
- (b) Air to Air missile
- (c) Surface to Air missile
- (d) Air to Surface missile

Ans (a)

Related facts:

- On 14 March 2016 India successfully test-fired its indigenously built nuclear-capable intermediate range Agni-I ballistic missile from launch pad-4 of the Integrated Test Range (ITR) at Abdul Kalam Island (Wheeler Island).
- Agni-I is a surface-to-surface, single-stage missile, powered by solid propellants and capable of hitting a target 700 kms away.
- The launch was undertaken as a part of periodic training activity by Strategic Forces Command (SFC) of Indian Army.
- Weighing 12 tonnes, the 15-metre-long Agni-I, is designed to carry a payload of more than one tonne.
- Agni-I missile is equipped with sophisticated navigation system which ensures it reaches the target with a high degree of accuracy and precision.
- This missile has already been inducted into armed forces.
- The last trial of Agni-I was conducted on November 27, 2015.

Reference:

<http://keralanews.gov.in/index.php/nationalnews/6728-india-test-fires-agni-i-ballistic-missile-successfully>

<http://www.drdo.gov.in/drdo/English/index.jsp?pg=agni.jsp>

http://www.ptinews.com/news/7214895_India-test-fires-Agni-I-ballistic-missile-

<http://www.ndtv.com/india-news/india-test-fires-agni-i-ballistic-missile-1286952>



Rotavirus vaccine launched as part of Universal Immunization Programme

Question: Name the India's first indigenously developed rotavirus vaccine?

- (a) Rota-B
- (b) Rota-C
- (c) Rotavak
- (d) Rota-V

Ans (c)

Related facts:

- On 26 March 2016 J P Nadda, Union Minister for Health and Family Welfare launched the Rotavirus vaccine as part of the Universal Immunization Programme (UIP) of the country.
- Noting that Rotavirus is one of the leading causes of severe diarrhoea and death among children less than five years of age.
- Every year nearly 80,000 to one lakh children die in the country due to Rotavirus diarrhoea, and about 9 lakh children are admitted to hospital due to episodes of severe diarrhoea with 32.7 lakh cases of OPD.
- The vaccine is being introduced initially in four states i.e. Andhra Pradesh, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh and Odisha and will be expanded to the entire country in a phased manner.
- The Rotavirus vaccine has been developed indigenously, under a public-private partnership by the Ministry of Science and Ministry of Health and Family Welfare and by the support of U. S. Government institutions like the National Institute of Health and Non-Governmental Organisation.
- India's Universal Immunization Programme launched in 1985 is one of the largest immunization programmes in the world and a major public health intervention in the country.
- Following this vision, the Government has launched 'Mission Indradhanush' in December 2014 to fully immunize children who are either unvaccinated or partially vaccinated.

Reference:

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=138342>

<http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/bhubaneswar/Indigenous-rotavirus-vaccine-becomes-part-of-universal-immunization-in-4-states/articleshow/51561520.cms>

http://pmindia.gov.in/en/news_updates/pm-launches-first-indigenously-developed-and-manufactured-vaccine-against-rotavirus/



Successful launch of Sixth Navigation Satellite IRNSS-1F

Question: Name the Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle which launched the sixth satellite in the Indian Regional Navigation Satellite System (IRNSS) on 10 March 2016?

- (a) PSLV-C30
- (b) PSLV-C31
- (c) PSLV-C32
- (d) PSLV-C29

Ans (c)

Related facts:

- 10 March 2016 ISRO's Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle, PSLV-C32, successfully launched the 1,425 kg IRNSS-1F, the sixth satellite in the Indian Regional Navigation Satellite System (IRNSS).
- IRNSS-1F is the sixth of the seven satellites constituting the space segment of the Indian Regional Navigation Satellite System. IRNSS-1A, 1B, 1C, 1D and 1E, the first five satellites of the constellation.
- IRNSS-1F was launched by PSLV-C32 into a sub Geosynchronous Transfer Orbit (sub GTO) at 16:01 hrs (IST) from Satish Dhawan Space Centre (SDSC) SHAR, Sriharikota.
- This is the thirty third consecutively successful mission of PSLV overall thirty fourth flight and the twelfth in its 'XL' configuration.
- IRNSS -1F carries two types of payloads – navigation payload and ranging payload.
- Navigation payload will be operating in L5 band and S band. A highly accurate Rubidium atomic clock is part of the navigation payload of the satellite whereas the ranging payload of IRNSS-1F consists of a C-band transponder.
- IRNSS-1F also carries Corner Cube Retro Reflectors for laser ranging.
- IRNSS-1G, the remaining satellite of this constellation, is scheduled to be launched by PSLV in April 2016, thereby completing the IRNSS constellation.

Reference:

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=137694>

<http://www.isro.gov.in/Spacecraft/irnss-1f>

<http://www.isro.gov.in/update/10-mar-2016/pslv-c32-successfully-launches-indias-sixth-navigation-satellite-irnss-1f>

<http://www.thehindu.com/sci-tech/science/pslvc32-lifts-off-with-navigation-satellite-irnss1f/article8336628.ece>



Sports Tennis

BNP Paribas Open Tennis Tournament, 2016

Question: Who has won the Men's Singles title in BNP Paribas Open Tennis Tournament-2016?

- (a) Novak Djokovic
- (b) Milos Raonic
- (c) Vasek Pospisil
- (d) Jack Sock

Ans(a)

Related facts:

- The 2016 BNP Paribas Open (also known as the 2016 Indian Wells Masters) was a professional Tennis tournament played at Indian Wells, California from March 7 to March 20, 2016.

- **The results of the competition are as follows:**

Men's Singles:

- Winner: Novak Djokovic(Serbia)
- Runner: Milos Raonic(Canada)

Women's Singles:

- Winner: Victoria Azarenka (Belarus)
- Runner: Serena Williams(United States)

Men's Doubles:

- Winner: Pierre-Hugues Herbert and Nicolas Mahut(Both are of France)
- Runner: Vasek Pospisil(Canada) and Jack Sock(United States)

Women's Doubles:

- Winner: Bethanie Mattek-Sands and Coco Vandeweghe (Both are of United States)
- Runner: Julia Görges (Germany) and Karolína Plíšková(Czech Republic)

Reference:

<http://www.bnpparibasopen.com/en>

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/2016_BNP_Paribas_Open



Abierto Mexicano Telcel

Question: Who has won the men's singles title of Abierto Mexicano Telcel tennis tournament?

- (a) Roger Federer
- (b) Dominic Thiem
- (c) Rafael Nadal
- (d) Alexander Peya

Ans (b)

Explanation:

- The 2016 Mexican Open was a professional tennis tournament played on outdoor hard courts. It was the 23rd edition of the men's tournament (16th for the women) It took place in Acapulco, Mexico between 22 and 27 February 2016, in Acapulco (Mexico).
- **The results of the competition are:**

Men's singles:

- Winner: Dominic Thiem (Austria)
- Runner: Bernard Tomic (Australia)

Women's singles:

- Winner: Sloane Stephens (United States)
- Runner: Dominika Cibulková (Slovakia)

Men's doubles:

- Winner: Treat Huey (Philippines) and Max Mirnyi (Belarus)
- Runner: Philipp Petzschner (Germany) and Alexander Peya (Austria)

Women's doubles:

- Winner: Anabel Medina Garrigues and Arantxa Parra Santonja (Both are of Spain)
- Runner: Kiki Bertens (Netherlands) and Johanna Larsson (Sweden)

Reference:

<http://www.wtatennis.com/tournaments/tournamentId/87/title/abierto-mexicano-telcel>

<http://www.wtatennis.com/news/article/5380193/title/stephens-wins-acapulco-title-in-epic>

<http://www.atpworldtour.com/en/news/thiem-defeats-tomic-for-acapulco-2016-title>

<http://www.atpworldtour.com/en/tournaments/acapulco/807/overview>



Dubai Duty Free Tennis Championships 2016

Question: Who has won the men's singles title of Dubai Tennis Championships 2016?

- (a) Rafael Nadal
- (b) Novak Djokovic
- (c) Roger Federer
- (d) Stanislas Wawrinka

Ans (d)

Related facts:

- The 2016 Dubai Tennis Championships (also known as the 2016 Dubai Duty Free Tennis Championships for sponsorship reasons) women's tournament took place from February 15–20, 2016, while the men's tournament took place from February 22–27, 2016.

- **The results of the competition are:**

Men's singles:

- Winner: Stanislas Wawrinka(Switzerland)
- Runner: Marcos Baghdatis(Cyprus)

Women's singles:

- Winner: Sara Errani(Italy)
- Runner: Barbora Strýcová(Czech Republic)

Men's doubles:

- **Winner:** Simone Bolelli and Andreas Seppi(Both are of Italy)
- Runner: Feliciano López and Marc López(Both are of Spain)

Women's doubles:

- **Winner:** Chuang Chia-jung(Chinese Taipei) and Darija Jurak(Croatia)
- **Runner:** Caroline Garcia and Kristina Mladenovic(Both are of France)

Reference:

<http://www.dubaidutyfreetennischampionships.com/tickets>
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/2016_Dubai_Tennis_Championships



Cricket

U-23 CK Nayudu Trophy 2015-16

Question: Who has won the U-23 CK Nayudu Trophy 2015-16?

- (a) Madhya Pradesh
- (b) Uttar Pradesh
- (c) Mumbai
- (d) Gujarat

Ans(c)

Related facts:

- On 3 March 2016 the U-23 CK Nayudu Trophy 2015-16 was concluded at Holkar Stadium, Indore.
- Mumbai won this title after Madhya Pradesh scored 422 all out in second innings falling short of 155 runs to target of 577 runs set by Mumbai in the first inning.
- Mumbai and Madhya Pradesh team was captained by Eknath Dinesh Kerkar and Saransh Subodh Jain respectively.
- Col CK Nayudu Trophy is named after country's first Test captain Col. Cottari Kanakaiya Nayudu.

Reference:

<http://www.bcci.tv/col-c-k-nayudu-trophy-2015-16/results>

<http://www.bcci.tv/col-c-k-nayudu-trophy-2015-16/match/70>



Ranji Trophy 2015-16

Question: Which of the following team has won the Ranji Trophy 2015-16?

- (a) Mumbai
- (b) Karnataka
- (c) Saurashtra
- (d) Maharashtra

Ans (a)

Related facts:

- The 2015–16 Ranji Trophy was the 82nd season of the Ranji Trophy, the five-day final match was held from February 24-28, 2016 in Maharashtra Cricket Association Stadium, Pune.
- On 26 February Mumbai won the Ranji Trophy for a record 41st time with a comprehensive innings and 21-run victory over Saurashtra.
- Mumbai made 371 runs in 82.2 overs in their first innings and in reply Saurashtra managed 235 and 115 runs in first and second innings respectively.
- Shreyas Iyer was named man of the match for his 117 runs innings of the match.
- He ended the season as the leading run-scorer with 1321 runs at 73.38 including four centuries and seven fifties.
- Jharkhand's Shahbaz Nadeem topped the bowling charts this season with 51 wickets.
- Shreyas Iyer became the second most run scorer after VVS Laxman's 1415 runs for Hyderabad in 1999-2000 seasons.
- The maximum 28 sixes in this session are made by Shreyas Iyer.
- It should be noted that Uttar Pradesh have won the Ranji Trophy only once under the captaincy of Mohammad Kaif against West Bengal in 2005-06.



Reference:

<http://www.bcci.tv/ranji-trophy-2015-16/results>

<http://www.bcci.tv/ranji-trophy-2015-16/news/2016/domestic-updates/13136/ranji-trophy-2015-16-top-performers>

<http://www.bcci.tv/ranji-trophy-2015-16/news/2016/domestic-updates/13125/ruthless-mumbai-lift-41st-ranji-trophy-title>

<http://www.espncriinfo.com/ranji-trophy-2015-16/content/story/976785.html>

Football

Capital One Cup, 2016

Question: Who has won the Capital One Cup 2016?

- (a) Stoke City
- (b) Liverpool
- (c) Manchester City
- (d) Southampton

Ans (c)

Related facts:

- The Football League Cup 2015–16, known as the Capital One Cup for sponsorship purposes, was the 56th season of the Football League Cup. It began on 11 August 2015 and concluded on 28 February 2016.
- **Manchester City** won the final on 28 February, defeating Liverpool 3-1 in a penalty shoot-out after the match had finished 1-1 after extra-time.
- Manchester City won the cup for the fourth time.
- Vincent Kompany of Manchester City was awarded with the 'Man of the Match' award.

Reference:

<http://www.capitalonecup.co.uk/>

<http://www.capitalonecup.co.uk/news/article/city-lift-capital-one-cup-after-shoot-out-victory-over-liverpool-2978820.aspx>

<http://www.bbc.com/sport/football/35624164>

<http://www.mcfc.co.uk/News/Match-reports/2016/February/Liverpool-v-City-Match-report>



Sait Nagjee International club Football Tournament, 2016

Question: Who has clinched the 2016 Sait Nagjee International Club Football tournament?

- (a) Atlético Paranaense Reserves
- (b) Argentina U-23
- (c) FC Dnipro Reserves
- (d) Shamrock Rovers

Ans (c)

Related facts:

- The 2016 Sait Nagjee Trophy was the 36th edition of the Sait Nagjee Football Tournament and was held in Kozhikode, Kerala, India, from 5 February to 21 February 2016.
- In the final played at Kozhikode Corporation stadium, Ukrainian Dnipro has defeated Brazilians Atletico Paranaense by 3-0.
- The maximum number of goals in the tournament was scored by Kochergin (FC Dnipro Reserves)
- Brazilian footballer Ronaldinho was the brand ambassador of the Tournament.

Reference:

http://www.kolkatafootball.com/nagjee_trophy_2016/news.html

<http://www.tensports.com/news/ronaldinho-visiting-india-sait-nagjee-football-tournament>

<http://www.goal.com/en-india/news/136/india/2016/02/22/20590332/sait-nagjee-fc-dnipro-3-0-atletico-paranaense-the-ukrainian-club->



Badminton

New Zealand Open Grand Prix-2016

Question: Who has won the men's singles title in New Zealand Open Grand Prix-2016?

- (a) Riichi Takeshita
- (b) Huang Yuxiang
- (c) Son Wan-Ho
- (d) Nguyen Tien Minh

Ans (b)

Related facts:

- The 2016 New Zealand Open Grand Prix Gold was the sixth Grand Prix's badminton tournament of the 2016 BWF Grand Prix and Grand Prix Gold. The tournament was held at the North Shore Events Centre in Auckland, New Zealand on 22–27 March 2016.

- **The result of the competition is as follows:**

Men's Singles:

- **Winner:** Huang Yuxiang(China)
- **Runner:** Riichi Takeshita(Japan)

Women's singles:

- **Winner:** Sung Ji Hyun (South Korea)
- **Runner:** Aya Ohori (Japan)

Men's Doubles:

- **Winner:** Ko Sung Hyun and Shin Baek Cheol (Both are of South Korea)
- **Runner:** Angga Pratama and Ricky Karanda Suwardi(Both are of Indonesia)

Women's Doubles:

- **Winner:** Yuki Fukushima and Sayaka Hirota(Both are of Japan)
- **Runner:** Chang Ye Na and Lee So Hee (Both are of South Korea)

Reference:

http://www.bwfbadminton.org/tournamentcalendar_event.aspx?id=25839

<http://www.nzbadmintonopen.com/draws/mixed-doubles/>

<http://bwf.tournamentsoftware.com/sport/winners.aspx?id=2F65CB03-F736-4C3E-A3BB-86ED37264EC6>



Swiss Open Grand Prix Gold-2016

Question: Who has won the title of men's singles in recently held Swiss Open Grand Prix Gold-2016?

- (a) Marc Zwiebler
- (b) Prannoy Haseena Sunil Kumar
- (c) Wang Yihan
- (d) Lee Sheng Mu

Ans (b)

Related facts:

- The 2016 Swiss Open Grand Prix Gold is the fifth Grand Prix's badminton tournament of the 2016 BWF Grand Prix and Grand Prix Gold.
- The tournament was held at the St. Jakobshalle in Basel, Switzerland on 15–20 March 2016.

The results of the competition are as follows:

Men's Singles:

- Winner: Prannoy Haseena Sunil Kumar (India)
- Runner: Marc Zwiebler (Germany)

Women's singles:

- Winner: He Bingjiao (china)
- Runner: Wang Yihan (China)

Men's Doubles:

- Winner: Kim Astrup and Anders Skaarup Rasmussen(Both are of Denmark)
- Runner: Lee Sheng Mu and Tsai Chia Hsin (Both are of Chinese Taipei)

Women's Doubles:

- Winner: Shizuka Matsuo and Mami Naito (Both are of Japan)
- Runner: Naoko Fukuman and Kurumi Yonao (Both are of Japan)

Mixed Doubles:

- Winner: Yilyu Wang and Chen Qingchen (Both are of China)
- Runner: Bodin Issara and Savitree Amitrapai (Both are of Thailand)

Reference:

<http://bwf.tournamentsoftware.com/sport/winners.aspx?id=075F0541-8BD9-4517-9F72-287E68CBB000>

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/2016_Swiss_Open_Grand_Prix_Gold



YONEX All England Open Badminton Championships 2016

Question: Who has won the men's singles title in YONEX All England Open Badminton Championships 2016?

- (a) Lin Dan
- (b) Tian Houwei
- (c) Hans-Kristian Vittinghus
- (d) Song Xue

Ans (a)

Related facts:

- The 2016 All England Super Series Premier was the first Super Series tournament of the 2016 BWF Super Series. The tournament took place in Birmingham, England from March 8–13, 2016.
- The results of the competition is as follows:
 - **Men's Singles:**
 - **Winner:** Lin Dan (China)
 - **Runner:** Tian Houwei (China)
 - **Women's Singles:**
 - **Winner:** Nozomi Okuhara(Japan)
 - **Runner:** WangShixian (China)
 - **Men's Double:**
 - **Winner:** Vladimir Ivanov and Ivan Sozonov (Both are of Russia)
 - **Runner:** Hiroyuki Endo and Kenichi Hayakawa (Both are of Japan)
 - **Women's Double:**
 - **Winner :** Misaki Matsutomo and Ayaka Takahashi (Both are of Japan)
 - **Runner:** Tang Yuanling and Yu Yang (Both are of China)
 - **Mixed Doubles:**
 - **Winner:** Praveen Jordan and Debby Susanto (Both are of Indonesia)
 - **Runner:** Joachim Fischer Nielsen and Christinna Pedersen (Both are of Denmark)

Reference:

http://www.bwfbadminton.org/tournamentcalendar_event.aspx?id=25862

<http://bwf.tournamentsoftware.com/sport/tournament.aspx?id=EA417436-F4B0-4DA1-9FF4-7CB910F51658>

<http://bwf.tournamentsoftware.com/sport/winners.aspx?id=EA417436-F4B0-4DA1-9FF4-7CB910F51658>



Athletics

Asian Indoor Athletics Championship 2016

Question: In 2016 Asian Indoor Athletics Championships held in February 2016 at Doha, India ranked-

- (a) 7th
- (b) 8th
- (c) 9th
- (d) 10th

Ans (b)

Related facts:

- The 2016 Asian Indoor Athletics Championships was the seventh edition of the international indoor athletics event between Asian nations. It took place at the Aspire Dome in Doha, Qatar, between 19 and 21 February.
- In this championship 267 athletes from 36 nations participated in 26 Events.
- Medal tally for the top three countries is as follows:

Rank	Nation	Gold	Silver	Bronze	Total
1	Qatar	6	1	3	10
2	China	5	5	2	12
3	Kazakhstan	4	2	4	10

- India Ranked 8th in the Championship with total 7 medals including 1 Gold, 3 silver and 3 bronze medals.
- India's only gold medal was won by athlete Mayookha Johnny in Long Jump in which she managed to touch 6.35 m mark.
- Indian Women's team was ranked 6th and Indian men team was ranked 8th in the championship.

