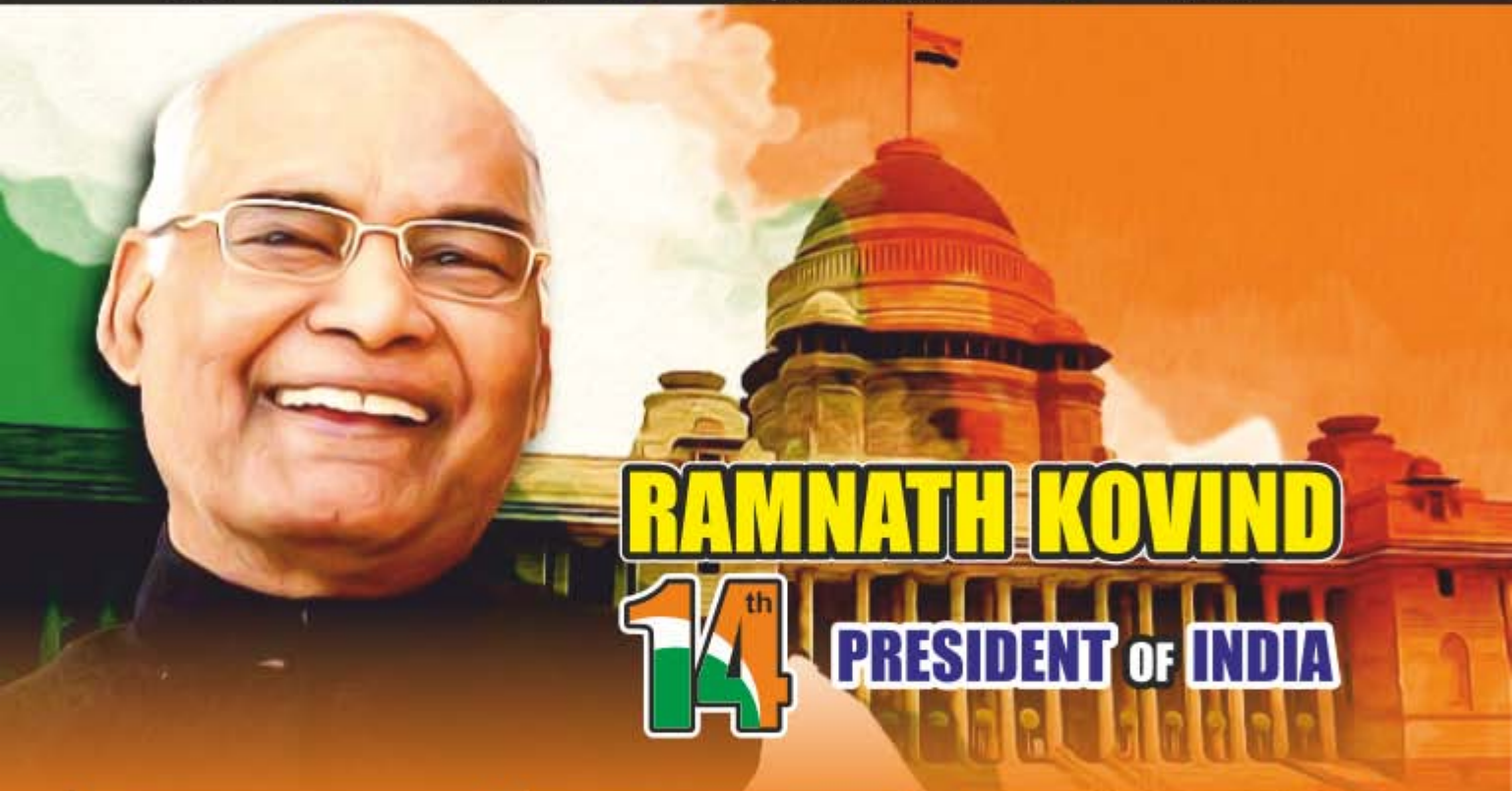


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# NAVATRA

Monthly Magazine on Current Events

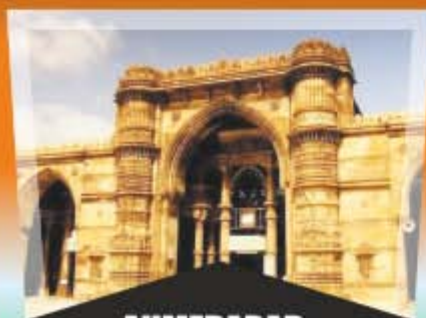
Year - 1 >>> Vol. - 2 >>> Sepetember, 2017 >>> ₹ 50.00



**RAMNATH KOVIND**

**14<sup>th</sup>**

**PRESIDENT of INDIA**



**AHMEDABAD :**  
**INDIA'S First World**  
**HERITAGE CITY**



**PRIME MINISTER'S**  
**VISIT TO**  
**ISRAEL**



**UTTAR PRADESH**  
**BUDGET**  
**2017-18**

## Preface

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

Firstly, 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 the 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 on the website.

I have a plan to publish a monthly PDF on the 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 a place in the PDFs. The necessity of this is to ensure the content's factual authenticity.

Reader's satisfaction is our utmost priority so requesting you to provide your valuable feedback to us. We warmly welcome your appreciation/criticism given to us. It will surely show us the right direction to improve the content's quality. Hopefully, the current affairs PDF (from 1st July to 31st July) will benefit our beloved readers.

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

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## NATIONAL

### Ramnath Kovind elected as the new President of India

**Question: Consider the following facts related to the President of India:**

- (i) All doubts and disputes arising out of the Presidential election will be investigated and decided by the Election Commission.**
- (ii) On the nomination papers of the Presidential candidates, there must be at least 50 members of the electoral board and as signatories and at least 50 members as the proposers.**
- (iii) The President's electoral board consists of an elected and nominated members of the Lok Sabha, Rajya Sabha and State Legislative Assemblies.**
- (iv) The President is elected by single transferable vote according to the proportional representation method.**

**Which of the above statements is/are correct?**

- (a) Only (ii) and (iv) (b) Only (i) and (iv)
- (c) Only (i), (ii) and (iii) (d) Only (iv)

**Ans: (a)**

**Related facts:**

- On July 20, 2017, the results of India's 15th Presidential election were announced.
- National Democratic Alliance (NDA) candidate and former Bihar Governor Ramnath Kovind was elected as the 14th President of the country by getting 65.65 percent (702044) votes.
- He defeated United Progressive Alliance (UPA) candidate Meera Kumar, who has got around 34.35 percent (367,314) votes.
- On 25<sup>th</sup> July, 2017 Ramnath Kovind was administered the oath of office and secrecy by the Chief Justice of India (CJI), Justice J.S. Khehar.
- Ramnath Kovind succeeded Pranab Mukherjee whose tenure ends on July 24, 2017.
- Ramnath Kovind was born in Paroukh village of Kanpur Dehat district of Uttar Pradesh in 1945.
- He practised law in Delhi High Court and Supreme Court for 16 years.
- He was a Rajya Sabha member from 1994-2006.
- Apart from this, he was the President of Bhartiya Janata Party's Dalit Morcha from 1998 to 2002.
- He served as the Governor of Bihar from 8th August, 2015 to 20th June, 2017.
- According to article 52 of Indian Constitution, there shall be a President of India. Under Article 53 (1) The executive power of the Union shall be vested in the President and shall be exercised by him either directly or through officers subordinate to him in accordance with the Constitution. According to Article 77 (1), All executive action of the Government of India shall be expressed to be taken in the name of the President.
- Under Article 53 (2), the supreme command of the Defence Forces of the Union shall be vested in the President and the exercise thereof shall be regulated by law.
- Thus, the head of state of the Republic of India is the President.
- Notification of 15th Presidential election for the election of India's 14th President was released on June 14, 2017.



- Anup Mishra, the general secretary of the Lok Sabha, was appointed the Returning Officer for this election by the Election Commission.
- Polling for the election was held on July 17, 2017.
- According to Article 55 (3) of the Constitution, the election of the President shall be held in accordance with the system of proportional representation by means of the single transferable vote and the voting at such election shall be by secret ballot.
- Under Article 54, The President shall be elected by the members of an electoral college consisting of the elected members of both houses of Parliament and the elected members of the Legislative Assemblies of the States. Elected members of both the Houses of Parliament,
- Elected members of the State Legislatures (including the Legislative Assemblies of National Capital Region of Delhi and Puducherry).
- Nominated members of the Lok Sabha, Rajya Sabha and State Legislative Assemblies are not included on the electoral board of the Presidential Election.
- By the 70th Constitution Amendment, 1992 members of the two Union Territories NCR, Delhi and Puducherry, were inducted in the electoral college of the President.
- Under Article 324 of the Constitution, the superintendence, direction and control of the elections, and of elections to the offices of President and Vice President candidates is also vested in the Election Commission of India, along with the Parliament and each State Legislature.
- On the nomination papers of the Presidential candidate, there must be at least 50 members of the electoral board as signatories and at least 50 members as the proposers.
- Under Article 58 (1), a person will be eligible to be elected president only when he is
  - (i) a citizen of India,
  - (ii) 35 years of age,
  - (iii) Eligible to be elected as a member of Lok Sabha.
- Article 58 (2)- It is prescribed that a person who holds a post of profit under the control of either the Government of India or any state government or under any local or other authority under any of the said governments, will not be eligible to be elected as a President.
- However, for the purposes of Article 58, a person shall not be deemed to hold any office of profit for this reason only because he is the President of the Union or the Vice President or the Governor of any State or minister of the Union or any State.
- According to Article 71 (1) of the Constitution, all doubts and disputes arising out of the election of the President or Vice President will be investigated and decided by the Supreme Court and its decision will be final.
- Among the former Presidents of India, Dr. Rajendra Prasad was the only person who was elected twice in the year 1952 and 1957.
- While N. Sanjeev Reddy was the only person to be elected unanimously (the year 1977) for this post.

**Related Links:**

[http://eci.nic.in/eci\\_main1/current/Result\\_20072017.pdf](http://eci.nic.in/eci_main1/current/Result_20072017.pdf)

## India's first city in UNESCO World Heritage List

**Question: On June 8, 2017, UNESCO's World Heritage Committee on Global Heritages recognized which city as India's first global heritage?**

(a) Rajkot (b) Ahmedabad (c) Jodhpur (d) Varanasi

**Ans: (b)**

**Related facts:**

- 3 New World Destinations were included in UNESCO's 'World Heritage List' in the 41st meeting of 'World Heritage Committee' of UNESCO, held in Krakow, Poland from 9-12 July, 2017.
- Ahmedabad city was recognized as the first global heritage city of India in cultural category.
- Ahmedabad has become the first Indian city and third from Asia to join this list.
- Significantly, UNESCO has declared many historical buildings of India as a World Heritage Sites, but this is the first time that any Indian city has been declared as World Heritage Site.
- Ahmedabad was chosen unanimously as a symbol of secular coexistence of Hindu, Islamic and Jain communities for hundreds of years.
- The Walled City Ahmedabad was established in the 15th century by the Sultan Ahmad Shah on the eastern coast of Sabarmati River.
- Importantly, Nalanda Mahavihar Archaeological Site (Nalanda University), Capital Complex in Chandigarh and National Forest Reserve of Sikkim were included in World Heritage List in the 40th meeting of UNESCO's World Heritage Committee.
- Presently, 36 sites in India have been included in the World Heritage List, 28 of them are in Cultural Classes, 7 in Natural Category and 1 has got the place in the mixed category.
- India is at the second place after China and at the seventh place in the world in terms of world heritage properties.



**Related Links:**

<https://twitter.com/RuchiraKamboj/status/883717079572115456>

## Uttar Pradesh budget 2017-18

**Question: On July 11, 2017, Uttar Pradesh Finance Minister Rajesh Agrawal presented the budget for the financial year 2017-18. Year-2017 is proposed to be celebrated in the state as ....**

(a) Garib Kalyan Varsh (b) Mahila Kalyan Varsh

(c) Kisan Kalyan Varsh (d) Yuva Kalyan Varsh

**Ans: (a)**

**Related facts:**

- On July 11, 2017, Uttar Pradesh Finance Minister Rajesh Agrawal presented the budget for the financial year 2017-18.
- The proposed budget of Uttar Pradesh for 2017-18 for Rs.
- 3,84,659.71 crore is 10.9 per cent higher than last financial year.
- The new budget provides Rs 55,781.96 crore for new schemes.
- On the occasion of Pandit Deen Dayal Upadhyay's birth centenary, the year 2017 will be celebrated by the Uttar Pradesh Government as 'Garib Kalyan Varsh'.



- Stopping fiscal deficit in the budget, 36 thousand crore rupees have been made for crop loan redemption without paying any additional tax.
- State's indebtedness has been improved. At present, this is 28.6% of the State's gross domestic product, while the indebtedness in the last financial year was approximately 30%.
- Rs. 288 crore for Metro Rail Projects in Kanpur, Varanasi, Agra and Gorakhpur have been proposed along with further development of Lucknow Metro to make a world class modern transport system available to the public in the state.
- The provision of Rs. 10 crore has been made while offering Vishwakarma Shram Samman Yojana to assist traditional self-employed people.
- Grant of Rs 10 crore has been proposed for Pandit Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Kisan Samridhi Yojana, in order to improve the rugged, barren and waterlogged lands in rural areas, treatment of allotted land to agricultural labourers and to provide them with a livelihood.
- A budget of Rs. 250 crore has been arranged for the marriage of daughters of poor parents of weaker section of the society.
- An amount of Rs. 10 crore has been allotted in the budget for the University of Agriculture and Technology Kanpur, Faizabad, Meerut, Banda and for the establishment of Center of Excellence for Research.
- Rs. 3972 crore has been allotted for the maintenance of roads of the state and making it free from potholes, under the Special Area Program, Rs. 300 crore for Bundelkhand and Rs. 200 crore has been made for new schemes of development.
- Rs. 300 crore under Pandit Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Nagar Vikas Yojana; Rs. 385 crore under Chief Minister Urban Development and Slum Development Plan, Rs. 3000 crore Prime Minister Housing Scheme – Housing for all (Urban Mission) and a provision of Rs. 218 crore 75 lacs has been made for Pandit Deen Dayal Antyodaya Yojana National Urban Livelihood Mission.
- Rs. 21 crore 12 lacs have been provided for all girls under Ahilyabai Free Education Scheme for education till the graduate level. Rs. 142 crore has been allotted for pre middle-scholarship scheme of backward class students (boys and girls) Rs. 1061.32 crore for post-middle scholarship and reimbursement of the fee.
- While the provision of Rs. 941.83 crore has been made for scholarship scheme and for reimbursement of the fee for the students of the minority community.
- A provision of Rs. 50 crore has also been made for the convenience of Wi-Fi in all the states and private colleges and Universities.
- Under the Swadesh Darshan Scheme, a provision of Rs. 1240 crore has been made for Ayodhya, Varanasi and Mathura respectively for Ramayana, Buddhist and Krishna Circuit Schemes.
- Under the Prasad Scheme, a provision of Rs. 800 crore has been made for the development of infrastructure facilities in Ayodhya, Varanasi and Mathura cities and Rs. 200 crore has been allotted for the establishment of a cultural centre in Varanasi.
- Rs. 500 crore for Ardhkumbh Fair 2019 which will be organised in Allahabad, Rs. 20 crore has been allotted for the construction of Kailash Mansarovar building in Ghaziabad. Rs. 25 crore has been allotted for the development of water sports in Ramgarh Pond Gorakhpur, Rs. 10 crore for Vindhyachal Tourism Development and Rs. 5 crore for the development of Mathura's Nagla Chandrabhan under Rural Tourism as well as a



proposal of Rs. 3 crore for organizing the Ramayana Conclave has been done in the budget.

- Rs. 2000 crore for development of infrastructure facilities in 61 cities, under the Amrut Yojana, Rs.1500 crore under Smart City Mission, Rs.1000 crore for Swachha Bharat Mission (urban) Scheme, Rs.240 crore under Namami Gange Scheme and for Lake Protection Scheme a provision of Rs. 70 crore has been made.

**Related Links:**

[http://information.up.nic.in/View\\_Hindinews.aspx?id=424](http://information.up.nic.in/View_Hindinews.aspx?id=424)

## Prime Minister Narendra Modi's historic Israel visit

**Question: When did India establish diplomatic relations with Israel?**

- a) 1992
- b) 1956
- c) 1948
- d) 1985

**Ans: (a)**



- The Prime Minister of India Mr. Narendra Modi was on a historic visit to Israel from July 4-6, 2017.
- This was the first visit by an Indian Prime Minister to Israel.
- Prime Minister of Israel Mr. Benjamin Netanyahu while according a warm welcome to Mr. Modi described the India-Israel relationship as a marriage made in heaven, but implemented on Earth.
- On July 4, 2017, Prime Minister Modi visit the Yad Vashem Memorial Museum to honour the memory of the victims of the holocaust that counts among the greatest tragedies in human history.
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi held bilateral talks with his Israeli counterpart Benjamin Netanyahu on July 5, 2017.
- On this occasion India and Israel signed 7 MoUs to strengthen bilateral ties in wide ranging areas.
- MoU between the Department of Science & Technology, India and National Technological Innovation Authority, Israel for setting up of India-Israel Industrial R&D and Technological Innovation Fund (I4F).
- MoU between the Ministry of Drinking Water and Sanitation of the Republic of India and the Ministry of National Infrastructure, Energy and Water Resources of the State of Israel on National Campaign for Water Conservation in India
- MoU between U.P. Jal Nigam, Government of Uttar Pradesh, of the Republic of India and the Ministry of National Infrastructure, Energy and Water Resources of the State of Israel on State Water Utility Reform in India
- India-Israel Development Cooperation - Three Year Work Program in Agriculture 2018-2020
- Plan of Cooperation Between the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) and the Israel Space Agency (ISA) regarding cooperation in Atomic Clocks
- MoU between the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) and the Israel Space Agency (ISA) regarding cooperation in GEO-LEO Optical Link

- MoU between the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) and the Israel Space Agency (ISA) regarding cooperation in Electric Propulsion for Small Satellites
- On July 6, 2017, Prime Minister Modi addressed the Indian diaspora in Tel Aviv.
- Prime Minister also paid homage to the courageous Indian soldiers who laid down their lives during the liberation of Haifa in 1918.
- Recognizing its centrality for development, India and Israel agreed to establish a "Strategic Partnership in Water and Agriculture". This will focus on water conservation, waste-water treatment and its reuse for agriculture, desalination, water utility reforms, and the cleaning of the Ganges and other rivers using advanced water technologies.
- The two Prime Ministers welcomed the conclusion of the Memorandum of Understanding for establishing the India-Israel Industrial R&D and Innovation Fund (I4F) by the Department of Science and Technology, India and the National Authority for Technological Innovation, Israel with a contribution of US\$ 20 million from each side.
- This MoU will play a seminal role in enabling Indian and Israeli enterprises to undertake joint R&D projects leading to development of innovative technologies and products that have potential for commercial application.
- Reaffirming the importance of bilateral defence cooperation over the years, it was agreed that future developments in this sphere should focus on joint development of defence products, including transfer of technology from Israel, with a special emphasis on the 'Make in India' initiative.
- The two Prime Ministers reiterated their strong commitment to combat terrorism in all its forms and manifestations.
- Notably, India established diplomatic relations with Israel in 1992 and since then the relationship has evolved into a multi-dimensional partnership.
- This year both the countries are commemorating 25 years of diplomatic relations and the visit of P.M. provided an impetus for deeper bilateral engagement in areas of mutual interest
- Prior to Prime Minister's visit, President of India Mr. Pranab Mukherjee visited Israel and Palestine in 2015.

#### Reference:

<http://mea.gov.in/outgoing-visit-info.htm?2/977/Visit+of+Prime+Minister+to+Israel+July+46+2017>  
[http://www.pmindia.gov.in/en/news\\_updates/pms-upcoming-visit-to-israel-and-germany/?comment=disable](http://www.pmindia.gov.in/en/news_updates/pms-upcoming-visit-to-israel-and-germany/?comment=disable)  
[http://www.pmindia.gov.in/en/news\\_updates/pms-press-statement-during-his-visit-to-israel/?comment=disable](http://www.pmindia.gov.in/en/news_updates/pms-press-statement-during-his-visit-to-israel/?comment=disable)  
[http://mea.gov.in/bilateral-documents.htm?dtl/28592/List of MoUs Agreements signed during the visit of Prime Minister to Israel July 5 2017](http://mea.gov.in/bilateral-documents.htm?dtl/28592/List+of+MoUs+Agreements+signed+during+the+visit+of+Prime+Minister+to+Israel+July+5+2017)  
[http://mea.gov.in/bilateral-documents.htm?dtl/28593/India Israel Joint Statement during the visit of Prime Minister to Israel July 5 2017](http://mea.gov.in/bilateral-documents.htm?dtl/28593/India+Israel+Joint+Statement+during+the+visit+of+Prime+Minister+to+Israel+July+5+2017)

## The Admiralty (Jurisdiction and Settlement of Maritime Claims) Bill, 2017

**Question: Recently the Admiralty (Jurisdiction and Settlement of Maritime Claims) Bill, 2017 was passed unanimously by.....**

- (a) Rajya Sabha (b) Lok Sabha (c) Both (a & b)  
 (d) Legislative Assembly of Uttar Pradesh



**Answer: (a)**

**Related facts:**

- On July 24, 2017, the Admiralty (Jurisdiction and Settlement of Maritime Claims) Bill, 2017 has been passed unanimously by Rajya Sabha.
- The Bill aims to establish a legal framework for consolidation of related laws to replace the age old archaic laws with modern Indian legislation and to confer admiralty jurisdiction on all High Courts of the coastal states of the country. The bill was earlier passed by the Lok Sabha in March, 2017.
- The bill when enacted will repeal five different Admiralty Acts which are 126 to 177 years old.
- The Bill provides for prioritization of maritime claims and maritime liens while providing protection to owners, charterers, operators, crew members and seafarers at the same time.
- As per the new Bill, High Courts of all the coastal states shall exercise admiralty jurisdiction over maritime claims which include several aspects not limited to goods imported, but also other claims such as payment of wages of seamen, loss of life, salvages, mortgage, loss or damage, services and repairs, insurance, ownership and lien, threat of damage to environment etc.
- The Bill accords the highest priority to payment of wages of the seafarers. The Bill also provides for protection against wrongful and unjustified arrest and has provision for transfer of cases from one High Court to other High Court.

**Reference:**

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=168943>

## 4th National Summit on Good, Replicable Practices and Innovations in Public Health Care Systems

**Question: 4<sup>th</sup> National Summit on Good, Replicable Practices and Innovations in Public Health Care Systems was organized from July 6-8, 2017 in-**

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

**Answer: (b)**

**Related facts:**

- The 4<sup>th</sup> National Summit on Good, Replicable Practices and Innovations in Public Health Care Systems was organized at Indore, Madhya Pradesh from July 6 -8, 2017.
- It was organized by National Health Mission, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Government of India and National Health Mission, Madhya Pradesh.
- The representatives of all the states and Union Territories of India participated in this conference.
- The Health Ministry awarded various States and Union Territories on the basis of Health Indicators and Service Delivery.
- The award for the best performing states in the category of indoor services (based on the change of IPD/1000 population from 2015-16 to 2016-17-HMIS) was given to Andhra Pradesh, Rajasthan and Gujarat respectively and Daman and Diu got the award amongst the Union Territories.



- For the best out-patient services, the award was given to Gujarat, Punjab and Jharkhand respectively whereas Dadra and Nagar Haveli got the award amongst the Union Territories.
- For average out of pocket expenditure per delivery in public health facility, the award was given to Madhya Pradesh, Jharkhand and Chhattisgarh respectively. This award was given to Dadra and Nagar Haveli amongst the Union Territories.
- The award for the decline in IMR (Infant Mortality Rate) was given to Jammu and Kashmir and West Bengal amongst the bigger states while Manipur received it amongst the smaller states and Puducherry received it amongst the UTs.
- Best Performance in Revised National TB Control Programme was given to Assam and Himachal Pradesh respectively.
- Apart from this, *Kayakalp Awards* of Madhya Pradesh, 2017 were also given in the program.
- The first prize was given to Bhind and Tikamgarh, the second to Satna and Shivpuri and the third to Khandwa.

**Reference:**

<http://www.starsamachar.com/Article/cms00021668-bhind-tikamgarh-gets-madhya-pradesh-kya-kalp-first-prize>

## Customer Satisfaction Index -2017

**Question: Which airport was ranked first in the Customer Satisfaction Index Survey - 2017?**

- (a) Jaiprakash Narayan Airport, Patna (b) Jollygrant Airport, Dehradun  
(c) Virsa Munda Airport, Ranchi (d) Swami Vivekananda Airport, Raipur



**Ans: (d)**

**Related facts:**

- On July 14, 2017, an independent agency formed by the Airports Authority of India (AAI), released the Customer Satisfaction Index-2017.
- The survey ranked 49 airports of the country in terms of customer satisfaction for the period of January to June, 2017.
- Swami Vivekananda Airport, Raipur has once again got the first place in Customer Satisfaction Index Survey with a score of 4.84 points on a five-point scale.
- Raipur Airport has achieved the top position in customer satisfaction for the third consecutive time in the last two years. It was inaugurated in the year 2012.
- After this, Udaipur Airport remained at the second position with 4.75 points, Amritsar Airport at third with 4.74 points and Dehradun Airport at fourth with 4.73 points.
- In this, many criteria like transport, parking, passenger amenities and sanitation were included.

**Related Links:**

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=167432>

## 8th Theatre Olympics

**Question: Which of the following countries will host the 8th Theatre Olympics?**

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

**Ans: (b)**

**Related facts:**

- On July 12, 2017, the Minister of State for Culture and the Environment (Independent Charge) Dr. Mahesh Sharma announced that India will host the 8th Theatre Olympics-the biggest theatre celebration of the world from February 17 – April 08, 2018.
- The Theatre Olympics is the foremost international theatre festival, presenting the finest productions of well-known theatre practitioners from around the world.
- This is the first time the Theatre Olympics is going to be held in India. It will be organised by National School of Drama (NSD), under the aegis of Ministry of Culture. The biggest celebration of theatre in the world will take place from February, 2017 up to April 08, 2018 in 15 cities across India.
- Its inaugural ceremony will take place in New Delhi while the closing ceremony will take place in Mumbai. This theatre carnival is a showcase of 500 plays and 700 ambiances of the world.
- It is notable that the Theatre Olympics was established in Delphi, Greece, in the year 1993 as the first international theatre festival.
- The first country to host the Theatre Olympics was Greece in 1995.
- The 7th Theatre Olympics was organised in 2016 in Wroclaw, Poland.