Reference:

<http://athleticsasia.org/index.php/7th-asian-indoor-athletics-championships>

<http://www.athleticsasia.org/index.php/k2-component/103-qatar-emerged-top-in-the-asian-indoor-athletics-championship-2016>

<https://sports.app.box.com/s/b798l6sc1p6v8z494nbdor07xoa6ixe2/1/6655261365/54180912613/1>

<http://athleticsasia.org/index.php/features/21-7th-asian-indoor-athletics-championships>



Sports Personalities

BK Garudachar

Question: Name the India's oldest living first-class cricketer who had recently died?

- (a) Deepak Shodhan
- (b) BK Garudachar
- (c) M. J. Gopalan
- (d) Rustomji Jamshedji

Ans (b)

Related facts:

- BK Garudachar, India's oldest living first-class cricketer died on 26 February 2016 at the age of 99.
- He had represented Mysore (as Karnataka was called till 1974), United Province and Bombay.
- Garudachar scored 1126 runs at an average of 29.63 from 27 matches in first-class cricket between 1935 and 1946.
- He was a right-hand batsman and a leg-break bowler.

Reference:

<http://www.espncriinfo.com/india/content/story/976847.html>

<http://www.espncriinfo.com/india/content/player/29090.html>



Rohit Sharma

Question: Name the Indian Cricketer to whom the Japanese automaker “Nissan” has appointed as its new global brand ambassadors.

- (a) Rohit Sharma
- (b) Suresh Raina
- (c) Virat Kohli
- (d) Yuraj Singh

Ans (a)

Related facts:

- On 24 February 2016 the Japanese automaker “Nissan” has appointed Rohit Sharma, the Indian Cricketer as its new global brand ambassadors.
- The Japanese automaker has signed 8 years sponsorship (2016 to 2023) with International Cricket Council (ICC) last year.
- West Indian all-rounder Andre Russell and New Zealand women’s team captain Suzie Bates have also been named as the new brand ambassadors of the company.

Reference:

http://www.nissan-global.com/EN/NEWS/2016/_STORY/160224-02-e.html

http://www.business-standard.com/article/news-cd/nissan-appoints-rohit-sharma-as-global-brand-ambassador-116022500686_1.html

<http://autoportal.com/news/nissan-announces-rohit-sharma-as-global-brand-ambassador-5469.html>



Personalities

Ritu Beri

Question: Who has been appointed advisor to the Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC) for promotion of khadi in India and across the world?

- (a) Vidya Balan
- (b) Ritu Beri
- (c) Hema Malini
- (d) Ankita Tiwari

Ans (b)

Related facts:



- On 16 March 2016 noted designer Ritu Beri has been appointed advisor to the Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC) for promotion of khadi in India and across the world.
- KVIC has appointed the ace fashion designer for a period of one year during which she will advise on ways to promote khadi.
- Beri would advise on introduction of state of the art multi-fashion designs and styles in khadi readymade garments and on promotion of Khadi in the country and abroad.

Reference:

<https://twitter.com/ritzberi/status/710281805551636480>

http://zeenews.india.com/business/news/companies/ritu-beri-becomes-advisor-for-khadi-promotion_1866829.html

http://wap.business-standard.com/article/pti-stories/ritu-beri-appointed-as-advisor-for-khadi-promotion-116032000442_1.html

<http://www.thehindubusinessline.com/news/ritu-beri-appointed-as-advisor-for-khadi-promotion/article8377593.ece>

Fazle Kabir

Question: Who has been appointed as the new Governor of Bangladesh Bank, country's central bank?

- (a) Anwar Hussain
- (b) Alhaj Haji
- (c) Atiur Rahman
- (d) Fazle Kabir

Ans (d)

Related facts:

- On 15 March 2016 Bangladesh Government has appointed Former Secretary of Finance Division Fazle Kabir as the new Governor of Bangladesh Bank, country's central bank.
- He will succeeds Atiur Rahman who had resigned after taking moral responsibility over the cyber theft of \$81 million from the central bank's official account with New York Federal Reserve Bank.
- Presently Fazle Kabir is chairman of the state-owned Sonali Bank's board.



Reference:

<http://www.en.banglanews24.com/fullnews/bn/121334.html>

<http://bdnews24.com/economy/2016/03/15/former-finance-secretary-fazle-kabir-to-head-bangladesh-bank-says-minister-muhith>

<http://www.aljazeera.com/news/2016/03/bangladesh-bank-governor-resigns-81m-hack-160315084217775.html>

http://news.xinhuanet.com/english/2016-03/15/c_135190631.htm

Anita Brookner

Question: Recently Anita Brookner, the Booker prize-winning British author and renowned art historian has died. She won the Booker in -

- (a) 1983
- (b) 1995
- (c) 2000
- (d) 1984

Ans(d)

Related facts:

- On 10 March 2016 Anita Brookner, the Booker prize-winning British author and renowned art historian, has died at the age of 87.
- She won the Booker in 1984 for her novel Hotel du Lac.
- Her first novel, A Start in Life, was published in 1981.
- In 1990, she was made a Commander of the Order of the British Empire (CBE) for her contribution to the field of literature.



Reference:

<http://www.bbc.com/news/uk-35808651>

<http://www.theguardian.com/books/2016/mar/15/anita-brookner-obituary>

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/obituaries/12194509/Anita-Brookner-novelist-obituary.html>

http://www.nytimes.com/2016/03/16/arts/international/anita-brookner-hotel-du-lac-obituary.html?_r=0

Question: Name the Indian Industrialist recently who has been conferred with Chevalier de la Legion d'Honneur (Knight of the Legion of Honour) by the French authorities.

- (a) Mukesh Ambani
- (b) Anil Ambani
- (c) Gautam Adani
- (d) Anand G. Mahindra

Ans (d)

Related facts:

- On 5 March 2016 Anand G. Mahindra, Indian Industrialist has been conferred with Chevalier de la Legion d'Honneur (Knight of the Legion of Honour) by the French authorities.
- "Francois Richier, Ambassador of France to India, conferred the Chevalier de la Legion d'Honneur (Knight of the Legion of Honour) on Anand G Mahindra, Chairman and Managing Director of Mahindra & Mahindra.
- The highest French civilian distinction came in recognition of Mahindra's outstanding national and international achievements and initiatives at the helm of the Mahindra Group.
- Tech Mahindra of Mahindra & Mahindra Company has its commercial office in Paris and R&D and engineering centre in Toulouse.
- He participated in the Strategic Attractiveness Council in Paris (17 February and 19 October 2014), which brought together 25 company heads from across the world.
- Apart from his numerous industry triumphs, Mr Mahindra is also known for his philanthropy and promotion of both primary and higher education.
- Created in 1802 by Napoleon Bonaparte, the Legion of Honour is the highest civilian award given by the French Republic for outstanding service to France, regardless of the nationality of the recipients.
- It may be recalled earlier in this year it has been awarded to fashion designer Manish Arora and Chairman, Alstom India, Sunand Sharma.

Reference:

<http://www.mahindra.com/news-room/press-release/Anand-Mahindra-Conferred-Knight-of-the-Legion-of-Honour>
http://articles.economictimes.indiatimes.com/2016-03-08/news/71309279_1_de-la-legion-d-honneur-mahindra-group-francois-richier
<http://www.ambafrance-in.org/Highest-French-Distinction-Knight-of-the-Legion-of-Honour-conferred-on-Anand-13630>



Ustad Ali Ahmad Hussain Khan

Question: Recently Ustad Ali Ahmad Hussain Khan has passed away, He was a famous player of-

- (a) Sitar
- (b) Tabla
- (c) Santoor
- (d) Shehnai

Ans (d)

Related facts:

- Eminent Shehnai player Ustad Ali Ahmad Hussain Khan passed away in Kolkata. He was 77 Year old.
- He was one of the best-known players of the instrument after the legendary Bismillah Khan.
- He was awarded the Sangeet Natak Akademi Award in 2009 for his significant contribution to the Indian instrumental music.
- He had also played at the inauguration ceremony of Doordarshan in 1973.
- In 2012, he was felicitated with the 'Bangabhushan' award by the West Bengal government.

Reference:

<http://www.thehindu.com/news/cities/kolkata/shehnai-exponent-ustad-ali-ahmad-hussain-khan-dies/article8360824.ece>

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



Lloyd Stowell Shapley

Question: Recently Lloyd Stowell Shapley, an American mathematician and Nobel Prize- economist has passed away .He was awarded with Nobel Prize in which of the following year?

- (a) 2011
- (b) 2014
- (c) 2012
- (d) 2010

Ans (c)

Related facts:

- On 12 March 2016 Lloyd Stowell Shapley an American mathematician and Nobel Prize- economist has passed away. He was 92 Year old.
- He was awarded with Nobel Prize in economics in 2012.
- He was born on 2 June 1923, Cambridge, MA, USA.

Reference:

<http://www.nytimes.com/2016/03/15/business/economy/lloyd-s-shapley-92-nobel-laureate-and-a-father-of-game-theory-is-dead.html? r=0>

http://www.nobelprize.org/nobel_prizes/economic-sciences/laureates/2012/shapley-facts.html

http://www.business-standard.com/article/pti-stories/nobel-laureate-for-economics-lloyd-s-shapley-dies-at-92-116031500004_1.html

<http://www.economist.com/blogs/freeexchange/2016/03/matchmaker-heaven>



Chairman of the 21st Law Commission

Question: Recently who has been appointed as the Chairman of the 21st law Commission?

- (a) Justice Ashok Ganguly
- (b) Justice Dr. Balbir Singh Chauhan
- (c) Justice T.S Thakur
- (d) Justice P. Sathasivam

Ans (b)

Related facts:

- On 10 March 2016 Former Supreme Court judge Balbir Singh Chauhan was appointed Chairman of the 21st Law Commission.
- This post was lying vacant since September 2015.
- Justice Chauhan is currently heading the Cauvery River Water Disputes Tribunal.
- He served as the Chief Justice of Odisha High Court from July 2008 to May 2009.
- Justice Ravi R Tripathi, a former judge of the Gujarat High Court, has been appointed as member of the law panel.



Reference:

<https://twitter.com/DVSBJP/status/707883026810675203>

<http://lawcommissionofindia.nic.in/scan0158.pdf>

<http://www.thehindu.com/news/national/balbir-singh-chauhan-new-law-commission-chairman/article8336976.ece>

Ahmed Abul Gheit

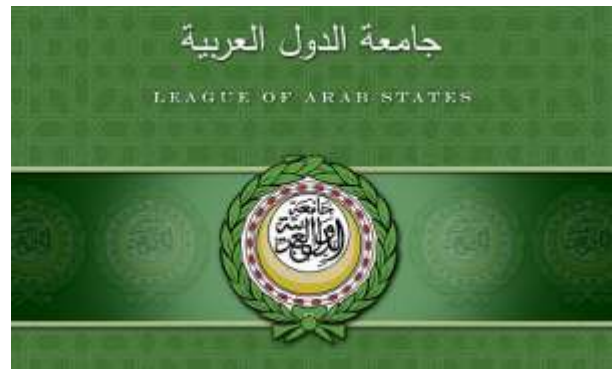
Question: Who has been appointed as the Secretary General of the Arab League?

- (a) Ahmed Abul Gheit
- (b) T P Seetharam
- (c) Abdel Fattah Abul
- (d) Khalid bin Ahmed Al Khalifa

Ans (a)

Related facts:

- On 10 March 2016 Egyptian diplomat and former Foreign Minister Ahmed Abul Gheit was named as Secretary General of the Arab League.
- This appointment was announced at the end of 22-nation ministerial meeting in Cairo, Egypt.
- He will succeed Nabil El-Araby.
- Gheit served as Egypt's foreign minister during 2004-2011 of Hosni Mubarak's rule, leaving his post in 2011.



Reference:

<http://www.reuters.com/article/us-arableague-chief-idUSKCN0WC22I>

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/wires/afp/article-3486505/Egypt-diplomat-Abul-Gheit-named-Arab-League-head.html>

George Henry Martin

Question: George Henry Martin died on 8 March 2016. He was related to which of the following field?

- (a) Journalism
- (b) Music
- (c) Science
- (d) Medical

Ans (b)

Related facts:

- On 8 march 2016 George Henry Martin music producer of Rock Band of Britain named 'The Beatles' died on 8 March 2016. He was 90 years old.
- He was an English record producer, arranger, composer, conductor, audio engineer, and musician.
- He served as producer, collaborator and mentor to John Lennon, Paul McCartney, George Harrison and Ringo Starr of the Beatles. George Martin was popularly known as the fifth Beatle.
- In his autobiography, All You Need Is Ears, published in 1979 he has mentioned his discovery of the Beatles and their creative process chronologically.
- He has won 6 Grammy Awards in various categories. In 2008 he was awarded the Grammy Foundation Leadership Award.



Reference:

<http://www.bbc.com/news/entertainment-arts-20449870>

<http://edition.cnn.com/2016/03/09/entertainment/george-martin-obit/>

<http://www.theguardian.com/music/2016/mar/09/george-martin-obituary>

P.K. Nair

Question: P.K Nair recently passed away. He was related to which of the following fields?

- (a) Space
- (b) Film
- (c) Music
- (d) Industry

Ans (b)

Related facts:

- On 4 March 2016 Indian film archivist and film scholar Paramesh Krishnan Nair died on 4 March 2016. He was 82.
- He founded the National Film Archive of India (NFAI) in 1964 for collection of Old films.
- He had collected and archived over 12,000 films of which 8,000 was Indian over three decades of career with NFAI till his retirement 1991.
- In 2012, Celluloid Man, an award-winning documentary was made on his life and works, by his disciple Shivendra Singh Dungarpur.



Reference:

<http://www.thehindu.com/entertainment/legendary-filmarchivist-pk-nair-passes-away/article8313638.ece>

<http://indianexpress.com/article/entertainment/bollywood/indias-celluloid-man-p-k-nair-dead/>

Question: Recently a Freedom fighter and West Bengal's senior most Left leader, Ashok Ghosh died. He was associated with-

- (a) Non-cooperation movement
- (b) Civil disobedience movement
- (c) Abhinav Bharat
- (d) All India Forward Bloc (AIFB)

Ans (d)

Related facts:

- On 4 March 2016, Freedom fighter and West Bengal's senior most Left leader, Ashok Ghosh, who was state secretary of the All India Forward Bloc (AIFB) since 1951, died. He was 94.
- Influenced by Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose leadership and ideals, Ghosh joined Forward Bloc formally in 1941.
- He was elected as the state secretary of the Forward Bloc on 22 June 1951 and held the same for over a record sixty years.
- For holding Top position of any political party for such a long duration his name was included in the Limca Book of Records.
- After Independence, Ashok Ghosh played a vital role in the formation of the first and second United Front government consisting of Bangla Congress, Forward Bloc, LSS (Lok Sabha Sangh), CPI-M (Communist Party of India-Marxist), CPI (Communist Party of India), RSP (Revolutionary Socialist Party).
- In seven decades of his political career, he did not hold any political positions and He was a bachelor in his personal life and dedicated his whole life for the cause of society.

Reference:

https://web.facebook.com/ForwardBloc/posts/1051277514894941:0?_rdr

http://zeenews.india.com/news/india/ashok-ghoshs-death-will-leave-vacuum-for-left-president_1862518.html

http://www.business-standard.com/article/news-ians/forward-bloc-veteran-ashok-ghosh-dead-116030300283_1.html

<http://www.univarta.com/news/india/story/403732.html>

<http://www.prabhatkhabar.com/news/west-bengal/story/734666.html>



Ray Tomlinson

Question: Raymond Samuel Tomlinson died on 5 March 2016. He has invented -

- (a) E-mail
- (b) Computer
- (c) Printer
- (d) None of These

Ans (a)

Related facts:

- On 5 March 2016 an American Computer Scientist Raymond Tomlinson died at the age of 74 in Washington.
- He has invented email (Electronic Message).
- In 2012, Tomlinson was inducted into the Internet Hall of Fame by the Internet Society.
- He was first to send the email on the ARPANET system between the two computers.
- His invention includes the use of the @ symbol in email addresses, which is now standard.



Reference:

<http://www.theguardian.com/technology/2016/mar/07/ray-tomlinson-email-inventor-and-selector-of-symbol-dies-aged-74>

<http://www.bbc.com/news/business-35741116>

<http://edition.cnn.com/2016/03/06/us/ray-tomlinson-email-creator-obit/>

Padma Sachdev

Question: Poetess and writer Padma Sachdev on 5 March 2016 was awarded “Krutitava Smagra Samman” for the year 2015 for her outstanding contribution in which of the following language?

- (a) Dogri
- (b) Bodo
- (c) Bengali
- (d) None of these

Ans (a)

Related facts:

- On 5 March 2016 Renowned poetess and writer Padma Sachdev was awarded Krutitava Smagra Samman for the year 2015.
- She was presented with the award by the West Bengal Governor Keshari Nath Tripathi.
- Sachdev received this award for her outstanding contribution in literature and great service to Dogri Language.
- The Award carries an amount of one lakh rupees, a shawl and citation.



Reference:

<http://www.bharatiyabhashaparishad.org/about-us.html>

<http://www.sify.com/news/dogri-poetess-padma-sachdev-awarded-krutitava-smagra-samman-news-national-qdgrMXijhajdi.html>

Sunil Sabharwal

Question: Name the Indo-American Independent Investor who has been confirmed by the US Senate to take up charge as the International Monetary Fund's Alternate Executive Director.

- (a) Ajay Banga
- (b) Sunil Sabharwal
- (c) Vikas Swarup
- (d) Subir Gokarn

Ans (b)

Related facts:

- On 2 March 2016 Sunil Sabharwal and Indo-American Independent Investor who has been confirmed by the US Senate to take up charge as the International Monetary Fund's Alternate Executive Director.
- He became the first Indian origin person to hold this office.
- He will hold the office for Two years.
- US President Barack Obama nominated him for the post in April 2014 and then re-nominated Sabharwal in March 2015.
- Sabharwal served as board chairman of Ogone, a European e-commerce payment services firm, from 2011-13.
- From 1992-96 Sabharwal worked at the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development.
- He was born in New Delhi in 1964.

Reference:

<https://www.congress.gov/nomination/114th-congress/239>

http://www.foreign.senate.gov/imo/media/doc/Sabharwal_Testimony.pdf



George Kennedy

Question: Recently an actor George Kennedy died on 28 February 2016. He had won the Oscar Award in which year?

- (a) 1968
- (b) 1971
- (c) 1985
- (d) 1990

Ans (a)

Related facts:

- On 28 February 2016 an American actor George Kennedy died in the city of Boise, Idaho, U.S.A. He was 91.
- He won an Oscar in 1968 as Best Supporting Actor for portraying Dragline (a savage chain-gang convict) opposite Paul Newman in "Cool Hand Luke".
- His other films include- Hurry Sundown, The Dirty Dozen, Airport.
- His last film was "The Gambler" (2014).

Reference:

<http://www.usatoday.com/story/life/movies/2016/02/29/george-kennedy-star-cool-hand-luke-dies-91/81124232/>

<http://www.usmagazine.com/celebrity-news/news/george-kennedy-dead-oscar-winner-dies-at-age-91-w165825>

<http://www.imdb.com/name/nm0001421/bio>



Question: Name the Former Lok Sabha Speaker who died on 4 March 2016?

- (a) Balram Jakhar
- (b) K.S. Hedge
- (c) P.A.Sangma
- (d) Neelam Sanjeev Reddy

Ans (c)

Related facts:

- On 4 March 2016 the Former Lok Sabha Speaker Purno Agitok Sangma died of heart attack at New Delhi. He was 68.
- He served as the Speaker of the Lok Sabha from 1996 to 1998 and Chief Minister of Meghalaya from 1988 to 1990.
- He was born on September 1, 1947 in village Chapahati in the West Garo Hills District of Meghalaya.
- In 1977 Sangma entered the national politics; He was elected to the Lok Sabha from the Tura constituency in his home state and won the Lok Sabha seat for nine terms from here.
- Till the formation of the Nationalist Congress Party (NCP) along with Sharad Pawar and Tariq Anwar in 1999, he was part of the Indian National Congress.
- He also founded National People's Party (India) on 6 January 2013.
- He wrote a book named "A Life in Politics: Selected Speeches and Lectures 1979-2004" which was widely read and was greatly appreciated.

Reference:

<http://www.thehindu.com/news/national/former-lok-sabha-speaker-pa-sangma-passes-away/article8313507.ece>
[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/P. A. Sangma](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/P._A._Sangma)
<http://www.amazon.com/Life-Politics-Selected-Speeches-Lectures/dp/9350291517>



Sharmeen Obaid-Chinoy

Question: Sharmeen Obaid Chinoy who has won the best documentary short award at the 88th Academy Awards belongs to which of the following country?

- (a) Israel
- (b) Pakistan
- (c) Indonesia
- (d) Saudi Arabia

Ans (b)

Related facts:

- On the 28 February 2016, Sharmeen Obaid Chinoy won the Oscar for Best Documentary, Short Subject at the 88th Academy Awards at the Dolby Theatre in Hollywood, Los Angeles, U.S.A.
- The documentary film, "A Girl in the River - The Price of Forgiveness" highlights the issue of honour killings in Pakistan.
- It may be recalled that she won Academy Awards for her documentaries 'Saving Face' in 2012.
- She has made history as the first Pakistani to win Oscar and only Pakistani to win two Oscars.
- Apart from two Oscars, she has also won two Emmy Awards for her documentaries in 2010 and 2014, and was awarded the Hilal-e-Imtiaz (The Crescent of Distinction), the second highest civilian award of Pakistan, in 2012.

Reference:

<http://sharmeenobaidfilms.com/>

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sharmeen_Obaid-Chinoy

http://www.imdb.com/name/nm1581464/awards?ref=nm_awd



Alok Kumar Verma

Question: Recently who has been appointed as the new Commissioner of Delhi Police?

- (a) Dinesh Verma
- (b) Rahul Sharma
- (c) Alok Kumar Verma
- (d) B.S Bassi

Ans (c)

Related facts:

- On 29 February 2016 IPS Officer Alok Kumar Verma took charge as the new Commissioner of Delhi Police.
- He is a 1979 batch IPS officer of the AGMUT (Arunachal Pradesh-Goa-Mizoram and Union Territory) cadre.
- Before this he was serving as Director General (DG) of Tihar prison.
- He will serve as the top police officer of the national capital for 17 months.
- He has replaced B.S Bassi.

Reference:

<http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/delhi/Alok-Kumar-Verma-takes-charge-as-Delhis-new-police-commissioner/articleshow/51192297.cms>



Vinod Rai

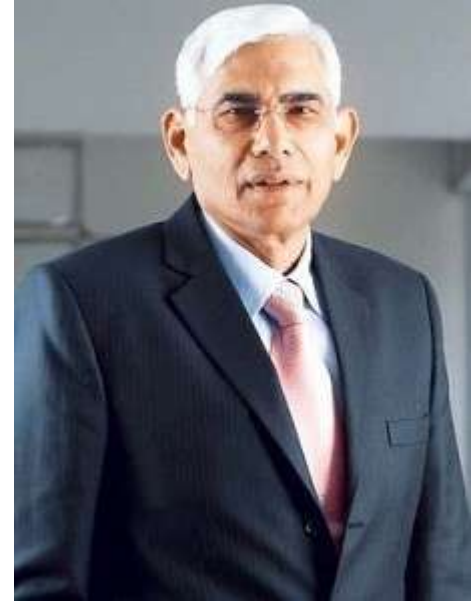
Question: Recently who has been appointed as the first Chairman of the Banks Board Bureau?

- (a) H.N. Sinor
- (b) Rupa Kudwa
- (c) Anil K Khandelwal
- (d) Vinod Rai

Ans (d)

Related facts:

- On 28 February 2016 Prime Minister Narennra Modi appointed Former CAG Vinod Rai as the first Chairman of the Banks Board Bureau which will function under Department of Financial Services, Ministry of Finance.
- Besides, ICICI Bank's former Joint Managing Director H.N. Sinor, Bank of Baroda's former CMD Anil K Khandelwal and rating agency CRISIL's former chief Rupa Kudwa have been appointed members.
- The chairman and its members will have two-year tenure from the date of notification, or until further orders.
- The Bureau would be responsible for the search and selection of heads of public sector banks, and for Whole time Directors and Non-Executive Chairman on the boards of PSU banks.



Reference:

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=136968>

<http://www.thehindu.com/business/Industry/former-comptroller-and-auditor-general-cag-vinod-rai-appointed-as-the-first-chairman-of-banks-board-bureau/article8292262.ece>

Vice Admiral Bimal Verma

Question: Recently who took over as Commander-in-Chief of the Andaman & Nicobar Command?

- (a) Vice Admiral Bimal Verma
- (b) Vice Admiral Dinesh Sharma
- (c) Vice Admiral Kartikeya Schaan
- (d) Pradeep Kumar Chatterjee

Ans (a)

Related facts:

- On 29 Feb 2016 Vice Admiral Bimal Verma took over as the 13th Commander-in-Chief of the Andaman & Nicobar Command (CINCAN).
- He was commissioned in the Indian Navy on 01 Jan 1980.
- He is succeeding Vice Admiral Pradeep Kumar Chatterjee.

Reference:

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=137013>



Question: Recently who has been elected as the Chairperson of the Governing Council of IFAD?

- (a) Arvind Panagariya
- (b) Dinesh Sharma
- (c) Arvind Subramanian
- (d) G Mohan Reddy

Ans (b)

Related facts:

- On 28 February 2016 Dinesh Sharma, Additional Secretary, Department of Economic Affairs, Ministry of Finance and India's Governor to the International Fund for Agriculture Development (IFAD), Rome was unanimously elected as the Chairperson of the Governing Council of IFAD.
- He was appointed for a period of two years in its 39th Session held in Rome, Italy on 17th and 18th February, 2016.
- IFAD was set-up in 1977 as the 13th Specialized Agency of the United Nations.
- It mainly works towards removing poverty and hunger in rural areas all over the world.
- India is a founder member of IFAD and a key contributor among the member countries.

Reference:

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=136966>



Places

Bellary

Question: What is the capacity of first supercritical thermal unit commissioned by Bharat Heavy Electricals (BHEL) on 4 March 2016 at Bellary Thermal Power Project (TPP) in Karnataka?

- (a) 700 Megawatt
- (b) 1050 Megawatt
- (c) 1225 Megawatt
- (d) 800 Megawatt

Ans (a)

Related facts:

- On 4 March 2016 Bharat Heavy Electricals (BHEL) has commissioned its first 700 megawatts supercritical thermal unit at Bellary Thermal Power Project (TPP) in Karnataka.
- The order for the Bellary project of Karnataka Power Corporation Limited (KPCL) was won by BHEL through international competitive bidding on engineering, procurement and construction basis.
- Notably, this is the third unit commissioned by BHEL at Bellary, where two units of 500 MW supplied and executed by BHEL, are already in operation but these are not supercritical thermal unit.
- BHEL has supplied and executed 3,210 MW of sets in the Karnataka so far, which account for 94% of the coal-based installed capacity of Karnataka Power Corporation Limited (KPCL).
- BHEL is presently executing a 2x800 MW supercritical thermal power project at Yeramarus and the 370 MW gas-based Yelahanka Combined Cycle Power Project.
- BHEL has already commissioned 6,716 MW in the current financial year.



Reference:

http://www.bhel.com/press_release/press_pop.php?press_id=816

<http://www.poweronline.com/doc/bhel-first-mw-supercritical-thermal-unit-in-karnataka-0001>

http://www.business-standard.com/article/news-cm/bhel-gains-after-commissioning-supercritical-thermal-unit-in-karnataka-116030400685_1.html

<http://www.thehindu.com/news/cities/Tiruchirapalli/bhel-commissions-thermal-unit-in-karnataka/article8316263.ece>

Jaipur

Question: Recently Indian two wheeler manufacturer Hero MotoCorp has inaugurated its 'Global Centre of Innovation and Technology' (CIT) in which of the following city?

- (a) Vittalpur
- (b) Jaipur
- (c) Haridwar
- (d) Gurgaon

Ans (b)

Related facts:

- On 10 March 2016, Indian two wheeler manufacturer Hero MotoCorp has inaugurated its 'Global Centre of Innovation and Technology' (CIT) at Kukas, near Jaipur in Rajasthan.
- It is built with an investment of Rs 850 crores.
- The centre consists of 16 kilometer-long tracks which have 45 different surfaces to simulate real world road conditions, both Indian and global.



Reference:

<http://www.heromotocorp.com/en-np/press-releases/hero-motocorp-commences-construction-of-its-%E2%80%9Cgame-changing%E2%80%9D-centre-of-global-innovation-and-research--design-169.html>

<http://www.thehindu.com/business/Industry/hero-motocorp-opens-rd-centre-in-rajasthan/article8337458.ece>

Vaishno Devi Shrine

Question: When did the union minister for Telecom and Information Technology Ravi Shankar Prasad dedicated 1000th WI-FI hot spot to the nation with the operationaliation of WI-FI facility at Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine?

- (a) 17 March 2016
- (b) 16 March 2016
- (c) 18 March 2016
- (d) 14 March 2016

Ans (a)

Related facts:

- On 17 March 2016 Union Minister for Telecom and Information Technology, Mr Ravi Shankar Prasad dedicated WI-FI hot spot to the nation with the operationaliation of WI-FI facility at Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine.
- It was 1000th WI-FI hot.
- BSNL has introduced a plan to deploy public Wi-Fi hotspots across the country covering all religious, tourist and important locations in the country.
- In first phase of the plan it proposes to set up 2500 WIFI hotspots across the country.



Reference:

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=138107>

http://www.business-standard.com/article/government-press-release/ravi-shankar-prasad-dedicates-wi-fi-hotspot-at-vaishno-devi-116031700812_1.html

Question: Where did the President of India, Shri Pranab Mukherjee presented the Standard to 119 Helicopter Unit and Colours to 28 Equipment Depot of Indian Air Force?

- (a) Bareilly (Uttar Pradesh)
- (b) Gwalior (Madhya Pradesh)
- (c) Jamnagar(Gujarat)
- (d) Bhopal(Madhya Pradesh)

Ans (c)



Related facts:

- On 4 March 2016 the President of India, Shri Pranab Mukherjee presented the Standard to 119 Helicopter Unit and Colours to 28 Equipment Depot of Indian Air Force at Jamnagar, Gujarat.
- Air Force Station Jamnagar is one of the oldest and premier air bases of the Indian Air Force.
- 119 Helicopter Unit was raised in Guwahati in Mar 1972 as 'Angels of Mercy' with Mi-8 helicopters.
- In the initial years of its formation, the Unit flew extensively in support of counter insurgency operations in Nagaland and 'Op Falcon' in Arunachal Pradesh.

Reference:

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=137317>

<http://presidentofindia.nic.in/speeches-detail.htm?497>

The World's Most Expensive Railway Station

Question: Where did the recently launched the world's most expensive railway station is located?

- (a) Tokoyo
- (b) New York
- (c) London
- (d) Rio de Janeiro

Ans (b)

Related facts:

- On 3 March 2016 the world's most expensive train station opened in New York, U.S.A.
- It is built next to the site of the Twin Towers of World Trade center in New York which were destroyed in the terror (Al-Qaeda) attacks on 11 September 2001.
- It has been named World Trade Center Transportation Hub. This is now partially opened.
- The center connects the PATH commuter rail to New Jersey with New York subway lines.
- Its construction cost is approximately US \$ 4 billion.
- The building, designed by Spanish-Swiss architect Santiago Calatrava and called Oculus, is a giant oval made up of steel ribs and glass laid out in elliptical shape, reaching for the sky like wings of a bird.
- The space measures 350 feet (107 meters) long by 115 feet (35 meters) at its widest point, according to Calatrava's website.



Reference:

<http://www.calatrava.com/news/reader/beyond-the-hype-santiago-calatravas-4-billion-transportation-hub-is-a-genuine-peoples-cathedral.html>
<http://www.panynj.gov/wtcprogress/transportation-hub.html>
<http://fortune.com/2016/03/03/most-expensive-train-station/>
<http://www.rawstory.com/2016/03/worlds-costliest-train-station-opens-in-nyc-next-to-911-site/>
<http://www.bbc.com/news/world-us-canada-35730273>

Award and Honour

Uttar Pradesh Urdu Academy announced its awards for the year 2015

Question: Recently the Uttar Pradesh Urdu Academy announced its awards for the year 2015, who has been awarded with the Maulana Abul Kalam Azad Award posthumously?

- (a) Nida Fazli
- (b) Fazle Imam
- (c) Ajmal Sultanpuri
- (d) Mansoor Usmani

Ans (a)

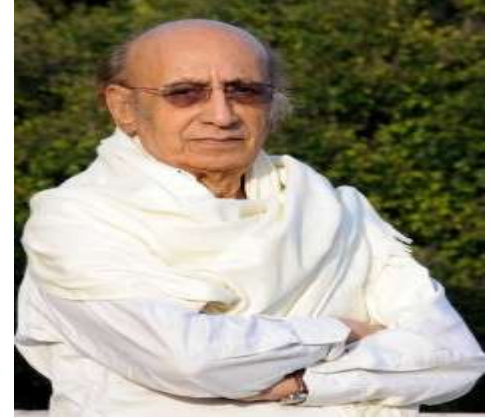
Related facts:

- On 26 March 2016 the Uttar Pradesh Urdu Academy announced its awards for the year 2015.
- The awards were announced by the Dr Nawaz Deobandi, Chairman of Uttar Pradesh Urdu Academy.
- Muqtida Hasan Nida Fazli, known as Nida Fazli, an Hindi and Urdu poet, lyricist and dialogue writer has been awarded with the the lifetime achievement award named "Maulana Abul Kalam Azad" for his contribution to Urdu.
- This award carries a cash prize of Rs.5 lakh.
- The Amir Khusro award of Rs.1.50 lakh will be bestowed upon former Uttar Pradesh and Uttarakhand governor Azeez Qureshi.
- The lifetime achievement award which carries a cash prize of Rs.1 lakh each has been given in five categories.
- This included Ajmal Sultanpuri (poetry), Masroor Jahan (fiction), Fazle Imam (research), Mahanama Noor Mazagine (Rampur) for literature for children and Nusrat Zaheer and Mansoor Usmani for comic writings.
- Others awards includes:
 - Dr. Sughra Mehdi Rastriya Ekta Award(One Lakh Rupees):
 - Prof. Akhtarul Wasey, Delhi
 - Dr. Saghir Afrahim, Aligarh
- Premchandra Award (One lakh Rupees): Dr Aliahmad Fatima, Lucknow.
- This year total 168 persons has been announced to be awarded by Uttar Pradesh Urdu Academy in various categories.
- The award winners of various categories have been awarded with cash prize ranging from 5 thousand to Rs 5 lakh and a certificate.

Reference:

http://www.business-standard.com/article/news-ians/up-urdu-academy-announces-top-award-to-nida-fazli-116032600749_1.html

<http://www.patrika.com/news/miscellaneous-india/nida-fazli-will-get-abdul-kalam-azad-award-after-death-1252382/>



63rd National Film Awards

Question: Which of the following films has been awarded as the Best feature film in 63rd National Film Awards?

- (a) Baahubali - the beginning
- (b) Tanu Weds Manu Returns
- (c) Bajrangi Bhaijaan
- (d) Piku

Ans (a)

Related facts:

- The 63rd National Film Awards ceremony is an upcoming event during which the Directorate of Film Festivals of India presents its annual National Film Awards to honour the best films of 2015 in the Indian cinema.
- The awards were announced on 28 March 2016 and the ceremony will be held on 3 May 2016.
- S.S. Rajamouli's directed film **Baahubali: The Beginning** (Telugu and Tamil) has been awarded with '**Golden Lotus Award (Swarna Kamal)**' for the Best Feature Film category.
- **Other major awards includes:**
 - **Best Popular Film Providing Wholesome Entertainment (Swarna Kamal):** Bajrangi Bhaijaan (Hindi), Director: Kabir Khan.
 - **Best Actor(Rajat Kamal):** Amitabh Bachchan(Film-Piku, Hindi)
 - **Best Actress (Rajat Kamal):** Kangana Ranaut (Film-Tanu Weds Manu Returns, Hindi)
 - **Best Direction (Swarna Kamal):** Sanjay Leela Bhansali (Film: Bajirao Mastani, Hindi).
 - **Best Male Playback Singer:** Mahesh Kale (Film: Katyar Kaljat Ghusali, Marathi).
 - **Best Female Playback Singer:** Monali Thakur (Song: Moh Moh Ke Dhaag (Dum Laga Ke Haisha).
 - **Best Music Direction (Songs):** M. Jayachandran for the song Kathirunnu Kathirunnu (Film-Ennu Ninte Moideen, Tamil).