**Related Links:**

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=167377>



## India declares itself free from Avian Influenza

**Question- The Government of India declared the country free from avian influenza on ...**

(A) June 5, 2017 (B) June 6, 2017 (C) June 15, 2017 (D) July 6, 2017

**Ans: (b)**

**Related facts:**

- On June 6, 2017, India declared itself free from Avian Influenza (H5N8 and H5N1) from 6th June, 2017 and notified the same to OIE.
- India has reported the outbreaks of Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza at various epicentres in Delhi, Gwalior (MP), Rajpura (Punjab), Hissar (Haryana), Bellary (Karnataka), Alappuzha and Kottayam (Kerala), Ahmedabad (Gujarat), Daman (Daman) and Khordha and Angul (Odisha) during October, 2016 to February, 2017.
- In this context, the OIE-World Organization for Animal Health was notified by the Government of India and operations were conducted to control and prevent as per the action plan for its prevention.
- Avian Influenza refers to the disease caused by infection with avian (bird) influenza (flu) Type A viruses. These viruses occur naturally amongst wild aquatic birds worldwide and can infect domestic poultry and other bird and animal species.

**Related Links:**

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=167184>



## First DEMU Train with solar-powered coaches

**Question: What does 'DEMU' stands for?**

- (a) Driving Electronic Machine Unit (b) Diesel Electric Multiple Unit  
(c) Designed Electric Multiple Unit (d) None of the above

**Ans: (b)**

**Related Fact :**

- On July 14, 2017, Minister of Railways, Suresh Prabhakar Prabhu inducts the first 1600 HP DEMU train with solar-powered coaches with a unique facility of Battery Bank into the service of the nation.
- This train has been manufactured by 'Integral Coach Factory' (ICF), Chennai and its solar panels and solar systems have been developed and fitted by ' Indian Railways Organisation of Alternative Fuel' (IROAF), Delhi.
- This first rake has been commissioned and based at Shakurbasti DEMU shed in Delhi of Northern Railway and will be put in the commercial service over the suburban railway system of Delhi division of Northern Railway.
- Twenty-four more coaches will be fitted with this system within the next 6 month.
- The entire electrical need of the coaches for lighting, fans and information display system will be met from the solar energy produced from the solar panels fitted on the roofs of the coaches.
- IROAF has developed this system with a smart MPPT inverter which optimises power generation on a moving train to cater the full load even during the night.
- The system will help in reducing diesel consumption and to lessen carbon signature of these commuter trains by reducing CO<sub>2</sub> generation by 9 Tonnes per coach per year.
- A solar power DEMU train with six trailer coaches will save about 21,000 Litres of Diesel and thereby bring cost saving of Rs.12 lacs every year.
- Notably, Indian Railways has set a target of 1000 MW Solar Plants in the next five years. Indian Railways is also taking several other environment-friendly measures like Tea Plantation, Bio-toilet, Water-Recycling, Waste Disposal, using Bio-fuel CNG and LNG, Wind Energy, etc.
- Northern Railway launched the first DEMU service on Indian Railways in 1994. Today, NR has 3 DEMU sheds having the highest DEMU holding on Indian Railways. Shakurbasti DEMU shed of Northern Railway has been a pioneer in the field of green-powered DEMUs – CNG & solar-powered.

**Reference:**

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=167422>



## INTERNATIONAL

### Ukraine to seek NATO membership

**Question: The President of Ukraine recently signed the charter for NATO membership.**

**Who amongst the following is the President of Ukraine?**

- (a) Joko Widodo (b) Petro Poroshenko (c) Mars Rivelin  
(d) Dmitry Medvedev





**Answer: (b)**

**Related facts:**

- On July 7, 2017 Ukrainian President Petro Poroshenko confirmed that he has signed the law on the resumption of Ukraine's course towards joining the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO).
- If Ukraine succeeds in joining NATO, it will become the 30th country in the Alliance.
- NATO is an intergovernmental military alliance formed on April 4, 1949.
- NATO's purpose is to guarantee the freedom and security of its members through the political and military means.
- The principle of collective defence, as enshrined in Article 5 of the Washington Treaty, is at the very heart of NATO's founding treaty.
- Collective defence means that an attack against one Ally is to be considered as an attack against all Allies.
- The headquarter of the organisation is in Brussels, Belgium.
- Currently, Jens Stoltenberg is the general secretary of the organisation.

**Reference:**

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2017/07/10/ukraine-seek-nato-membership-alliance-sends-kiev-equipment-fight/>

## Global Cybersecurity Index(GCI)-2017

**Question: What position has India got in the Global Cyber Security Index-2017, released by the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) recently?**

(A) 22<sup>nd</sup> (B) 23<sup>rd</sup> (C) 32<sup>nd</sup> (D) 35<sup>th</sup>

**Ans: (b)**

**Related facts:**

- On 6 July, 2017, the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) has released the second edition of the Global Cyber Security Index(GCI).
- Earlier, the first edition of this index was released in the year 2014.
- Global Cyber Security Index-2017 has ranked 193 countries of the world.
- In relation to which 134 countries answered in ITU's online survey.
- Singapore has got the top position in this index.
- After this, the US, Malaysia, Oman, Estonia, Mauritius, Australia, Georgia, France, Canada, and Russia have been ranked second, third, fourth, fifth, sixth, seventh, eighth, ninth, tenth, and eleventh place respectively.
- The countries that get the lowest five positions in the index are -164 Equatorial Guinea, 163 Yemen, and Central African Republic (jointly), 162 Dominica, 161 Guinea-Bissau, Somalia, Timor Leste, Tuvalu (jointly).
- India has been ranked 23rd in the index.
- In the year 2014, jointly India was at the fifth place with the other countries.
- In this index, amongst the neighbouring countries of India, China ranked 32nd, Bangladesh 53rd, Pakistan 66th, Sri Lanka 71st, Nepal 93rd and Bhutan ranked 109th.

**Related Links:**

<http://www.itu.int/en/ITU-D/Cybersecurity/Pages/GCI-2017.aspx>



## 12th Summit of G-20

**Question: Where was the 12th Summit of G-20 held on 7-8 July 2017?**

(a) Buenos Aires (b) Hangzhou (c) Brisbane (d) Hamburg

**Ans: (d)**

**Related facts:**

- The 12th G-20 summit was held in Hamburg, Germany on 7-8 July 2017. Germany hosted the G-20 summit for the first time. The summit was chaired by the German Chancellor, Angela Merkel.
- The heads of all the member countries, including the President of the European Union, participated in the summit.
- Spain attended the G-20 summit as a permanent guest. The German Presidency had invited Norway, the Netherlands and Singapore as a partner countries to the G-20 process, as well as the African Union (AU), represented by Guinea, the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC), represented by Vietnam, and the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD), represented by Senegal.
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi led the Indian delegation to this summit.
- Arvind Pangariya, Vice-chairman of NITI Aayog, was India's Sherpa to the summit.
- Addressing the conference, the Prime Minister said that G-20 should oppose the funding of terrorism, terrorist organizations, their shelters, supporters of terror and sponsors.
- In addition, he reiterated India's commitment to implement the Paris Agreement with its spirit and essentially mentioned its implementation globally to fight climate change.
- In addition, at the conference, the Prime Minister met his Japanese counterpart Shinzo Abe, Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau, South Korean President Moon Jae-in, Italy's Prime Minister Paolo Gentiloni, Norwegian Prime Minister Erna Solberg, Argentina's President Mauricio Macri, UK Prime Minister Theresa May and Vietnam's Prime Minister Nguyen Xuan Phuc.
- G-20 is an important platform for cooperation and consultation on issues related to international, economic and financial system.
- The Group of Twenty is comprised of 19 countries and the European Union. The countries are Argentina, Australia, Brazil, Canada, China, France, Germany, India, Indonesia, Italy, Japan, Mexico, Russia, Saudi Arabia, South Africa, South Korea, Turkey, the United Kingdom and the United States of America.
- All the members of the G-20 group as a whole represent two-thirds of the world's population, about 85 percent of GDP of the world and about 75 percent of the world trade. G-20 was established in the year 1999 after the East Asian financial crisis.
- After the establishment, a meeting of the Finance Ministers and the central bank of its member countries started every year since 2000.
- In the wake of the global economic and financial crisis, the summit of G-20 Heads of States / Heads of the Government began in the year 2008.
- Its first summit was held in Washington, the USA in 2008.
- It was held on half yearly basis till the year 2010, but after that since 2011, it is being held annually. It is notable that the 11th summit of the G-20 was held in Hangzhou (China).
- The 13th summit of the G-20 is proposed in Argentina, in 2018.

**Related Links:**

[https://www.g20.org/Webs/G20/EN/G20/Participants/participants\\_node.html](https://www.g20.org/Webs/G20/EN/G20/Participants/participants_node.html)



## Jamat-UI-Ahrar

**Question: Jamat-UI-Ahrar a terrorist organization, is active in ...**

(A) Iran (B) Pakistan (C) Afghanistan (D) Iraq

**Ans: (c)**

**Related facts:**

- On July 6, 2017, the UN Security Council included Jamat-UI-Ahrar in the list of banned organizations.
- Jamaat-ul-Ahrar (JuA) is a splinter terrorist group of Tehrik-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP) based in Lalpura, Nangarhar Province, Afghanistan.
- The organization, which is separated from the Pakistani organization Tehrik-i-Taliban, is currently affiliated with the Islamic State (IS).
- In this list of Security Council, Al-Qaeda and IS are already included in the list of banned terrorist organization.
- Due to this restriction, now the organization's assets and bank accounts located anywhere in the world could be confiscated.



**Related Links:**

[https://www.un.org/sc/suborg/en/sanctions/1267/aq\\_sanctions\\_list/summaries/entity/jamaat-ul-ahrar-%28jua%29](https://www.un.org/sc/suborg/en/sanctions/1267/aq_sanctions_list/summaries/entity/jamaat-ul-ahrar-%28jua%29)

## The World's First Green City

**Question: In which city of China, the world's first 'Green City' is being constructed?**

(a) Liuzhou (b) Kunming (c) Nanjing (d) Shanghai

**Ans: (a)**

**Related facts:**

- The world's first green city or 'Forest City' is being built in the city of Liuzhou, Guangxi region (China).
- It is estimated that it could be completed by the year 2020.
- This city will be developed as a green city with 100 species of 40000 trees and 10 lacs plants.
- The Green City will be self-reliant in energy and will use geothermal and solar energy.
- After the completion of the construction, there will be 30,000 people in this city.
- The city will eject 900 tonnes of Oxygen in addition to absorbing 10000 tonnes of Carbon dioxide and 57 tonnes of pollutants in one year.
- Its design is prepared by the famous Italian architect Stefano Boeri.
- Boeri has also designed the Nanjing Vertical Forest Tower, which will be built by 2018.
- The concept of Vertical Forest was firstly used in Milan (Italy).



**Related Links:**

<https://www.inverse.com/article/33465-liuzhou-forest-city>

## Cuba-US deal cancelled

**Question: The historic Cuba-US rapprochement deal has been cancelled by...**

(a) Cuba (b) America (c) Both (d) Automatically

**Answer: (b)**

**Related facts:**



- On June 17, 2017, American President, Donald Trump announced to cancel Cuban-US deal negotiated by the former President Obama to lift the ban on tourist travel and financial transactions with the Cuban enterprises controlled by the military and security services.
- The former US President Barack Obama and the Cuban President Raul Castro made a peace agreement to restore the relations between the two countries in December, 2014.
- Later, the US Embassy in Havana was re-opened, and Mr. Obama paid a historic visit to Havana in 2016.

**Reference:**

[http://www.cleveland.com/nation/index.ssf/2017/06/trump\\_restores\\_some\\_cuba\\_penal.html](http://www.cleveland.com/nation/index.ssf/2017/06/trump_restores_some_cuba_penal.html)

## ECONOMICS

### Cabinet's approval for revision of guidelines of Sovereign Gold Bonds Scheme

**Question: Under the Sovereign Gold Bonds (SGB) Scheme, what is the increased limit for investment for individuals?**

(a) 4 kg (b) 2 Kg (c) 3 Kg (d) 500 gram

**Answer: (a)**

**Related facts:**

- On July 26, 2017, the Union Cabinet chaired by the Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi gives the approval for the revision of guidelines of Sovereign Gold Bonds (SGB) Scheme with a view to achieving its intended objectives.
- Accordingly, the specific changes have been made in the attributes of the scheme to make it more attractive, mobilise finances as per the target and reduce the economic strains caused by imports of gold and reduce the Current Account Deficit (CAD).
- Flexibility has been given to the Ministry of Finance to design and introduce variants of SGBs with different interest rates and risk protection/payoffs that would offer investment alternatives to a different category of investors.
- Ministry of Finance (the issuer) has been delegated this power to amend/add the features of the Scheme with the approval of the Finance Minister to reduce the time lag between finalizing the attributes of a particular tranche and its notification.
- The investment limit for per fiscal year has been increased to 4 kg for individuals, 4 Kg for Hindu Undivided Family (HUF) and 20 Kg for Trusts and similar entities notified by the Government from time to time.
- The ceiling will be counted on financial year basis and will include the SGBs purchased during the trading in the secondary market.
- The ceiling on investment will not include the holdings as collateral by Banks and Financial Institutions.
- SGBs will be available 'on tap'. Based on the consultation with NSE, BSE, Banks and Department of Post, features of the product to emulate 'On Tap' sale would be finalized by the Ministry of Finance.



- To improve liquidity and tradability of SGBs, appropriate market making initiatives will be devised. The market makers could be commercial banks or any other public sector entity, such as MMTC or any other entity as decided by GoI.
- The Government may if so felt necessary, allow the higher commission to agents.
- Notably, Sovereign Gold Bond (SGB) Scheme was notified by the Government of India on November 05, 2015 after the due approval of the Cabinet.
- The main objective of the scheme was to develop a financial asset as an alternative purchasing metal gold.
- The target was to shift the part of the estimated 300 tons of physical bars and coins purchased every year for Investment into 'demat' gold bonds.
- The target mobilisation under the scheme at Rs. 15,000 crore in 2015-16 and at Rs. 10,000 crore in 2016-17. The amount so far credited in Government accounts is Rs. 4,769 crore.
- In view of less than expected response of the investors to the scheme, it was felt necessary to make changes in this scheme to make it a success.

**Reference:**

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=169103>

## Bill introduced to replace Banking Regulation Ordinance

**Question: According to government estimates, Non-performing assets of banks amount to over...**

(a) 8 lacs crore (b) 9 lacs crore (c) 7 lacs crore (d) 6 lacs crore

**Answer: (b)**

**Related facts:**

- On July 24, 2017, the Banking Regulation (Amendment) Bill, 2017 was introduced in the Lok Sabha by the Finance Minister Arun Jaitley.
- This Bill seeks to amend the Banking Regulation Act, 1949 and replace the Banking Regulation (Amendment) Ordinance, 2017.
- The Banking Regulation (Amendment) Ordinance, 2017 was promulgated in May this year.
- The new Bill will authorize the RBI to instruct banking companies to resolve the problem of stressed assets.
- The RBI would also be empowered to issue other directions for resolution, **approval for** appointment, authorities or committees to advise the banking companies for stressed asset resolution.
- Non-performing assets of banks have risen to over Rs. 9 lacs crore and now RBI is being given the power to refer the cases to Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board.
- Moving on fast-track, the RBI had in June identified 12 large loan defaulters who account for 25 per cent of the total bad loans in the banking sector.



**Reference:**

<http://www.businesstoday.in/current/economy-politics/fm-introduces-bill-to-replace-banking-regulation-ordinance/story/257041.html>



## IMF retains India's growth projections

**Question: What is the IMF's GDP growth projection for 2017-18?**

(a) 7.2% (b) 6.5% (c) 8.5% (d) 10%

**Ans: (a)**

**Related facts:** On July 18, 2017, The International Monetary Fund in its July World Economic Outlook Update retained India's projected GDP growth rate for 2017-18 at 7.2%.

.The IMF had in April projected GDP growth in India at 7.2% and 7.7% in 2017-18 and 2018-19, respectively.

.The report notes that although business activity slowed due to demonetization, growth for 2016-17 was higher than anticipated on the basis of government spending and stronger momentum in the first part of that year.

.Comparatively, China's economy is expected to steadily slow down to 6.6% in 2017 and 6.2% in 2018 due to the "complex process of rebalancing".

**Reference:**

<http://www.thehindu.com/todays-paper/tp-business/imf-retains-india-2017-gdp-growth-forecast-at-72/article19352800.ece>



## PNB, BoB, Syndicate to raise Rs 7,000 crore via AT-1 bonds

**Question: Standard & Poor's is a ...**

(a) US rating agency (b) Famous novel (c) US guideline on trade  
(d) None of the above.

**Ans: (a)**

**Related facts:** Bank of Baroda (BoB), Punjab National Bank (PNB) and Syndicate Bank — are raising a total of Rs. 7,000 crore through Tier-I bonds, to bolster their Capital Adequacy Ratio (CAR).

- Accordingly, PNB is raising up to Rs. 3,000 crore, BoB will issue AT-1 bonds for Rs. 3,000 crore and Syndicate Bank will raise about Rs. 1,000 crore.
- Importantly, AT-1 bonds are also known as perpetual bonds. These allow banks to raise capital in compliance with Basel III norms. Unlike regular bonds, they don't have a maturity date and the issuing bank can either repay the principal after a pre-determined date or continue paying interest forever.

**Reference:**

[http://www.business-standard.com/article/finance/pnb-bob-syndicate-to-raise-rs-7-000-crore-via-at-1-bonds-117072400022\\_1.html](http://www.business-standard.com/article/finance/pnb-bob-syndicate-to-raise-rs-7-000-crore-via-at-1-bonds-117072400022_1.html)



## SEBI inks pact with European Securities and Markets Authority

**Question: Recently, SEBI signed an agreement with the European Securities and Markets Authority for information exchange on ...**

(a) Central counterparties (b) foreign institutional investors  
(c) FDI (d) None of the above





**Answer:- ( a)**

**Related facts:**

- On July 20, 2017, Markets regulator SEBI signed an agreement with the European Securities and Markets Authority (ESMA) for the exchange of information concerning Central Counterparties (CCPs).
- The MoU establishes cooperation arrangements, including the exchange of information regarding Central Counterparties (CCPs) which are established and authorised or recognised in India by SEBI, and which have applied for EU recognition under EMIR.
- EMIR provides for signing of a cooperation arrangement between ESMA and the relevant non-EU authorities, whose legal and supervisory framework for CCPs have been deemed equivalent to EMIR by the European Commission.
- The MoU will facilitate recognition of third country CCPs by ESMA under EMIR.
- Notably, Central Counterparties are entities that help facilitate clearing and settlement activities.

**Reference:**

[http://www.sebi.gov.in/media/press-releases/jul-2017/sebi-signs-a-bilateral-memorandum-of-understanding-with-the-european-securities-and-markets-authority\\_35358.html](http://www.sebi.gov.in/media/press-releases/jul-2017/sebi-signs-a-bilateral-memorandum-of-understanding-with-the-european-securities-and-markets-authority_35358.html)

## National Trade Facilitation Action Plan

**Question: Who released the National Trade Facilitation Action Plan?**

- (a) Manmohan Singh (b) Narendra Modi (c) Arun Jaitley  
(d) Sushma Swaraj

**Answer: (c) Arun Jaitley**

**Related facts:**

- On July 20, 2017 Finance Minister Arun Jaitley released the National Trade Facilitation Action Plan in New Delhi.
  - The National Trade Facilitation Action Plan (NTFAP) aims to align border procedures with international best practices and improve Ease of Doing Business.
  - The Action Plan aims to transform cross-border clearance ecosystem through efficient, transparent, risk-based, digital and technology-driven procedures which are supported by advanced sea ports, airports, and land borders.
  - It will help to improve the ease of doing business in the country.
- . 76 point National Trade Facilitation Action Plan is a reflection of the Government's commitment to implement the Trade Facilitation Agreement.



**Reference:**

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=168849>

## ‘SBI Reality’ Portal (economic)

**Question: SBI Reality Portal caters the need of ...**

- (a) Home buyers (b) Online banking (c) Telephone banking  
(d) Branch banking

**Answer: (a)**

**Related facts:**



- On July 18, 2017, India's largest commercial bank, the State Bank of India (SBI) launched SBI Realty Portal that will help home buyers to choose flats from its 3,000 approved projects across the country.
- SBI Realty Portal will be a one stop integrated website for home buyers. It will help customers to choose their dream home from 3,000 SBI approved projects which spread across 13 States/UTs covering 30 cities.
- The SBI Realty Portal has been developed by SBICAP Securities in association with Prop Equity in terms of data support, project information, etc.
- At present, the website has 9.5 lacs home units available on the website.
- Using the portal, customers can compare the current and past trends of prices for properties in various localities in the city. It will also assist customers in calculating appropriate loan amount a customer should borrow based on income and credit profile.

**Reference:**

<https://www.sbi.co.in/portal/web/personal-banking/home-loan-products>

## India-Africa Trade

**Question: India has been actively promoting trade with Africa. A recent report reveals that India's trade with African countries may touch USD 117 billion. By which of the following years this target is likely to be achieved?**

- (a) 2018-2019 (b) 2020-2021 (c) 2021-2022  
(d) 2022-2023

**Answer (c)**

**Related facts:**

- A report of PHD Chamber of Commerce and Industry dated July 23, 2017, India's trade with African countries is likely to touch USD 117 billion by the year 2020-2021.
- Indian exports to the African continent was USD 24 billion in 2015 -16 which is expected to grow to USD 70 billion by 2021-22.
- India has been able to intensify its presence in African countries through a significant line of credit worth USD 10 billion for development projects in Africa over a five-year period.

**Reference:**

<http://www.phdcci.in/index.php?route=common/home>



## Maestro card will be outdated

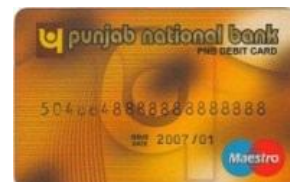
**Question: Which of the following nationalized banks has decided to block/ hotlist Maestro Debit Card from July 31st, 2017 for security reasons?**

- (a) Allahabad Bank (b) Canara Bank (c) Punjab and Sind Bank  
(d) Punjab National Bank

**Answer- (d)**

**Related facts:**

- In a communication to its customers, the Punjab National Bank has decided to block or hotlist its 'Maestro Debit Card' from July 31, 2017.
- The bank will replace these cards with more secure EMV chip based cards free of cost.
- The replacement is in accordance with the RBI advisory issued in 2015.



- As per RBI advisory, existing magnetic stripe only cards need to be replaced with EMV chip and pin based cards will be replaced by December 31, 2018
- Bank has identified that there are about one lac customers with old Maestro Debit Cards.
- Presently, PNB's card base stands at around 5.65 crore.
- It is notable that banks are also directed to issue only EMV chip based debit and credit cards from January 31, 2016 onwards.

**Reference:**

<http://www.businesstoday.in/sectors/banks/punjab-national-bank-block-all-maestro-debit-cards/story/255656.html>

## India at 88th position in money parked with Swiss Banks

**Question: Which Bank of Switzerland has revealed the data on foreign deposits in Swiss Banks?**

- (a) Swiss National Bank (b) RBS Coutts Bank AG (c) Barclays Bank  
(d) Standard Chartered Bank (Switzerland)

**Answer: (a)**

**Related facts:**

- On June 29th, 2017, Switzerland's central bank 'Swiss National Bank' (SNB) made public the country-wise statistics of the money deposited by foreigners in Switzerland.
- India has slipped to 88th place in terms of money parking by its citizens with Swiss Banks, while the UK remained on the top.
- The money held by Indians is only 0.04 percent of the funds held in Swiss Banks by foreign clients.
- A fund held by Indians in the year 2016 in the Swiss Banks was the lowest since 1987.
- India was placed at 75th position in 2015 and at 61st in the year before that, though it used to be among top-50 countries till 2007.
- The total money held in Swiss Banks by foreign clients from across the world incidentally rose by a small margin from 1.41 trillion (1421 billion) Swiss francs to 1.42 trillion Swiss francs during 2016.
- With 71st place, Pakistan remains higher than India (although down from 69th in 2015) with about CHF 1.4 billion.
- Amongst the other BRICS nations — Russia is ranked 19th (CHF 15.6 billion), China 25th (CHF 9.6 billion), Brazil 52nd (CHF 2.7 billion) and South Africa 61st (CHF 2.2 billion).



**Reference:**

<http://indiatoday.intoday.in/story/indian-black-money-swiss-banks-88th-position-corruption-india/1/992635.html>

## India to be the base to the economic pole of global growth

**Question: By which of the following Universities's research, India will be the base to the economic pole of global growth in the coming decade?**

- (a) Oxford (b) Harvard (c) Cambridge (d) Stanford

**Ans: (b)**

**Related facts:**



- According to a research by the Centre for International Development (CID) at Harvard University, in the coming decade, India will be the base of the economic pole of global growth ahead of China.
- The study also warns of slow down in global growth in the coming decade.
- However, the economies of India and Uganda are expected to grow at the rate of 7.7 percent till 2025.
- The report notes that India has made inroads in diversifying its export base including more complex sectors, such as chemicals, vehicles, and certain electronics.