- **Best Music Direction (Background Score):** Ilaiyaraaja (Film-Tharai Thappattai, Tamil)
- **Best Supporting Actor:** Samuthirakani (Film-Visaranai,Tamil)
- **Best Supporting Actress:** Tanvi Azmi (Film- Bajirao Mastani, Hindi).
- **Best Hindi Film:** Dum Laga Ke Haisha(Director: Sharat Katariya)
- **Best Film Critic:** Meghachandra Kongbam
- **Best Non-Feature Film:** Amdavad Ma Famous (Director: Hardik Mehta).
- **Indira Gandhi Award for Best Debut Film of a Director:** Neeraj Ghaywan, Film- Masaan.
- **Best Film on Social Issue:** Niranayakam, Malyalam (Director: V. K. Prakash).
- **Nargis Dutt Award** for Best Feature Film on National Integration: Nanak Shah Fakir (Director: Sartaj Singh Pannu).
- **Best Film on Environment Conservation/Preservation:** Valiya Chirakulla Pakshikal (Director: Dr. Biju).
- **Best Book on Cinema:** Dr. Rajkumar Samagra Charithre (Writer: Doddahulluru Rukkoji).
- **Special Jury Award (Feature Film):** Kalki Koechlin for playing a girl with cerebral palsy in 'Margarita with a Straw'.
- **Special Jury Award (Non-Feature Film):** In Search Of Fading Canvas (Producer: Films Division).

Reference:

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

<http://pibphoto.nic.in/documents/rlink/2016/mar/p201632803.pdf>

Abel Prize-2016

Question: Abel Prize is awarded for outstanding achievements in which of the following field?

- (a) Biology
- (b) Chemistry
- (c) Astronomy
- (d) Mathematics

Ans (d)

Related facts:



- On 15 March 2016, Abel Prize winner was named by the Norwegian Academy of Sciences and Letters in Oslo.
- Sir Andrew John Wiles won the Abel Prize of 2016. He is a Royal Society Research Professor at the University of Oxford, specialising in number theory.
- He won the award for solving a centuries-old hypothesis, **Fermat's Last Theorem**.
- Crown Prince Haakon will present the award to Wiles on 24 May 2016 for an achievement that the academy described as **an epochal moment for mathematics**.
- This award is named after Norwegian mathematician Niels Henrik Abel the award was established in 2001 followed by Niels Henrik Abel fund in 2002.
- The Abel Prize recognizes contributions of extraordinary depth and influence to the mathematical sciences and has been awarded annually since 2003.
- The first Abel Prize was awarded to the French mathematician Jean-Pierre Serre on 3 June 2003.
- It carries a cash award of NOK 6,000,000 (about EUR 600,000 or USD 700,000).
- Abel Prize and all related events are funded by the Norwegian Government.
- The 2015 edition of prize was bestowed upon American mathematician John F. Nash Jr. and Louis Nirenberg.

Reference:

<http://www.abelprize.no/nyheter/vis.html?tid=67106>

<http://www.abelprize.no/nyheter/vis.html?tid=67102>

President of India awarded Certificates of Honour to eminent scholars

Question: Recently who has been awarded with Maharshi Badrayan Vyas Samman in Pali / Prakrit language?

- (a) Prof. Lakshmishwar Jha
- (b) Vinay Kumar Pandey
- (c) DR. Dhammadeep Pandhari Wankhede
- (d) DR. Ratna Mohan Jha

Ans (c)

Related facts:

- On **11 March 2016** the President of India, Pranab Mukherjee awarded Certificates of Honour to eminent scholars of Sanskrit, Pali/Prakrit, Arabic and Persian and the 'Maharishi Badrayan Vyas Samman' to young scholars for the year 2015.

The following is the list of scholars awarded the Certificate of Honour.

- In Sanskrit a total of 15 persons have been awarded Certificates of Honour.
- They are: **1.** Dr. (Mrs.) Shashi Tiwari **2.** Mr. Lakshmishwar Jha **3.** Prof. Sudhakar Dixit **4.** Prof. G. Mahabaleshwara Bhat **5.** Mr. S.M. Veeraraghavachar **6.** Veda Ratna Keshav Sitaram Jogalekar **7.** Mr. A. Haridas Bhat **8.** Pt. Shrikrishna Shastri Kashinath Shastri Joshi (Kodanikar) **9.** Dr. Ramkishor Shukla **10.** Mr. Gullapalli Venkatanarayana Ghanapathi **11.** Mr. Hari Dutt Sharma **12.** Prof. Om Prakash Pandey **13.** Dr. Kailash Chandra Dave **14.** Pt. Jagannath Shastri Telang **15.** Dr. Vachaspati Maithani
- **Sanskrit (International):** Mr. Asko Parpola
- **Arabic:** **1.** Dr.A. Nizarudeen **2.** Prof. Mohammad Hassan Khan
- **Persian:** **1.** Dr. Ghulam Rasool Jan **2.** Prof. (Dr.) Mohammad Munawwar Masoodi **3.** Prof. Ihsan Karim Burke
- **Pali/Prakrit:** Prof. Pradyumna Dubey

The following is the list of young scholars awarded the Maharshi Badrayan Vyas Samman:

- **Sanskrit:** **1.** Dr. Viroopaksha V. Jaddipal **2.** Dr. Ratna Mohan Jha **3.** Dr. Bishnupada Mahapatra **4.** Dr. Prasad Prakash Joshi **5.** Dr. Deviprasad Mishra
- **Arabic:** Dr. Heifa Shakri
- **Persian:** Dr. Imran Ahmed Chaudhry
- **Pali/Prakrit:** Dr. Dhammadeep Pandhari Wankhede

Reference:

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=137761>
<http://presidentofindia.gov.in/press-release-detail.htm?2106>
<http://pibphoto.nic.in/documents/rlink/2016/mar/p201631102.pdf>



Global Teacher Prize-2016

Question: Who has won the 2016 Global Teacher Prize?

- (a) Robin Chaurasiya
- (b) Aqeela Asifi
- (c) Hanan Al Hroub
- (d) Maarit Rossi

Ans (c)

Related facts:

- On 13 March 2016, a Palestinian primary school teacher Hanan Al Hroub has won the 2016 Global Teacher Prize.
- Pope Francis announced the 2016 Winner of the Global Teacher Prize in a ceremony held at the Atlantis Palm Hotel in Dubai.
- Hanan grew up in the Palestinian refugee camp, Bethlehem and now teaches the children of the refugees.
- Hanan embraces the slogan 'No to Violence' and uses a specialist approach with her students and emphasises the importance of literacy.
- Hanan has shared her perspective at conferences, meetings and teacher training seminars.
- The Global Teacher Prize is a 1 million US dollar award presented by Varkey Foundation annually to an exceptional teacher who has made an outstanding contribution to their profession.
- It was set up by Sunny Varkey, Kerala-born entrepreneur and educational philanthropist in 2014.
- The prize serves to underline the importance of educators and the fact that, throughout the world, their efforts deserve to be recognised and celebrated. It seeks to acknowledge the impacts of the very best teachers – not only on their students but on the communities around them.
- She beat nine other finalists to bag the award including India's Robin Chaurasiya, who runs a not-for-profit school in Mumbai for girls from the city's red light district of Kamatipura.
- The Global Teacher Award in 2015 was awarded to the American teacher Nansi Atvel.

Reference:

<http://www.globalteacherprize.org/pope-francis-announces-2016-global-teacher-prize-winner>
<http://www.globalteacherprize.org/the-global-teacher-prize-ceremony-highlights>
<http://www.globalteacherprize.org/winner-2016>
<http://www.globalteacherprize.org/take-the-top-10-finalists-global-teacher-prize-quiz>



Dadasaheb Phalke Award-2015

Question: Recently who has been selected for the prestigious Dadasaheb Phalke award for the year 2015?

- (a) Prem Chopra
- (b) Amitabh Bachhan
- (c) Dilip Kumar
- (d) Manoj Kumar

Ans (d)

Related facts:

- On 4 March 2016 Veteran Film Actor and Director Shri Manoj Kumar was selected for the 47th Dadasaheb Phalke Award for the year 2015.
- The Award is given on the basis of recommendations of a Committee of eminent personalities set up by the Government for this purpose.
- This year, a five member jury viz. Latha Mangeskar, Asha Bhosle, Salim Khan, Nitin Mukesh and Anup Jalota.
- He is remembered for his films *Hariyali Aur Raasta*, *Woh Kaun Thi*, *Himalaya Ki God Mein*, *Do Badan*, *Upkaar*, *Patthar Ke Sanam*, *Neel Kamal*, *Purab Aur Paschim*, *Roti Kapda Aur Makaan*, and *Kranti*. He is known for acting in and directing films with patriotic themes.
- For acting and directing films with patriotic themes he is commonly known as 'Bharat Kumar'.
- Manoj Kumar was born as Harikishan Giri Goswami on 24 July 1937 in Abbottabad (now in Pakistan), then part of pre Independent India.
- When he was 10, he shifted to Delhi. After graduating from Hindu College, University of Delhi, he decided to enter the film industry.
- He got the chance to act in leading role in film *Kaanch Ki Gudia* in the year 1960.
- Manoj Kumar's image as the patriotic hero started with the 1965 film *Shaheed*, based on the life of Bhagat Singh.
- On the request of then Prime Minister Lal Bahadur Shastri, he created a film based on the popular slogan *Jai Jawan Jai Kissan* named "*Upkaar*".
- He received National Film Award for the film "*Upkaar*".
- In the year 1992, he was honoured with the Padma Shri by the Government of India for his contribution to films.
- He had also received National Kishore Kumar Award by the Government of Madhya Pradesh in 2008 and National Raj Kapoor Award by the Government of Maharashtra in 2010.
- Dadasaheb Phalke Award is given by the Government of India for outstanding contribution to the growth and development of Indian Cinema.
- The Award consists of a Golden Lotus, a cash prize of 10 lakhs rupees and a shawl.
- It may be recalled that the 46th Dadasaheb Phalke Award was awarded to the veteran actor Shashi Kapoor for the year 2014.



Reference:

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=137345>

<http://www.thehindu.com/entertainment/manoj-kumar-to-be-honoured-with-dadasaheb-phalke-award/article8314310.ece>

<http://indianexpress.com/article/entertainment/bollywood/manoj-kumar-to-be-awarded-with-dada-saheb-phalke-award/>

Nari Shakti Puraskar-2015

Question: Which of the following state has been awarded with the prestigious Nari Shakti Puraskar 2015?

- (a) Punjab
- (b) Haryana
- (c) Uttar Pradesh
- (d) Rajasthan

Ans (b)



Related facts:

- The President of India, Pranab Mukherjee conferred the 'Nari Shakti Puraskar-2015' on the occasion of International Women's Day on 8 March 2016.
- 'Nari Shakti Puraskar-2015' has been conferred on 22 Institutions/Individuals by the President.
- These awards are given by the Ministry of Women & Child Development to institutions and individuals who have made exceptional contribution towards empowerment of women.
- Nari Shakti Puraskar carries a cash award of Rs. 2 Lakh and a certificate for institutions and Rs.1 Lakh and a certificate for individuals.
- Nari Shakti Puraskar include Institutional awards in 6 categories instituted in the name of illustrious daughters of India i.e. Rani Rudramma Devi, Mata Jijabai, Kannagi Devi, Rani Gaidinliu Zeliang, Devi Ahilyabai Holkar and Rani Lakshmibai.
- There are Individual awards in two categories for courage & bravery and for making outstanding contributions to women's endeavour / community work/ making a difference / women empowerment.
- This year, 7 awards have been given in the Institutional Category and 15 in the Individual Category.

Institutional Category:

- **Angadipuram Gramma Panchayat, Mallapuram (Panchyat), Kerala:** Angadipuram Grama Panchayat has done a lot of work towards the women empowerment. Through activities of Kudumbasree Panchayat helped women to hold leadership roles and promoted women in decision making.

- **State of Haryana (State) Haryana:** Haryana has demonstrated improvement with work in progress on improving Child Sex Ratio (CSR) and Sex Ratio at Birth (SRB) during the last year.
- **Guria Swayam Sevi Sansthan (CSO) Uttar Pradesh:** It is working to free women and children from sexual exploitation, forced prostitution and trafficking and restoration of the rights of their children at Varanasi & Mau (U.P.).
- **Jagori (CSO) Delhi:** Jagori is working from last 25 years with a vision of “spreading feminist consciousness for the creation of a just society”. It has started “Safe Delhi” campaign to fight the problem of sexual harassment.
- **Kanaklata Women Urban Cooperative bank (Institution) Assam:** KWUCB is the first Women’s Bank in the Assam and has a working capital of over Rs 7 crores and reaching out to over 28,000 customers through various branches. The Bank’s lending facility is exclusively for women though men are allowed to deposit as per the instructions of RBI.
- **Technology Information, Forecasting and Assessment Council (Institution) Delhi:** TIFAC has been instrument in generating employment for women through Knowledge Involvement in Research Advancement through Nurturing – KIRAN-IPR scheme. 405 women have been trained and operating from 4 Centres across the country at Delhi, Pune, Chennai and Kharagpur.
- **Breakthrough Trust (CSO) Delhi:** Breakthrough Trust is working to make violence and discrimination against women and girls unacceptable. It has engaged in many cutting-edge multimedia campaigns, community mobilization and trained many women worldwide in leadership to challenge the status quo and take bold action for the dignity, equality, and justice of all.

Individual Category:

- In this category award has been given to Lucky Kurien, Saurabh Suman, Basanti Devi, Suparna Baksi Ganguly, Meena Sharma, Preeti Patka, Uttara Padwar, Polumati Vijaya Nirmala, Vasu Primalni, Sujata Sahu, Jyoti Mhapseka, Sumita Ghosh, Anjali Sharma, Krishna Yadav and Shakuntala Majumdar

Reference:

<http://pibphoto.nic.in/documents/rlink/2016/mar/p20163801.pdf>

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=137483>

25th Bihari Puraskar

Question: Name the poet who has been chosen for 25th Bihari Puraskar for the year 2015?

- (a) Yashwant Vyas
- (b) Marudhar Mridul
- (c) Om Yanvi
- (d) Bhagwati Lal Vyas

Ans (d)

Related facts:

- On 2 March 2016, eminent poet Dr Bhagwati Lal Vyas has been chosen for the 25th Bihari Puraskar for the year 2015 on 2 March 2016.
- The selection for the award was made by a six-member Committee. The Chairman of the Committee is appointed by the President of the Foundation, Shobhana Bhartia.
- He has been awarded for his Rajasthani poems '**Katha Sun Aawe Hai Sabad**' published in 2010.
- He has also won the Sahitya Akademi Award for his poetry named "Anahad Naad".
- Teacher by profession Dr. Vyas has authored several short stories and poems and his acclaimed works include *Shatabdi Niruttar* (1977), *Footpath Par Chiriya Nachti Hai* (1984) and *Suraj Leelti Ghatiyan*.
- Bihari Puraskar was instituted by KK Birla Foundation in 1991 and is named after the famous Hindi poet Bihari
- It is given on a yearly basis to the Rajasthani writers for their literary works in Rajasthani or Hindi published in last 10 years.
- The award carries a cash prize of 1 lakh Rupees, a citation and a plaque.
- For the year 2014 the 24th Bihari Purashkar was awarded to the famous writer and journalist Om Thanvi for his travelogue **Muanjodaro**.



Reference:

http://www.business-standard.com/article/pti-stories/poet-dr-bhagwati-lal-vyas-to-be-awarded-bihari-puraskar-116030200708_1.html

<http://www.kkbirlafoundation.org/bihari.html>

<http://www.prabhasakshi.com/ShowArticle.aspx?ArticleId=160302-173258-060000>

The Brain Prize-2016

Question: Who among the following has been awarded with "The Brain Prize" for the year 2016?

- (a) Timothy Bliss
- (b) Graham Collingridge
- (c) Richard Morris
- (d) All of the above

Ans (d)



Related facts:

- On 1 March 2016 Grete Lundbeck European Brain Research foundation announced the name of the winners of "The Brain Prize" for the year 2016.
- Three British scientists have won a prestigious brain prize for their ground-breaking work into memory namely Timothy Bliss, Graham Collingridge and Richard Morris.
- This is the first time the Brain Prize has been won by an entirely UK team.
- The three neuroscientists have independently and collectively shown how the connections – the synapses - between brain cells in the hippocampus (a structure vital for the formation of new memories) can be strengthened through repeated stimulation.
- It may be recalled that in 2015 this was awarded to Winfried Denk, Arthur Konnerth, Karel Svoboda and David W. Tank.
- The prize is awarded annually by non-profit organisation Grete Lundbeck European Brain Research Foundation in Denmark.
- The Brain Prize is awarded to one or more scientists who have distinguished themselves by an outstanding contribution to European neuroscience and who are still active in research.
- The award carries monetary award of Denmark's one million euro.

Reference:

http://www.thebrainprize.org/flx/prize_winners/prize_winners_2016/
http://www.thebrainprize.org/flx/the_brain_prize/
http://www.thebrainprize.org/files/4/uk_press_release_final.pdf
<http://www.bbc.com/news/science-environment-35686351>
http://www.business-standard.com/article/news-ians/british-scientists-awarded-denmark-based-brain-research-prize-116030200065_1.html

Operation and Campaign

Exercise-Iron Fist 2016

Question: The Indian Air Force (IAF) on 18 March 2016 successfully conducted Exercise Iron Fist in-

- (a) Jaisalmer
- (b) Pokhran
- (c) Visakhapatnam
- (d) Mangalore

Ans (b)

Related facts:

- On 18 March 2016 Indian Air Force (IAF) successfully conducted **Exercise Iron Fist** at Pokhran, in Rajasthan's Thar Desert.
- Exercise Iron Fist is a biennial event that showcases the firepower capacity of the Indian Air Force.
- The exercises included combat manoeuvres and live firing of Air-to-Ground and Air-to-Air precision weapons by Fighters, Transport Aircraft and Helicopters.
- The President of India, Pranab Mukherjee and PM Narendra Modi witnessed the Exercise Iron Fist 2016 on 18 March 2016.
- The event comprised six packages depicting six themes in which more than 180 aircraft, including fighters, transport and helicopters participated.
- **Fly Past:** Vintage aircraft flypast by "Tigermoth" evoked the memories of the birth of military aviation in India and was followed by the Pilatus, the latest trainer aircraft of the IAF.
- The fly past by a mixed formation comprising a MiG-21 Bison, MiG-27 Upgrade, MiG-29 and the mighty Su-30, showcased the transformation of the IAF over the decades.
- **Net Enabled Operations:** This segment commenced by the majestic fly past of the indigenously developed Airborne Early Warning and Control System and the display of AWACS aircraft.
- The flypast was followed by a synchronized multiple aircraft weapon delivery demonstration of precision based bombing at simulated enemy targets by Mirage-2000, Su-30, MiG-27 Upgrade aircraft and the Jaguar.
- After demonstrating the offensive capabilities, the exercise demonstrated the multi-layered Air Defence Operations of the IAF.
- It comprised of the fly past by the Flight Refuelling aircraft (IL-78 FRA) along with two Su-30 aircraft and the indigenously built Light Combat Aircraft 'Tejas', which displayed its swing role attack capabilities by delivering Laser Guided Bomb (LGB) followed by firing an air to air missile, engaging both targets with deadly precision.
- Earlier 'Exercise Iron Fist' was held in 2013.
- Besides above demonstration, IAF also demonstrated Combat Support Operation, Flying Displays and All Weather Operation.