**Related Links:**

<http://www.thehindu.com/news/international/india-to-be-base-to-economic-pole-of-global-growth-harvard-study/article19221220.ece>

## India's performance in financial stability reforms

**Question: Which organization has presented the status report on progress in financial regulatory reforms ahead of the G-20 conference?**

- (a) IMF (b) World Bank (c) Financial Stability Board  
(d) Asian Development Board

**Ans: (c)**

**Related facts:**

- On July 3, 2017, an International Organization for the Global Financial System, the Financial Stability Board (FSB) submitted its third annual report.
- In this report, India has been listed among the countries which are in compliance with the implementation of Priority Area Reforms or on large scale compliance.
- FSB reviewed the progress of implementing G-20 reforms by three EMDE (Emerging Market and Developing Economy) members, Argentina, Brazil and India, and recommended to remove the shortcomings identified.
- The report listed India as a 'compliant' jurisdiction with regard to Basel III reforms in the risk-based capital and as 'largely compliant' on liquidity coverage ratio.
- In terms of compensation related reforms, India is one of such jurisdictions where all FSB principles and standards have been implemented barring a few (three or less).
- FSB has also released a framework for evaluation after implementation of the effect of G-20 financial regulatory reforms.

**Related Links:**

<http://www.fsb.org/2017/07/fsb-reports-to-g20-leaders-on-progress-in-financial-regulatory-reforms/>



## Key Indicators of Unincorporated Non-Agricultural Enterprises (Excluding Construction) in India

**Question: The National Sample Survey Office (NSSO) recently issued a report titled the key indicators of Unincorporated Non-agricultural Enterprises (excluding construction). According to this report, which state has the largest participation in the total number of Unincorporated Non-agricultural Enterprises?**

- (a) Tamil Nadu (b) West Bengal (c) Maharashtra (d) Uttar Pradesh

**Ans: (d)**

**Related facts:**



- On June 29, 2017, The National Sample Survey Office (NSSO), Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation released the report titled “Key Indicators of Unincorporated Non-Agricultural Enterprises (Excluding Construction) in India’.
- The report is based on the information collected under 73rd round of its survey conducted during July, 2015 to June, 2016.
- The main objective of this survey was to prepare estimates of the operational and economic characteristics of Unincorporated Non-agricultural Enterprises, such as their ownership type, type of enterprises, employment distribution, operating expenses and receipts, gross value addition, in the industries sectors of manufacturing, business and other services (except for construction) indebtedness and other subjects, etc.
- In this survey, such Non-agricultural Enterprises were taken which are not incorporated (i.e. not registered under the Companies Act, 1956).
- The enterprises taken in this survey included ownership and partnership (excluding limited liability partnerships), self-help groups, non-profit institutions and trusts, etc.
- This survey will provide reasonable information as per the non-agricultural sector for planning and policy-making targeted by planners and policy-makers.
- Highlights of the report:
- During the year 2015-16, 6.34 crore unincorporated non-agricultural enterprises (excluding construction) were estimated at all India level.  
Of the total estimated number of enterprises at all India level, 31 percent were engaged in manufacturing, 36.3 percent in business and 32.6 percent in other service sectors.
- The number of enterprises engaged in ‘Non-Captive Power Generation and Transmission’ was almost negligible. About 51% of the total numbers of unincorporated non-farm enterprises were located in rural areas.
- Uttar Pradesh reported the highest share (14.20 %) in a total number of unincorporated non-agricultural enterprises followed by West Bengal (13.99%), Tamil Nadu (7.80%), Maharashtra (7.54%) and Karnataka (6.05%). These five states accounted for nearly half of the total unincorporated non-agricultural enterprises in the country.
- During 2015-16 in the country, about 11.13 crore workers were involved in unincorporated non-agricultural enterprises (excluding construction).
- Out of the total number of workers, 34.8% were from business, 32.8% from other services and 32.4% were engaged in manufacturing.
- In the unincorporated non-agricultural sector (excluding construction), 62 percent of the workforce in the country was self-employed.
- In the context of the estimated number of workers in the top 5 states, Uttar Pradesh (14.9 per cent), West Bengal (12.2 per cent), Tamil Nadu (8.7 per cent), Maharashtra (8.2 per cent) and Karnataka (6.4 per cent), unincorporated non-agricultural sector (excluding manufacturing) has been holding the share of almost 50 percent of the workers engaged in it. Owned enterprises (i.e. an enterprise having full ownership of one person) has the largest (96%) share in the unincorporated non-farm enterprises in the country.
- Participating enterprises hold 2% and self-help groups have a share of 1.8%, whereas the trust and ‘other’ share is absolutely negligible (0.1% of each).
- At all India level, about one-fifth of the enterprises were the ownership enterprises as women chief. 98.3% of the enterprises at all India level was of permanent nature.

**Related Links:**

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=166982>



## Establishment of Aluminium Park in Angul

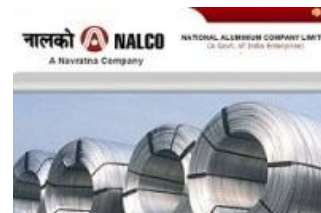
**Question: Which company is setting up an Aluminium Park in Angul, in collaboration with the Industrial Infrastructure Development Corporation of Odisha?**

(a) Hindalco (b) NALCO (c) BALCO (d) Sterlite

**Ans: (b)**

**Related facts:**

- On July 7, 2017, the Government of Odisha briefed that the National Aluminum Company Limited (NALCO) will establish an Aluminium Park in Angul, in collaboration with the Industrial Infrastructure Development Corporation of Odisha.
- An amount of Rs. 180 crore will be invested in the infrastructure of the project which is expected to generate 15000 jobs.
- Currently, Odisha contributes about 54 percent of India's total smelting (metal separation or melting or liquefaction) capacity.
- This Aluminium Park will be the first project in the Indian subcontinent which will provide the facility of getting molten. This park will be established on more than 223 acres of area.
- An Aluminium Product Evaluation Centre will also be installed in this park.
- Odisha Industrial Infrastructure Development Limited was established in the year 1981.



**Related Links:**

<http://indiatoday.intoday.in/story/nalco-idco-to-set-up-aluminium-park-in-angul/1/996584.html>

## Agreement between Odisha Government, IAAF and AFI

**Question: Where will the Odisha-AFI-IAAF High-Performance Academy be established?**

(a) Gajapati (b) Kandhamal (c) Bhubaneswar (d) Puri

**Ans: (c)**

**Related facts:**

- On July 6, 2017, Odisha Government signed an Expression of Intent (EOI) to establish a High-Performance Academy in Bhubaneswar with the International Association of Athletics Federation (IAAF) and Athletics Federation of India (AFI).
- This academy will be set up at Kalinga Stadium, Bhubaneswar.
- This Academy will provide excellent coaching, integrated support services and educational experience for the state's potential of junior and excellent athletes.
- The State Government will provide all infrastructure and support services including the outdoor stadium and International level medical and physiotherapy facilities and experts.
- The IAAF will provide specialists, to assist in educating the elite coaches and supporting specialists. The AFI will assist in the management of the academy and selection of its heads, teachers and other staff.



**Related Links:**

<https://www.facebook.com/Naveen.odisha/posts/1366382220114829>



## EU and India established an Investment Facilitation Mechanism

**Question: Who is the President of the Parliament of European Union?**

- (a) Antonio Tajani (b) Donald Tusk  
(c) Jean-Claude Juncker (d) Antonio Guterres

**Ans: (a)**

**Related Fact :**

- On July 14, 2017, European Union (EU) and India announced the establishment of an Investment Facilitation Mechanism (IFM) for EU Investments in India.
- This agreement is the result of the Joint Statement of the 13th EU-India Summit held in Brussels in March, 2016 where EU had welcomed India's readiness to establish such a mechanism and leaders from both sides had reaffirmed their shared commitment to oppose protectionism and to work in favour of a fair, transparent and rule-based trade and investment environment.
- As a part of the IFM, the EU Delegation to India and the Department of Industrial Policy & Promotion (DIPP), Ministry of Commerce & Industry, agreed to hold regular high-level meetings to assess and facilitate "ease of doing business" for EU investors in India.
- Invest India, the official Investment Promotion and Facilitation Agency of the Government of India will also be a part of the Mechanism. It will create a single-window entry point for EU companies that need assistance for their investments at the central or state level.
- The mechanism will allow for a close coordination between the European Union and the Government of India with an aim to promote and facilitate EU investment in India.
- EU is one of the biggest providers of foreign investment in India with a stock exceeding US\$ 81.52 billion (more than 4.4 lakh crores INR) as of March, 2017.
- Currently, there are more than 6,000 EU companies present in India providing direct and indirect employment to over 6 million people.



**Reference:**

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=167418>

## KBL-Image Debit Card

**Question: Which bank has launched KBL- Image Debit Card?**

- (A) HDFC Bank (B) IndusInd Bank (C) Karnataka Bank  
(D) PNB

**Ans: (c)**

**Related facts:**

- On 30 June, 2017, Mangalore-based Private Sector Bank named Karnataka Bank has launched 'KBL-Image Debit Card.'
- 'Karnataka Bank' has enabled card holders to personalize the card with the image of their choice.
- Customers will have the option of selecting any image from the photo gallery of the bank's website or any image of their choice to be printed on the debit card.



**Related Links:**

<https://www.karnatakabank.com/ktk/kblimagecard.jsp>

## AIIB approved USD 329 million loan for Gujarat rural roads

**Question: Which of the following is the biggest shareholder of Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank?**

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

**Ans: (b)**

**Related facts:**

- On July 4, 2017, Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB) approved a loan of US\$329 million to build access roads approximately to 4,000 villages in all 33 districts of Gujarat, India.
- This project will construct and upgrade the district and farm-to-market roads for the villagers and provide access to educational institutions, schools and hospitals.
- This project is a part of phase and one of the multiphases Government of Gujarat's "Chief Minister's Rural Roads Program" that complements the Government of India's "Prime Minister's Rural Roads Program".
- The Bank is piloting a unique software tool specifically developed for this rural roads project.
- AIIB is a multilateral development bank founded to bring the countries together to address the daunting infrastructure needs across Asia.
- AIIB has 80 approved members and its headquarter is in Beijing.
- China is the bank's biggest shareholder, contributing around USD \$30 billion to its USD 100 billion capital, and India is the second-biggest shareholder with an \$8 billion contribution.

**Reference:**

[https://www.aiib.org/en/news-events/news/2017/20170705\\_001.html](https://www.aiib.org/en/news-events/news/2017/20170705_001.html)

<http://indiatoday.intoday.in/story/china-aiib-gujarat-loan-rural-roads-projects-india/1/994529.html>

## Financial Stability Report June, 2017

**Question: What is the expected GVA growth for 2017-18 according to the RBI's financial stability report June, 2017?**

(a) 7.3 % (b) 7.5% (c) 8% (d) 10%

**Ans: (a)**

**Related Fact :**

- On June 30, 2017, the Reserve Bank of India released the Financial Stability Report (FSR) June, 2017 a biannual publication and the 15th in the series.
- The FSR reflects the overall assessment on the stability of India's financial system and its resilience to risks emanating from global and domestic factors.
- The report hopes for a better growth outlook in view of reforms in Foreign Direct Investment, implementation of Goods and Services Tax (GST), and revival in external



demand.

### **Financial Institutions: Soundness and Resilience**

- During 2016-17, while deposit growth of Scheduled Commercial Banks (SCBs) picked up, credit growth remained sluggish putting pressure on net interest income (NII), particularly of the public sector banks (PSBs).
- While profitability ratios of SCBs showed a marginal increase, PSBs continue to show a negative return on assets (RoA).
- The gross non-performing advances (GNPAs) of the banking sector rose but the stressed advances ratio declined between September, 2016 and March, 2017 due to fall in restructured standard advances.
- Overall, capital to risk-weighted assets ratio (CRAR) improved from 13.4 per cent to 13.6 per cent between September, 2016 and March, 2017.
- The share of the large borrowers, both in SCBs' total loans portfolio as well as GNPAs, showed a reduction between September, 2016 and March, 2017.
- At the system level, the CRAR of Scheduled Urban Co-operative Banks (SUCBs) increased from 13.0 per cent to 13.6 per cent between September, 2016 and March, 2017.
- While the aggregate balance sheet of the NBFC sector expanded by 14.5 per cent during 2016-17, their net profit was down by 2.9 per cent.
- Assets under management by Mutual Funds (AUM) touched an all-time high of more than Rs. 17.5 trillion by end-March 2017.
- From the perspective of larger financial system, SCBs continued to be the dominant players accounting for nearly 51 per cent of the bilateral exposure followed by Asset Management Companies Managing Mutual Funds (AMC-MFs), Non-banking Financial Companies (NBFCs), All India Financial Institutions (AIFIs), Insurance Companies and Housing Finance Companies (HFCs).

### **Financial Sector: Regulation and Development**

- Imminent transition to India as will be challenging for Indian Banks in terms of skills as well as the requirement of a higher amount of provisioning.
- RBI tightened its disclosure and standard assets provisioning requirements while adopting a more proactive approach in the resolution of stressed assets.
- The Reserve Bank has also tightened its supervisory and enforcement frameworks by revising the Prompt Corrective Action (PCA) framework and establishing an Enforcement Department.
- Lower impairment in home loans and overall weak credit growth have facilitated the RBI to take a counter-cyclical measure of reducing risk weights and standard assets provisioning for individual housing loans.
- The prudential norms on masala bonds have been harmonised broadly with that for External Commercial Borrowing (ECB).
- SEBI, along with the RBI, allowed the derivative transactions in the International Financial Services Centres (IFSCs), while making the disclosure requirements for top listed entities more comprehensive. Investor protection measures were further enhanced by SEBI.
- To enhance the effectiveness of grievance redressal mechanism at Market Infrastructure Institutions (MIIs), SEBI has comprehensively reviewed the existing framework in consultation with the Stock Exchanges and Depositories

- PFRDA allowed the second record keeping agency to bring down operating charges and enhancing the long-term returns to the investors.
- Concerns arising from frauds and cyber-attacks remain elevated with the recent global ransomware attacks. Various responses by the regulators in this regard include setting up of an Inter-disciplinary Standing Committee on Cyber Security by the RBI.

**Reference:**

<https://rbi.org.in/Scripts/PublicationReportDetails.aspx?UrlPage=&ID=876>

## Decision to reduce the Tax Rate on Fertilizers

**Question: What is the new GST rates on fertilizers as decided in the 18th meeting of GST Council held on June 30, 2017?**

(a) 12 percent (b) 5 percent (c) 10 percent (d) 15 percent

**Ans: (b)**

**Related Fact :**

- In the 18th meeting of the GST Council, held on 30th June 2017, the GST rates on fertilizers was decided to be reduced from the existing 12% to 5%.
- Under the new GST rates announced by the Council, average weighted MRP will decrease to Rs. 295.47/ 50kg. bag as compared to the existing All India weighted Average of Rs. 296.18/50 kg. bag.
- Consequently, the ushering of the GST regime, there will be a uniform MRP of Rs.295.47 per 50 kg. bag across the country except a couple of States where additional VAT is charged on the natural gas as Natural Gas has not been brought within the ambit of GST.
- However, even in these States, the MRP will reduce by Rs. 3 per 50 kg. bag.
- The GST regime, apart from integrating the entire fertilizer market into a single market, will also deter inter-state smuggling of fertilizers which may be happening due to differing level of taxes and consequently MRPs in different adjoining States.



**Reference:**

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=167057>

## Index of Eight Core Industries May, 2017

**Question: According to the Index of Eight Core Industries May, 2017, the production of coal has...**

(a) Increased (b) Declined (c) Stable (d) None of the above.

**Ans: (b)**

- The summary of the Index of Eight Core Industries (base: 2011-12) as of May, 2017, is as follows:  
Coal production (weight: 10.33%) declined by 3.3% in May, 2017 over May, 2016. Its cumulative index declined by 3.3% during April to May, 2017-18 over the corresponding period of the previous year.
- Crude Oil production (weight: 8.98 %) increased by 0.7% in May, 2017 over May, 2016. Its cumulative index increased by 0.1 % during April to May, 2017-18 over the corresponding period of previous year.



- The Natural Gas production (weight: 6.88 %) increased by 4.5 % in May, 2017 over May, 2016. Its cumulative index increased by 3.3 % during April to May, 2017-18 over the corresponding period of previous year.
- Petroleum Refinery production (weight: 28.04%) increased by 5.4% in May, 2017 over May, 2016. Its cumulative index increased by 2.8 % during April to May, 2017-18 over the corresponding period of previous year.
- Fertilizer production (weight: 2.63 %) declined by 6.5% in May, 2017 over May, 2016. Its cumulative index declined by 0.8 % during April to May, 2017-18 over the corresponding period of previous year.
- Steel production (weight: 17.92%) increased by 3.7% in May, 2017 over May, 2016. Its cumulative index increased by 6.3% during April to May, 2017-18 over the corresponding period of previous year.
- Cement production (weight: 5.37%) increased by 1.8% in May, 2017 over May, 2016. Its cumulative index declined by 0.3 % during April to May, 2017-18 over the corresponding period of previous year.
- Electricity generation (weight: 19.85%) increased by 6.4 % in May, 2017 over May, 2016. Its cumulative index increased by 5.9% during April to May, 2017-18 over the corresponding period of previous year. Electricity generation data from renewable sources are also included.
- The Eight Core Industries comprise 40.27 % of the weight of items included in the Index of Industrial Production (IIP). The combined Index of Eight Core Industries stands at 126.4 in May, 2017, which was 3.6 % higher compared to the index of May, 2016. Its cumulative growth during April to May, 2017-18 was 3.2 %.
- Note 1: Data for March, 2017, April, 2017 and May, 2017 are provisional.

**Reference:**

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=167031>

## Maestro card will be outdated

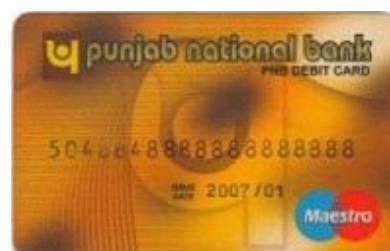
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- (a) Allahabad Bank (b) Canara Bank (c) Punjab and Sind Bank  
(d) Punjab National Bank

**Answer- (d)**

**Related facts:**

- In a communication to its customers, Punjab National Bank decided to block or hotlist its 'Maestro Debit Card' from July 31, 2017.
- The bank will replace these cards with more secure EMV chip based cards free of cost.
- The replacement is in accordance with the RBI advisory issued in 2015.
- As per RBI advisory, existing magnetic stripe only cards need to be replaced with EMV chip and pin based cards by December 31, 2018
- Bank has identified that there are about one lakh customers with old Maestro debit cards.
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**Reference:**

<http://www.businesstoday.in/sectors/banks/punjab-national-bank-block-all-maestro-debit-cards/story/255656.html>

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**Answer- (a)**

**Related facts:**

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- India has slipped to 88th place in terms of money parked by its citizens with Swiss banks, while the UK remained on the top.
- The money held by Indians is only 0.04 percent of the funds held in Swiss banks by foreign clients.
- A fund held by Indians in the year 2016 in the Swiss banks was the lowest since 1987.
- India was placed at 75th position in 2015 and at 61st in the year before that, though it used to be among top-50 countries till 2007.
- The total money held in Swiss banks by foreign clients from across the world incidentally rose by a small margin from 1.41 trillion (1421 billion) Swiss francs to 1.42 trillion Swiss francs during 2016.
- Pakistan continued to remain placed higher than India at the 71st place (although down from 69th in 2015) with about CHF 1.4 billion.
- Amongst the other BRICS nations — Russia is ranked 19th (CHF 15.6 billion), China 25th (CHF 9.6 billion), Brazil 52nd (CHF 2.7 billion) and South Africa 61st (CHF 2.2 billion).

**Reference:**

<http://indiatoday.intoday.in/story/indian-black-money-swiss-banks-88th-position-corruption-india/1/992635.html>

## India to be the base to the economic pole of global growth

**Question- According to research published by which of the following universities, India will be the base to the economic pole of global growth in the coming decade?**

- (a) Oxford (b) Harvard (c) Cambridge (d) Stanford

**Ans: (b)**

**Related facts:-**

- According to a research by the Center for International Development (CID) at Harvard University, in the coming decade, India will be the base of the economic pole of global growth ahead of China.
- The study also warns of slowdown in global growth in the coming decade.





- However, the economies of India and Uganda are expected to grow at the rate of 7.7 percent till 2025.
- The report notes that India has made inroads in diversifying its export base to include more complex sectors, such as chemicals, vehicles, and certain electronics.

**Related Links:-**

<http://www.thehindu.com/news/international/india-to-be-base-to-economic-pole-of-global-growth-harvard-study/article19221220.ece>

## India's performance in financial stability reforms

**Question- Which organization has presented the status report, on progress in financial regulatory reforms ahead of the G-20 conference?**

- (a) IMF (b) World Bank (c) Financial Stability Board  
(d) Asian Development Board

**Ans: (c)**

**Related facts:-**

- On July 3, 2017, an international organization for the Global Financial System, the Financial Stability Board (FSB) submitted its third annual report.
- In this report, India has been listed among the countries which are in compliance with the implementation of Priority Area Reforms or on large scale compliance.
- FSB reviewed the progress of implementing G-20 reforms by three EMDE (emerging market and developing economy) members, Argentina, Brazil and India, and recommended to remove the shortcomings identified.
- The report listed India as a 'compliant' jurisdiction with regard to Basel III reforms in the risk-based capital and as 'largely compliant' on liquidity coverage ratio.
- In terms of compensation related reforms, India is one of such jurisdictions where all FSB principles and standards have been implemented barring a few ( three or less).
- FSB also released a framework for evaluation after implementation of the effect of G-20 financial regulatory reforms.



**Related Links:-**

<http://www.fsb.org/2017/07/fsb-reports-to-g20-leaders-on-progress-in-financial-regulatory-reforms/>

## Key Indicators of Unincorporated Non-Agricultural Enterprises (Excluding Construction) in India

**Question- National Sample Survey Office (NSSO recently issued a report titled the key indicators of unincorporated non-agricultural enterprises (excluding construction).**

**According to this report, which state has the largest participation in the total number of unincorporated non-agricultural enterprises?**

- (a) Tamil Nadu (b) West Bengal (c) Maharashtra  
(d) Uttar Pradesh

**Ans: (d)**

**Related facts:-**



- On June 29, 2017, The National Sample Survey Office (NSSO), Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation released the report titled “Key Indicators of Unincorporated Non-Agricultural Enterprises (Excluding Construction) in India’.
- The report is based on the information collected under 73rd round of its survey conducted during July, 2015 to June, 2016.
- The main objective of this survey was to prepare estimates, of the operational and economic characteristics of unincorporated non-agricultural enterprises, such as their ownership type, type of enterprises, employment distribution, operating expenses and receipts, gross value addition, in the industries sectors of manufacturing, business and other services (except for construction) Indebtedness and other subjects etc..
- In this survey, such non-agricultural enterprises were taken which are not incorporated (i.e. not registered under the Companies Act, 1956).
- The enterprises taken in this survey included ownership and partnership (excluding limited liability partnerships), self-help groups, non-profit institutions and trusts etc.
- This survey will provide reasonable information as per the non-agricultural sector for planning and policy-making targeted by planners and policy-makers.
- Highlights of the report: During the year 2015-16, 6.34 crore unincorporated non-agricultural enterprises (excluding construction) were estimated at the all-India level. Of the total estimated number of enterprises at all India level, 31 percent were engaged in manufacturing, 36.3 percent in business and 32.6 percent in other service sectors.
- The number of enterprises engaged in ‘Non-Captive Power Generation and Transmission’ was almost negligible. About 51% of the total numbers of unincorporated non-farm enterprises were located in rural areas.
- Uttar Pradesh reported the highest share (14.20 %) in a total number of unincorporated non-agricultural enterprises followed by West Bengal (13.99%), Tamil Nadu (7.80%), Maharashtra (7.54%) and Karnataka (6.05%). These five states accounted for nearly half of the total unincorporated non-agricultural enterprises in the country.
- During 2015-16 in the country, about 11.13 crore workers were involved in unincorporated non-agricultural enterprises (excluding construction).
- Out of the total number of workers, 34.8% were from the business, 32.8% from other services and 32.4% were engaged in manufacturing.
- In the unincorporated non-agricultural sector (excluding construction), 62 percent of the workforce in the country was self-employed.
- In the context of the estimated number of workers in the top 5 states, Uttar Pradesh (14.9 per cent), West Bengal (12.2 per cent), Tamil Nadu (8.7 per cent), Maharashtra (8.2 per cent) and Karnataka (6.4 per cent), unincorporated non-agricultural sector (excluding manufacturing) has been holding the share of almost 50 percent of the workers engaged in it. Owned enterprises (i.e. an enterprise having full ownership of one person) has the largest (96%) share in the unincorporated non-farm enterprises in the country.
- Participating enterprises hold 2% and self-help groups have a share of 1.8%, whereas the trust and ‘other’ share is absolutely negligible (0.1% of each).
- At the all-India level, about one-fifth of the enterprises were the ownership enterprises as women chief.
- 98.3% of the enterprises at the all-India level was of permanent nature.

**Related Links:-**

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=166982>

## Establishment of Aluminium Park in Angul

**Question: Which company is setting up an aluminium park, in Angul in collaboration with the Industrial Infrastructure Development Corporation of Odisha?**

(a) Hindalco (b) NALCO (c) BALCO (d) Sterlite

**Ans: (b)**

**Related facts:-**

- On July 7, 2017, the government of Odisha briefed that the National Aluminum Company Limited (NALCO) will establish an aluminium park in Angul in collaboration with the Industrial Infrastructure Development Corporation of Odisha.
- An amount of Rs 180 crore will be invested on the infrastructure of the project, which is expected to generate 15000 jobs.
- Odisha currently contributes about 54 percent of India's total smelting (metal separation or melting or liquefaction) capacity.
- This aluminium park will be the first project in the Indian subcontinent, which will provide the facility of getting molten This park will be established on more than 223 acres of area.
- An Aluminum Product Evaluation Center will also be installed in this park.
- Odisha Industrial Infrastructure Development Limited was established in the year (1981).



**Related Links:-**

<http://indiatoday.intoday.in/story/nalco-idco-to-set-up-aluminium-park-in-angul/1/996584.html>

## Agreement between Odisha Government, IAAF and AFI

**Question: Where will the Odisha-AFI-IAAF High-Performance Academy be established?**

(a) Gajapati (b) Kandhamal (c) Bhubaneswar (d) Puri

**Ans: (c)**

**Related facts:-**

- On July 6, 2017, the Odisha Government signed an Expression of Intent (EOI) to establish a high-performance academy in Bhubaneswar with the International Association of Athletics Federation (IAAF) and Athletics Federation of India (AFI).
- This academy will be set up at Kalinga Stadium, Bhubaneswar.
- This Academy will provide excellent coaching, integrated support services and educational experience for the state's potential junior athletes and excellent athletes.
- The State Government will provide all infrastructure and support services including the outdoor stadium and international level medical and physiotherapy facilities and experts.
- The IAAF would provide specialists, assist in educating elite coaches and supporting specialists. The AFI will assist in the management of the academy and selection of its the head, teachers and other staff.