Reference:

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=138111>

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=137660>

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=138170>

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=138172>

http://pmindia.gov.in/en/news_updates/pm-attends-iaf-fire-power-demonstration-iron-fist-2016-at-pokhran/?comment=disable



Garuda Shakti-IV

Question: The fourth edition of the India-Indonesia Joint Training Exercise Garuda Shakti is going to be held in which of the following country?

- (a) India
- (b) Indonesia
- (c) Sri Lanka
- (d) Myanmar

Ans (b)

Related facts:



- The fourth edition of the joint exercise will be conducted for 13 days from 10 to 23 March 2016 at Magelang, Indonesia.
- In this an Indian Army platoon strength contingent will carry out cross training with a platoon from the Airborne battalion of the Indonesian Army.
- The selected Indian unit has had varied operational experience in Counter Insurgency and Counter Terrorist operations in the Northern, Western and Eastern theatres.
- The exercise is aimed at building and promoting positive relations between the two Armies of India and Indonesia.
- It is conducted as part of military diplomacy between Indian and Indonesian Army alternatively in India and Indonesia respectively. The exercise is conducted on a reciprocal basis and its first edition was conducted in the year 2012 in India.
- The second edition was conducted in Indonesia in 2013 and third in India in 2014.

Reference:

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=137499>
<http://www.ibtimes.co.in/india-indonesia-conduct-joint-training-exercise-march-10-669892>
http://www.business-standard.com/article/news-ians/india-indonesia-to-hold-joint-army-exercise-116030801426_1.html

Multinational Field Training Exercise 'Ex Force 18'

Question: Where did the largest 'Multinational Field Training Exercise (FTX)', Exercise FORCE 18 participated by 18 nations is being conducted by the Indian Army from March 2 to March 8?

- (a) Pune (Maharashtra)
- (b) Bengaluru (Karnataka)
- (c) Guwahati (Assam)
- (d) Ranchi (Jharkhand)

Ans (a)

Related facts:

- The largest 'Multinational Field Training Exercise (FTX)', Exercise FORCE 18 participated by 18 nations is being conducted by the Indian Army from March 2 to March 8 at Aundh Military Station, Southern Command, Pune.
- It includes nine countries out of ten member countries of the Association of South East Asian Nations (ASEAN)- Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, Brunei, Cambodia, Laos, and Vietnam.
- It should be noted that Myanmar was compelled to back out owing to elections and security issues pertaining to border infiltration.
- It is also joined by eight observer nations that include India, Japan, Korea, China, Russia, the United States, Australia, and New Zealand.
- The theme of the Exercise is '**Humanitarian Mine Action**' and '**Peacekeeping Operations**'.
- An Indian Army contingent of 40 soldiers who is being led by **Lt Col Sophia Qureshi**, a Woman Officer from the Corps of Signals participated in the exercise.
- With this now she holds the rare distinction of becoming the first woman officer to lead an Indian Army training contingent in such a multinational exercise.
- His Multinational Field Training Exercise was conducted by India under its ambitious look east policy which will helps in maintaining geopolitical balance.

Reference:

<http://www.financialexpress.com/article/economy/asean-plus-nations-to-take-part-in-military-exercise-in-india/217246/>

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=137194><http://www.thehindu.com/news/national/aseanplus-military-drill-begins-in-pune/article8310954.ece>



Twitter launches campaign to empower women

Question: Recently which of the following social networking site has launched the campaign to empower women?

- (a) Twitter
- (b) Facebook
- (c) Google
- (d) MyLife

Ans (a)



Related facts:

- On 26 February 2016 the social networking site 'Twitter' had launched **#Positionofstrength** campaign to empower women to raise voices against any form of discrimination.
- It seeks to bridge the gender equality gap online in India and inspire the next generation of women leaders to have an influential voice in society.
- This should be noted that the movement has already been launched in Australia and Ireland.
- This is the first campaign of its kind that Twitter had launched in Asia for the empowerment of women.
- The social networking platform has partnered with the FICCI Ladies' Organisation and the Observer Research Foundation to engage more women to raise their voices online.
- In order to expand the reach of the programme, a series of round table sessions and workshops with women leaders has been scheduled to be organised throughout the year to discuss how to increase empowerment and safety for women, both online and in the physical world.
- Twitter has also launched its Safety Center in Hindi to ensure engagement and education of women locally to enable them to use the platform safely and with confidence.

Reference:

<http://www.forbes.com/forbes/welcome/#2f15f58d22b1>
<https://blog.twitter.com/2016/launching-our-women-empowerment-initiative-in-india-in>
<http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/tech/tech-news/Twitter-launches-campaign-to-empower-women/articleshow/51196125.cms>

Planning and Project

Innovative Entrepreneurship & Skill Development Programme of MANAS launched

Question: Recently Dr. Najma Heptulla, the Union Minister for Minority Affairs launched innovative entrepreneurship and skill development programme of Maulana Azad National Academy for Skills (MANAS) in which of the following city?

- (a) Patna
- (b) Indore
- (c) New Delhi
- (d) Varanasi

Ans (c)

Related facts:



- On 29 March 2016 Dr. Najma Heptulla, the Union Minister for Minority Affairs launched innovative entrepreneurship and skill development programme of Maulana Azad National Academy for Skills (MANAS) in New Delhi.
- MANAS is a unique and first time initiative which has come up with an innovative scheme under which it proposes to use such leading celebrities in various skill sets as the driving force behind the skill development projects, in their respective fields, for the benefit of marginalised sections of minority communities.
- Traditional Educational Institutions of Minorities like Madrasas/Maktabas and others, have been linked to Skill Development Programme of Ministry of Minority Affairs (MOMA) through Maulana Azad National Academy for Skills.
- It was launched in order to fulfil the vision of “Skill India” and also achieve the over-riding goal of the Government of India “Sabka Saath – Sabka Vikas”,.
- Maulana Azad National academy for Skills (MANAS) was established under the aegis of Ministry of Minority Affairs (MOMA) by National Minorities Development and Finance Corporation (NMDFC) on 11th November, 2014.
- MANAS comprises of an extensive All India Level, Training Framework based on Collaboration (PPP mode) with leading and reputed Training Providers at National/ International level, in the country.
- MANAS provide an institutional arrangement to meet all Skill Development/Up-gradation needs of the Minority communities in the country.

Reference:

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=138392>

http://www.business-standard.com/article/news-cm/dr-najma-heptulla-launches-innovative-entrepreneurship-skill-development-programme-of-manas-116033000198_1.html

Project Salamati

Question: Which of the following state has started the “Project Salamati”?

- (a) Rajasthan
- (b) Bihar
- (c) Haryana
- (d) Himachal Pradesh

Ans (c)

Related facts:



- On 28 March 2016 Haryana Chief Minister Manohar Lal Khattar has launched ' Project Salamati' in Chandigarh.
- It aimed to maintain healthy gap between the births of children by using injectable contraceptive.
- Haryana became the first state to do so.
- This facility would be available at all Primary Health Centres, Community Health Centres, Sub Divisional and district hospitals free of cost.
- This project will be implemented by Haryana Health Department with the assistance of Pathfinder International, is initially being implemented in nine health blocks of four districts of the state.
- These included four health blocks in district Palwal, three in district Mewat, Kurali block in district Faridabad and Khor block in district Rewari.

Reference:

<http://health.economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/policy/haryana-launches-injectable-contraceptive-project/51594025>

<https://twitter.com/mlkhattar/status/714464422396354566?lang=hi&lang=hi>

<http://www.punjabkesari.in/chandigarh/news/free-injection-in-haryana-456520>

World Bank support to Swachh Bharat Mission (Gramin)

Question: Recently the Union Cabinet has given its approval to the how many million dollars project of World Bank Support to Swachh Bharat Mission (Gramin) [(SBM(G))]?

- (a) 1,500 Million Dollars
- (b) 1,000 Million Dollars
- (c) 1,900 Million Dollars
- (d) 1,200 Million Dollars

Ans (a)

Related facts:

- On 23 march 2016 the Union Cabinet has given its approval to the US \$ 1,500 million project of World Bank Support to Swachh Bharat Mission (Gramin) [(SBM(G))].
- The Project basically provides for incentivising States on the basis of their performance in the existing SBM-G.
- Incentivisation of States was approved by the Cabinet while approving the Swachh Bharat Mission (Gramin) on 24th September, 2014.
- The current approval provides for the mechanism of such incentivisation through World Bank credit.
- Under the approved project, the performance of the States will be gauged through certain performance indicators, called the Disbursement-Linked Indicators (DLIs).
- Following are three DLIs:
 - Reduction in the prevalence of open defecation: The funds under this result area shall be released to the States on the basis of reduction in prevalence of open defecation amongst rural households in the State, compared to the previous year,
 - Sustaining Open Defecation Free (ODF) status in Villages: The funds under this result area, shall be released on the basis of estimated population residing in ODF villages,
 - Increase in percentage of rural population served by improved Solid and Liquid Waste Management (SLWM): The funds under this DL1 will be based on the population served with acceptable level of SLWM services.

Reference:

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=138329>

<http://www.worldbank.org/projects/procurement/noticeoverview?id=OP00034774&lang=en&print=Y>

http://sbm.gov.in/sbm_new/AboutSBM.aspx

http://articles.economictimes.indiatimes.com/2016-03-23/news/71759062_1_swachh-bharat-mission-sbm-cabinet-meeting



ICICI Bank launches India's first contactless mobile payment solution

Question: Which of the following Bank has launched India's first contactless mobile payment solution?

- (a) PNB
- (b) SBI
- (c) IDBI
- (d) ICICI



Ans (d)

Related facts:

- In order to benefit nearly 30 million credit and debit card customers to make in-store payments from mobile phones ICICI Bank launched India's first contactless mobile payment solution.
- ICICI Bank is the first financial institution in the country to leverage the Host Card Emulation (HCE) technology to bring forth this solution.
- The mobile payment solution available in the Bank's 'Pockets' app, provides improved convenience of 'Touch & Pay' as customers are no longer required to carry physical card or cash to pay in stores.
- This facility will help credit and debit customers make in-store contactless payments by just waving their smart phones near an NFC-enabled merchant terminal.
- The HCE technology creates 'virtual' cards for 'physical' credit or debit cards (Visa/MasterCard) of the Bank, as selected by the customer.
- ICICI Bank Ltd (NYSE:IBN) is a leading bank with consolidated total assets of US \$ 132.17 billion at March 31, 2015.
- ICICI Bank's presence currently spans 17 countries, including India.

Related facts:

<http://www.icicibank.com/aboutus/article.page?identifier=news-icici-bank-launches-indias-first-contactless-mobile-payment-solution-20161503181731426>

<http://www.thehindubusinessline.com/money-and-banking/icici-bank-launches-contactless-mobile-payment-solution/article8356772.ece>

<http://gadgets.ndtv.com/apps/news/icici-bank-launches-contactless-itap-mobile-payment-solution-813947>

'Clean Street Food' project

Question: How many roadside vendors are aimed to be skilled under PMKVY in the first phase of Project 'Clean Street Food' launched by Union Minister for Health & Family Welfare J P Nadda?

- (a) 25,000
- (b) 20,000
- (c) 15,000
- (d) 10,000

Ans (b)



Related facts:

- On 13 March 2016, the Union Minister for Health & Family Welfare J P Nadda launched Project 'Clean Street Food' .
- It aims at to raise the safety standards of foods sold on streets across the capital city of New Delhi by training 20,000 roadside vendors on aspects of health and hygiene, in the first phase.
- As part of Project Clean Street Food, Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) will partner with the Ministry of Skill Development & Entrepreneurship to train street food vendors at more than 40 centres across Delhi.
- The training will be given under the Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL) category of the Government's flagship skills training scheme- Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana (PMKVY).
- The project will upgrade the skills of the street food vendors will also contribute to preventive and primitive health.
- The FSSAI on the occasion also launched a Mobile App to empower citizens to reach out to the food enforcement machinery for any concerns or suggestions that they may have on the issue of food safety.

Reference:

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=137864>
https://bureaucracytoday.com/top_news.aspx?id=154154

Clean My Coach

Question: When did the the Minister of Railways Suresh Prabhakar Prabhu launched “Clean My Coach” Service in line with the Indian Railways Cleanliness Drive “Swachh Rail Swachh Bharat”?

- (a) 11 March 2016
- (b) 12 March 2016
- (c) 9 March 2016
- (d) 8 March 2016

Ans (a)

Related facts:

- On 11 March 2016 the Minister of Railways Suresh Prabhakar Prabhu launched “Clean My Coach” Service in line with the Indian Railways Cleanliness Drive “Swachh Rail Swachh Bharat”.
- This service will allow the travellers to get their compartments cleaned by sending an SMS or by using an app or a designated website.
- As per the scheme, for any cleaning requirement in the coach, passenger has to send an SMS on a mobile number 58888. Alternatively, passenger can also use android app ‘Cleanmycoach Indian Railways’ or webpage ‘cleanmycoach.com’ for logging the request.
- This scheme has been tried out on 43 divisions across Indian Railways.
- With formal launching of this initiative for roll out on pan India basis, trains originating from other 24 divisions shall also be covered in the current year.
- Ministry of Railways launched this ‘Clean My Coach’ initiative at New Delhi/Northern Railway, Mumbai Central/Western Railway and Lucknow Jn/North Eastern Railway.
- ‘Clean My Coach’ service was announced by the Railway Minister in his Rail Budget Speech of 2016-17.

Reference:

- <http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=137789>
- <http://www.abplive.in/lifestyle/railway-ministry-launches-clean-my-coach-service-304946>
- <http://www.thehindu.com/news/national/railways-launch-online-clean-my-coach-service/article8341824.ece>



National Led Bulbs Scheme Gets a New Face in 'UJALA'

Question: Piyush Goyal Union Minister of State (IC) for Power, Coal and New & Renewable Energy announced which of the following names for the LED based Domestic Efficient Lighting Programme (DELP)?

- (a) ROSHNI
- (b) UJALA
- (c) PRAKASH
- (d) KIRAN

Ans (b)

Related facts:

- On 11 March 2016 Piyush Goyal Union Minister of State (IC) for Power, Coal and New & Renewable Energy announced the name 'UJALA' for the LED based Domestic Efficient Lighting Programme (DELP)
- This is currently running successfully in over 120 cities across India.
- The National LED programme was launched by the Hon'ble Prime Minister on January 2015.
- The National LED programme was launched with a target of replacing 77 crore incandescent lamps with LED bulbs.
- UJALA is successfully running across 12 states in India namely Rajasthan, Maharashtra, Karnataka, Kerala, Uttar Pradesh, Himachal Pradesh, Delhi, Andhra Pradesh, Puducherry, Jharkhand, Bihar and Uttarakhand.

Reference:

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=137826>

<http://www.khabarindia.in/national-led-bulbs-scheme-gets-a-new-face-in-ujala/>



Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana

Question: Recently the Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA) has approved Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana. Under the scheme how much amount has been earmarked?

- (a) Rs 6000 crore
- (b) Rs 8000 crore
- (c) Rs 5000 crore
- (d) Rs 9000 crore

Ans (b)

Related facts:

- On 10 March 2016 the Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs has approved Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana - **Scheme for Providing Free LPG connections to Women from BPL Households.**
- Under the scheme, Rs 8000 crore has been earmarked for providing five crore LPG connections to BPL households.
- The Scheme provides a financial support of Rs 1600 for each LPG connection to the BPL households.
- This Scheme would be implemented over three years, namely, the FY 2016-17, 2017-18 and 2018-19.
- This is the first time in the history of the country that the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas would implement a welfare scheme benefitting crores of women belonging to the poorest households.
- It has been found that there are serious health hazards associated with cooking based on fossil fuels.
- According to WHO estimates, about 5 lakh deaths in India alone due to unclean cooking fuels.
- According to experts, having an open fire in the kitchen is like burning 400 cigarettes an hour.
- In this direction, Finance Minister in Budget speech on 29.2.2016 had announced a budgetary provision of Rs. 2000 crore for 2016-17 to provide deposit free LPG connections to 1.5 crore women belonging to the Below Poverty Line (BPL) families.
- Further, the Budget announced that the Scheme will be continued for two more years to cover 5 crore households.

Reference:

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=137647>

http://pmindia.gov.in/en/news_updates/cabinet-approves-pradhan-mantri-ujjwala-yojana-scheme-for-providing-free-lpg-connections-to-women-from-bpl-households/?comment=disable



Mahila e-Haat

Question: On 7 March 2016 “Mahila e-Haat”, an online marketing platform for women has been launched by Smt Maneka Sanjay Gandhi at-

- (a) Patna
- (b) Varanasi
- (c) New Delhi
- (d) Lucknow

Ans (c)

Related facts:



- On 7 March 2016 the Minister of Women and Child Development, Maneka Sanjay Gandhi launched “Mahila e-Haat”, an online marketing platform for women in New Delhi.
- Its objective is to strengthen the financial inclusion of women entrepreneurs by providing continued support to their creativity.
- Mahila E-Haat is an initiative for meeting aspirations and need of women entrepreneurs which will leverage technology for showcasing products made/manufactured/sold by women entrepreneurs.
- It is estimated that 1.25 Lakh women beneficiaries would be benefited from the day of launch of the site itself.
- It is an initiative for women across the country as a part of ‘Digital India’ and ‘Stand Up India’ initiatives of Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi.
- The Mahila e-Haat portal can be accessed at <http://mahilaehaat-rmk.gov.in>

Reference:

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=137415>

<http://www.livemint.com/Politics/MoreGQJvezEut9Q9A7qM1L/Digital-marketing-platform-Mahila-eHaat-launched-for-women.html>

<http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/tech/tech-news/Government-launches-E-haat-website-to-promote-women-entrepreneurs/articleshow/51303532.cms>

Setu Bharatam programme

Question: Recently launched “Setu Bharatam” programme aims at-

- (a) To make all national highways Railway Level Crossing free by 2022
- (b) To eliminate all unmanned level crossings by 2019
- (c) To make all national highways Railway Level Crossing free by 2019
- (d) To make all national highways Railway Level Crossing free by 2017



Ans (c)

Related facts:

- On 4 March 2016 the Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched “Setu Bharatam” Programme in New Delhi.
- The programme aims at making all national highways Railway Level Crossing free by 2019.
- Under this programme 208 new road over bridges (ROB) / road under bridges (RUB) are envisaged for construction at the cost of Rs 20,800 Crore.
- It includes 33 in Andhra Pradesh, 12 in Assam, 20 in Bihar, five in Chhattisgarh, eight in Gujarat, 10 in Haryana, five in Himachal Pradesh, 11 in Jharkhand, 17 in Karnataka, 4 in Kerala, 6 in Madhya Pradesh, 12 in Maharashtra, 4 in Odisha, 10 in Punjab, 9 in Rajasthan, 9 in Tamil Nadu, 2 in Utarakhand, 9 in Uttar Pradesh and 22 in West Bengal.
- Additionally, 1500 bridges will be widened, rehabilitated or replaced at the cost of Rs 30,000 crores.

Reference:

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=137318>

<http://www.blog.indianrailways.gov.in/pm-launches-setu-bharatam-a-programme-for-bridge-building-to-ensure-seamless-travel-on-national-highways/>

http://www.business-standard.com/article/government-press-release/pm-launches-setu-bharatam-a-programme-for-bridge-building-to-ensure-116030400395_1.html

First state to launch HPV vaccine

Question: India's first Human Papillomavirus (HPV) vaccination programme has been launched by which state?

- (a) Jharkhand
- (b) Delhi
- (c) Maharashtra
- (d) Kerala

Ans (b)

Realated facts:



- On 29 February 2016 Delhi became the first state in the country to launch the Human Papillomavirus (HPV) vaccine as a public health programme for school children.
- It was announced by state health minister Satyendar Jain in a Public health program organized for school children.
- As part of the programme, girls studying in Class VI in government schools will be targeted in the first year. This will be completed in the current academic year over two phases.
- In the next year government target is to include all girls between the age of 9 and 13.
- The programme will target 1-1.5 lakh girls in the first phase.
- Children will be given two doses of the vaccine. The first and the second doses will be administered within 30 days of each other.
- A third booster dose will be given within 240 days of the first vaccine, which will be covered in the next phase.
- The HPV vaccine protects people against the group of 150-odd HPVs, some of which can cause cervical cancer.
- According to HPV India Report 2015, nearly 122 844 cases of cervical cancer were identified in women and about 67 477 person die from the disease each year.
- **Human Papillomavirus (HPV)** is a DNA virus from the Papillomavirus family that is capable of infecting humans.

Reference:

<http://indianexpress.com/article/cities/delhi/delhi-first-state-to-launch-hpv-vaccine-as-public-health-programme-in-schools/>
<http://www.medicaldialogues.in/delhi-to-be-first-to-implement-hpv-vaccination-program-in-india/>
<http://khabar.ndtv.com/news/delhi/the-delhi-government-will-provide-cervix-cancer-vaccine-for-the-first-time-in-the-country-1282576>

Muziris Heritage Project

Question: In order to boost tourism and for the protection of historical and cultural heritage sites president of India, Pranab Mukherjee recently inaugurated the Muziris Heritage Project. This project is related to which of the following states?

- (a) Kerala
- (b) Tamil Nadu
- (c) Meghalaya
- (d) Mizoram

Ans (a)



Related facts:

- On 27 February 2016 the president of India, Pranab Mukherjee inaugurated the first phase of the Muziris Heritage Project in order to boost tourism and for the protection of historical and cultural heritage sites.
- This project is the largest conservation project in the country and the first green project of the Kerala government.
- On this occasion he has inaugurated the first phase of the heritage preservation-cum-tourism project, developed at Rs.104 crore, Places of worship and the website of the Muziris Heritage Project.
- **Muziris** is an ancient seaport and urban center in the Malabar Coast (modern day Indian state of Kerala). The port was a key to the trade between southern India and the Phoenicians, the Persians, the Egyptians, the Greeks and the Roman.

Reference:

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=136956>

<http://www.muzirisheritage.org/muziris-project.php>

<http://www.thehindu.com/news/national/kerala/muziris-typifies-heritage-tourism-pranab/article8291476.ece>

Health Ministry allows Birth Companions during Delivery in Public Health facilities

Question: Recently which ministry has taken a significant decision to allow “birth companions” during delivery in public health facilities?

- (a) Ministry of Health and Family Welfare
- (b) Ministry of Law and Justice
- (c) Ministry Of Women & Child Development
- (d) Ministry Of Railways

Ans (a)

Related facts:

- On 25 February, for the reduction in Maternal Mortality Ratio and Infant Mortality Rate, the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare has taken a significant decision to allow “birth companions” during delivery in public health facilities.
- The World Health Organization also promotes labor companionship as a core element of care for improving maternal and infant health.
- The birth companion will be a female relative and preferably one who has undergone the process of labor.
- They will provide continuous one - to - one support to other women experiencing labour and child birth.
- In facilities where privacy protocols are followed in the labour room, the husband of the pregnant woman can also be allowed as a birth companion.
- Birth companions will provide emotional support information about labour progress and advice regarding coping techniques, comfort measures and advocacy.

Reference:

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=136801>
<http://www.thehindu.com/news/cities/Delhi/nod-for-birth-companions-in-public-health-facilities/article8282956.ece>



Treaty and Agreement

RBI signs Special Currency Swap Agreement

Question: Recently the Reserve Bank of India has signed a Special Currency Swap Agreement with which of the following country's central Bank?

- (a) Central Bank of Sri Lanka
- (b) Central Bank of Bangladesh
- (c) Central Bank of Saudi Arabia
- (d) Federal Reserve Bank, America

Ans (a)



Related facts:

- On 29 March 2016 the Reserve Bank of India has signed a Special Currency Swap Agreement with the Central Bank of Sri Lanka.
- Under the arrangement, the Central Bank of Sri Lanka can draw upto US\$ 700 million for a maximum period of three months.
- This special arrangement is in addition to the existing Framework on Currency Swap Arrangement for the SAARC Member Countries.

Reference:

https://www.rbi.org.in/Scripts/BS_PressReleaseDisplay.aspx?prid=36597

<http://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/economy/foreign-trade/rbi-sri-lankan-central-bank-sign-700-million-currency-swap-agreement/articleshow/51602068.cms>

India to accede to the Ashgabat Agreement

Question: On 23 March 2016 the Union Cabinet, chaired by the Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, has given its approval for India to accede to the Ashgabat Agreement, It is related to-

- (a) Oil and gas pipeline
- (b) International transport and transit corridor
- (c) International open trade pact
- (d) International air traffic

Ans (b)

Related facts:

- On 23 March 2016 the Union Cabinet, chaired by the Prime Minister Narendra Modi, has given its approval for India to accede to the Ashgabat Agreement
- This agreement is related with international transport and transit corridor facilitating transportation of goods between Central Asia and the Persian Gulf.
- The Ashgabat Agreement has Oman, Iran, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan as founding members.
- Kazakhstan has also joined this arrangement subsequently.
- Accession to the Agreement would enable India to utilise this existing transport and transit corridor to facilitate trade and commercial interaction with the Eurasian region.
- This would synchronise with our efforts to implement the International North South Transport Corridor (INSTC) for enhanced connectivity.
- India's intention to accede to the Ashgabat Agreement would now be conveyed to the Depository State (Turkmenistan).
- India would become party to the Agreement upon consent of the founding members.

Reference:

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=138309>

<http://sputniknews.com/asia/20160323/1036849469/india-ashgabat-agreement.html>

http://articles.economictimes.indiatimes.com/2016-03-23/news/71759139_1_transit-corridor-north-south-transport-corridor-turkmenistan



Memorandum of Understanding between India and Lithuania

Question: The Union Cabinet chaired by the Prime Minister Narendra Modi has given its approval for signing of a Memorandum of Understanding between India and Lithuania for-

- (a) Cyber Crime
- (b) Tax Evasion
- (c) Cooperation in the field of agriculture
- (d) Information and Technology

Ans (c)

Related facts:

- On 23 March 2016 the Union Cabinet chaired by the Prime Minister Narendra Modi has given its approval for signing of a Memorandum of Understanding between India and Lithuania for cooperation in the field of agriculture.
- It is expected that the MoU would help in capacity building, knowledge exchange between scientists and technicians, exchange of genetic resources, development of appropriate technologies and farm practices for enhancing agriculture productivity at farmer's field.
- The MoU provides for cooperation in the fields of agriculture production including horticulture, post-harvest management, organic farming, cold chain development and agro processing industry, animal husbandry, dairying and aquaculture etc.
- The cooperation between the two countries shall be undertaken through biennial work plan to be drawn up mutually to give effect to the objectives of the instant MoU.

Reference:

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=138296>
<http://deccanchronicle.com/nation/current-affairs/230316/cabinet-okays-mou-between-india-and-lithuania-on-agriculture-cooperation.html>



India signs loan agreement with the World Bank

Question: For which of the following project, India Signed USD 35 Million Loan Agreement with the World Bank?

- (a) Rajasthan Citizen Access to Responsive Services Project
- (b) Madhya Pradesh Citizen Access to Responsive Services Project
- (c) Uttar Pradesh Citizen Access to Responsive Services Project
- (d) Odisha Citizen Access to Responsive Services Project

Ans (b)

Related facts:

- On 17 March 2016 India signed an agreement for IDA Credit of USD 35 Million from World Bank for “Madhya Pradesh Citizen Access to Responsive Services Project”.
- The project size is USD 50 million, of which USD 35 million will be financed by the Bank, and the remaining amount will be funded out of State Budget.
- The project duration is 5 years.
- The objective of the project is to improve access and quality of public services in Madhya Pradesh through implementation of the 2010 Public Service Delivery Guarantee Act.

Reference:

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=138104>

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/hindirelease.aspx?relid=46702>

<http://www.worldbank.org/en/news/press-release/2016/03/17/the-government-of-india-and-world-bank-sign-us-35-million-agreement-to-improve-citizen-access-to-public-services-in-madhya-pradesh>

<http://indiainbusiness.nic.in/newdesign/index.php?param=newsdetail/14100>



Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) signed between Ministry of Tourism and Ecotourism Society of India (ESOI)

Question: On 15 March 2016 a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) was signed between Ministry of Tourism and Ecotourism Society of India (ESOI) for-

- (a) Cleaning tourist destination
- (b) Responsible and sustainable tourism
- (c) Training of tourist guides
- (d) Safe tourism

Ans (b)

Related facts:

- On 15 March 2016 the Ministry of Tourism, Government of India signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Ecotourism Society of India (ESOI) for Responsible and Sustainable Tourism.
- Suman Billa, Joint Secretary, M/o Tourism and Mr. Steve Borgia, Honorary President, Ecotourism Society of India signed the MOU in the presence of Vinod Zutshi, Secretary, and Ministry of Tourism.
- The Ecotourism Society of India (ESOI) was established in 2008 at the behest of the Ministry of Tourism (MOT) as a non-profit organization.
- It was established to promote environmentally responsible and sustainable practices in the tourism industry across the country.

Reference:

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=137958>



Agreement between India and Myanmar

Question: On 4 March 2016 for which of the following purpose the agreement was signed between India and Myanmar?

- (a) To Supply Diesel Locomotive
- (b) Space
- (c) Biotechnology
- (d) Information Technology

Ans (a)

Related facts:



- On 4 March 2016, an agreement was signed between India and Myanmar in which India agreed to Supply Diesel Locomotive to Myanmar Railways.
- India will supply 18 Meter Gauge 1350 HP Diesel Electric Locomotives to Myanmar to augment locomotive fleet of Myanmar Railways to meet increasing demand for passenger and freight traffic.
- These locomotives will be manufactured by Diesel Locomotive Works, Varanasi with several modern features like microprocessor controls, fuel-efficient engine and ergonomic cab design etc.
- The agreement was signed at Naypyitaw, Myanmar by Mr. S. B. Malik, Director Technical, RITES Ltd. (a Public Sector Enterprise under Ministry of Railways) and Mr. U Thurein Win, Managing Director, Myanmar Railways in presence of Mr. U Nyan Tun Aung, Hon'ble Minister of Rail Transportation, Myanmar and Mr. Gautam Mukhopadhyaya, Ambassador of India to Myanmar.

Reference:

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=137725>

<http://www.uniindia.com/india-to-supply-18-diesel-locomotives-to-myanmar/india/news/411092.html>

<http://ritesltd.com/index.php?page=shownews&id=131>

Memorandum of Understanding between India and United Arab Emirates

Question: Recently the Union Cabinet has given its ex-post approval for the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between India and United Arab Emirates (UAE) on-

- (a) Agriculture
- (b) Science and technology
- (c) Cyber Space and Combating Cyber-Crime
- (d) Cultural cooperation

Ans(c)

Related facts:



- On 10 March 2016 the Union Cabinet has given its ex-post march approval for the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between India and United Arab Emirates (UAE) on Technical Cooperation in Cyber Space and Combating Cyber-Crime.
- This agreement would provide help in handling of the issues related to the cyber-crime between the two countries.
- Both the countries shall cooperate in cyber space and combating cyber-crime in all forms, particularly through coordination and exchange of information in relation with cyber crime, cooperation and training in cyber-crime investigation, etc. between India and UAE.
- The Ministry of Home affairs will be the nodal agency on the Indian side responsible for the implementation of this agreement.
- Similarly, the nodal agency of the UAE side will be the Directorate General of Criminal Security, Ministry of Interior and the State Security Department with regards to matters pertaining to State security, terrorism and crimes related to unconventional weapons.

Reference:

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/hindirelease.aspx?relid=46525>

<http://www.thestatesman.com/mobi/news/india/india-uae-to-fight-cyber-crime-together/129008.html>

Memorandum of Understanding between India and International Monetary Fund

Question: The Union Cabinet on 10 March 2016 gave its approval for entering into a MoU with International Monetary Fund(IMF) for setting up of which of the following center?

- (a) India-IMF Technical Assistance Center
- (b) South Asia Regional Training and Technical Assistance Center
- (c) Technical support center in South Asia
- (d) India-IMF Training Center



Ans (b)

Related facts:

- On 10 March 2016 the Union Cabinet has given its approval for entering into the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between India and International Monetary Fund (IMF) for setting up of South Asia Regional Training and Technical Assistance Center (SARTTAC) in India by the IMF.
- The SARTTAC will be a collaborative venture between the IMF, the member countries that is Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Maldives, Nepal and Sri Lanka.
- Additional member countries could join SARTTAC at a later stage.
- It aims for supporting the capacity development needs of the members.
- The MoU will help in capacity building of Government officials including state level in macro, fiscal, monetary policies by the IMF and greater coordination between the six member countries of South Asia.

Reference:

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=137628>

<http://www.dnaindia.com/money/report-imf-assistance-centre-to-be-set-up-in-india-2187799>

[http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/business/india-business/IMF-assistance-centre-to-be-set-up-in-](http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/business/india-business/IMF-assistance-centre-to-be-set-up-in-India/articleshow/51351814.cms)

[India/articleshow/51351814.cms](http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/business/india-business/IMF-assistance-centre-to-be-set-up-in-India/articleshow/51351814.cms)

Conference

Defexpo India-2016

Question: The 9th edition of Defexpo India, a biennial exhibition on Land, Naval and Internal Homeland Security Systems was held at-

- (a) Bangaluru
- (b) Goa
- (c) Hyderabad
- (d) Visakhapatnam

Ans (b)

Related facts:

- The 9th edition of Defexpo India, a biennial exhibition on Land, Naval and Internal Homeland Security Systems was held in Goa from 28-31 March 2016.
- Defence Minister Manohar Parrikar inaugurated the "largest-ever" Defence expo (Defexpo 2016) in Naqeri Quitol, Goa on March 28, 2016.
- The four-day event was being organised by the Defence Exhibition Organisation of Department of Defence Production, Ministry of Defence.
- On this occasion Laxmikant Parsekar, the Chief Minister of Goa, welcomed the delegates from all over the world to the State of Goa.
- This time 47 countries from different continents took part in the exhibition against 30 countries which participated in Defexpo 2014.
- In comparison to Defexpo 2014 where 624 companies participated; over 1000 companies, both foreign and Indian, took part this year.

Reference:

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=138368>

<http://www.ibtimes.co.in/defence-minister-inaugurates-largest-ever-defexpo-2016-says-display-shows-indias-capabilities-672417>

<http://www.thehindu.com/todays-paper/tp-miscellaneous/tp-others/defence-expo-to-conclude-today/article8416324.ece>



Asian Ministerial Conference for Disaster Risk Reduction, 2016

Question: The first Asian Ministerial Conference for Disaster Risk Reduction is going to be held in India in -

- (a) Jaipur
- (b) New Delhi
- (c) Ahmedabad
- (d) Mumbai

Ans (b)

Related facts:

- According to the press release issued by Ministry of Home Affairs on 29 March 2016 the Asian Ministerial Conference for Disaster Risk Reduction will be held at New Delhi from Nov.3-5, 2016.
- This event is being organized by the Ministry of Home Affairs.
- This is the first Asian Ministerial Conference being held after the 3rd UN World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction held in Sendai, Japan from March 14-18, 2015.
- The Asian Ministerial Conference for Disaster Risk Reduction is aimed at providing a platform to member countries for sharing best practices in the field of Disaster Risk Reduction.
- It may be recalled that India has hosted the first South Asian Annual Disaster Management exercise (SAADMEx-15) from 23-26 Nov, 2015 at New Delhi.

Reference:

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=138393>

Asian Ministerial Conference for Disaster Risk Reduction
to be held in November 2016

'Krishi Unnati Mela' a National Level Agriculture Fair-cum-Exhibition

Question: Where did the 'Krishi Unnati Mela' a National Level Agriculture Fair-cum-Exhibition was organized from March 19-21, 2016?

- (a) New Delhi
- (b) Jaipur
- (c) Sihor
- (d) Varanasi

Ans (a)

Related facts:



- 'Krishi Unnati Mela' a National Level Agriculture Fair-cum-Exhibition was Organised at Indian Agriculture Research Institute, New Delhi from March 19-21, 2016.
- It was organised jointly by the Department of Agriculture, Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare, Government of India and Indian Agriculture Research Institute (IARI).
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated three day 'Krishi Unnati Mela' on 19 March 2016.
- On inauguration day, the prestigious National level 'Krishi Karman Awards' for the Best performing States of the year 2014-15 were presented to 8 State Governments, which were received by the Chief Minister of respective states.
- Besides this, 3 states were also be given commendation awards for total food grains production.
- Prime Minister also launched a Mobile App "*Kisan Suvidha*" for providing various farmer friendly services.
- On 21 March 2016 Union Minister of Agriculture Radha Mohan Singh launched 'Pusa Krishi', a new mobile app for farmers at the valedictory session of Krishi Unnati.
- The app will provide farmers with information related to new varieties of crops, resource conserving cultivation practices as well as farm machinery and implements will help in increasing returns to farmers.
- On this occasion, Minister of Agriculture Radha Mohan Singh also felicitated 45 progressive farmers with IARI-Innovative farmers Award and IARI-fellow farmer award.

Reference:

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=138184>

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=138191>

http://www.iari.res.in/files/Krishi_Vigyan_Mela/KRISHI_UNNATI_MELA-2016_15032016.pdf

World Sufi Forum

Question: Where did the World Sufi Forum was held from March 17 to 20, 2016?

- (a) Lucknow
- (b) New Delhi
- (c) Kolkata
- (d) Jaipur

Ans (b)

Related facts:

- The World Sufi Forum was held from March 17 to 20, 2016 in New Delhi.
- The four days World Sufi Forum was inaugurated in New Delhi by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on 17 March 2016.
- The World Sufi Forum was organised by the All India Ulama and Mashaikh Board (AIUMB), an apex body of Sunni Muslims.
- It was participated by more than 200 Indian and international delegates.