**Related Links:-**

<https://www.facebook.com/Naveen.odisha/posts/1366382220114829>

## EU and India established an Investment Facilitation Mechanism

**Question: Who is the president of the parliament of European Union?**

- (a) Antonio Tajani (b) Donald Tusk (c) Jean-Claude Juncker  
(d) Antonio Guterres

**Ans: (a)**

**Related Fact :**

- On July 14, 2017, European Union (EU) and India announced the establishment of an Investment Facilitation Mechanism (IFM) for EU Investments in India.
- This agreement is the result of the Joint Statement of the 13th EU-India Summit held in Brussels in March 2016, where the EU had welcomed India's readiness to establish such a mechanism and leaders from both sides had reaffirmed their shared commitment to oppose protectionism and to work in favour of a fair, transparent and rule-based trade and investment environment.
- As part of the IFM, the EU Delegation to India and the Department of Industrial Policy & Promotion (DIPP), Ministry of Commerce & Industry, agreed to hold regular high-level meetings to assess and facilitate "ease of doing business" for EU investors in India.
- Invest India, the official Investment Promotion and Facilitation Agency of the Government of India will also be part of the Mechanism. It will create a single-window entry point for EU companies that need assistance for their investments at the central or state level.
- The mechanism will allow for a close coordination between the European Union and the Government of India with an aim to promote and facilitate EU investment in India.
- EU is one of the biggest providers of foreign investment in India, with a stock exceeding US\$ 81.52 billion (more than 4.4 lakh crores INR) as of March 2017.
- There are currently more than 6,000 EU companies present in India, providing direct and indirect employment to over 6 million people



**Reference:**

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=167418>

## KBL-Image Debit Card

**Question: Which bank has launched KBL- Image Debit Card?**

- (A) HDFC Bank (B) IndusInd Bank (C) Karnataka Bank  
(D) PNB

**Ans: (c)**

**Related facts:-**

- On 30 June, 2017, Mangalore-based Private Sector Bank Karnataka Bank launched 'KBL-Image Debit Card.'
- 'Karnataka Bank' has enabled card holders to personalize the card with the image of their choice.
- Customers will have the option of selecting any image from the photo gallery of the bank's website or any image of their choice to be printed on the debit card.



**Related Links:-**

<https://www.karnatakabank.com/ktk/kblimagecard.jsp>

## AIIB approved USD 329 million loan for Gujarat rural roads

**Question: Which of the following is the biggest shareholder of Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank?**

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

**Ans: (b)**

**Related facts:-**

- On July 4, 2017, Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB) approved a loan of US\$329 million to build access roads to approximately 4,000 villages in all 33 districts of Gujarat, India.
- This project will construct and upgrade district and farm-to-market roads for the villagers and provide access to educational institutions, schools and hospitals.
- This project is a part of phase one of the multiphase Government of Gujarat's "Chief Minister's Rural Roads Program" that complements the Government of India's "Prime Minister's Rural Roads Program".
- The Bank is piloting a unique software tool specifically developed for this rural roads project.
- AIIB is a multilateral development bank founded to bring countries together to address the daunting infrastructure needs across Asia.
- AIIB has 80 approved members and is headquartered in Beijing.
- China is the bank's biggest shareholder, contributing around USD \$30 billion to its USD 100 billion capital, and India is the second-biggest shareholder with an \$8 billion contribution.



**Reference:**

[https://www.aiib.org/en/news-events/news/2017/20170705\\_001.html](https://www.aiib.org/en/news-events/news/2017/20170705_001.html)

<http://indiatoday.intoday.in/story/china-aiib-gujarat-loan-rural-roads-projects-india/1/994529.html>

## Financial Stability Report June 2017

**Question: What is the expected GVA growth for 2017-18 according to the RBI's financial stability report June 2017?**

(a) 7.3 % (b) 7.5% (c) 8% (d) 10%

**Ans: (a)**

**Related Fact :**

- On June 30, 2017, the Reserve Bank of India released the Financial Stability Report (FSR) June 2017, a biannual publication and the 15th in the series.
- The FSR reflects the overall assessment on the stability of India's financial system and its resilience to risks emanating from global and domestic factors.
- The report hopes for a better growth outlook in view of reforms in foreign direct investment, implementation of goods and services tax (GST), and revival in external demand.

**Financial Institutions: Soundness and resilience**





- During 2016-17, while deposit growth of scheduled commercial banks (SCBs) picked up, credit growth remained sluggish putting pressure on net interest income (NII), particularly of the public sector banks (PSBs).
- While profitability ratios of SCBs showed a marginal increase, PSBs continue to show a negative return on assets (RoA).
- The gross non-performing advances (GNPAs) of the banking sector rose but the stressed advances ratio declined between September 2016 and March 2017 due to fall in restructured standard advances.
- Overall, capital to risk-weighted assets ratio (CRAR) improved from 13.4 per cent to 13.6 per cent between September 2016 and March 2017.
- The share of large borrowers, both in SCBs' total loans portfolio as well as GNPAs, showed a reduction between September 2016 and March 2017.
- At the system level, the CRAR of scheduled urban co-operative banks (SUCBs) increased from 13.0 per cent to 13.6 per cent between September 2016 and March 2017.
- While the aggregate balance sheet of the NBFC sector expanded by 14.5 per cent during 2016-17, their net profit was down by 2.9 per cent.
- Assets under management by Mutual Funds (AUM) touched an all-time high of more than Rs. 17.5 trillion by end-March 2017.
- From the perspective of larger financial system, SCBs continued to be the dominant players accounting for nearly 51 per cent of the bilateral exposure followed by asset management companies managing mutual funds (AMC-MFs), non-banking financial companies (NBFCs), all-India financial institutions (AIFIs), insurance companies and housing finance companies (HFCs).

#### **Financial sector: Regulation and development**

- Imminent transition to Ind AS will be challenging for Indian banks in terms of skills as well as the requirement of a higher amount of provisioning. RBI tightened its disclosure and standard assets provisioning requirements while adopting a more proactive approach in the resolution of stressed assets. The Reserve Bank also tightened its supervisory and enforcement frameworks by revising the prompt corrective action (PCA) framework and establishing an Enforcement Department. Lower impairment in home loans and overall weak credit growth have facilitated the RBI to take a counter-cyclical measure of reducing risk weights and standard asset provisioning for individual housing loans.
- The prudential norms on masala bonds have been harmonised broadly with that for external commercial borrowing (ECB).
- SEBI, along with the RBI, allowed derivative transactions in the International Financial Services Centres (IFSCs), while making the disclosure requirements for top listed entities more comprehensive. Investor protection measures were further enhanced by SEBI.
- To enhance the effectiveness of grievance redressal mechanism at Market Infrastructure Institutions (MIIs), SEBI has comprehensively reviewed the existing framework in consultation with the Stock Exchanges and Depositories
- PFRDA allowed the second record keeping agency to bring down operating charges and enhancing long-term returns to the investors.
- Concerns arising from frauds and cyber-attacks remain elevated with the recent global ransomware attacks. Various responses by the regulators in this regard include setting up of an Inter-disciplinary Standing Committee on Cyber Security by the RBI.

#### **Reference:**

<https://rbi.org.in/Scripts/PublicationReportDetails.aspx?UrlPage=&ID=876>



## Decision to reduce Tax Rate on Fertilizers

**Question: What is the new GST rate on fertilizers as decided in the 18th meeting of GST Council held on June 30, 2017?**

(a) 12 percent (b) 5 percent (c) 10 percent (d) 15 percent

**Ans: (b)**

**Related Fact :**

- In the 18th meeting of the GST Council, held on 30th June 2017, GST rate on fertilizers was decided to be reduced from the existing 12% to 5%.
- Under the new GST rates announced by the Council, average weighted MRP will decrease to Rs. 295.47/ 50kg bag as compared to the existing All India weighted Average of Rs. 296.18/50 kg bag.
- Consequent to the ushering in of the GST regime, there will be a uniform MRP of Rs.295.47 per 50 kg bag across the country except a couple of States where additional VAT is charged on the natural gas as Natural gas has not been brought within the ambit of GST.
- However, even in these States, MRP will reduce by Rs 3 per 50 kg bag.
- The GST regime, apart from integrating the entire fertilizer market into a single market, will also deter inter-state smuggling of fertilizers which may be happening due to differing levels of taxes and consequently MRPs in different adjoining States.



**Reference:**

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=167057>

## Index of Eight Core Industries May, 2017

**Question: According to the Index of Eight Core Industries May, 2017, the production of coal has...**

(a) Increased (b) Declined (c) Stable (d) None of the above.

**Ans: (b)**

- The summary of the Index of Eight Core Industries (base: 2011-12) as of May, 2017, is as follows:  
Coal production (weight: 10.33%) declined by 3.3% in May, 2017 over May, 2016. Its cumulative index declined by 3.3% during April to May, 2017-18 over the corresponding period of the previous year.
- Crude Oil production (weight: 8.98 %) increased by 0.7% in May, 2017 over May, 2016. Its cumulative index increased by 0.1 % during April to May, 2017-18 over the corresponding period of previous year.
- The Natural Gas production (weight: 6.88 %) increased by 4.5 % in May, 2017 over May, 2016. Its cumulative index increased by 3.3 % during April to May, 2017-18 over the corresponding period of previous year.
- Petroleum Refinery production (weight: 28.04%) increased by 5.4% in May, 2017 over May, 2016. Its cumulative index increased by 2.8 % during April to May, 2017-18 over the corresponding period of previous year.



- Fertilizer production (weight: 2.63 %) declined by 6.5% in May, 2017 over May, 2016. Its cumulative index declined by 0.8 % during April to May, 2017-18 over the corresponding period of previous year.
- Steel production (weight: 17.92%) increased by 3.7% in May, 2017 over May, 2016. Its cumulative index increased by 6.3% during April to May, 2017-18 over the corresponding period of previous year.
- Cement production (weight: 5.37%) increased by 1.8% in May, 2017 over May, 2016. Its cumulative index declined by 0.3 % during April to May, 2017-18 over the corresponding period of previous year.
- Electricity generation (weight: 19.85%) increased by 6.4 % in May, 2017 over May, 2016. Its cumulative index increased by 5.9% during April to May, 2017-18 over the corresponding period of previous year. Electricity generation data from renewable sources are also included.
- The Eight Core Industries comprise 40.27 % of the weight of items included in the Index of Industrial Production (IIP). The combined Index of Eight Core Industries stands at 126.4 in May, 2017, which was 3.6 % higher compared to the index of May, 2016. Its cumulative growth during April to May, 2017-18 was 3.2 %.
- Note 1: Data for March, 2017, April, 2017 and May, 2017 are provisional.

**Reference:**

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=167031>

## SCIENTIFIC

### DEFENSE/SCIENCE SHORT NOTES

#### NASA jets for first time will chase solar eclipse

**Question:-By which of the following NASA's research jets scientists are planning to chase the shadow of the moon during the upcoming total solar eclipse in the U.S. ?**

(a) WB-56E (b) WB-57F (c) WC-58E (d) WC-56F

**Answer:- (b)**

**Related facts:-**

- Scientists from NASA for the first time are planning to chase the shadow of the moon during the total solar eclipse on August 21, 2017.
- This task will be performed using two of NASA's WB-57F research jets during the upcoming total solar eclipse in the US.
- The purpose of the chase is to capture the clearest ever images of the Sun's outer atmosphere.
- The research jets (planes) will have twin telescopes mounted on the noses of the planes to capture clearest images of Sun's corona to date.



- They will also undertake first-ever thermal images of Mercury to reveal how temperature varies across the planet's surface.
- The total solar eclipse will provide a rare opportunity for scientists to study the sun, particularly its atmosphere. During this eclipse, the moon will completely cover the sun and perfectly blocking its light so that faint corona is easily seen against the dark sky.
- The two research planes will observe the total eclipse for about three and a half minutes each. The vantage point on planes will provide distinct advantages over ground-based observations.
- The planes will also take observations of Mercury 30 minutes before and after sky is still relatively dark. These images will be taken in the infrared and will be the first attempt to map the variation of temperature across the surface of the planet.
- The planes will be flying high in the stratosphere to avoid Earth's atmosphere for improving image quality. The sky will be also 20–30 times darker at the altitude where planes will be flying than as seen from the ground.
- There is also much less atmospheric turbulence, that will allow fine structures and motions in sun's corona to be visible.

**Reference:**

<https://www.nasa.gov/feature/goddard/2017/chasing-the-total-solar-eclipse-from-nasa-s-wb-57f-jets>

## Reliance Defence launches first two Navy ships

**Question:-Recently Reliance Defence launched first two Navy ships. The name of these ships are...?**

- (a) Shreya and Shruti (b) Shraddha and Jalnidhi  
(c) Shachi and Shruti (d) Sunidhi and Samriddhi

**Answer :-(c)**

**Related facts:-**

- On July 25, 2017, Reliance Infrastructure controlled Reliance Defence and Engineering Limited (RDEL) launched the first two Naval Offshore Patrol Vessels named 'Shachi' and 'Shruti' at their shipyard in Pipavav, Gujarat.
- The two Naval Offshore Patrol Vessels (NOPVs) are a part of five ships under the P-21 project being constructed for the Indian Navy by RDEL.
- The five NOPVs being constructed at Reliance Shipyard are patrol ships and are armed with 76mm Super Rapid Gun Mount (SRGM) system along with two 30mm AK-630 guns which provide medium range and short range offensive and defensive capabilities.
- The Company is also engaged in the construction of one Training ship and fourteen Fast Patrol Vessels (FPVs) for the Indian Coast Guard.
- RDEL previously has also built ships for varied clients including Ice Bulk Carriers for the Norwegian company, Offshore Support Vessels for ONGC and Offshore Deck Cargo Barges for NPCC-UAE. The company has also repaired and retrofitted commercial and defence ships as well as mobile oil drilling platforms for international clients.
- Reliance Defence and Engineering Limited is the first private shipyard in India to obtain defence production license and sign a contract for defence ships in 2011.



- The Maharashtra Government has allotted land at Mihan near Nagpur for the development of India's first smart city for the defence sector known as Dhirubhai Ambani Aerospace Park (DAAP).

**Reference:**

[http://www.rinfra.com/pdf/pressreleases/Press\\_Release\\_25.07.17.pdf](http://www.rinfra.com/pdf/pressreleases/Press_Release_25.07.17.pdf)

## World's first floating wind farm

**Question:-Recently in which coast place was started to take shape First floating wind farm?**

(a) Thailand (b) England (c) France (d) Scotland

**Answer:- (d)**

**Related facts:-**

- According to reports dated July 23, 2017, the world's first full—scale floating wind farm — is being built off the coast of Scotland.
- The technology will enable wind power to be harvested in waters that are too deep for the existing bottom—standing turbines.
- The wind farm, known as Hywind, is a trial project which is expected to bring power to 20,000 homes.
- The floating wind farm is being developed by Norway—based manufacturer Statoil.
- The tower, including the blades, measure 175 meters in height, dwarfing Big Ben. Each tower weighs 11,500 tonnes.
- Each blade is 75 meters long — almost the wing span of an Airbus. The blades harness breakthrough software which holds the tower upright by twisting the blades to dampen motions from wind, waves and currents.



**Reference:**

<https://www.statoil.com/en/what-we-do/hywind-where-the-wind-takes-us.html>

## World's First Drone-Killing Laser Weapons System

**Question: Navy of which of the following countries has recently successfully tested World's First Drone-Killing Laser Weapons System?**

(a) China (b) America (c) Russia (d) France

**Answer- (b)**

**Related facts**

- On July 18, 2017, the S. Navy tested the world's first Drone-Killing Laser Weapons System. During this trial, the laser weapon system deployed on board the USS Ponce amphibious transport ship successfully destroyed a drone(an unnamed aerial vehicle (UAV) and moving surface targets). It is the first fully penetrating capability system to the target at the surface and in the air. This weapon releases photons, elementary particles which transmit light, at the speed of light silently hitting their target and burning it to a temperature of thousands of degrees. This Laser active Weapon System can move at the speed of light, which is 50,000 times the speed of an incoming intercontinental ballistic missile.



## Super-flexible and strong artificial silk developed

**Question: Scientists from which of the following countries have developed Super-flexible and strong artificial silk?**

- (a) Harvard University (b) Cambridge University  
(c) Melbourne University (d) Stanford University

**Answer- (b)**

**Related facts:**

- According to the reports published on July 10, 2017, a team of a scientist (architects and chemists) from the University of Cambridge has developed super-stretchy and strong fibres.
- This fibre is composed of water (98%) and hydrogel (2%) made of silica and cellulose.
- The fibres are pulled from the hydrogel, forming long, extremely thin threads is a few millionths of a metre in diameter.
- After the hydrogel is stretched for roughly 30 seconds, the water evaporates, leaving a strong fibre.

**Reference:**

<http://www.cam.ac.uk/research/news/green-method-developed-for-making-artificial-spider-silk>



## Nasr Missile

**Question: NASR missile is also known by which of the following names?**

- (a) Hatf-8 (b) Hutf-9 (c) Ababil (d) Hutf-10

**Answer- (b)**

**Related facts:**

- On July 5, 2017, Pakistan's Strategic Plans Division (SPD) successfully test-fired an improved version of the Nasr short-range ballistic missile (SRBM).
- The other name of this missile is 'Hatf-9'.
- This is a surface-to-surface missile (SSM).
- This missile has a strike range of 60 to 70 km.
- The Hatf 9 is also believed to be a nuclear capable missile, but it could potentially carry an HE or sub munitions payload as well.

**Reference:**

<http://quwa.org/2017/07/05/pakistan-test-fires-improved-nasr-short-range-ballistic-missile/>



## Solar powered air-conditioned bed

**Question: Aries International Maritime Research Institute has recently developed a solar powered air conditioned bed. This institute is located in which of the following countries?**

- (a) UAE (b) Saudi Arabia (c) Iran (d) USA

**Ans: (a)**

**Related facts:-**





- According to a report released on July 3, 2017, the UAE-based Aries International Maritime Research Institute has developed a solar powered bed in association with Arise International, an interior designing and technical consultancy company.
- The innovative concept is expected to be a big boon for sun-soaked Middle East region and powerless (where there is no access to electricity) remote villages of countries in Asia and Africa.
- Conventional air conditioning system accounts 25-70 per cent of households annual energy expenses while Solar AC bed will consume only 20 per cent energy compared to the normal AC system.
- This AC bed allows 80 per cent power savings and is designed to run efficiently in all climate conditions with minimal maintenance cost.
- These Solar AC bed can be run on normal electricity too.

**Related Links:-**

<http://gulfnews.com/news/uae/society/uae-based-company-to-launch-first-solar-powered-ac-bed-1.2052442>

## Painless vaccine patch

**Question: A painless vaccine patch was recently developed to provide flu vaccines. Which of the following statements are correct about the vaccine patch?**

**(1) It contains 100 tiny microscopic needles with the vaccine.**

**(2) It does not require refrigeration.**

**(3) This vaccine may be stored for 1 year.**

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

(d) All three statements are correct.



**Ans: (d)**

**Related facts:-**

- According to a research published in the journal the Lancet on June 28<sup>th</sup>, 2017, Professor Mark Prausnitz of the Georgia Institute of Technology has developed a painless patch that can replace the injection given for future flu vaccination.
- The size of this patch is equal to the thumb impression which contains 100 “microneedles” containing the vaccine, which dissolve after delivering a dose.
- The gum in the patch keeps the patch stick to the skin and medicine penetrates the skin through the needles, through the upper surface of the skin. This patch can be removed twenty minutes later. This patch has been developed by researchers from Emory University in the US and was funded by a grant from the National Institute of Biomedical Imaging and Bioengineering. Patches don’t require refrigeration and can be stored at a temperature of 40 degrees Celsius for one year.
- Patch manufacturing cost is also likely to be less than the normal syringe, which will increase its coverage.
- This patch will not require pain injections to give insulin to people suffering from diabetes and to give treatment to cancer patients.

**Related Links:-**

<http://www.nhs.uk/news/2017/06June/Pages/Painless-flu-vaccine-skin-patch-shows-promise.aspx>



## Nuclear power system to be built on Mars

**Question: Which agency amongst the following is working on Project Kilopower to build a nuclear power system for Mars?**

(a) ISRO (b) NASA (c) JAXA (d) Roscosmos

**Ans: (b)**

**Related facts:-**

- NASA's technology development branch has been funding a project to establish Nuclear power system for Mars.
- The project is costing about \$ 15 million.
- Testing of the project is due to start in September and end in January 2018.
- The system will be demonstrated at the Nevada National Security Site near Las Vegas.
- Under this project, NASA envisions sending four or five small fission reactors to Mars.
- Each fission reactor is capable of generating about 10 kilowatts of power.
- Last time NASA tested a fission reactor was during the 1960s' Systems for Nuclear Auxiliary Power, or SNAP, program, which developed two types of nuclear power systems (i) Radioisotope thermoelectric generators, (ii) An atom-splitting fission reactor.
- In the RTG system, heat released from the natural decay of a radioactive element, such as plutonium.
- RTGs have powered dozens of space probes over the years, including the Curiosity rover currently exploring Mars.

**Related Links:-**

<https://www.space.com/37348-nasa-fission-power-mars-colony.html>



## Natural noise of the body helpful in detecting the cancer

**Question: Which of the following country's scientists recently discovered the method of detecting the cancer in the early stages by the natural noise of the body through the elastography technique?**

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

**Ans: (c)**

**Related facts**

- In June 2017, Stefan Catheline from the University of Lyon, France and other scientists discovered the method of detection of cancer of the body by the elastography technique and the diagnosis of diseases like liver and thyroid etc. in the early stages.
- Elastography sometimes called the earthquake science of the human body is an emerging technique used to enhance the medical ultrasound image.
- Through this, by measuring the elasticity of biological tissue such as cancer liver and thyroid, diseases etc. can be detected in early stages with high accuracy.
- The elasticity of tissues in passive elastography techniques is measured by using Shear waves from the body's own expansion, which enables more effective imaging inside the body more prudently than traditional elastography.



- The technique of Passive Elastography is used in detecting cancer in the deep organs of the body such as prostate or liver, for well-protected organs such as the brain, and for fragile organs such as the eye.
- Shear waves, which passes through any medium, are produced when an object becomes distorted by heavy pressure such as during an earthquake or explosion.
- In order to measure the hardness of the tissue in medical science, shear waves are produced by vibration equipment.
- A cancerous tumour or tissue displays much hardness compared to healthy tissues or benign tumours. This difference in hardness cannot be seen or experienced through traditional methods or other imaging methods.
- Shear waves are difficult to produce in the internal organs such as in the deep liver in the body behind the Ribcage.
- Scientists have developed a new approach to this solution, in which the noise of biologically generated natural shear waves is analyzed.
- This technique works on shear waves naturally present in the human body due to muscles activities to construct a shear elasticity map of soft tissues.
- Thus, it is called Passive Electrography.

**Related Links:-**

<http://indianexpress.com/article/lifestyle/health/this-technique-uses-bodys-noise-to-detect-cancer-early-4722369/>

## Sohum

**Question: “Sohum”- an innovative Newborn hearing screening device has recently been Developed by which one of the following?**

- (a) Amrita Vidyalaya of Biotechnology (b) School of Biotechnology  
(c) School of International Biodesign (d) Indian School of Bioscience

**Answer- (c)**

**Related facts:**

- On July 17, 2017, ‘SOHUM’ was formally launched by the Minister of State for Science and Technology & Earth Sciences, Shri Y.S. Chowdary, in New Delhi. SOHUM is an indigenously developed newborn hearing screening device.
- This device was developed by School of International Biodesign (SIB) start-up M/s Sohumi Innovation Labs India Pvt. Ltd.
- This battery-operated device is non-invasive i.e. which means babies do not need to be sedated. The device measures auditory brain waves via three electrodes placed on the baby’s head. When stimulated, they detect electrical responses generated by the brain’s auditory system. The aim is to screen two percent of hospital-born babies in the first year, before scaling up and the device has been installed in five clinical centres who are currently running the hearing screening program.
- This innovative medical device has been developed under Department of Biotechnology (DBT), Ministry of Science and Technology.

**Reference:**

<http://dst.gov.in/pressrelease/made-india-global-health>



## Reliance Jio launches submarine cable system

**Question: Reliance Jio recently announced the launch of AAE-1, submarine cable system. This AAE-1 submarine cable system will be stretched over ... continents.**

(a) one (b) two (c) three (d) four

**Answer- (c)**

**Related facts:**

- On June 29, 2017, Reliance Jio, the biggest 4G and mobile broadband digital service provider in India, announced the launch of the Asia-Africa-Europe (AAE-1) submarine cable system.
- This AAE-1 is touted as the longest 100Gbps technology based submarine system.
- It will stretch over 25,000 km from Marseille, France to Hong Kong, with 21 cable landings across Asia and Europe.
- This project is the combined work of leading telecom service providers from Europe, the Middle East, and Asia.
- AAE-1 will provide the requisite flexibility and diversity for telecom firms and their customers in addition to diversified Points of Presence in Asia (Hong Kong and Singapore) and three onward connectivity options in Europe (via France, Italy and Greece).
- AAE-1 links seamlessly with other cable systems and fibre networks to deliver direct access to all global markets.
- AAE-1 will provide one of the lowest latency routes between Hong Kong, India, Middle East and Europe with the fewest hops.
- The AAE-1 NOC (network operations centre) will be managed by Jio (Navi Mumbai).



**Reference:**

<http://www.ril.com/getattachment/b2e5fbc5-f7ba-42e3-895c-d54d196403bb/Jio-Launches-New-Submarine-Cable-System.aspx>

## Sale of C-17 aircraft to India

**Question: Which amongst the following countries recently approved the sale of C-17 Globe Master III to India?**

(a) United States of America (b) France (c) Israel (d) Russia

**Answer- (a)**

**Related facts:**

- On June 29, 2017, The U.S. State Department approved the possible sale to India of one Boeing C-17 transport aircraft.
- It will improve India's capability to meet current and future strategic airlift requirements.
- The C-17 has a capability to carry around 70 tonnes of load and around 150 fully geared troops.
- C-17 will replace the Russian IL-76 aircraft which has the capability to carry loads up to around 40 tonnes.