Reference:

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=138124>

<http://www.narendramodi.in/pm-modi-at-the-world-islamic-sufi-conference-in-new-delhi-428276>

<http://www.aiumb.org/delhis-sufi-sunni-islamic-clerics-and-imams-get-together-for-international-sufi-conference/>



Festival of Innovations-2016

Question: Rashtrapati Bhavan hosted from March 12 to 19, 2016 a week long Festival of Innovations in collaboration with the National Innovation Foundation (NIF). During this the President also launched a national portal for start-up entrepreneurs, it is named as-

- (a) Startup MITRA
- (b) SIDBI startup MITRA
- (c) Innovation MITRA
- (d) Enterprise MITRA

Ans (b)

Related facts:



- From March 12 to 19, 2016 a week long Festival of Innovations (FOIN-2016) was held at Rashtrapati Bhavan, New Delhi.
- The President of India, Pranab Mukherjee inaugurated exhibition of grassroots innovations in Rashtrapati Bhavan on March 12, 2016 kicking off thereby a week-long Festival of Innovations from March 12-19, 2016.
- The six day Festival of Innovations was hosted by Rashtrapati Bhavan in collaboration with Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI) and National Innovation Foundation (NIF) and National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD).
- A total of 65 grassroots innovations were the part of this Exhibition.
- The President also launched a national portal for start-up entrepreneurs called “SIDBI STARTUP MITRA” developed by SIDBI.

Reference:

http://presidentofindia.nic.in/writereaddata/Portal/awards/foin2016_outline.pdf

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=137405>

<http://nif.org.in/festival-of-innovation-foin-2016>

Gyan Sangam-2016

Question: Two days' "Retreat for Banks and Financial Institutions" called "Gyan Sangam" was held in which of the following city?

- (a) Bhopal
- (b) Gurgaon
- (c) Coonoor
- (d) Pune

Ans (b)

Related facts:



- The two days' "Retreat for Banks and Financial Institutions" called "Gyan Sangam" was held on 4th and 5th March, 2016 at State Bank Academy, Gurgaon (Haryana).
- Those who participated in the two day Retreat include, officers of the Department of Financial Services, Ministry of Finance and top management of all the Public Sector Banks (PSBs).
- The Opening Address was made by the Minister of State for Finance, Jayant Sinha on March 4, 2016 which was followed by the Key Note Address by the Governor, Reserve Bank of India, Dr. Raghuram Rajan.
- This retreat has been held to take forward the Government's commitment to reforms in the banking and financial sector.
- The participants have been divided into five Working Groups. The Groups have been formed keeping in view the outcomes related to access, efficiency, stability, profitability/value creation.
- Working Groups include one each on Restructuring, (M/A), NPA Management and Recovery, Technology, digital and Financial Inclusion, Credit Growth and Risk Management.
- These Groups would hold discussions and finalize their reports and present them before the Finance Minister Arun Jaitley on second day, 5th March, 2016.
- Talking of NPA recovery during the discussions, Finance Minister said that there is a need to amend the Debt Recovery Tribunal (DRT) Act and SARFESI Act.
- Gross NPAs of public sector banks stood at Rs 3.60 lakh crore at December-end as against Rs 2.67 lakh crore at the end of March 2015.
- This was second Gyan Sangam. First one was held last year in January, 2015 at Pune.

Reference:

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=137381>
<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=137263>
<http://pibphoto.nic.in/documents/rlink/2016/mar/p20163301.pdf>
<http://www.thehindubusinessline.com/money-and-banking/gyan-sangam-to-focus-on-bad-loans/article8310034.ece>

India Electronics Expo 2016

Question: The second edition of India Electronics Expo was held at-

- (a) Jaipur
- (b) Bengaluru
- (c) New Delhi
- (d) Lucknow

Ans (c)

Related facts:



- The second edition of India Electronics Expo was held in New Delhi from 17-18 March 2016
- It was organized by Electronics and Computer Software Export Promotion Council (ESC).
- Minister of State for Science & Technology and Earth Sciences Y.S. Chowdary inaugurated the second edition of India Electronics Expo on 17 March 2016.
- The Expo was sponsored by the Ministry of Commerce and Industry, Government of India.
- In this Expo 33 exhibitors from India have displayed their products.
- This event was attended by over 120 delegates from 17 countries, including those from the focus regions of Africa, Latin America, ASEAN and CIS countries are scouting for products at the event.

Reference:

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=138113>

<http://www.indiaelectronicsexpo.com/program.html>

<http://www.indianembassy.hu/?p=125228>

31st edition of the Aahar International Food and Hospitality Fair

Question: Where did the 31st edition of the Aahar International Food and Hospitality Fair was held?

- (a) New Delhi
- (b) Mumbai
- (c) Ahmadabad
- (d) Lucknow

Ans (a)

Related facts:



- On 15 March 2016 Food Processing Minister Harsimrat Kaur Badal inaugurated the 31st edition of the Aahar International Food and Hospitality Fair at Pragati Maidan, New Delhi.
- Budget decision to allow 100% FDI in multi-brand retail for food products produced and processed in India will play a catalytic role in leapfrogging Indian economy.
- FDI decision would give a boost to the sector, and would contribute to the eventual aim of uplifting farmers and doubling farmers' income by 2022.
- According to an estimate the average Indian spends 40% of his income on eatables, and only 10% of what we grow is processed in India.
- In India 42 mega food parks are currently under construction.
- Looking to the future of the food processing industry of India, Food Processing Industries Minister Badal said, "She aspires to turn India into the food factory for the world in the next few years."
- The Ministry of Food Processing Industries (MOFPI) is a ministry of the Government of India responsible for formulation and administration of the rules and regulations and laws relating to food processing in India.

Reference:

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=137944>

<http://aaharfoodexpo.com/2016/03/16/aahar-international-2016-inaugurated-by-smt-harsimrat-kaur-badal/>

'India Aviation' 2016 Expo

Question: Where did the 5th Edition of India Aviation 2016 from March 16 - 20, 2016 was held?

- (a) Bengaluru
- (b) Hyderabad
- (c) Ahmedabad
- (d) Gwalior

Ans (b)



Related facts:

- The 5th Edition of India Aviation 2016 Expo from March 16 - 20, 2016 was organised at Hyderabad, India.
- The theme of 'India Aviation' this year is 'India's Civil Aviation Sector: Potential a Global Manufacturing & MRO Hub'.
- Ministry of Civil Aviation, Government of India, Jointly with Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FCCI) has organised the Expo.
- The President of India, Pranab Mukherjee inaugurated the 5th Edition of 'India Aviation' on March 16, 2016 at Hyderabad.
- It is expected that more than 250 exhibitors from India and abroad will participate in the Expo.
- It may be recalled that India Aviation 2014 Expo was held at Hyderabad.
- The last 'India Aviation' was held in 2014 which had participation from more than 200 exhibitors from India and abroad with more than 25 Aircraft on display.

Reference:

<http://www.india-aviation.in/>

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=138083>

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=137971>

BRICS Friendship Cities Conclave

Question: Name the city in which the three day (14-16 April) BRICS Friendship Cities Conclave is going to be held in India?

- (a) Mumbai
- (b) New Delhi
- (c) Hyderabad
- (d) Jaipur

Ans (a)



Related facts:

- The three day (14-16 April) BRICS Friendship Cities Conclave is going to be held in Mumbai, India.
- Delegations representing at least two cities from each BRICS country will visit Mumbai during April 14-16, and discuss aspects of urbanization for Mumbai.
- The programme - BRICS Friendship Cities Conclave - is being organised jointly by the Maharashtra government and the External Affairs Ministry.
- National Centre for the Performing Arts (NCPA) will be the venue for the inauguration on April 14.
- This prestigious global conclave will be driven by a robust development agenda, to meet the challenges of Urbanization.

Reference:

http://bricsconclave2016.in/http://bricsconclave2016.in/http://bricsconclave2016.in/http://geab.eu/en/after-make-in-india-mumbai-to-host-brics-cities-summit/http://agriexchange.apeda.gov.in/news/Newssearch.aspx?newsid=22049&Date=09Mar2016http://articles.economictimes.indiatimes.com/2016-03-06/news/71246533_1_brics-nations-india-week-external-affairs-ministry

India Carpet Expo

Question: The 31st edition of India Carpet Expo was held from March 11 – 14, 2016 in which of the following city?

- (a) Nagpur
- (b) New Delhi
- (c) Varanasi
- (d) Gandhi Nagar

Ans (b)

Related facts:



- The 31st edition of India Carpet Expo was held from March 11 – 14, 2016 in NSIC Exhibition Complex, Okhla Industrial Estate, New Delhi.
- It was inaugurated on 11th March, 2016 by Union Textiles Minister, Santosh Kumar Gangwar. Secretary (Textiles).
- The Expo aims to promote amongst visiting overseas carpet buyers, the cultural heritage and weaving skills that go into the production of Indian handmade carpets and other floor coverings.
- It is one of the largest handmade carpet fairs in Asia that offers a unique platform for buyers to source the best handmade carpets, rugs and other floor coverings under one roof.
- The exhibition was attended by nearly 450 Carpet importers of 57 countries.
- 270 small, medium and large manufacturers and exporters of handmade carpets from different craft pockets of India have showcased their products in this Expo.

Reference:

<http://www.indiancarpets.com/31stice2016mnd.html>

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=137828>

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=137571>

First Conference of Women Legislators

Question: The first Conference of Women Legislators from 5-6 March 2016 was held in which of the following city?

- (a) Jaipur
- (b) New Delhi
- (c) Bengaluru
- (d) Ahmedabad

Ans (b)

Related facts:



- The first Conference of Women Legislators from 5-6 March 2016 was held in New Delhi.
- The theme of the conference was 'The Role of Women Legislators in Nation Building (Mahila Janpratinidhi – Sashakt Bharat Ki Nirmata).
- On 5 March 2016 the President of India, Pranab Mukherjee inaugurated the Conference.
- On the occasion he said that the implementation of affirmative action through the reservation of 33% of the Panchayati Raj Institutions seats for women, there is a sharp rise in women's representation.
- On 6 March 2016 the prime minister Narendra Modi in his address at the valedictory session of the National Conference of Women Legislators stressed on the importance of "women-led development,".

Reference:

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=137374>

<http://www.presidentofindia.nic.in/press-release-detail.htm?2096>

http://pmindia.gov.in/en/news_updates/pm-addresses-valedictory-session-of-the-national-conference-of-women-legislators/?comment=disable

First India-US Workshop on Traditional Medicine

Question: Where did the two day first India-US Workshop on Traditional Medicine concluded successfully?

- (a) Jaipur
- (b) New Delhi
- (c) Kochi
- (d) Bengaluru

Ans (b)

Related facts:



- The two (3-4 March 2016) days India-US Workshop on Traditional Medicine concluded successfully in New Delhi.
- The Workshop was organized under the auspices of the first U.S.-India Health Dialogue held in September, 2015 in Washington, D.C.
- Nearly 175 participants including experts related to traditional systems and modern medicine, biologists, and researchers from India and the U.S. took part in the first of its kind Workshop.
- American President and Prime Minister of India emphasized to promote bilateral dialogue on Traditional Medicine.
- The Workshop was jointly inaugurated by the Minister of State for AYUSH (Independent Charge) and Health & Family Welfare, Shri Shripad Yesso Naik and U.S. Ambassador to India, Mr. Richard Verma and Assistant Secretary of Global Affairs at HHS, Ambassador Jimmy Kolker on 3rd March, 2016.
- The highlight of discussions remained role of AYUSH systems in prevention, cure and management of cancer which was discussed in threadbare details.

Reference:

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=137365>

First Raisina Dialogue

Question: The first Raisina Dialogue with the Observer Research Foundation on 1-3 March 2016 was held at-

- (a) New Delhi
- (b) Jaipur
- (c) Indore
- (d) Hyderabad

Ans (a)

Related facts:

- The Ministry of External Affairs has co-hosted the first Raisina Dialogue with the Observer Research Foundation on 1-3 March 2016, in New Delhi.
- The Raisina Dialogue saw the participation of more than 450 participants from around 40 countries.
- The theme of the dialogue was 'Asia: Regional and Global Connectivity'.
- It focuses on Asia's economic, physical, human and digital connectivity and shall attempt to discover challenges and opportunities for the region to manage its common spaces.
- The inaugural address was given by India's External Affairs Minister Sushma Swaraj.
- A panel of former Sri Lankan President Chandrika Kumaratunga, former Afghan President Hamid Karzai and the Bangladeshi foreign minister Mahmood Ali were amongst those who shared the stage with Foreign Minister Sushma Swaraj at the opening session.
- The conference has been organized on the lines of the Shangri-La Dialogue held in Singapore.

Reference:

<http://www.mea.gov.in/press-releases.htm?dtl/26427/First+Raisina+Dialogue>

<http://www.thehindu.com/news/national/india-kicks-off-raisina-dialogue/article8301235.ece>



Plastic Waste Management Rules, 2016

Question: According to the notification of Government about Plastic Waste Management Rules, 2016. Minimum Thickness of Plastic Carry Bags Increased from 40 to-

- (a) 30 Microns
- (b) 50 Microns
- (c) 60 Microns
- (d) 70 Microns

Ans (b)

Related facts:



- On 18 March 2016 Government has Notified Plastic Waste Management Rules, 2016.
- It will replace the earlier Plastic Waste (Management and Handling) Rules, 2011.
- **The Plastic Waste Management Rules, 2016 aim to:**
- Increase minimum thickness of plastic carry bags from 40 to 50 microns and stipulate minimum thickness of 50 micron for plastic sheets also to facilitate collection and recycle of plastic waste,
- Expand the jurisdiction of applicability from the municipal area to rural areas, because plastic has reached rural areas also.
- To bring in the responsibilities of producers and generators, both in plastic waste management system and to introduce collect back system of plastic waste by the producers/brand owners, as per extended producers responsibility.

Reference:

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=138144>

<http://pibphoto.nic.in/documents/rlink/2016/mar/p201631802.pdf>

Real Estate Bill-2016

Question: When did the Real Estate (Regulation & Development) Bill, 2016 was passed in Rajya Sabha?

- (a) 10 March 2016
- (b) 11 March 2016
- (c) 8 March 2016
- (d) 5 March 2016

Ans (a)

Related facts:

- The Lok Sabha cleared the Real Estate (Regulation and Development) bill on 15 March 2016.
- Earlier the bill was passed by the Rajya Sabha on March 10, 2016.
- This Bill seeks to protect the interests of the large number of aspiring house buyers while at the same time enhancing the credibility of construction industry by promoting transparency, accountability and efficiency in execution of projects.
- The Bill also seeks to put in place an effective regulatory mechanism for orderly growth of the sector which is the second largest employer after agriculture.
- Over the years the sector has acquired a degree of notoriety which needs to be addressed to enable enhanced flow of investments, for which the Government has announced several incentives in the Budget for 2016-17 and earlier.
- A total of 76,044 companies are involved in real estate sector including 17,431 in Delhi only.
- The real estate sector contributed about 9% GDP between 2011 and 2015.
- New projects in the range of 2,349 to 4,488 were launched every year amounting to a total of 17,526 projects with investment value of Rs.13.70 lakh cr in 27 cities including 15 state capitals.
- According to industry information, about 10 lakh buyers invest every year to own a house of their own.
- The Minister M. Venkaiah Naidu said that the Real Estate Bill, 2016 enables the people meet their genuine aspirations of owning a house under Prime Minister's Awas Yojana.
- Government intends to enable construction of 2 crore houses by the year 2022 under Prime Minister's Awas Yojana (Urban).

Reference:

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=137710>

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=137670>

<http://www.prsindia.org/uploads/media/Real%20Estate/Hindi-%20Real%20Estate.pdf>

<http://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/politics-and-nation/cheer-for-home-buyers-after-rajya-sabha-real-estate-regulatory-bill-cleared-by-lok-sabha-as-well/articleshow/51412167.cms>



Bureau of Indian Standards Bill, 2016

Question: When did the Bureau of Indian Standards Bill, 2016 was passed by the Parliament?

- (a) 8 March 2016
- (b) 6 March 2016
- (c) 9 March 2016
- (d) 5 March 2016

Ans (a)

Related facts:

- On 8 March 2016 Indian Parliament passed the Bureau of Indian Standards Bill, 2016.
- The Bill was passed by Rajya Sabha on 8 March 2016 after getting the nod of Lok Sabha on 3rd December, 2015.
- It is a major step forward in ensuring high quality products and services in the country.
- Some of the salient features of the bill are:
 - The Bill empowers the Government to bring any article, process or service, which it considers necessary from point of view of health, safety, environment, prevention of deceptive practices, security etc, under the mandatory certification regime.
 - This will help consumers to get quality products and will also help in preventing import of sub-standard products;
 - In order to supplement ease of doing business by limiting unnecessary field inspections, the Bill has provisions for self-declaration of conformity of the Indian Standards for certain categories.
 - Simultaneously stringent penalty provisions have been made for violation of compliance to the standards.
 - Penalty includes imprisonment up to two years or with fine up to ten times of the value of goods produced or sold, or with both.
 - As per provisions of the bill, BIS can now order recall of products, not confirming to the standards, in addition to cancellation of the license of the manufacturer.
 - BIS can also order compensation to the consumers in case goods and services do not conform to the standards.
 - The Bill empowers the Government to implement mandatory hallmarking of precious metal articles such as Gold and Silver.
 - The Bill positions the Bureau of Indian Standards as the National Standards Body.
 - As the service sector in the country has grown and now become major part of the economy, so to ensure quality of key services such as health services, education services, now services and systems have also been included under the standardization regime in addition to articles and processes.



Reference:

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=137527>

http://www.business-standard.com/article/news-ani/parliament-clears-bureau-of-indian-standards-bill-2015-116030801430_1.html

<http://www.newkerala.com/news/2016/fullnews-32305.html>

Food Security Act Implemented in Uttar Pradesh

Question: On March 1, 2016 Uttar Pradesh government has implemented the Food Security Act - 2013 in the state. Under this Act five kg food grain, including wheat at a rate of Rs 2 per kg and rice at the rate of Rs 3 per kg, would be provided to every beneficiary. This will include-

- (a) 3 Kg Wheat and 2 Kg Rice
- (b) 4 Kg Wheat and 1 Kg Rice
- (c) 1 Kg Wheat and 1 Kg Rice
- (d) 2 Kg Wheat and 3 Kg Rice

Ans (a)

Related facts:

- On March 1, 2016 Uttar Pradesh government has implemented the Food Security Act - 2013 in the state. Under this Act five kg food grain, including wheat at a rate of Rs 2 per kg and rice at the rate of Rs 3 per kg, would be provided to every beneficiary.
- This will include 3 Kg Wheat and 2 Kg Rice.
- This should be known that food security act is already applicable in 28 districts of the state since January 1, 2016 now it has been extended to the entire state from, from March 1, 2016.
- It will benefit 79.56 per cent of rural households and 64 percent of urban households
- It may be highlighted that before implementation of the scheme, BPL beneficiaries were getting wheat at Rs five a kg and rice at Rs 7 per kg and APL card holders were getting wheat at Rs 7 per kg. In the past, under the BPL Antyodaya Anna Yojana.
- In order to make the targeted delivery system (1997) more effective, in December 2000 Antyodaya Anna Yojana was started.