- The aircraft will give major thrust and flexibility to IAF's capability to swiftly move troops and tanks to battle fronts.
- The estimated cost of this C-17 transport aircraft \$366 million.

**Reference:**

<http://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/defence/us-to-sell-366-2-million-c-17-globemaster-aircraft-to-india/articleshow/59366457.cms>

## Quick Reaction Surface-to-Air Missile

**Question: The Quick Reaction Surface-to-Air (QRSAM) short range missile was successfully test fired by India from ...**

- (a) Chandipur test range (b) Kochi test range  
(c) Arabian Sea test range (d) Bay of Bengal test range

**Answer- (a)**

**Related facts:**

- On July 3, 2017, India successfully test-fired an indigenously developed quick reaction surface- to-air short range missile from Integrated Test Range (ITR) at Chandipur Odisha.
- This was the second developmental trial of the state-of-the-art missile with an aerial target. The first test launch of the missile was conducted on June 4, 2017 from the same base. The strike range of this missile is 20 to 30 km. It is capable of engaging multiple targets. This missile has been developed by the Defence Research and Development Organization (DRDO). This missile is equipped with an all- weather weapon system capable of tracking and firing.



**Reference:**

[http://www.ptinews.com/news/8766204\\_Quick-reaction-surface-to-air-short-range-missile-test-fired](http://www.ptinews.com/news/8766204_Quick-reaction-surface-to-air-short-range-missile-test-fired)

## World's Sharpest Laser

**Question: The scientists of which of the following countries have developed the world's sharpest laser.**

- (a) America (b) Germany (c) France (d) China

**Answer- (b)**

**Related facts:**

- On July 2, 2017, scientists of Germany developed the world's sharpest laser.
- This laser has a linewidth of only 10 miliHertz (mHz) – closer to the ideal laser than ever before.
- This precision is useful for various applications such as optical atomic clocks, precision spectroscopy, radio astronomy and for testing the Einstein's theory of relativity.
- Lasers produce a narrow beam of light. Importantly, the word 'laser' stands for Light Amplification by Stimulated Emission of Radiation.



**Reference:**

<http://indiatoday.intoday.in/story/worlds-sharpest-laser-developed/1/992467.html>

## First asteroid deflection mission

**Question: NASA's first asteroid deflection mission is to be known as**

(a) CHAMP (b) Cloudsat (c) DART (d) Glory

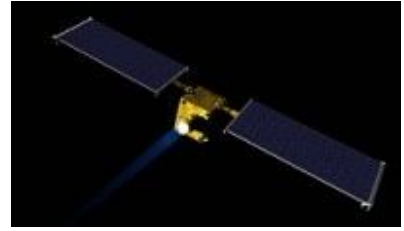
**Answer- (c)**

**Related facts:**

- On June 23, 2017, NASA approved to move forward with the first-ever Asteroid Deflection Mission.
- This mission would be known as DART-the Double Asteroid Redirection Test (DART).
- It will demonstrate the kinetic impactor technique in which a non-threatening small asteroid will be struck to shift its orbit.
- It would be built and managed by scientists at the Johns Hopkins Applied Physics Laboratory.
- The target for DART's first test would be an asteroid that will have a distant approach to Earth in October 2022, and then again in 2024.

**Reference:**

<https://hub.jhu.edu/2017/07/03/nasa-asteroid-deflection-mission/>



## China's First X-ray Telescope

**Question: China launched a hard X-ray Modulation telescope (HXMT) using a long March-4B (Chang Zheng-4) launch vehicle from the Jiuquan satellite launch centre at Gobi Desert. What is the name of this telescope?**

(a) Trappist-1 (b) Insight (c) Cluster (d) Inspirit

**Answer- (b)**

**Related facts:**

- On June 15, 2017, China launched a hard X-ray Modulation telescope (HXMT) using a long March-4B (Chang Zheng-4) launch vehicle from the Jiuquan satellite launch centre at Gobi desert.
- This is China's first astronomical satellite into space.
- The name of this telescope is insight.
- The telescope is placed in orbit at a distance of 550 km. from Earth.
- The new orbiting telescope will be used to monitor pulsars and in observing black holes and neutron star emitting bright X-rays.

**Reference:**

<http://www.skyandtelescope.com/astronomy-news/china-launches-first-observatory-hxmt/>



## The most detailed scan of brain wiring

**Question: Cardiff University, where scientists have succeeded in producing the most detailed scan of brain wiring, is located in ...**

(a) America (b) UK (c) France (d) Germany

**Ans: (b)**

**Related facts: –**

- According to a report published by the BBC on July 3,





2017, world's most holistic scan of brain's internal wires has been done by the scientists at Cardiff University Britain.

- Cardiff University's Brain Research Imaging Centre (CUBRIC) have succeeded in revealing the fibres which carry all the brain's thought processes.
- The scan shows not only the direction of the message but also the density of fibres in the brain.
- The advanced scan by showing axonal density can help to understand how the wound affects the movement and cognitive pathways that create problems of movements in MS patients and causes excessive fatigue.
- Extraordinary images produced in Cardiff are the result of a special MRI scanner that is only three in the world.
- The scanner is being used for research in many neurological conditions, including MS, Schizophrenia, Dementia and Epilepsy.

**Related Links:-**

<http://www.bbc.com/news/health-40488545>

## China launches its second heavy Rocket

**Question: China recently launched its second-wheeled rocket long march-5 y2. Which communication satellite sent through space?**

(a) Shijian-17 (b) Shijian-18 (c) Shijian-15 (d) Shijian-19

**Ans: (b)**

**Related facts:-**

- On July 2, 2017, China launched its second heavy rocket Long March-5 Y2.
- It was launched from Wenchang Space Launch Center in Hainan Province.
- Communication satellite 'Shijian-18' was supposed to be taken to the orbit by Long March-5 Y2.
- However, the mission was unsuccessful and Shijian-18 was lost.
- Importantly, on April 20, 2017, China launched the first cargo spacecraft 'Tianzhou-1' through this rocket.

**Related Links:-**

<https://spaceflightnow.com/2017/07/02/launch-of-chinas-heavy-lift-long-march-5-rocket-declared-a-failure/>



## America sanctioned the sale of unmanned drones to India

**Question: Recently, how many unmanned Guardian drones were sanctioned by the US to be sold to India?**

(a) 20 (b) 22 (c) 25 (d) 35

**Ans: (b)**

**Related facts:-**

- On June 22, 2017, the US government approved the sale





of 22 unmanned Guardian drones to India.

- This deal worth \$2 to 3 billion was approved by the US State Department.  
This drone is manufactured by General Atomics.
- This drone can fly up to an altitude of up to 50,000 ft for 27 hours at a time.  
It is used for intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance.

**Related Links:-**

<https://thewire.in/151745/us-clears-sale-of-guardian-drones-to-india/>

## Exercise Malabar 2017

**Question: Exercise Malabar started in ...**

(a) 1992 (b) 1994 (c) 1995 (d) 1996

**Ans: (a)**

**Related facts:-**

- The 21st edition of Exercise Malabar is being conducted from 10th to 20th July 2017 in the North Indian Ocean.
- This exercise will see participation from United States, India, and Japan who are the permanent partners of the exercise.
- The 10-day Malabar drills will be bigger and more complex than all previous editions of the exercise.
- The US Navy is being represented by USS Nimitz, the world's largest aircraft carrier, guided-missile cruiser USS Princeton, guided-missile destroyers USS Howard, USS Shoup, and USS Kidd, a P-8A Poseidon submarine hunter plane, a Los Angeles-class fast-attack submarine.
- Indian warships at the exercise will include two Shivalik-class stealth frigates, two Ranvir-class destroyers, a Kamorta-class anti-submarine warfare corvette, a tanker and a submarine.
- The Indian Navy's solitary aircraft carrier, INS Vikramaditya, and Japan's Izumo-class helicopter carrier will also be among the 20-odd warships taking part in the exercise.
- The exercise will involve both ashore and at-sea training. Ashore training will include exchanges on carrier strike group operations, maritime patrol and reconnaissance operations, surface and anti-submarine warfare, explosive ordnance disposal (EOD) and visit, board, search and seizure (VBSS) operations.
- Sea phase will cover professional exchanges and embarks, submarine familiarisation, air defence exercises, surface warfare drills, anti-submarine warfare, gunnery exercises and VBSS operations.
- India and the US kicked off Malabar exercise in 1992 and Japan became a permanent partner in 2015.
- Australia and Singapore are non-permanent partners and have taken part in previous editions of the exercise.



**Reference:**

<http://www.hindustantimes.com/india-news/india-us-japan-to-begin-malabar-drills-all-you-need-to-about-the-naval-exercise-in-indian-ocean/story-ssB13XXA3rmYZ8nLyJ0nTP.html>

<http://thediplomat.com/2017/04/india-japan-australia-and-the-us-the-return-of-asias-quad/>

## Exercise Maitree 2017

**Question: Exercise Maitree-2017 is being conducted from 3-17 July, 2017 between the armies of ...**

- (a) India and Thailand (b) India and Sri Lanka  
(c) India and Vietnam (d) India and Taiwan

**Ans: (a)**

**Related facts:-**

- On July 3, 2017, Exercise Maitree 2017- 14-day joint training exercise of the Indian Army with the Royal Thailand Army, started at Bakloh in Chamba district in Himachal Pradesh.
- Around 100 troops from the Indian Army and the Royal Thailand Army are participating in this exercise.
- The joint exercise aims at building and promoting closer relations while exchanging skills and experiences between both the armies.
- This joint exercise will try to familiarize both contingents with each other's operating procedures in the backdrop of counter insurgency/ counter terrorism environment.
- This will enhance interoperability while carrying out operations to counter insurgency and terrorism.
- The previous edition of the exercise was held at Krabi, Thailand in 2016.



**Reference:**

[http://www.business-standard.com/article/news-ani/exercise-maitree-2017-commences-in-himachal-117070301218\\_1.html](http://www.business-standard.com/article/news-ani/exercise-maitree-2017-commences-in-himachal-117070301218_1.html)

<http://thediplomat.com/2017/07/india-thailand-launch-army-exercise/>

## SPORTS

### TENNIS

#### Winnetka Challenger Tennis Tournament, 2017

**Question: By which of the following players, Indian tennis player Rajkumar Ramanathan was defeated in the recently concluded men's singles final of Winnetka Challenger Tennis Tournament?**

- (a) Taylor Fritz (b) Michael Moya (c) Akira Santillan  
(d) Dennis Novikov

**Answer- (c)**

**Related facts:**

- Nielsen Pro Tennis Championship, of the Second Male Professional Circuit 'Challenger Tour -2017' organized by Association of Tennis Professionals (ATP) recently concluded between July 10<sup>th</sup>-15<sup>th</sup>.
- **Competition Results**
- **Men's singles**
- **Winner:** Akira Santillan (Australia)
- **Runners-up:** Ramkumar Ramanathan (India)
- **Men's doubles**



- **Winners:** Sanchai Ratiwatana (Thailand) and Christopher Rungkat (Indonesia).
- **Runner-up:** Bradley Klahn and Kevin King(both of America).
- Ramkumar earned 48 points in Winnetka Challenger.
- In the singles ranking released On July 17th, 2017, Ramkumar Ramanathan reached a career-high ranking of 168 in singles.
- He is now India's best-ranked player in the singles, followed by Yuki Bhambri (212), Prajnesh Gunneswaran (214), N Sriram Balaji (293) and Sumit Nagal (306).

**Reference:**

<http://www.atpworldtour.com/en/tournaments/winnetka/228/overview>

## Wimbledon Championships, 2017

**Question: On July 16th, 2017, Roger Federer won the Wimbledon Championships for the record ....**

(a) 8th time (b) 7th time (c) 5th time (d) 9th time

**Ans: (a)**

**Related facts:**

- Wimbledon Championships, 2017, ITF's third grand slam tennis tournament held from July 3 -16 in the All England Lawn Tennis, Club, London (U.K.).
- **Competition Results-**
- **Men's singles**  
Winner-Roger Federer (Switzerland)  
Runner up- Marin Cilic (Croatia)
- **Women's singles**  
Winner-Garbine Muguruza (Spain)  
Runner up-Venus Williams (United States)
- **Men's doubles**  
Winner-Lukasz Kubot (Poland) and Marcelo Melo (Brazil)  
Runners up- Oliver Marach (Austria) and Mate Pakic (Croatia)
- **Women's doubles**  
Winner-Ekaterina Makarova and Elena Vesnina (both Russia)  
Runner up-Chan Hao-ching (Chineseype) and Monica Niculescu (Romania)
- **Mixed Doubles**  
Winner-Jamie Murray (UK) and Martina Hingis (Switzerland)  
Runner-up-Henri Kontinen (Finland) and Heather Watson (UK)
- Federer did not lose any set in seven matches during the tournament.
- Roger Federer defeated Croatia's Marin Cilic 6-3, 6-1, 6-4 to win the men's singles title at Wimbledon
- Federer is the only player who won two Grand Slam consecutive times.
- He won Wimbledon from 2003 to 2007, while from 2004 to 2008; he won the title of the US Open.
- Federer became the oldest player (35 years, 342 days) to win the Wimbledon title in the Open era (beginning in 1968).
- Earlier this record was in the name of America's Arthur Ash.
- Arthur won the title of 1975 in 31 years, 360 days.



- This is Federer's record 8th Wimbledon title. (Record 11th Wimbledon Final)
- Federer left behind Pete Sampras and William Renshaw with seven Wimbledon titles.
- This was Federer's record 29th Grand Slam final, out of which he won 19. (Rafael Nadal 22 Grand Slam Finals)
- These 19 titles include 8 Wimbledon, 5 US, 5 Australian Open and 1 French Open.
- **Overall 3 Top Players (Women / Men) winning the Grand Slam titles are –**
  1. Margaret Court, Australia-23
  2. Serena Williams , USA-23
  3. Steffi Graf Germany-22
- Venus Williams (America) is the second oldest (37 years, 30 days) player after Martina Navratilova, who makes the place in Wimbledon final.
- Navratilova made to the Wimbledon final in 1994, 37 years, 258 days, but she also lost in the final, like Venus.
- Roger became the first living Swiss citizen in 2007, whose name was printed on Swiss Stamp.
- Federer holds the top position in the ATP ranking for 302 weeks.
- Federer has been involved in the top rankings from 2002 to November 2016.

**Reference:**

[http://www.wimbledon.com/en\\_GB/scores/results/day21.html](http://www.wimbledon.com/en_GB/scores/results/day21.html)

## CRICKET

### India's tour to the West Indies

**Question: The India tour of West Indies concluded recently. Who amongst the following players has been chosen as the Match of the Player in the five matches one-day series?**

- (a) Virat Kohli (b) Jason Holder (c) Shikhar Dhawan  
(d) Ajinkya Rahane

**Answer- (d)**

**Related facts:**

- Indian cricket team played 5 ODIs and a T-20 match on the West Indies tour from June 23rd – July 9th, 2017.
- Indian team won the one-day series 3-1 and the West Indies won the T20 match.
- Indian team was headed by Virat Kohli in ODI and T20 matches.
- Indian batsman Ajinkya Rahane, who made the highest score in the ODI series (336), was chosen Player of the Series.
- Jason Holder (West Indies) and Kuldeep Yadav took highest number of wickets (8-8) in the series.
- In the final and fifth match of the series Indian skipper Virat Kohli broke Sachin Tendulkar's record for most centuries in One-day Internationals while chasing.
- This was Kohli's 28th hundred in One-day cricket, 18 of which have come while chasing.
- Tendulkar took 232 innings to reach 17, while Kohli reached the milestone in only 102 innings.
- In the fourth ODI of the series, Mahendra Singh Dhoni scored 50 runs off 108 balls which is the second slowest half-century in Indian cricket history.



- Sourav Ganguly (50 runs /105 balls) was the second lowest scorer against Sri Lanka in 2005 before Dhoni.
- Earlier in 1999, Team India's Sadagoppan Ramesh scored 50 runs in 117 balls in ODIs against Kenya.
- West Indies palyer Evin Lewis scored an unbeaten 125 (62 balls) in the only T20 match played during the tour.
- This is the highest score ever made by any player pursuing the target in the Twenty20 match.
- This is the third highest score of international Twenty20 cricket.
- Aaron Finch holds the world record for highest score (156) in a T20 (against England, the year 2013).
- Lewis became the first batsman to score two T20I centuries against the same country.
- Earlier in August 2016, Louis made a century against India in Florida, America.
- Apart from Louise, Chris Gayle and Brendon McCullum have also made two centuries in international Twenty20 cricket but against different teams.
- Thus Louise became the third batsman to score two centuries in international Twenty20 cricket.

**Reference:**

<http://www.bcci.tv/west-indies-v-india-2017/results>

## FOOTBALL

### Confederations Cup-2017

**Question: Germany won the title of 'Confederations Cup' Football Tournament on July 1, 2017. Who got the Golden Ball award for the tournament?**

- (a) Alexis SANCHEZ (b) Leon GORETZKA (c) Julian Draxler  
(d) Timo WERNER

**Ans: (c)**

**Related facts:-**

- The 10th edition of the International Male Football Tournament 'Confederations Cup 2017' organized by the Federation of International Football Association (FIFA), concluded in St. Petersburg, Russia. (June 17 to July 2, 2017)
- 2014 Football World Cup winner Germany defeated Chile 1-0 in the final to win the title of the Quadrennial tournament for the first time.
- Lars Stindl did the only goal for Germany in the 20th minute.
- The awards given in the competition are as follows:
- Adidas Golden Ball – Julian Draxler (German Captain)
- Adidas Silver Ball – Alexis Sanchez (Chile)
- Adidas Bronze Ball – Leon Goretzka (Germany)
- Adidas Golden Boot – Timo Werner (Germany, 3 goals, 2 assists)
- Adidas Silver Boot – Lars Stindl and Leon Goretzka (both joint winners 3 goals, 0 assists)
- Adidas Golden Glove – Claudio Bravo (Captain Chile)
- FIFA Fair Play Award – Germany
- Germany has won four Football World Cups (1954, 1974, 1990, 2014) and three UEFA Cup (1972, 1980, 1996), but this is Germany's first title in the Confederations Cup.



- Four-time Confederations Cup winning team Brazil (1997, 2005, 2009, 2013) failed to qualify for the tournament this time.
- This is the first ever Confederations Cup tournament in which Video Assistant Referees (VARs) were used.
- Confederations Cup is played every fourth year among the 6th Football Associations (UEFA, CONMEBOL, CONCACAF, CAF, AFC and OFC) and the current World Cup winners and with the host country (total 8 teams).

**Related Links:-**

<http://www.fifa.com/confederationscup/matches/index.html>

## CHESS

### Geneva FIDE Grand Prix

**Question: Which position did the Indian Pentala Harikrishna secure in the recently concluded Geneva Fide Grand Prix, 2017?**

- (a) Jointly fourth place (b) Jointly third place (c) Jointly fifth place  
(d) Jointly sixth place

**Answer- (b)**

**Related facts:-**

- Geneva FIDE Grand Prix, third in the FIDE World chess championship cycle, concluded in Switzerland from July 6-15, 2017.
- There are four tournaments in FIDE World chess championship cycle- Sharjah, Moscow, Geneva and Palma de Mallorca.
- **Winner**– Timur Radjabov (Azerbaijan).
- Indian Grandmaster P. Harikrishna jointly finished third in the tournament.
- Palma de Mallorca Fide Grand Prix, last in FIDE World Chess Championship cycle will be concluded in Spain in November, 2017.



**Reference:**

<https://worldchess.com/gp2017/>

## BADMINTON

### Ivory Coast International, 2017

**Question: Who is the winner of women's singles title of the Ivory Coast International Badminton Competition 2017?**

- (a) P.V. Indus (b) Saina Nehwal (c) Ritika Thaker  
(d) Simran Singhi

**Ans: (c)**

**Related facts:-**

- BWF Ivory Coast International 2017 concluded at Abidjan. (June 29-July 2, 2017)





- Main results of competition:-
- **Men's singles:-**  
Winners – Anuoluwapo Opeyori (Nigeria)  
Runner-up – Bahaedeen A Alshannik (Jordan)
- **Women's singles:-**  
Winner – Ritika Thaker (India)  
Runners-up Simran Singhi (India)
- **Women's doubles:-**  
Winner – Ritika Thaker and Simran Singhi (both India)  
Runner-up – Zainab Momoh and Peace Orji (both Indonesia)
- **Men's doubles:-**  
Winner- Bahaedeen A Alshannik and Mohd Nasser Nayef (both Jordan)  
Runner-up – Adham Hatem Elgamal and Mohd Mostafa Kamel (both Egypt)

**Related Links:-**

<http://www.badmintonindia.org/events/tournaments/978/>

## Chinese Taipei Open Grand Prix Gold-2017

**Question-Who is the women's singles champion of the Chinese Taipei Open Grand Prix Gold Badminton tournament?**

(A) Siena Kawakami (B) Kim O Rin (C) Li Xi-Hui (D) Li Yang

**Ans: (a)**

**Related facts:-**

- BWF Grand Prix Gold and the eighth badminton competition of 2017 of Grand Prix Session, concluded in Taipei, Chinese Taipei (24 June-2 July, 2017)  
Competition Results:-
- **Men's singles:-**  
Winner – Chou Tien-Chen (Chinese Taipei)  
Runner-up – Tzu-Wei Wang(Chinese Taipei)
- **Women's singles:-**  
Winner – Saena Kawakami (Japan)  
Runner-up – Goh Jin-Wei (Malaysia)
- **Men's doubles:-**  
Winner – Chen Hung Ling and Wang Chi-lin (both Chinese Taipei)  
Runner-up – Li Jhe-Huei and Li Yang (both Chinese Taipei)
- **Women's doubles:-**  
Winner – Chae Yoo-Jung and Kim So-Yeong (both South Korea)  
Runner-up – Hye Rin KIM and Yoo Hae-Won (both South Korea)



- **Mixed Doubles:-**

Winner – Seung Jae SEO and Kim Ha-Na (both South Korea)

Runner-up – Wang Chi-Lin and Lee Chia-Hsin (both Chinese Taipei)

**Related Links;-**

<http://bwfbadminton.com/results/2660/yonex-open-chinese-taipei-2017/podium>

## BOXING

### WBO World Welterweight championship

**Question: Who amongst the following won WBO welterweight title?**

(a) Manny Pacquiao (b) Timothy Bradley (c) Jesse Verghese (d) Jeff Horn

**Answer- (d)**

**Related facts:**

- On July 2nd, 2017, professional boxer Jeff Horne won the title of WBO World Welterweight champion defeating 11-time World Champion Manny Pacciano.
- Jeff Horn is also known by his nickname “The Hornet”.
- Professional boxing world championship is organized by World Boxing Association (WBO).
- Its headquarter is in San Juan Puerto Rico.



**Reference:**

<http://www.wboboxing.com/07022017-manny-pacquiao-vs-jeff-horn/>

## BILLIARDS, SNOOKER & SQUASH

### Victorian Open, 2017

**Question: Who among the following squash players has won the recently concluded Victorian Open squash tournament?**

(a) Cyrus Poncha (b) Sourav Ghoshal (c) Ritwik Bhattacharya  
(d) Harinder Pal Sandhu

**Answer- (d)**

**Related facts:**

- Victorian Open Squash Tournament, PSA Tour Session concluded in Victoria, Australia from July 11-16, 2017.
- **Competition Results**
- **Male category**
- **Winner**-Harinder Pal Sandhu (India)
- **Runner up**– Rex Hedrick (Australia)
- **Female category**
- **Winner**-Liutz Ling (Hong Kong)



- **Runner up**-Amanda Landers-Murphy (New Zealand)
- In this tournament, Sandhu reached the final without dropping a game.
- It was Sandhu's fourth title in the year 2017.

**Reference:**

<https://www.squashvic.com.au/w/blog/international-duo-take-out-victorian-open-titles>

## ATHLETICS

### 57th National Inter-State Senior Athletics Championships

**Question: 57th National Inter-State Senior Athletics Championships of Indian Athletics Federation was held at...**

(a) Andhra Pradesh (b) Tamil Nadu (c) Kerala (d) Punjab

**Answer- (a)**

**Related facts:**

57th National Inter-State Senior Athletics Championship of Indian Athletics Federation concluded from July 15th-18th, 2017 at Acharya Nagarjuna University ground, Guntur, Andhra Pradesh.



- Kerala emerged champions with 159 points followed by Tamil Nadu (110) and Haryana (101) third.
- Haryana (79 points) won the title of the championship in men's category while Kerala won the title of the championship in women's category with 105 points.
- The host Andhra Pradesh remained overall in the 9th position (7th in the men's and 13th in the women's).
- Punjab's Davinder Singh Kang (Javelin Throw) was declared the top athlete among men with 1127 points.
- Kerala's Anu R. (400m Hurdles in 57.21 seconds) finished the championships as the best woman athlete with 1105 points.

**The main results of the championship are:**

| Events          | Men's Winner                | Women's winner        |
|-----------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------|
| 100 meters race | Elakkiyadasan, Tamilnadu    | Merlin Joseph, Kerala |
| 200 meters race | Amiya Kumar Mallick, Odisha | Srabani Nanda, Odisha |
| 400 meters race | Amoj Jacob, Delhi           | Anilda Thomas, Kerala |
| Triple jump     | Arpinder Singh, Haryana     | Sheena NV, Kerala     |
| Discus Throw    | DharmarajYadav, U.P.        | Himani Singh, U.P.    |

|              |                             |                        |
|--------------|-----------------------------|------------------------|
| Hammer Throw | Bhupinder Singh, U.P.       | Sarita R. Singh, U.P.  |
| Shot Put     | Tejinder Singh Toor, Punjab | Manpreet Kaur, Haryana |

- Siddhanth Thingalaya from Maharashtra created a new meet record to win the men's 110m hurdles in 13.76s.