Reference:

http://information.up.nic.in/View_engnews.aspx?id=892
<https://web.facebook.com/yadavakhilesh/photos/a.642613552428158.1073741830.641842819171898/1064089963613846/?type=3&theater>
<http://www.ptinews.com/news/7166519-Akhilesh-launches-National-Food-Security-Act-in-UP->
<http://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/politics-and-nation/akhilesh-yadav-launches-national-food-security-act-in-up/articleshow/51213635.cms>
http://www.business-standard.com/article/pti-stories/akhilesh-launches-national-food-security-act-in-up-116030101237_1.html



Year, Day & Week

World Theatre Day

Question: When did the World Theatre Day is celebrated?

- (a) 26 March
- (b) 27 March
- (c) 28 March
- (d) 23 March

Ans (b)

Related facts:

- On 27 March 2016 the World Theatre Day is celebrated globally.
- World Theatre Day was initiated in 1961 by the International Theatre Institute (ITI).
- This year the World Theatre Day Message 2016 was given by Anatoli Vassilie, a noted Russian theatre director and one of the leading European contemporary stage directors.
- Presently he is artistic director of the Moscow Theatre "School of Dramatic Arts", Théâtre de l'Europe, and professor of drama in Lyon, France.



Reference:

http://www.world-theatre-day.org/pdfs/WTD_Anatoli_Vassiliev_English.pdf

<http://indianexpress.com/article/entertainment/play/chandigarh-an-act-of-faith-on-world-theatre-day-audiences-can-look-forward-to-two-festivals/>

<http://iptanama.blogspot.in/2016/03/2016.html>

World Meteorological Day

Question: World Meteorological Day is celebrated on-

- (a) 24 March
- (b) 21 March
- (c) 23 March
- (d) 26 March

Ans (c)

Related facts:

- World Meteorological Day is celebrated on 23 March 2016.
- This year's theme is 'Hotter, drier, wetter-Face the Future'.

Reference:

<http://www.wmo.int/worldmetday/home#section-5>

<https://www.unisdr.org/we/inform/events/47347>

<http://www.wmo.int/documents/wmo2016calendlowres.pdf>



World TB Day

Question: World TB Day is observed on-

- (a) 23 March
- (b) 24 March
- (c) 26 March
- (d) 25 March

Ans (b)

Related facts:

- World Tuberculosis Day (WTD) 2016 is globally observed on 24 March 2016.
- The theme World Tuberculosis Day-2016 is "Unite to End Tuberculosis".
- In 2014, an estimated 1 million children became ill with TB and 140 000 children died.
- The day aims to build public awareness about the global epidemic of tuberculosis (TB) and efforts to eliminate the disease.
- According World Health Organisation (WHO), in 2014, 9.6 million people fell ill with TB and 1.5 million died from the disease.
- The World TB Day is annually celebrated on 24 March to commemorate the day on which Dr. Robert Koch discovered the cause of tuberculosis, the TB bacillus in 1882.
- Tuberculosis is an infectious bacterial disease caused by Mycobacterium tuberculosis.

Reference:

<http://www.who.int/campaigns/tb-day/2016/en/>

http://www.stoptb.org/events/world_tb_day/2016/

<http://www.who.int/mediacentre/news/statements/2016/tb-day/en/>



International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination

Question: When did the International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination is celebrated?

- (a) 22 March
- (b) 21 March
- (c) 23 March
- (d) 28 March

Ans (b)

Related facts:

- On 21 March 2016 International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination is celebrated all over the world.
- 2016 Theme is "Challenges and Achievements of the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action – 15 years after".
- The landmark document was adopted at the 2001 World Conference Against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance in Durban, South Africa.

Reference:

<http://www.un.org/en/events/racialdiscriminationday/>

<http://www.un.org/en/events/racialdiscriminationday/background.shtml>

<http://ohchr.org/EN/HRBodies/CERD/Pages/CERDIndex.aspx>



World Water Day

Question: When did the World Water Day is celebrated?

- (a) 22 April
- (b) 22 March
- (c) 28 April
- (d) 23 April

Ans (b)

Related facts:

- The World Water Day is celebrated on 22 March 2016.
- The main theme of this day is "Better Water, Better Jobs".
- An international day to celebrate freshwater was recommended at the 1992 United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED) in Rio de Janeiro.
- The United Nations General Assembly adopted resolution A/RES/47/193 of 22 December 1992 by which 22 March of each year was declared World Day for Water, to be observed starting in 1993.
- 22 March 1993 was celebrated as the first World Water Day.

Reference:

<http://www.unwater.org/worldwaterday/about/en/>

<http://www.un.org/en/events/waterday/>



International Day of Forests

Question: International Day of Forests is celebrated on-

- (a) 20 March
- (b) 21 March
- (c) 15 March
- (d) 23 March

Ans (b)

Related facts:

- International Day of Forests was observed on 21 March 2016 across the World.
- This global celebration of forests provides a platform to raise awareness of the importance of all types of forests and of trees outside forests.
- The theme of the 2016 International Day of Forests is "forests and water".
- The United Nations General Assembly adopted resolution A/RES/67/200 on 21 December 2012, which declared that 21 March of each year is to be observed as the International Day of Forests.

Reference:

<http://www.un.org/en/events/forestsday/>



World Poetry Day

Question: When did the World Poetry Day is celebrated?

- (a) 22 March
- (b) 24 March
- (c) 23 March
- (d) 21 March

Ans (d)

Related facts:

- World Poetry Day is celebrated on 21 March, 2016.
- One of the main objectives of the Day is to support linguistic diversity through poetic expression and to offer endangered languages the opportunity to be heard within their communities.
- The decision to proclaim 21 March as World Poetry Day was adopted during UNESCO's 30th session held in Paris in 1999.

Reference:

<http://www.un.org/en/events/poetryday/>



International Day of Happiness

Question: International Day of Happiness is celebrated on-

- (a) 19 March
- (b) 20 March
- (c) 21 March
- (d) 18 March

Ans (b)

Related facts:

- International Day of Happiness was observed on 20 March 2016 across the world.
- Since 2013, the United Nations has been celebrating the International Day of Happiness as a way to recognise the importance of happiness in the lives of people around the world.
- UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon appointed Red from the 'Angry Birds' as Honorary Ambassador for International Day of Happiness.

Reference:

<http://www.un.org/en/events/happinessday/>

<http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=53491#.VvJyhuJ97IW>



World Sparrow Day

Question: When did the World Sparrow Day is celebrated?

- (a) 15 March
- (b) 21 March
- (c) 23 March
- (d) 20 March

Ans (d)

Related facts:

- The World Sparrow Day was observed across the world on 20 March 2016.
- The day is celebrated to raise awareness of the house sparrow and other common birds to urban environments, and of threats to their populations.
- World Sparrow Day was first celebrated in 2010.

Reference:

<http://www.worldsparrowday.org/>



World Wildlife Day

Question: World Wildlife Day is celebrated on-

- (a) 2 March
- (b) 3 March
- (c) 5 March
- (d) 6 March

Ans (b)

Related facts:

- The World Wildlife Day was observed globally on 3 March 2016.
- The theme of 2016 is "The future of wildlife is in our hands", with African and Asian elephants being the main focus of global campaigns.
- On 20 December 2013, at its 68th session, the United Nations General Assembly decided to proclaim 3 March as UN World Wildlife Day to celebrate and raise awareness of the world's wild animals and plants.

Reference:

<http://www.un.org/en/events/wildlifeday/>

<http://www.wildlifeday.org/>



Earth Hour 2016

Question: In 2016, the global energy saving campaign 'Earth Hour' was celebrated on -

- (a) 18 March
- (b) 21 march
- (c) 19 March
- (d) 20 March

Ans (c)

Related facts:

- On 19 March 2016 tenth edition of the Earth Hour was observed globally from 8:30 pm to 9:30 pm local time.
- This year Earth Hour was celebrated in 178 countries on all seven continents of the earth, for which the 6600 program conducted by various organizations.
- The call for action for Earth Hour 2016 in India is ‘#GoSolar’ with a focus on rooftop solar.
- The event is held worldwide towards the end of March annually, encouraging individuals, communities’ households and businesses to turn off their non-essential lights for one hour as a symbol for their commitment to the planet.
- Earth Hour was famously started as a lights-off event in Sydney, Australia in 2007.

Reference:

<http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=53496#.VvFBHOJ97IV>

<https://www.earthhour.org/celebrating-earth-hour>

<https://www.earthhour.org/blog/earth-hour-2016-climate-action-across-borders>

<https://www.earthhour.org/EH2016-at-a-glance>

<https://www.earthhour.org/blog/earth-hour-2016-4-countries-shining-light-climate-action>



World Consumer Rights Day

Question: World Consumer Rights Day is celebrated on-

- (a) 14 March
- (b) 20 March
- (c) 15 march
- (d) 18 march

Ans (c)

Related facts:

- World Consumer Rights Day (WCRD) is celebrated all over the world on 15 March 2016.
- **The theme for World Consumer Rights Day 2016 is "antibiotics off the menu".**
- WCRD is celebrated to promote the basic rights of all consumers, for demanding that those rights are respected and protected, and for protesting the market abuses and social injustices which undermine them.
- It should be noted that every year in India 14 December is observed as "National Consumer Day".
- On the same day in 1986, "Consumer Protection Act" was enacted.

Reference:

<http://www.consumersinternational.org/our-work/wcrd/wcrd-2016/>

<https://docs.google.com/document/d/11gmRhRnjyMfYCRFI4imSg7dQAsOT3el26LR2bWepBf4/edit?pref=2&pli=1#>

<http://www.consumersinternational.org/our-work/wcrd/about-wcrd/>

<http://www.consumersinternational.org/news-and-media/news/2016/01/wcrd-2016-theme-announcement/>



World Kidney Day

Question: When did the 2016 World Kidney Day is celebrated?

- (a) 12 March
- (b) 10 March
- (c) 14 March
- (d) 15 march

Ans (b)

Related facts:

- World Kidney Day (WKD) is observed every year on the second Thursday in March.
- This year the day was observed on 10th March.
- The aim of the day is to raise awareness about the role played by kidneys in maintaining overall health and to reduce the frequency and impact of kidney disease and its associated health problems worldwide.
- This year the theme of the event is "Kidney Disease & Children: Act Early to Prevent It".

Reference:

http://www.nhp.gov.in/world-kidney-day_pg

<http://www.niddk.nih.gov/health-information/health-topics/kidney-disease/overview-of-kidney-disease-in-children/Pages/index.aspx>

<http://www.worldkidneyday.org/>

<http://www.worldkidneyday.org/2016-campaign/2016-wkd-theme/>



No smoking Day

Question: When did the No Smoking Day is observed every year in order to encourage people over the world to quit smoking?

- (a) On the first Sunday of March
- (b) On the second Wednesday of March
- (c) On the first Wednesday of March
- (d) On the second Sunday of March

Ans (b)

Related facts:

- No Smoking Day is observed every year on the second Wednesday of March, to encourage people over the world to quit smoking.
- This year No Smoking Day 2016 was observed on March 9.
- The main purpose of this day is to spread awareness about the harmful health effects of tobacco consumption through cigarette and other modes.

Reference:

http://www.nhp.gov.in/no-smoking-day_pg

<https://nosmokingday.org.uk/>

http://hi.nhp.gov.in/%E0%A7%E5%82%E0%AE%E0%A5%8D%E0%B0%E0%AA%E0%A4%BE%E0%A4%A8-%E0%A4%A8%E0%A4%BF%E0%A4%B7%E0%A5%87%E0%A4%A7-%E0%A4%A6%E0%A4%BF%E0%A4%B5%E0%A4%B8_pg



International Women's Day

Question: When did the International Women's Day is celebrated?

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

Ans (b)

Related facts:

- International Women's Day was observed across the world on 8 March 2016.
- The 2016 theme for International Women's Day is "Planet 50-50 by 2030: Step It Up for Gender Equality."

Reference:

<http://www2.unwomen.org/en/news/in-focus/international-womens-day>

<http://www.internationalwomensday.com/>

<http://www.un.org/en/events/womensday/>

<http://www.un.org/en/events/womensday/history.shtml>



National Security Day 2016

Question: National Security Day is celebrated on-

- (a) 5 March
- (b) 6 March
- (c) 4 March
- (d) 8 March

Ans (d)

Related facts:

- National Security Day was observed across India on 4 March 2016.
- The day is annually organised by the National Safety Council (NSC) to commemorate its establishment and enhance the safety awareness among people.
- Apart from this, to create awareness about safety, NSC will also celebrate National Security Week from 4 March to the 10 March 2016.
- The theme of the National Security Week is “Strengthen Safety Movement So Achieve Zero Harm”.

Reference:

http://www.nsc.org.in/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=76&Itemid=68

<http://www.nsc.org.in/images/stories/kudos/1455605813img3.pdf>

<http://www.nsc.org.in/images/stories/kudos/1446448335.pdf>

<http://www.india.com/news/india/national-security-day-2016-indians-to-pay-tribute-to-our-brave-soldiers-today-1004917/>

<http://bharatdiscovery.org/india/%E0%A4%B0%E0%A4%BE%E0%A4%B7%E0%A5%8D%E0%A4%9F%E0%A5%8D%E0%A4%B0%E0%A5%80%E0%A4%AF%E0%A4%B8%E0%A5%81%E0%A4%B0%E0%A4%95%E0%A5%8D%E0%A4%B7%E0%A4%BE%E0%A4%A6%E0%A4%BF%E0%A4%B5%E0%A4%B8>



Miscellaneous

Formal Unveiling of India's BRICS Logo

Question: Where did the 8th BRICS Summit will be hosted on 15-16 October 2016?

- (a) New Delhi
- (b) Jaipur
- (c) Ahmedabad
- (d) Goa

Ans (d)



Related facts:

- On 22 March 2016 External Affairs Minister, Sushma Swaraj Formally Unveiled India's BRICS Logo and Launched BRICS Website in New Delhi.
- The 8th BRICS Summit will be hosted in Goa on 15-16 October 2016.
- It may be noted that India has assumed BRICS Chairmanship from the Russian Federation for the year 2016.
- 7th BRICS Summit was held in the beautiful city of Ufa, Russia in July 2015.
- The BRICS Lotus Painted in BRICS country's colors and symbolizing India's national flower is designed by Sudeep Gandhi.
- It encompasses the BRICS spirit and will grace all our events through the year.
- During BRICS Chairmanship, well over fifty sectoral meetings will be organized at the Ministerial, official, technical, and track II levels.
- India's core-theme for the BRICS Chairmanship is - Building Responsive, Inclusive and Collective Solutions (BRICS).

Reference:

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=138237>
<https://twitter.com/MEAIndia/status/712154943033987072>
<http://brics2016.gov.in/8summit.html>

FINA Diving World Cup-2016

Question: FINA Diving World Cup-2016 was organised in-

- (a) Brazil
- (b) England
- (c) China
- (d) Spain

Ans (a)

Related facts:



- The 2016 FINA Diving World Cup was held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, from February 19 to February 24, 2016.
- China top the medal tally with total 10 medals including 6 Gold and 4 Silver medals.
- Top 5 medal winners country are:

Rank	Nation	Gold	Silver	Bronze	Total
1	China	6	4	0	10
2	Germany	1	1	0	2
3	Mexico	1	0	1	2
4	Canada	0	1	1	2
5	Malaysia	0	1	0	1

Reference:

<http://www.fina.org/content/fina-diving-world-cup-2016>

<http://www.aquecerio.com/en/diving/http://www.fina.org/event/fina-diving-world-cup-2016/results>

Hydrocarbon Exploration and Licensing Policy (HELP)

Question: When did the Union Cabinet has approved the Hydrocarbon Exploration and Licensing Policy (HELP)?

- (a) 8 March 2016
- (b) 9 March 2016
- (c) 10 March 2016
- (d) 5 march 2016

Ans (c)

Related facts:

- On 10 March 2016 Union Cabinet, chaired by the Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, has approved the Hydrocarbon Exploration and Licensing Policy (HELP).



Following are the main points of this policy:

- Uniform license for exploration and production of all forms of hydrocarbon,
- An open acreage policy,
- Easy to administer revenue sharing model and
- Marketing and pricing freedom for the crude oil and natural gas produced.
- The above decision will enhance domestic oil & gas production, bring substantial investment in the sector and generate sizable employment.
- The policy is also aimed at enhancing transparency and reducing administrative discretion.
- The uniform license will enable the contractor to explore conventional as well as unconventional oil and gas resources including CBM, shale gas/oil, tight gas and gas hydrates under a single license.

Reference:

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=137638>

http://www.moneycontrol.com/news/business/govt-clears-new-hydrocarbon-explorationlicensing-policy_5835341.html

Indian Railways appoints consultant to Harness advertising potential

Question: Name the firm which has been appointed as a consultant by the Indian Railway to harness the advertising potential of trains and railway stations?

- (a) TCS
- (b) Tech Mahindra
- (c) Wipro
- (d) Ernst & Young (EY)



Ans (d)

Related facts:

- On 8 March 2016 Indian Railway appointed Ernst & Young (EY) as a consultant to harness the advertising potential of trains and railway stations.
- EY is a global leader in its Assurance, Tax, Transaction and Advisory services.
- Ernst & Young is a multinational professional services firm, Its headquarter is in London, United Kingdom.
- This is the first time in the country that a large-scale project to identify and leverage pan-India advertising opportunities has been initiated.
- This move aims to enhance revenue through non-fare box route.
- EY will identify assets and pricing strategy across 7000 stations for the purpose of advertising.
- Initial estimates have indicated an advertising potential on Railways in excess of Rs. 5000/- Crores over the next few years.
- It will help in creating a neutral assessment on the return of investments by advertisers in this medium.
- It will also help in developing packages meeting specific demographic and geographic needs ensuring ease of business to advertisers and increased transparency and accountability.

Reference:

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=137427>

<http://www.thehindu.com/todays-paper/tp-business/railways-appoints-ey-to-mop-up-rs-5000-crore-ad-revenue/article8328761.ece>

<http://www.railnews.co.in/ernst-young-appointed-as-consultant-to-tap-advertising-potential-of-indian-railways/>

Seismic Microzonation reports for Delhi and Kolkata

Question: On 22 February 2016 the Union Minister for Science & Technology and Earth Sciences Dr. Harsh Vardhan released Seismic microzonation reports for which of the following cities?

- (a) Delhi
- (b) Kolkata
- (c) Mumbai
- (d) Both (a) and (d)

Ans (d)

Related facts:



- On 22 February 2016 the Union Minister for Science & Technology and Earth Sciences Dr. Harsh Vardhan released Seismic microzonation reports for Delhi and Kolkata in New Delhi.
- Seismic microzonation is a process of identifying such related geological, seismological, hydrological and geotechnical site characteristics in a specific region.
- These would help design of safe structures to reduce loss of human life.
- For this the Earthquake Risk Evaluation Center (under the IMD), now merged with National Centre for Seismology, Ministry of Earth Sciences.
- National Capital Territory (NCT) Delhi is located in Seismic zone IV and Kolkata is placed at the border of Seismic Zone III and IV of the macro seismic zoning map of the country.

Reference:

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=136632>

<http://www.uniindia.com/vardhan-releases-seismic-microzonation-reports-for-delhi-kolkata/india/news/390725.html>