**Reference:**

<http://indianathletics.in/results-57th-national-inter-state-senior-athletics-championships-2017>

## SPORTS MISCELLANEOUS

### European powerlifting championship

**Question: Who amongst the following is the winner in 110 Kg weight category in the European Power lifting Championship?**

- (a) Bhim Singh (b) Rajat Lakhakur (c) Rajat Goel  
(d) Mukesh Singh

**Answer- (c)**

**Related facts:**

- European power lifting championship concluded in Holland on July 4, 2017.
- Rajat Goel in Classic Raw (110 kg category) lifted a total of 600 kg in the event and bagged the Gold medal.
- In this tournament, for the first time, Rajat not only created European but also world record.
- It was his first medal at the international level.
- Rajat represented India in power lifting for the first time.
- Besides Rajat Goel, Bhim Singh also won gold.
- Indian power lifter Bhim Singh participated in the bench press 100 kg category and overall lifted 180 kg.
- Both Rajat and Bhim are trained by Dronacharya awardee coach Bhupender Dhawan.



**Reference:**

[https://www.facebook.com/permalink.php?story\\_fbid=1591923404180728&id=224010574305358](https://www.facebook.com/permalink.php?story_fbid=1591923404180728&id=224010574305358)

### World Taekwondo Championship-2017

**Question: Which country won the championship of both men and women of the recently concluded World Taekwondo Championship?**

- (a) Russia (b) Turkish (c) Serbia (d) South Korea

**Ans: (d)**

**Related facts:-**

- The 23rd edition of the World Taekwondo Championship concluded in Muju South Korea (June 24-30, 2017).



- South Korea won both the men's and women's category championships.
- Russia was runner up in the Men's and Turkey in women's championships.
- In the medal table, Korea topped with 10 medals (5 gold, 1 silver, 4 bronze).
- Turkey winning a total of 3 medals (2 gold, 1 silver) and Serbia with a total of 2 gold medals, got the second and third place respectively in the medal's tally.

**Related Links:-**

<http://222.239.248.204:81/medal/menumedalstanding>

<http://222.239.248.204:81/medal/menumedalstanding>

## SPORTS PERSONALITY

### BRAND AMBASSADOR FOR INDIAN INDOOR CRICKET TEAM

**Question:** On July 12th, 2017, Former Indian batsman Sandeep Patil has been chosen as the brand ambassador of the Indian indoor cricket team. World Indoor Cricket Federation (WICF) World Cup is scheduled to be held in which of the following countries?

- (a) India (b) Australia (c) New Zealand  
(d) United Arab Emirates

**Answer- (d)**

**Related facts:-**

- On July 12, 2017, former Indian batsman Sandeep Patil was chosen as the brand ambassador of the Indian indoor cricket team.
- Patil will be the face of the team in the lead-up to the World Indoor Cricket Federation (WICF) World Cup, to be held from September 16-23 at the Insportz Club in Dubai.
- The week-long tournament will be held in partnership with Cricket Australia (CA) and Emirates Cricket Board (ECB).
- In the 10th edition of the Indoor World Cup, besides India, Australia, New Zealand, South Africa, England, Sri Lanka, Singapore, Malaysia and UAE (host nation) will participate.
- The Indian team will be managed and operated by the XLR8 India.
- World Indoor Cricket Federation (WICF) is headquartered in Brisbane, Australia.



**Reference:**

<http://www.dailypioneer.com/sports-bytes/patil-named-brand-ambassador-for-indian-indoor-cricket-team.html>

### Election of the Indian National Rifle Association

**Question:** In the recently concluded Indian National Rifle Association elections, who was re-elected the President of the Association?

- (A) KN Lion god (B) Raninder Singh (C) D.V. Sitaram  
(D) Kiran Kumar

**Ans: (b)**

**Related facts:-**

- On 8 July, 2017 Election of the Indian National Rifle Association (NRAI) was held at the Punjab Cricket Association (PCA) Stadium, Mohali.
- Current President Raninder Singh was re-elected for the four-year term.



- Raninder Singh defeated the President of Uttar Pradesh Rifle Association Shyam Singh Yadav by a margin of 89-1 votes in the election.
- In the elections, D.V Sitaram was unanimously elected general secretary for the second term, while Karan Kumar was elected as treasurer.
- MP from Odisha K. N. Singh Deo was elected as Senior Vice President unanimously.

**Related Links:-**

<http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/sports/more-sports/shooting/raninder-re-elected-nrai-president-for-four-years/articleshow/59505591.cms>

## Kavita Devi

**Question: Who is the first Indian woman wrestler to participate in World Wrestling Entertainment (WWE) in July, 2017?**

- (a) Sakhi Malik (b) Geeta Phogat (c) Babita Kumari  
(d) Kavita Devi

**Ans: (d)**

**Related facts:-**

- South Asian Games gold medal winner Indian wrestler Kavita Devi will be the first woman wrestler to be part of the WWE Tournament.
- She was selected for the Mae Young Classic competition in the Dubai Tryout held in April, 2017.
- South Asian Games gold medalist Kavita has won gold medal in weightlifting
- The Mae Young Classic Tournament, organized for the first time for women by WWE, will be held in Orlando, Florida (USA) during 13-14 July, 2017.
- The tournament has been named after WWE's former superstar Mae Young, who is also included in the 'Hall of Fame'.
- She has received training by former WWE Champion The Great Khali at his training and promotion academy in Punjab.



**Related Links:-**

<http://topyaps.com/kavita-devi-indian-woman-wwe>

## ICC Emirates Elite Panel, 2017-18

**Question: Who is the only Indian included in the umpire panel of International Cricket Council for season 2017-18?**

- (a) Anil Chaudhary (b) Suresh Dev (c) Kasturi Ramaswamy  
(d) Sundaram Ravi

**Ans: (d)**

**Related facts:-**

- On July 2, 2017, the International Cricket Council (ICC) named an unchanged Emirates Elite Panel of ICC Umpires for the 2017-18 season.
- ICC has not made any change in the Elite Panel of Match Referees for season 2017-18.
- Sundaram Ravi is the only Indian umpire included in the ICC Elite Panel.
- ICC umpires Emirates Elite Panel (2017-18) will be – Aleem Dar, Kumar Dharmasena, Marais Erasmus, Chris Gaffaney, Ian Gould, Richard Illingworth, Richard Kettleborough, Nigel Llong, Bruce Oxenford, Sundaram Ravi, Paul Reiffel and Rod Tucker.





- The seven match referees, who will be refereeing in the upcoming season are David Boon, Chris Broad, Jeff Crowe, Ranjan Madugalle, Andy Pycroft, Javagal Srinath and Richie Richardson.

**Related Links:-**

<https://www.icc-cricket.com/media-releases/425455>

## Dane van Niekerk

**Question: In the Women's Cricket World Cup- 2017, against which team did the South African Captain Dane Van Niekerk set a new world record of taking four wickets without conceding any run?**

(a) India (b) Zimbabwe (c) West Indies (d) Pakistan

**Ans: (c)**

**Related facts:-**

- Captain of South African Women's Cricket team and leg-spinner Dane van Niekerk created a new world record by taking 4 wickets without giving any run in the ICC Women's World Cup 2017 match played against West Indies. (July 2, 2017)
- Niekerk achieved this feat against West Indies in the 12th match of ICC Women's World Cup 2017. (3.2 overs, 3 Maidens, 4 wickets)
- This is the first time when a bowler (male or female cricketer) took 4 wickets without conceding any run.
- Prior to this, in the Women's ODI cricket two times and once in the Women's T20, three wickets have been taken without giving any run.
- Australian Olivia Magno in 1997 against Pakistan and Arran Brindle of England, in the year 2013 against the West Indies, have taken 3 wickets for the 0 runs in ODIs.
- Sri Lanka's Sandamali Dolavte took 3 wickets in the T20 match against Bangladesh in 2012.
- The world record for highest 3 wickets in men's cricket is with Richie Benaud of Australia.
- Richie had taken 3 wickets in 3.4 overs without a run in the Test match against India in 1959 (Delhi).



**Related Links:-**

<http://www.espncriinfo.com/southafrica/content/player/364413.html>

## Luke Ronchi

**Question- Which New Zealand player announced his retirement from international cricket on June 21, 2017?**

(a) Ken Williamson (b) Luke Ronchi (c) Corey Anderson  
(d) Martin Guptill

**Ans: (b)**

**Related facts:-**

- On 21 June 2017, New Zealand wicketkeeper Luke Ronchi announced his retirement from international cricket.
- Ronchi has played 4 Tests, 85 ODIs and 32 T20 matches for New Zealand.
- Ronchi also played in four ODIs and three T20 for Australia in 2008 and 2009 but came back to his native New Zealand in 2013.



- Ronchi will continue to play in domestic tournaments after retirement.

**Related Links:-**

<http://www.espnccricinfo.com/newzealand/content/story/1105156.html>

## Lasith Malinga

**Question: Which player has recently been banned for one year by Sri Lanka Cricket Board (SLC) after being found guilty of breaking the contract?**

- (a) Angelo Mathews (b) Upul Tharanga (c) Lasith Malinga  
(d) Dhananjay Desilva

**Ans: (c)**

**Related facts:-**

- On June 27, 2017, the Sri Lankan Cricket Board banned fast bowler Lasith Malinga as he was found guilty of breaking the contract by giving a statement in the media without taking permission.
- In addition, a penalty of 50 percent match fee will be imposed in the next ODI.
- On June 27, Malinga accepted the charge before the board and formally apologized.
- Malinga is currently suspended for six months. If he violates again in this way, he will be banned again for a period of 6 months.
- This investigation was initiated against Malinga due to his objectionable comments against Sri Lankan Sports Minister Dayasri Jayashekar.



**Related Links:-**

<http://www.srilankacricicket.lk/news/malinga-issued-six-month-suspended-sentence-and-50-fine>

## Dhanraj Pillay

**Question: Which former Indian hockey player has been announced to be given 'Bharat Gaurav' award by East Bengal Football Club, at its foundation day?**

- (a) Dhanraj Pillay (b) Syed Nayeemuddin (c) Subhash Kaushik  
(d) None of these

**Ans: (a)**

**Related facts:-**

- On 27 June, 2017, East Bengal Football Club announced to give club's highest honour 'Bharat Gaurav' award to former hockey captain Dhanraj Pillay.
- This honour will be given to Pillai on the foundation day of the club on August 1st.
- Pillay has represented India in four Olympics, World Cup, Champions Trophy and Asian Games during his career of more than 15 years.
- He scored 170 goals in 339 matches for the national team.
- East Bengal Club also announced the 'Lifetime Achievement Award' to former Indian footballers Syed Nayeemuddin and Subhash Bhowmick.



**Related Links:-**

[http://www.ptinews.com/news/8834075\\_Dhanraj-Pillay-to-get-East-Bengal-s-highest-award.html](http://www.ptinews.com/news/8834075_Dhanraj-Pillay-to-get-East-Bengal-s-highest-award.html)

## SHORT NOTES

### PERSONALITIES

U. R. Rao

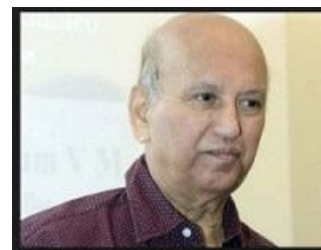
**Question:- Eminent scientist, Professor Udupi Ramachandra Rao, who passed away recently, was formerly the head of ...**

(a) ISRO (b) DRDO (c) AIIMS (d) None of the above.

**Ans: (a)**

**Related Fact :**

- On July 24, 2017, former Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO) chairman and space scientist U.R. Rao passed away.
- Professor Rao, served as ISRO Chairman for 10 years during 1984-1994, after taking the reins from Satish Sharma.
- Rao has been involved in all ISRO missions till date, including the first Indian satellite 'Aryabhata'. Under his leadership, India successfully launched the ASLV rocket and the operational PSLV launch vehicle, capable of launching 2.0 ton class of satellite into polar orbit.
- He contributed to the development of rocket technology which led to the successful launch of Augmented Satellite Launch Vehicle (ASLV) and Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle (PSLV).
- Rao is said to have initiated the Geostationary Launch Vehicle (GSLV) and development of cryogenic engine in 1991, which has in the recent past put Indian space on par with global superpowers.
- Rao had also served as the chairman of the governing council of the physical research laboratory at Ahmedabad, chancellor of Indian Institute of Science and Technology at Thiruvananthapuram, as faculty at MIT and assistant professor at the University of Texas.
- He was the first Indian space scientist to be inducted into the prestigious 'Satellite Hall of Fame' in Washington DC and the 'IAF Hall of Fame' in Mexico's Guadalajara.
- Professor UR Rao was awarded the Padma Bhushan in 1976 and the Padma Vibhushan in 2017 for his contribution to Indian space technology.



**Reference:**

<http://indiatoday.intoday.in/education/story/prof-ur-rao-passes-away/1/1009364.html>

### Nagaland's New Chief Minister

**Question: Who amongst the following was recently sworn in as Nagaland's new chief minister?**

(a) Pawan Chamling (b) Shurhozelie Liezietsu (c) TR Zeliang (d) Tarun Gogoi

**Answer- (c)**

**Related facts**

- On July 19, 2017, Naga People's Front leader and ruling DAN chairman TR Zeliang was sworn in as the Chief Minister of Nagaland.



- Governor PB Acharya administered the oath of office and secrecy to Mr. Zeliang.
- R. Zeliang became the 19<sup>th</sup> chief minister of Nagaland replacing Dr. Shurhozelie Liezietsu.
- It is noteworthy that Mr. Zeliang was appointed shortly after Mr. Liezietsu failed to turn up in the Assembly to face the floor test.
- Zeliang won the floor test on July 21<sup>st</sup>, getting the support of 36 NPF, four BJP and seven Independent members in the 60-member assembly.
- He has held the post of Chief Minister of Nagaland, from May 2014 to February 2017.
- Zeliang was stepped down in February 2017 following large-scale violence after several groups opposed holding civic polls in the state with 33 per cent reservation for women.

**Reference:**

<http://www.thehindu.com/news/national/other-states/zeliang-appointed-nagaland-chief-minister/article19307122.ece>

## New Chief Justice of Nepal

**Question: Who amongst the following was recently sworn in as the new Chief Justice of Nepal?**

- (a) Deepak Prasad Parajuli (b) Gopal Prasad Parajuli  
(c) Sushila Karki (d) Rajesh Sinha

**Answer- (b)**

**Related facts:**

- On July 17, 2017 Acting Chief Justice Gopal Prasad Parajuli was sworn in as the Chief Justice of the supreme court of Nepal.
- President Bidya Devi Bhandari administered the oath of office and secrecy to Justice Parajuli at a special programme organised at the office of the President in Sheetal Niwas.
- Justice Gopal Prasad Parajuli succeeds chief justice Sushila Karki.



**Reference:**

<http://kathmandupost.ekantipur.com/news/2017-07-17/parajuli-sworn-in-as-chief-justice.html>  
<https://thehimalayantimes.com/kathmandu/gopal-parajuli-sworn-chief-justice/>  
<http://www.ddnews.gov.in/international/justice-gopal-prasad-parajuli-sworn-new-chief-justice-nepal>

## Lilly Singh

**Question: Who amongst the following was appointed recently as Goodwill Ambassador for UNICEF?**

- (a) Vidya Balan (b) Lilly Singh (c) Deepali Singh (d) Gracie Singh

**Answer- (b)**

**Related facts:**

- On July 15, 2017 the actress, comedian, and author Lilly Singh was appointed UNICEF's newest Goodwill Ambassador.
- Lilly Singh is Canadian citizen of Indian origin.



- As a Goodwill Ambassador, Lilly will use her unique digital presence to engage children and young people and empower them to speak out about the challenges they face.
- The list of other UNICEF Goodwill Ambassadors includes David Beckham, Orlando Bloom, Jackie Chan, Muzoon Almellehan, Danny Glover, Liam Neeson, Priyanka Chopra, Ricky Martin and Shakira.
- It is notable that UNICEF was established in 1946 with the aim of providing nutrition and health services to the children of the countries which were destroyed in World War II.
- It is headquartered in New York (United States).
- Currently, from May 1<sup>st</sup> 2010, Anthony Lake is the sixth Executive Director of the United Nations Children's Fund.

**Reference:**

[https://www.unicef.org/media/media\\_96640.html](https://www.unicef.org/media/media_96640.html)

## Martin Landau

**Question: Martin Landau, who passed away recently, was an ...**

(a) Scientist (b) Actor (c) Politicians (d) Environmentalists

**Answer- (b)**

**Related facts:**

- On July 15, 2017, the famous American character actor Martin Landau passed away.
- He was 89 years old.
- He was awarded the Oscar in 1995 for Best Supporting Actor for the role of Bela Lugosi in the film Ed Wood.
- Apart from this, he has also awarded the Golden Globe Award thrice for Best Supporting Actor (1995, 1989) and best TV actor ( 1968).



**Reference:**

<http://www.imdb.com/name/nm0001445/>

## New Secretary Economic affairs in Finance Ministry

**Question: Who amongst the following has recently assumed charge as the new Secretary of Economic Affairs (DEA), Ministry of Finance?**

(a) Shaktikanta Das (b) Subhash Chandra Garg (c) Deepa Mukherjee  
(d) Hashmukh Adhia

**Answer- (b)**

**Related facts:**

- On July 12th, 2017, Subhash Chandra Garg today assumed charge as secretary of the Department of Economic Affairs (DEA) in the finance ministry.
- Earlier, he was working as Executive Director of the World Bank located in Washington, DC.
- A 1983 batch IAS officer of Rajasthan cadre, Mr. Garg will succeed Shaktikanta Das.



**Reference:**

<http://dea.gov.in/secretary-department-economic-affairs>



## First female President of the supreme court of the UK

**Question :** Who has been appointed as the first female president of the supreme court of the UK?

- (a) Brenda Hale (b) David Neuberger (c) Mary Arden  
(d) Elizabeth Gloster

**Ans: (a)**

**Related facts:**

- On July 21, 2017, Brenda Hale was appointed as the first female president of the UK Supreme Court.
- Hale will succeed Lord David Neuberger as the head of the UK Supreme Court in October, 2017.
- She has been the court's deputy president since June 2013.

**Reference:**

<http://www.livelaw.in/brenda-hale-become-first-female-president-uk-supreme-court/>



## New Chief Secretary of Uttar Pradesh

**Question:** Who amongst the following recently took charge as the new Secretary of Uttar Pradesh?

- (a) Devesh Chaturvedi (b) Rajiv Agrawal (c) Anil Awasthi  
(d) Rajiv Kumar

**Answer- (d)**

**Related facts:**

- On June 29, 2017, senior IAS officer Rajiv Kumar took charge as the new Chief Secretary of Uttar Pradesh.
- He is a 1981 batch IAS officer.
- Kumar has worked as Secretary in Shipping Ministry, Government of India.
- Kumar succeeds Rahul Prasad Bhatnagar.

**Reference:**

<http://www.financialexpress.com/india-news/yogi-adityanath-government-rajiv-kumar-takes-over-as-new-chief-secretary-of-uttar-pradesh-replaces-rahul-bhatnagar/740901/>



## New Secretary (Economic Relations) in the Ministry of External Affairs

**Question:** Who has recently been appointed as the New Secretary (Economic Relations) in the Ministry of External Affairs?

- (a) Amar Sinha (b) Vijay Keshav Gokhale (c) Deepak Gupta  
(d) Tarun Goyal

**Answer- (b)**

**Related facts:**

- On June 29, 2017, the Appointments Committee of the Cabinet approved the appointment of Shri Vijay Keshav Gokhale as Secretary (Economic Relations) in the Ministry of External Affairs.





- Presently India's envoy to China, Mr. Gokhale is IFS officer of 1981 batch.

**Reference:**

<http://www.pib.nic.in/newsite//erelease.aspx?relid=166975>

## New Brand Ambassador to Skill India Campaign

**Question: Who amongst the following actresses has been appointed as ambassador to Skill India Campaign recently by the National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC)?**

- (a) Vidya Balan (b) Priyanka Chopra (c) Shabana Azmi  
(d) Kajol

**Answer- (b)**

**Related facts:**

- On June 25<sup>th</sup>, 2017, the National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC) appointed famous Bollywood actress Priyanka Chopra as the brand ambassador of 'Skill India Campaign'.
- Priyanka will use her celebrity status to motivate youngsters to hone their abilities through a media campaign.
- The government aims to train 40 crore people by 2022 through its skilling initiatives.
- The National Skill Development Corporation India (NSDC) was setup as a one of its kind, Public Private Partnership Company with the primary objective of promoting the skills landscape in India



**Reference:**

<http://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/politics-and-nation/priyanka-chopra-to-endorse-skill-india-campaign/articleshow/59308363.cms>

## New president of International Economic Association

**Question: Who amongst the following has been elected President of International Economic Association (IEA)?**

- (a) Navtej Sarna (b) Kaushik Basu (c) J.S. Deepak  
(d) Arvind Subramaniam

**Answer- (b)**

**Related facts**

- On June 26, 2017, Kaushik Basu, Finance Ministry's former Chief Economic Advisor, took over as the President of International Economic Association (IEA).
- His tenure will be for 3 years from June 23, 2017.
- Basu has also served as senior vice-president and chief economist at the World Bank from 2012 to 2016 and as the chief economic adviser to the Government of India from 2009 to 2012.
- The IEA is a leading organization established in 1950, for professional economists and it seeks to shape global economic policy and research.



- Among IEA's past presidents are Nobel laureates Kenneth Arrow, Robert Solow, Amartya Sen and Joseph Stiglitz.

**Reference:**

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/International\\_Economic\\_Association](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/International_Economic_Association)

## New Member of Union Public Service Commission (UPSC)

**Question: Who amongst the following was recently appointed as a new member of the Union Public Service Commission (UPSC)?**

- (a) Dr. Deepak Joshi (b) Dr. Manoj Soni  
(c) Prof. Deepak Jaiswal (d) Anil Agarwal

**Answer- (b)**

**Related facts:**

- On June 28, 2017, Dr. Manoj Soni, former Vice Chancellor of Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar Open University, took Oath of Office and Secrecy as Member of Union Public Service Commission (UPSC).
- The Oath was administered by the UPSC Chairman Prof. David R. Syiemlieh.
- His tenure will be for a term of six years or until he attains the age of sixty-five years, whichever is earlier.
- He earned his doctorate in "Post-Cold War International Systemic Transition and Indo-US Relations" from Sardar Patel University. Apart from this, Dr. Manoj Soni has been the youngest-ever Vice Chancellor in independent (India).



**Reference:**

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=166927>

## M. Venkaiah Naidu

**Question: Who has been given the additional charge of the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting after M. Venkaiah Naidu was declared NDA's vice presidential candidate?**

- (a) Manoj Sinha (b) Smriti Jubin Irani  
(c) Narendra Singh Tomar (d) Arun Jaitley

**Ans: (b)**

**Related facts:-**

- On July 17, 2017, senior BJP leader and Union Urban Development and Information and Broadcasting Minister M. Venkaiah Naidu was declared as the Vice Presidential candidate of the National Democratic Alliance (NDA).
- The President handed over the additional charge of the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting to the Union Minister Smriti Jubin Irani on the advice of the Prime Minister in addition to her current portfolio (Textile Ministry).
- Union Minister Narendra Singh handed over additional charge of the Ministry of Housing and Urban Development in addition to his current Port Folio (Ministry of Drinking Water and Sanitation).



- Venkaiah Naidu will be contesting against the United Progressive Alliance (UPA) candidate Gopal Krishna Gandhi.

**Related Links:-**

<https://twitter.com/narendramodi/status/886955774047432706>

## Nar Bahadur Bhandari

**Question- Nar Bahadur Bhandari, who passed away recently, was the chief minister of which of the following states?**

(a) Assam (b) Sikkim (c) Manipur (d) Arunachal Pradesh

**Ans: (b)**

**Related facts:-**

- On July 16, 2017, the former Chief Minister of Sikkim Nar Bahadur Bhandari passed away. He was 76 years old.
- He was one of the longest serving chief ministers of Sikkim. He became the Chief Minister of Sikkim for the first time in 1979 on a Janata Parishad ticket and then again in 1984 and 1989 on a Sikkim Sangram Parishad ticket.
- He was the founder of Sikkim Sangram Parishad (SSP) and remained its President till his death.



**Related Links:-**

<https://twitter.com/PMOIndia/status/886613255572955136>

## Maryam Mirzakhani

**Question- Maryam Mirzakhani, who passed away recently, was a famous...**

(a) Journalist (b) Mathematician (c) Actress (d) Space Scientist

**Ans: (b)**

**Related facts:-**

- On July 15, 2017, Iranian American mathematician Maryam Mirzakhani passed away. She was 40 years old.
- She was the first woman to receive the prestigious Fields Medal for mathematics.
- Fields' medal was given to Prof Mirzakhani in 2014 for her work on complex geometry and dynamical systems.



**Related Links:-**

<https://www.nytimes.com/2017/07/16/us/maryam-mirzakhani-dead.html>

## Vistara Airlines's new CEO

**Question: Who has been recently appointed as the new chief executive officer of Vistara Airlines?**

(a) T. S. Krishnamurthy (b) FeatikYeoh (c) Leslie Thng  
(d) Varun Bansal

**Ans: (c)**

**Related facts:-**



- On July 11, 2017, Leslie Thng was named the new Chief Executive Officer of the Vistara Airlines.
- He will replace Phee Teik Yeoh effective October, 2017.
- Mr. Yeoh, who has been an SIA veteran, is credited with successfully leading Vistara, the award-winning airline since its establishment, overseeing its launch and rapid growth starting its first commercial flight in January 2015.
- TATA SIA Airlines Limited, known by the brand name Vistara, is a joint venture between Tata Sons Limited and Singapore Airlines Limited (SIA) with Tata Sons holding the majority stake of 51% in the company and SIA holding the remaining 49%.

**Related Links:-**

<https://www.airvistara.com/trip/press-releases#press-title-539>

## Shamma Jain

**Question: Senior IFS officer Shamma Jain has been appointed as the next ambassador of India to ...**

(a) Denmark (a) Italy (c) Greece (d) Canada

**Ans: (c)**

**Related facts:-**

- According to a release issued by the Ministry of External Affairs on June 29, 2017, Shamma Jain, a senior official of the Indian Foreign Service (IFS), was appointed the next Ambassador of India to Greece.
- She is the IFS officer of the year 1983 batch.
- In this post, she will replace Marimakkalai Murugesan  
Greece's capital is Athens and currency euro.



**Related Links:-**

<http://www.mea.gov.in/press-releases.htm?dtl/28569/Shamma+Jain+appointed+as+the+next+Ambassador+of+India+to+Greece>

## Pradeep Kumar Rawat

**Question: Senior officer of Indian Foreign Service, Pradeep Kumar Rawat has been appointed as the next ambassador of India to ...**

(a) Denmark (b) Indonesia (c) Myanmar (d) Canada

**Ans: (b)**

**Related facts:-**

- On July 4, 2017, according to a release issued by the Ministry of External Affairs, a senior official of the Indian Foreign Service, Pradeep Kumar Rawat was appointed as the next Ambassador of India to Indonesia.
- He is the IFS officer of the 1990 batch.
- He has held the post of Joint Secretary in the Ministry of External Affairs.



**Related Links:-**

[https://www.indiablooms.com/ibns\\_new/news-details/N/32461/pradeep-kumar-rawat-appointed-as-next-ambassador-of-india-to-indonesia.html](https://www.indiablooms.com/ibns_new/news-details/N/32461/pradeep-kumar-rawat-appointed-as-next-ambassador-of-india-to-indonesia.html)

## Simone Veil

**Question: Simone Veil passed away recently. She was a...**

(a) Actress (b) Politicians (c) Environmentalist (d) Doctor

**Ans: (b)**

**Related facts:-**

- On June 30, 2017, the famous French politician Simone Veil passed away. She was 89 years old.
- She played a leading role in legitimizing contraceptives and miscarriage in France.
- She was the first president of the European Parliament during 1979-1982.

**Related links:-**

<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2017/jun/30/simone-veil-auschwitz-survivor-abortion-pioneer-dies-france>



## R. K Pachnanda

**Question: Recently, senior IPS officer R. K Pachnanda took charge as Director General of which Para-Military force?**

(a) CRPF (b) ITBP (c) BSF (d) CISF

**Ans: (b)**

**Related facts:-**

- On June 30, 2017, senior IPS officer R.K. Pachnanda took charge as the new Director General of the Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP).
- His tenure lasts up to October 31, 2018.
- In this post, he replaced Krishna Chaudhary.
- Mr. Pachnanda is a 1983 batch Indian Police Service officer of the West Bengal cadre. Prior to the appointment as DG ITBP, Shri Pachnanda has served in various capacities as Commissioner of Police, Kolkata and DG NDRF.

**Related Links:-**

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=167046>



## Shrihari Chandraghatgi

**Question- Which country recently presented ministry of the environmental award to Shrihari Chandraghatgi?**

(a) Bangladesh (b) Nepal (c) Sri Lanka (d) Japan

**Ans: (d)**

**Related facts:-**

- On June 21, 2017, Indian Agricultural Microbiologist Dr Shrihari Chandraghatgi was conferred with Ministry of Environment Award in Japan for developing cutting edge technologies to address environmental problems.
- Mr. Shrihari is the first foreigner to receive this top environmental award.
- He is the President and Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of Eco cycle Corporation.
- He is an agricultural microbiologist from Karnataka, India and has been living in Japan for two decades.





- Eco Cycle Corporation was established in May 1999 in Tokyo.
- This company develops state-of-the-art technology for environmental treatment and recycling of organic solvents in semiconductor industries.

**Related Links:-**

<http://www.dnaindia.com/india/report-indian-agri-microbiologist-given-environment-award-in-japan-2479336>

## Ankit Kawatra

**Question: Recently, Queen Elizabeth II of Britain honoured Ankit Kawatra with the Young Leaders Award for the year 2017. He is-**

- (a) Doctor (b) Human rights activist (c) Anti-hunger activist  
(d) Child rights activist

**Ans: (c)**

**Related facts:-**

- On June 29, 2017, anti-hunger activist Ankit Kawatra was honoured by Queen Elizabeth II of the UK with the Young Leaders Award for the year 2017 at an event in Birmingham Palace.
- He was given this award for extraordinary work to solve the problem of hunger and malnutrition in India.
- Kawatra is the founder of Feeding India a youth run not for profit organization Working to end Hunger and Malnutrition.
- This organization works to eliminate hunger in India and feed the hungry with the food left in marriage or any other ceremony.



**Related Links:-**

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

## New President of National Institute of Fashion Technology

**Question: Recently, who has been appointed by the Central Government as the new President of National Institute of Fashion Technology (NIFT)?**

- (a) Chetan Chauhan (b) Dr. Manoj Soni (c) Deepak Gupta  
(d) Rajesh V. Shah

**Ans: (d)**

**Related facts:-**

- On June 28, 2017, the Central Government appointed Rajesh V. Shah as the new chairperson of the Board of Governors of the National Institute of Fashion Technology.
- His tenure lasts March 31, 2019.
- Rajesh V. Shah succeeds Chetan Chauhan who resigned from the post after being made the Sports Minister of Uttar Pradesh.
- NIFT was established in the year 1986 under the aegis of the Ministry of Textiles, Government of India.
- NIFT has been given statutory status through the National Fashion Technology Act, 2006 passed by the Parliament of India for the development and research of education in fashion technology.s





- This institute is doing pioneering work to bring fashion education to the whole country through its 12 centres which are in New Delhi, Bangalore, Chennai, Gandhinagar, Hyderabad, Kolkata, Mumbai, Rae Bareilly, Bhopal, Coonoor, Patna and Shillong.

**Related Links:-**

<http://www.nift.ac.in/theinstitute.html>

## New head of United Nations Anti-Terrorism Office

**Question: Who among the following has been appointed as the head of the United Nations Anti-Terrorism Office?**

- (a) Antonio Duke (b) Vladimir Ivanovich Voronkov  
(c) Margaret Chan (d) Darren Hawk

**Ans: (b)**

**Related facts:-**

- On June 21, 2017, United Nations Secretary-General António Guterres appointed Vladimir Ivanovich Voronkov of the Russian Federation as Under-Secretary-General of the newly created United Nations Counter-Terrorism Office.
- It is known that the UNCTO was established in June 2017 under Resolution letter 71/291 of the United Nations General Assembly.
- At present, Vladimir Voronkov is the Russian Federation's ambassador and permanent representative of the International Organization in Vienna.



**Related Links:-**

<https://www.un.org/sg/en/content/sg/personnel-appointments/2017-06-21/mr-vladimir-ivanovich-voronkov-russian-federation-under>

## Srinivas Gokulnath

**Question: – Who was the first Indian to complete World's toughest considered cycle race, 'Race across America' single category (U-50)?**

- (A) Amit Samarth (B) Srinivas Gokulnath (C) Vikram Singh  
(D) Amrit Singh

**Ans: (b)**

**Related facts:-**

- On June 25, 2017 Srinivas Gokulnath of Nasik (Maharashtra) became the first Indian to complete 'Race Across America (RAAM)' one of the most esteemed ultra-endurance cycling events in the world, in the 36 years history of the event. Srinivas had completed about 4900 km long cycle race in 11 days, 12 hours and 45 minutes in the Solo Male Division (U-50).
- Another Indian, Amit Samarth (Nagpur) became the second Indian to complete the race.
- Amit completed this race in 11 days, 21 hours and 11 minutes.
- Srinivas and Amit remained at 7th and 8th place respectively among the nine people who completed the race. This Ultra marathon Cycle Race (Great American Bike Race) is being held in America since 1982.



**Related Links:-**

<http://www.raceacrossamerica.org/results.html>

## P.R. Venkatarama Raja

**Question: Who was elected unanimously again in the elections of the recently concluded All India Chess Federation?**

- (A) Bharat Singh Chauhan (B) Naresh Sharma  
(C) Shekhar Chandra Sahu (D) P.R. Venkatarama Raja

**Answer- (d)**

**Related facts**

- On June 25, 2017 P.R. Venkatarama Raja of Tamilnadu was unanimously elected as the president of All India Chess Federation (AICF).
- His tenure will be till 2020.
- The new office bearers of AICF were selected in the Annual General Meeting of the Association (Chennai).
- Bharat Singh Chauhan of Delhi was elected as honorary secretary. He replaced V. Hariharan.
- Other office bearers are:
  - Treasurer – Kishore M. Bandekar (Goa)
  - Vice President – DV Sundar (Tamil Nadu), A. Bhakta Vatsalam (Puducherry), A. Narasimha Reddy (Telangana), Shekhar Chandra Sahu (Odisha), G. Bhaskar (Andaman) and Manoj Ithelvar (Maharashtra).
  - Joint Secretary-R Hanumantha (Karnataka), Kapil Saxena (Madhya Pradesh), Atanu Lahiri (West Bengal), THB Singh (Meghalaya), Naresh Sharma (Haryana) and Bhavesh Patel (Gujarat).



**Related Links:-**

<http://www.newindianexpress.com/sport/other/2017/jun/28/venketrama-raja-re-elected-all-india-chess-federation-chief-1621876.html>

## Imran Khwaja

**Question: Who has been appointed as the deputy chairman of the International Cricket Council?**

- (a) Usman Khwaja (b) Karim Khwaja (c) Imran Khwaja (d) Saleem Khwaja

**Ans: (c)**

**Related facts:-**

- On June 23, 2017, the International Cricket Council (ICC), after amending its constitution, appointed Singapore Cricket Administrator Imran Khwaja as the deputy chairman of the ICC. On June 22, 2017, the ICC created a new post of deputy chairman in its annual meeting held in London.
- In the absence of the chairman, the deputy chairman's job will be to handle and represent this global institution.
- Khwaja, a lawyer by profession has been an important part of the ICC Board.
- He is also the President for Associate Countries.
- The current president of the ICC is Shashank Manohar, former president of BCCI. His tenure ends in June 2018.



**Related Links:-**

<https://www.icc-cricket.com/media-releases/422784>

## Achal Kumar Joti

**Question: Which article of the Constitution of India provides for an election commission?**

(a) Article 324 (b) Article 117 (c) Article 200 (d) Article 254

**Ans: (a)**

**Related Fact :**

- On July 4, 2017, Election Commissioner (EC) Achal Kumar Joti was appointed as the next Chief Election Commissioner of India.
- He succeeds Nasim Zaidi whose term in office completes on July 5, 2017.
- Mr. Joti is a 1975-batch IAS officer and joined the three-member Commission as an Election Commissioner on May 8, 2015.
- He will take over as the head of Election Commission on July 6, 2017 and will be in office till January 17, 2018.
- Chief Election Commissioner or an Election Commissioner can have a tenure of six years or hold office till the age of 65 years, whichever is earlier.
- Notably, Article 324 vests the Superintendence, direction and control of elections in the Election Commission.
- According to Article 324 (1), the superintendence, direction and control of the preparation of the electoral rolls for, and the conduct of, all elections to Parliament and to the Legislature of every State and of elections to the offices of President and Vice President held under this Constitution shall be vested in a Commission (referred to in this Constitution as the Election Commission).



**Reference:**

<http://www.thehindu.com/news/national/achal-kumar-joti-to-be-the-next-chief-election-commissioner/article19209802.ece?homepage=true>

## KK Venugopal

**Question: Senior lawyer and constitutional expert K.K. Venugopal has recently taken over as**

(a) Attorney General of India. (b) Solicitor General of India.  
(c) Law and Justice Minister of India. (d) None of the above.

**Ans: (a)**

**Related Fact :**

- On July 03, 2017, senior lawyer and constitutional expert K.K. Venugopal took over as the new Attorney General of India.
- He replaced Mukul Rohtagi for this post.
- Venugopal has also served as the Constitutional adviser for the drafting of the Constitution of Bhutan.
- In 2015, he was conferred Padma Vibhushan award by Government of India. This is the second-highest civilian honour in India.
- **Constitutional Provisions:**
- The President of India appoints a person who is qualified to be appointed a Judge of the Supreme Court to be Attorney General for India according to Article 76 (1).
- The Attorney General holds office during the pleasure of the President and receives remuneration as the President determines.



- Attorney General of India has right of audience in all courts in the territory of India.
- Attorney General gives advice to the Government of India upon such legal matters, and to perform such other duties of a legal character, as may from time to time be referred or assigned to him by the President.

**Reference:**

<https://indiankanoon.org/doc/1985537/>

## Narendra Kumar Sinha

**Question: Narendra Kumar Sinha has recently assumed charge as a secretary in the ministry of ...**

- (a) Information and Broadcasting (b) Home Affairs  
(c) Finance (d) Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises

**Ans: (a)**

- On June 30, 2017, Narendra Kumar Sinha assumed charge as Secretary in the Ministry of Information & Broadcasting.
- Prior to this, Shri Sinha was Secretary, Ministry of Culture, Government of India.
- He is an IAS officer of 1980 batch from Bihar cadre.
- He has served as Principal Secretary, Information Technology Department, Government of Bihar. He has served as Additional Secretary to the Government of India in the Department of Higher Education, Ministry of Human Resource Development.
- Shri Sinha is an M.E (Electrical) from IISc, Bengaluru. He also has an MBA from Southern Cross University, Australia and is a Fellow of Institution of Engineers (India).



**Reference:**

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=167030>

## PLACES

### Dhirubhai Ambani Aerospace Park

**Question: In which of the special economic zone the Dhirubhai Ambani Aerospace Park will be established?**

- (a) Cochin Special Economic Zone  
(b) MIHAN Special Economic Zone  
(c) Mahindra City Special Economic Zone  
(d) Amravati Special Economic Zone

**Answer- (b)**

**Related facts:**

- On July 10th, 2017 The Board of Approval (BoA) for special economic zone (SEZ) under the Ministry of Commerce approved the Reliance Aero structure proposal for the development of the Dhirubhai Ambani Aerospace Park.
- Park (DAAP) will be established at Mihan SEZ (Nagpur). Reliance plans to develop this park with a proposed investment of Rs. 6500 crores.
- The park will be spread over 289 acres and will set to become the largest greenfield aerospace park in the country.
- It will be developed in two phase. In the first phase, development will be spread over 104 acres and the second phase will cover an additional area of 185 acres.



Business at the aerospace park over a 30-year period is expected to exceed 2, 00,000 crore.

- The construction at the aerospace park is expected to start by end of the month  
The production will start in the first quarter of 2018.

**Reference:**

[http://www.rinfra.com/press\\_release.html](http://www.rinfra.com/press_release.html)

## Ashiana Annexe

**Question: Who amongst the following was the last President to stay in Ashiana annexe?**

- (a) Giani Jail Singh (b) K.R. Narayanan  
(c) Shankar Dayal Sharma (d) A.P.J. Abdul Kalam

**Answer- (b)**

**Related facts:**

- On July 10, 2017, President of India, Shri Pranab Mukherjee inaugurated the 'Ashiana Annexe' in Dehradun, Uttarakhand.
- It comprises of twelve low-cost dwelling units constructed to accommodate officers and staff of Rashtrapati Bhavan during Presidential visits to the Retreat at 'Ashiana'.
- These dwelling units have been constructed using the Habitech-NivaraTantra – Onsite Sanitation Integrated Community Housing Technology Innovations developed at the Asian Institute of Technology (AIT).
- The technology used for the renovation is sustainable, cost effective, and environment-friendly with disaster resilient features.
- The 'Ashiana' is situated on Rajpur Road of Dehradun.
- Ashiana was originally built as bungalow of the Commandant of the President's Bodyguard.
- Shri KR Narayanan was the last President who stayed here in March 1998.



**Reference:**

<http://presidentofindia.nic.in/press-release-detail.htm?3023>

## India's first State to Have Separate Agricultural Budget

**Question: Which state amongst the following would have a separate budget for agriculture from the next year (2018)?**

- (a) Haryana (b) Telangana (c) Goa (d) Karnataka

**Answer- (b)**

**Related facts:**

- On July 1, 2017, the government of Telangana decided to present a separate budget for agriculture from 2018 to enhance funds for the agriculture sector.
- The officials have also been directed to form farmers' associations at various levels to organize the cultivators.
- Farmers would be provided training of modern and scientific methods of farming so as to increase the farm output.



**Reference:**

<http://www.india.com/news/agencies/telangana-to-have-separate-agriculture-budget-from-next-year-2287594/>



## GST Bhavan

**Question:** Recently, Vikrikar Bhavan, in Mumbai has been renamed as GST Bhavan. The Vikrikar Bhavan was the headquarter of which of the following Maharashtra government's departments?

- (a) Commercial Tax Department (b) Income Tax Department  
(c) Sales Tax Department (d) Corporation Tax Department

**Answer- (c)**

**Related facts:**

- On July 1, 2017, Vikrikar Bhavan, the headquarters of Maharashtra government's erstwhile Sales Tax department, was renamed as GST Bhavan.
- The Bhavan is located in south Mumbai Mazgaon area. Renaming the building is following the implementation of the new tax regime.
- Maharashtra Finance minister Sudhir Mungantiwar and minister of state for Finance Deepak Kesarkar attended the ceremony.
- It has also been announced that GST Bhavan will be shifted to Wadala from Mazgaon in two years.

**Reference:**

<http://indiatoday.intoday.in/story/mumbais-vikrikar-bhavan-renamed-as-gst-bhavan/1/991988.html>

<http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/mumbai/mumbais-vikrikar-bhavan-renamed-as-gst-bhavan/articleshow/59401275.cms>



## Gay marriage got legal status in Germany

**Question-** Recently, the Parliament of Germany granted legal recognition to gay marriage. How many countries of the world have such a law ?

- (a) 22 (b) 23 (c) 24 (b) 25

**Ans: (b)**

**Related facts:-**

- On June 30, 2017, In a historic decision, the Parliament of Germany voted to legalise gay marriage.
- Thus Germany has become the 23rd country in the world to provide legal recognition to gay marriages.
- 393 MPs of the House supported the decision while 226 MPs voted in opposition.
- Four MPs did not participate in voting and Chancellor Angela Merkel herself also cast her vote against it.
- This bill provides equal rights to gay couples same as the heterosexual couples, in Germany and allow same-sex marriages and adoption of children jointly.



**Related Links:-**

<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2017/jun/30/germany-poised-legalise-same-sex-marriage-bill-law>



## Name of Mughalsarai Municipality changed

**Question: The Uttar Pradesh state cabinet has decided to rename Mughalsarai Nagar Palika as...**

- (a) Shyama Prasad Mukherjee Nagar (b) Deendayal Nagar  
(c) Lal Bahadur Shastri Nagar (d) Mahamana Nagar

**Ans: (b)**

**Related facts:-**

- On June 27, 2017, The Uttar Pradesh state cabinet decided to rename Mughalsarai Nagar Palika as 'Deendayal Nagar' on the occasion of the centenary year of Pandit Deendayal Upadhyay.
- Earlier this month, a decision was taken to rename Mughalsarai Railway station after Upadhyay and a recommendation to this effect was sent to the Union Railway Ministry.
- Apart from this, a decision was also taken by the cabinet to install a statue of Pandit Deendayal Upadhyay on the intersection, falling on the Mughalsarai station road, and naming this intersection, as 'Pandit Deendayal Chowk'.
- Mughalsarai railway station falls under East Central Railway, whose headquarters is located in Hajipur (Bihar).

**Related Links:-**

<http://indiatoday.intoday.in/story/mughalsarai-nagar-palika-to-be-named-after-deendayal-upadhyay/1/988819.html>



## Cabinet nod for IRRI and ISARC at Varanasi

**Question: 'IRRI' is an international research institute for ...**

- (a) Rice (b) Wheat (c) Barley (d) Sunflower

**Ans: (a)**

- On July 12, 2017, the Union Cabinet chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi approved the establishment of the International Rice Research Institute (IRRI), South Asia Regional Center (ISARC) at the campus of National Seed Research and Training Center (NSRTC) in Varanasi.
- Under the proposal, a Centre of Excellence in Rice Value Addition (CERVA) will be set up in Varanasi. This will include a modern and sophisticated laboratory with the capacity to determine quality and status of heavy metals in grain and straw.
- The Centre will also undertake capacity building exercises for stakeholders across the rice value chain.
- This Center will be the first international Center in the eastern India and it will play a major role in harnessing and sustaining rice production in the region.
- ISARC will help in utilizing the rich biodiversity of India to develop special rice varieties. This will help India to achieve higher per hectare yields and improved nutritional contents.
- ISARC will operate under the governance of the IRRI Board of Trustees who will appoint an appropriate IRRI staff member as Director.
- For setting up of the Centre, a memorandum of agreement (MoA), will be signed between Department of Agriculture, Cooperation and Farmers Welfare, the government of India and IRRI, Philippines.



**Reference:**

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=167355>

## National Gun Amnesty provision

**Question: In which country, the announcement of the implementation of the National Gun Amnesty provision has been done for a period of 3 months?**

(a) America (b) UK (c) Australia (d) France

**Ans: (c)**

**Related facts:-**

- On June 16, 2017, the Australian Government announced the implementation of the National Gun Amnesty provision for a period of 3 months in the country.
- This provision came into effect from July 1st, 2017.
- During this time period, people can submit unlawful weapons without any punishment.
- The reason for implementing this provision is the increase in the recent events of terrorist activities in which illegal weapons were used.
- This provision has been implemented with the aim of reducing the number of illegal weapons.
- Australia brought in a similar amnesty deal after the 1996 shootings in Port Arthur.



**Reference:**

<http://www.bbc.com/news/world-australia-40298148>

## Abdul Kalam University of Technology

**Question: Where is the Abdul Kalam University of Technology located?**

(a) Coimbatore (b) Chennai (c) Lucknow (d) Bangalore

**Ans: (c)**

**Related facts:-**

- On June 20, 2017, Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated the new Faculty of Abdul Kalam Technology University in Lucknow.
- This university was established as Uttar Pradesh Technical University, Lucknow in the year 2000. Currently, 621 colleges are affiliated with this.
- On this occasion, Prime Minister gave the letter of acceptance to the beneficiaries of the Prime Minister's Housing Scheme.
- On the same day, the Prime Minister dedicated the Lucknow-Kanpur D-C (Direct Current Transmission Line) 400kW capacity power grid to the nation.



**Related Links:-**

[http://www.pmindia.gov.in/en/news\\_updates/pms-address-at-the-inauguration-of-abdul-kalam-technical-university-launch-development-initiatives-in-lucknow/](http://www.pmindia.gov.in/en/news_updates/pms-address-at-the-inauguration-of-abdul-kalam-technical-university-launch-development-initiatives-in-lucknow/)

## Portugal

**Question: Portugal's Pedrógão Grande municipality recently was in the news for an incident of natural calamity caused by ....**

(a) Earthquake (b) Wildfire (c) Flooding (d) Drought



### Answer- (b)

#### Related facts:

- On June 17, 2017 a horrible fire broke out in the central municipality of Pedrógão Grande, Portugal.
  - ♣ In this accident, about 64 people died and many others were injured.
- According to the Portuguese government, this is the worst natural calamity of this country till date.
- France and Spain provided a collective five water-bombing aircraft to help tackle the fire.
- Portugal declared three days of mourning for irreparable loss of human life.

#### Reference:

<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2017/jun/22/portugal-forest-fires-under-control>

## New Bank notes with photograph of Bashar al-Assad

**Question: Bashar al-Assad is currently the president of ...**

(a) Syria (b) Jordan (c) Turkey (d) Egypt

**Ans: (a)**

#### Related Fact :

- On July, 2, 2017, Syrian Central Bank introduced a new 2,000 Syrian Lira (\$3.9) bank note with the face of President Bashar al-Assad.
- Syria will depict President Bashar Assad on its currency for the first time since he took office 17 years ago.
- The currency previously carried images of historic icons or pictures of his father, Hafez Assad.



#### Reference:

<http://abcnews.go.com/International/wireStory/syrian-president-bashar-assad-face-bank-note-48403548>

## End of recent Ebola outbreak in the Congo

**Question: WHO recently declared the end of the most recent outbreak of Ebola virus disease in Congo. After how many incubation cycles of the virus was the announcement made?**

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

**Ans: (B)**

#### Related Fact :

- On June 2, 2017, the World Health Organization (WHO) declared the end of the most recent outbreak of Ebola virus disease (EVD) in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC).



- The announcement came 42 days (two 21-day incubation cycles of the virus) after the last confirmed Ebola patient in the affected Bas-Uélé Province tested negative for the disease for the second time.
- Enhanced surveillance in the country will continue, as well as strengthening of preparedness and readiness for Ebola outbreaks.
- The effective response to this latest EVD outbreak in Africa was achieved through the timely alert by local authorities of suspect cases, immediate response, early announcement of the outbreak by the government, rapid response activities by local and national health authorities with the robust support of international partners.

**Reference:**

<http://www.afro.who.int/en/media-centre/pressreleases/item/9744-who-declares-an-end-to-the-ebola-outbreak-in-the-democratic-republic-of-the-congo.html>

## India's largest fresh water aquarium

**Question: India's largest fresh water aquarium has recently been inaugurated at...**

(a) Ranchi (b) Patna (c) Dehradun (d) Haridwar

**Ans: (a)**

**Related Fact :**

- Jharkhand Chief Minister Raghubar Das inaugurated India's largest fresh water aquarium "Ranchi MachchliGhar" at BhagwanBirsamunda Biodiversity Park in Ranchi on June 28, 2017.
- Equipped with 58 technically planned tanks and spread under the area of 9000 square feet, this aquarium provides an ambient environment to 120 species of fishes.
- Along with the indigenous species, a number of exotic species of fishes have been brought from countries like Malaysia, Bangkok and Singapore.
- The main objective for constructing this aquarium is to educate the young generation and practically expose them to the vast marine world.



**Reference:**

<http://www.dailypioneer.com/state-editions/ranchi/largest-freshwater-aquarium-to-be-unveiled-today.html>

## Madhya Pradesh registered 'record' plantation

**Question: Madhya Pradesh created a Guinness World Record on July 2, 2017 by carrying out plantation of six crore saplings in 12 hours on the banks of river Narmada. Which state had a record of largest planting prior to this?**

(a) Uttar Pradesh (b) Bihar (c) Chhattisgarh (d) Jharkhand

**Ans: (a)**

**Related Fact :**

- On June 2, 2017, Madhya Pradesh government facilitated plantation of six crore saplings in 12 hours on the banks of river Narmada.



- Madhya Pradesh created a new Guinness World Record by planting 6 crore saplings in 12 hours.
- Uttar Pradesh previously held the record of planting five crore saplings in 24-hours.

**Reference:**

<http://intranet.mpforest.org/publicdomain/Narmada/frmstatewise.aspx>  
[http://mpforest.gov.in/admin/PDF/LU\\_Invitation300617023331.pdf](http://mpforest.gov.in/admin/PDF/LU_Invitation300617023331.pdf)  
<http://www.thehindu.com/todays-paper/tp-national/mp-ld-plantation-guinness/article19200500.ece>

## AWARDS & HONORS

### 18th International Indian Film Academy Awards

**Question: Which of the following film won the best film award in 18th International Indian Film Academy Awards ceremony?**

(a) Pink (b) Neerja (c) Uda Punjab (d) Sultan

**Answer- (b)**

**Related facts:**

- The 18th International Indian Film Academy (IIFA) award was held in New York USA on July 14-15, 2017.
- The IIFA Awards are also called Bollywood Oscars.
- **Major awards and their winners are:**
- Best Film – Neeraja (Ram Madhavani).
- Best Director – Aniruddha Roy Chowdhury (Film-Pink).
- Best Actor – Shahid Kapoor (Film Uda Punjab).
- Best Actress – Alia Bhatt (Film-Uda Punjab).
- Best Supporting Actor – Anupam Kher (MS Dhoni: The Untold Story).
- Best Supporting Actress – Shabana Azmi (Film- Neerja).
- Debut Actor-Diljit Dosanjh (Film-Uda Punjab).
- New Actress – Direction Patani (Film – MS Dhoni: The Untold Story).
- Best Story – Shakun Batra-Ayesha Devitre Dhillon (Film-Kapoor and Sons).
- Best Music Director-Pritam (Film-Aye Dil Hai Mushkil).
- Best Singer – Amit Mishra (Film-Aye Dil Hai Mushkil, Song-Bulleya).
- Best Lyrics – Abhitibha Bhattacharya (Film – Aye Dil Hai Mushkil, song- Channa Mereya).
- IIFA Woman of the Year –Taapasee Pannu (Film-Pink).



**Reference:**

<http://www.iifa.com/iifa-2017-itinerary/>

### ‘Maruti` Suzuki Sportsperson of the Year’ Charity Gala Award

**Question: Who amongst the following has been awarded Lifetime Achievement award in the ‘Maruti Suzuki Sportsperson of the Year’ Charity Gala Award, initiated by Sports Illustrated India Magazine?**

(a) P.V. Sindhu (b) Abhinav Bindra (c) KL Rahul (d) Gaurav Gill

**Answer- (b)**

**Related facts:**





- The sixth edition of 'Maruti Suzuki Sportsperson of the Year' Charity Gala Award, initiated by Sports Illustrated India, was distributed in Mumbai on July 6th, 2017.
- Award for Sportsperson of the Year: Indian Badminton Player P.V. Sindhu
- Other prizes given in the ceremony are-
- Lifetime Achievement Award- Abhinav Bindra
- Living Legend Award – Milkha Singh (Runner)
- Team of the Year – Junior Men's Hockey Team (Captain-Harjeet Singh)
- Coach of the Year – Pullela Gopichand
- Athlete of the Year – Gaurav Gill
- Game changer of the Year – KL Rahul
- Extreme Performance of the Year – Shiva Keshavan
- Special award for service to Sports- Jayant Rastogi

**Reference:**

<http://www.thehindu.com/sport/other-sports/badminton-star-pv-sindhu-bags-sportsperson-of-the-year-award/article19231931.ece>

## Great Immigrants' annual award

**Question: On US Independence Day on July 4, 38 immigrants were honoured for their role in helping advance the country's society, culture and economy. How many Indian Americans were conferred the award this year?**

(a) 1 (b) 2 (c) 3 (d) 4

**Answer- (b)**

**Related facts:**

- On US's Independence Day on July 4, 2017, two Indians Americans were honoured with 36 other immigrants.
- Shantanu Narayen and Vivek Murthy are the two Indian Americans honoured with the prestigious 'Great Immigrants' annual award.
- Shantanu Narayen is the Adobe chief and is a board member of Pfizer and US-India Business Council (USIBC) and Vivek Murthy is former US Surgeon General.
- Other honorees include Canadian-origin social entrepreneur Jeff Skoll, who has been awarded the 2017 Carnegie Medal of Philanthropy, PayPal co-founder of Ukrainian origin Max Levchin, Iranian-origin philanthropist and entrepreneur Hushang Ansary.
- The award was given by the New York based Carnegie Corporation, established in 1911 by Scottish immigrant Andrew Carnegie.



**Reference:**

<http://indiatoday.intoday.in/story/2-indian-americans-to-be-honoured-with-great-immigrants-award/1/991734.html>

## United Nations Public Service Award

**Question: Which state government has been given the United Nations Public Service Award for its 'Kanyashree Prakalp' Scheme?**

(a) Rajasthan (b) Jharkhand (c) Assam (d) West Bengal

**Ans: (d)**

**Related facts:-**

- On June 23, 2017, the West Bengal Government was awarded the





prestigious United Nations Public Service Award for the year 2017.

- This award was given to the state for 'Kanyashree Prakalp' scheme.
- In this category, 552 nominations were received from 62 countries.
- This award was received by the Chief Minister of Bengal, Mamta Banerjee, in The Hague, Netherlands.
- 'Kanyashree Prakalp' is a targeted conditional cash transfer scheme.
- The aim is to maintain girls in schools and other educational and skill development institutes and to prevent child marriage.
- It is noteworthy that on June 26, 2015, Nadia district of West Bengal was given the 'United Nations Public Service Award, 2015' to improve public distribution services and prevent defecation in the open.
- It is notable that the 'United Nations Public Service Day' is celebrated every year on June 23.

**Related Links:-**

<http://indiatoday.intoday.in/story/west-bengal-wins-prestigious-un-public-service-award/1/986223.html>

## OPERATIONS & CAMPAIGN

### “JIGYASA” Programme

**Question: Jigyasa Programme has been initiated as a...**

- (a) girl child education programme
- (b) student-scientist contact programme
- (c) government schemes awareness programs
- (d) health services awareness programme

**Answer- (b)**

**Related facts:**

- On July 6, 2017, Jigyasa, a student- scientist connect programme was officially launched in New Delhi.
- This programme will be jointly implemented by Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) and Kendriya Vidyalaya Sangathan (KVS).
- Jigyasa programme is inspired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi's vision of a new India and “Scientific Social Responsibility (SSR)” of scientific community and institutions.
- Under this programme, focus is on connecting school students and scientists so as to extend student's classroom learning with that of very well planned research laboratory based learning.
- The Programme is expected to connect 1151 Kendriya Vidyalayas with 38 National Laboratories of CSIR targeting 100,000 students and nearly 1000 teachers annually.
- “JIGYASA” is one of the major initiatives taken up by CSIR at the national level, during its Platinum Jubilee Celebration Year.

**Reference:**

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=167194>

<http://www.newindianexpress.com/nation/2017/jul/06/centre-launches-student-scientist-connect-programme-jigyasa-1625127.html>

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintHindiRelease.aspx?relid=65872>



## Innovate in India (i3)

**Question- Innovate in India (i3) has been launched for the development of ...**

- (a) Biopharmaceuticals                      (b) solar photo voltaic  
(c) Interconnected power grid      (d) Nuclear reactors

**Ans: (a)**

**Related facts:-**

- On June 30, 2017, Dr. Harshavardhan, Union Minister for Science and Technology, Earth Sciences, Environment, Forest and Climate Change, formally launched the first industrial-educational mission - National Biopharma Mission, to accelerate the development of biopharmaceuticals.
  - This mission is being started in India by the name of Innovation (I-3).
  - An amount of US \$ 25 million will be invested the program in which the World Bank will provide the loan of US \$ 12.5 million.
  - This amount will also create the necessary infrastructure for promoting entrepreneurship and indigenous manufacturing.
- This mission will be run by the Public Sector Unit, Biotechnology Industry Research Assistant Council (BIRAC) under the Department of Biotechnology.



**Related Links:-**

<http://www.biospectrumindia.com/news/68/9168/national-biopharma-mission-innovate-in-india-i3-to-be-launched-by-government.html>

## Operation Swarn

**Question: 'Operation Swarn' will be launched by ...**

- (a) Ministry of Finance      (b) Ministry of Railways  
(c) Ministry of Information and Technology  
(d) Ministry of Commerce

**Ans: (b)**

**Related facts:-**

- Indian Railways is set to launch 'Operation Swarn' to improve services in Rajdhani and Shatabdi Express trains according to a release dated June 21, 2017.
- In the first phase, Mumbai-Delhi-Rajdhani Express and Mumbai-Ahmedabad Shatabdi Express have been selected for upgradation. Later, more trains will be identified for upgradation in a phased manner.
- Indian Railways will work on improving punctuality, cleanliness, coach interiors, catering, toilets, staff behaviour, security, housekeeping.
- These trains will also be upgraded with services like Wi-Fi, infotainment screens, coffee-vending machines etc in future.



**Related Links:-**

<http://indiatoday.intoday.in/education/story/indian-railways-operation-swarn/1/984792.html>

## Operation Prahar

**Question- 'Operation Prahar' against Naxalites has been under taken by the Security forces in which of the following states?**

(a) Andhra Pradesh (b) Jharkhand (c) Bihar (d) Chhattisgarh

**Ans: (d)**



**Related facts:-**

- On June 23, 2017, 'Operation Prahar' – the biggest anti-Naxal campaign was launched in Sukma district of Chhattisgarh by the security forces.
- Chhattisgarh Police, CRPF's Cobra Battalion, District Reserve Guard and Indian Air Force's Anti Naxal Task Force participated in this operation.
- The operation concluded on 26th June but the security forces continued the siege of Maoists.
- More than 24 Naxalites were killed during the operation.
- Three soldiers also died in the operation and many others were injured.
- It is notable that this was the first time that the security forces managed to reach Tondamarka.
- Tondamarka is considered to be the Naxalites stronghold.
- The campaign was started after the news of the Maoists being hidden in the Chintagufa forests which were considered the capital of Maoists.
- This area belongs to Naxal Leader Madvi Hidma.

**Reference:**

<http://indiatoday.intoday.in/story/chhattisgarh-police-crpf-operation-prahar-naxals-sukma-district/1/986591.html>

## COMMISSION & COMMITTEE

### Sukhbinder Singh Sarkaria committee

**Question: To review and prepare report on which of the following issues a committee under the chairmanship of Sukhbinder Singh Sarkaria has been constituted by Speaker Punjab Vidhan Sabha Rana KP Singh?**

(a) Farmers suicide (b) Drug de-addiction  
(c) Agricultural debt (loan) relief (d) Health

**Answer- (a)**

**Related facts:**

- On July 7, 2017, Speaker of Punjab Vidhan Sabha Rana KP Singh constituted a committee to review and prepare a report on Farmers' Suicide in Punjab.



- Sukhbinder Singh Sarkaria was appointed as the chairman of the committee, while Mr. Nathu Ram MLA, Mr. Kuljit Singh Nagra MLA, Najar Singh Manshahaia MLA and Mr. Harinderpal Singh Chandumajra are members of this committee.
- Committee will meet families of Farmers who had committed suicide to probe the reasons behind suicide and would subsequently prepare a comprehensive report with suggestions and recommendations to curb such kind of incidents.

**Reference:**

[http://punjab.gov.in/web/guest/key-initiative?view=show&pp\\_id=18571](http://punjab.gov.in/web/guest/key-initiative?view=show&pp_id=18571)

## Committee for research on benefits from cow

**Question: Recently, the central government has constituted a committee under whose chairmanship to research the benefits of a cow?**

- (a) Dr. Harshvardhan (b) Dr. Vijay Bhatkar (c) Pro. V.Ram Gopal Rao  
(d) R.A. Mashelkar

**Ans: (a)**

**Related facts:-**

- On July 16, 2017, the Central Government set up a 19-member panel to carry out scientifically validated research on cow-derivatives.
- The panel consists 19 members including three members from the RSS and the VHP and will be headed by Science and Technology Minister Harsh Vardhan.
- This committee will select projects that will help in the scientific validation of panchagavya i.e. cow dung, urine, milk, curd and ghee in different areas like nutrition, health and agriculture.
- Vijay Bhatkar, chairman of the science unit of RSS- Vigyan Bharti and Vice Chancellor of Nalanda University is the co-chairman of this committee.
- Former director of CSIR R.A. Mashelkar, IIT-Delhi Director, Pro. V.Ramgopal Rao, General Secretary of Vigyan Bharti A. Jayakumar and Sunil Man Singh will be other members of the committee.
- Apart from this, the secretaries of science and technology, biotechnology and energy ministry have been included in the committee.
- The term of this committee will be 3 years.



**Related Links:-**

<http://www.thehindu.com/news/national/benefits-of-cow-urine-science-technology-minister-to-head-panel-with-rss-vhp-members/article19289223.ece>

## Dr. Ved Prakash Mishra Committee

**Question- Dr. Ved Prakash Mishra committee recently submitted its report to Union Shipping, Road Transport and Highways Minister Nitin Gadkari. For what purpose was this committee constituted?**

- (A) For suggesting ways to increase medical facilities on the National Highways  
(B) For suggesting ways to upgrade healthcare facilities at major ports.  
(C) For conducting a study on the feasibility of using solar lights on highways.



(D) None of the above.

**Ans: (b)**

**Related facts:-**

- On July 14, 2017, Dr. Ved Prakash Mishra Committee submitted its report to Union Shipping and Road Transport and Highways Minister Nitin Gadkari.
- This Committee was constituted on 6th May, 2016 to study how the existing healthcare infrastructure at major ports can be upgraded under PPP mode to provide world class health services, along with affordable medical and paramedical education.
- The committee has indicated possible alternatives by which port hospitals can be upgraded under PPP mode so that their healthcare facilities are augmented.
- The report has also indicated the feasibility of starting of the medical college and postgraduate speciality courses attached to port hospitals. According to the report, the hospitals at Mumbai Port which has more than 200 beds can be taken up for this, while hospitals at Cochin, Chennai, Vishakhapatnam and Kolkata ports can be considered for upgradation into tertiary care facilities, with a particular super speciality being assigned to a specific port hospital.
- This can be made a super speciality centre hospital for referral purposes in hospitals by other port hospitals.
- As such, Port Trust Hospital, Chennai could be availed for the development of tertiary care facilities in the domain of cardiovascular thoracic surgery, Port Trust Hospital Cochin for Nephrology, Port Trust Hospital Kolkata for neurology and neurosurgery and Port Trust Hospital Vishakhapatnam for gastroenterology and surgical gastroenterology respectively.
- The report has also indicated certain policy changes that need to be brought in with the objective of widening the ambits of PPP mode and teachers eligibility qualification under the relevant regulations.

**Related Links:-**

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=167425>

## PLANNING & PROJECT

### First housing project on private land under Pradhan Mantri AwasYojana

**Question:- The government aims to provide houses to all poor families under Pradhan mantri Awas Yojna by ...**

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

**Answer:- (d)**

**Related facts:-**

- On July 25, 2017, the ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs approved construction of 30,000 affordable houses for urban poor on private land in Maharashtra, under Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (Urban).
- The government has also approved central assistance of Rs 450 crore.
- This housing project was approved by an Inter-ministerial Central Sanctioning and Monitoring Committee (CSMC) meeting, Chaired by Durga Shanker Mishra, Secretary (Housing & Urban Affairs).





- Raynagar Cooperative Housing Federation, Sholapur had submitted the project proposal to build 30,000 houses for its members comprising beedi and textile workers and other urban poor belonging to the Economically Weaker Sections under Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (Urban).
- State Government after due examination had accepted the project proposal and forwarded it to the Centre.
- The State Level Sanctioning and Monitoring Committee, set up under Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (Urban) will oversee the implementation of the project.
- The approval of this first housing project on private land is expected to trigger more such projects on private lands under the Affordable Housing Partnership (AHP) component of Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (Urban).

**Reference:**

<http://www.awasyojana.in/pmay-urban-center-approves-30000-houses-maharashtra/>

## Siemens inaugurated factory in India

**Question: At which of the following places in India Siemens has inaugurated its showcase digitalized low-voltage switchgear factory?**

(a) Colaba (b) Kalwa (c) Yavatmal (d) Aurangabad

**Answer- (b)**

**Related facts:**

- On July 5, 2017, Siemens India inaugurated showcase Digital low-voltage switchgear factory in Kalwanear Thane in Mumbai.
- The globally-benchmarked factory is capable of producing more than 180 variants at the rate of one product every nine seconds.
- The plant can manufacture over five million devices annually.
- The production methods deployed at the plant are expected to be a standard for small and medium-sized manufacturing units in India.
- The factory aims to provide a comprehensive portfolio of hardware and software products which enable comprehensive integration of data from development, production and suppliers.
- Siemens (India) Limited was established in Kolkata in 1922 and the company opened its main office in 1925.
- Siemens' international headquarters are located in Munich and Berlin (Germany).



**Reference:**

<https://www.siemens.com/history/en/countries/india.htm>

## Garib Nawaz Skill Development Centres

**Question: Garib Nawaz Skill Development Centres are planned to be opened in how many districts of the country to effectively ensure employment oriented skill development of youth belonging to Minority communities?**

(a) 50 (b) 75 (c) 100 (d) 125

**Answer- (c)**

**Related facts:**

- On July 6, 2017, announcement for the establishment of 100 Garib Nawaz Skill





Development Centres were made by the Minister of State for Minority Affairs (Independent Charge) & Parliamentary Affairs, Shri Mukhtar Abbas Naqvi.

- These centres will provide for employment oriented skill development of youth belonging to Minority communities.
- In next six months, Garib Nawaz Skill Development Centres, will be established in Hyderabad, Noida, Lucknow, Jaipur, Nagpur, Aurangabad, Bhopal, Indore, Allahabad, Mysore, Chennai, Goa, Gauhati, Kolakata, Patna, Kishanganj, Dehradun, Shahjahanpur, Rampur, Ranchi, Giridih, Mewat, Tijara, Panipat, Delhi, Uddhamsingh Nagar, Amritsar, Chandigarh, Mumbai etc.

**Reference:**

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=167178>

## Mission Family Development

**Question: In how many districts 'Mission Family Development' plan of central government have been started recently in Uttar Pradesh?**

(a) 45 (b) 52 (c) 57 (d) 75

**Answer- (c)**

**Related facts:**

- On July 11th, 2017, Mission Family Development was launched in 57 districts of Uttar Pradesh by state Family Welfare Minister Rita Bahuguna Joshi and Minister of State (Independent Charge) Swati Singh, at Avanti Bai Hospital, Balrampur on the occasion of World Population Day.
- The scheme targets will be implemented in such 57 districts from July 11th, 2017, which have a Total Fertility Rate (TFR) of 3 and above.
- On this occasion 'New Initiative' kit, is given in the form of Shagun to 10 newly-wed couples under the Mission Family Development Program.
- Awareness vehicle 'sarathi' is flagged off for the promotion of message of family planning in selected 57 districts.
- On this occasion, the introduction of 'Antara' (contraceptive injection) and hormone-free centroke tablet 'Shadow' were introduced to increase the acceptance of family planning programs.
- On the occasion of World Population Day Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath flagged the awareness rally in Lucknow and launched 'Population Stability Week (Pakkhwada)'.



**Reference:**

<http://hindi.news18.com/uttar-pradesh/lucknow-news-family-development-mission-to-be-started-in-30-districts-of-up-1038949.html>

## SWAYAM and SWAYAM Prabha

**Question: SWAYAM, the portal that takes high-quality education to the doorstep of everyone was recently launched by ...**

- (a) President (b) Vice President (c) Prime Minister  
(d) Lok Sabha Speaker

**Answer- (a)**



**Related facts:**

- On July 9, 2017, President of India Shri Pranab Mukherjee launched SWAYAM, the portal that takes high-quality education to the doorstep of everyone in New Delhi.
- Along with this, he also launched the SWAYAM Prabha – the 32 DTH channels operationalised for telecasting high-quality educational content free of charge using the GSAT-15 satellite transponders.
- More than 400 Courses are available on SWAYAM covering all the engineering and non-engineering subjects at undergraduate and post-graduate levels.
- The UGC has already issued Regulation that allows transfer of credits earned through the courses done through SWAYAM into the academic record of the students.
- The platform has been constructed by Microsoft with totally indigenous efforts.
- With the launch of SWAYAM, India has become one of the few countries in the World which has its own online interactive learning platform that provides, not only video lectures, reading the material but also assignments/quizzes that could end up in securing credits after completing the assessment system.
- The SWAYAM Prabha channels are available for free for anyone who has a set top box to receive either DD Free Dish or DishTV. These channels transmit 4 hours of fresh content every day and contain lectures from the best teachers in the Country. There is no monthly charge for viewing these channels. These channels include the IIT-PAL channels which were intended to help students taking the prestigious JEE examination, taught by the IIT faculty.

**Reference:**

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintHindiRelease.aspx?relid=65924>

## Direct benefit transfer scheme

**Question: What is the total amount saved under the direct benefit transfer scheme in the financial year 2016-17?**

- (a) 52,0000crores (b) 57,029 crores (c) 65,000 crores  
(d) 68,000 crores

**Ans: (b)**

**Related facts:-**

- On July 10, 2017, the Central Government released the data on savings under the direct benefit transfer scheme.
- According to the Central Government, in the financial year 2016-17, a total of Rs. 57,029 crore has been saved under direct benefit transfer.
- A total of 485 schemes has been identified from 60 ministries for the DBT.
- This scheme was launched by the then Prime Minister Manmohan Singh on January 1, 2013.



### Related Links:-

<https://dbt.bharat.gov.in/page/frontcontentview/?id=ODQ=>

## First edition of 'Wings 2017'

**Question: Where was the first edition of 'Wings 2017' -Sab Uden, Sab Juden – Expanding Regional Connectivity' hosted by the Ministry of Civil Aviation recently?**

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

**Ans: (b)**

### Related facts:-

- On July 7, 2017, the first edition of 'Wings 2017- "Sab Uden, Sab Juden" Expanding Regional Connectivity' was hosted by the Ministry of Civil Aviation in New Delhi.
- Around 338 delegates from Government and Civil Aviation sector participated in the first edition of WINGS-2017.
- This event brought together the key stakeholders of the Aviation Sector such as States, Tourism Departments and Tour Operators as a Group representing airline consumers to facilitate interaction with various airlines, airport operators, cargo operators and other ecosystem players at a common forum.
- Some notable outcomes of the forum are identification, marketing of new routes, destination and most importantly making flying accessible to the citizens across the country.
- India is the ninth largest civil aviation market in the world. It is projected to be the third largest aviation market by 2020.



### Related Links:-

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=167257>

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintHindiRelease.aspx?relid=65938>

## 'Kochi-1' card

**Question: 'Kochi-1' card has been launched by ...**

(a) ICICI Bank (b) Kochi Municipal Corporation  
(c) Kochi Metro Rail Corporation (d) Axis Bank

**Ans: (d)**

### Related facts:-

- On June 19, 2017, Axis Bank (India's third largest private sector bank) jointly with Kochi Metro Rail Corporation (KMRL) launched 'Kochi-1' card.
- This is India's first single-wallet contactless, Open Loop Metro Card.
- It can be used for travelling in Metro as well as the usual debit card.
- Axis Bank has partnered with National Payment Corporation (NPCI) to develop this transit EMV contactless card on interoperable open standards.



### Related Links:-

[http://www.business-standard.com/article/news-ani/axis-bank-kochi-metro-launches-india-s-first-single-wallet-contactless-open-loop-metro-card-117062000488\\_1.html](http://www.business-standard.com/article/news-ani/axis-bank-kochi-metro-launches-india-s-first-single-wallet-contactless-open-loop-metro-card-117062000488_1.html)

## E-Bidding portal and merit app

**Question: Which of the following is not correct in the context of the 'merit app'?**

- (A) Empowerment of Consumer and Interactive Administration
- (B) Does not promote economy and efficiency in operation
- (C) Proliferation of information regarding purchase of marginal variable cost and source power
- (D) Optimizing the operating costs of the electricity



**Ans: (b)**

**Related facts:-**

- On July 5, 2017, Central Electricity, Coal, New and Renewable Energy and Mines Minister of State (Independent Charge) Piyush Goyal launched e-Bidding portal and merit app (Merit Order Dispatch of Electricity for the Rejuvenation of Income and Transparency).
- The e-bidding portal provides an e-bidding solution to States to select Independent Power Producers (IPPs) for procurement of power.
- The e-bidding portal has been developed by Ministry of Power, along with PFC Consulting Ltd and MSTC Ltd.
- The app and the web portal would result in optimum utilization of Coal which would save the consumer close to Rs. 20,000 crores in next five years.
- **Benefits of Merit App-**
  - (1) Empowerment of the Consumer and participative governance
  - (2) Transparent information dissemination pertaining to marginal variable cost and source wise purchase of electricity
  - (3) Promotes economy and efficiency in operations
  - (4) Helps understand the utility portfolio and its complexity
  - (5) Optimization of the power procurement costs
  - (6) Facilitates renewable integration and handling of the variability and uncertainty of renewables
  - (7) Indication of supply side reliability, adequacy, and co
  - (8) The flexibility in utilization of domestic coal scheme
- envisages transferring coal to more efficient IPPs generating stations, leading to lower generation costs and ultimately lesser cost of electricity for the consumers.
- The Cabinet, on 4th May 2016, approved the proposal for allowing flexibility in utilization of domestic coal amongst power generating stations. Central Electricity Authority (CEA) has issued the methodology for utilization of domestic coal within State/Central generating stations on 8th June 2016, followed by the issuance of a memorandum by the Ministry of Power on 10th June 2016. The methodology for use of transferred coal in Independent Power Producers (IPPs) generating stations was issued by Ministry of Power on 20th February, 2017.

**Related Links:-**

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintHindiRelease.aspx?relid=65843>

## Satellite based Unmanned Railway Crossing Systems

**Question: satellite-based chip systems to alert road users at unmanned level crossings will be installed in ...**



- (a) Mumbai and Howrah Rajdhani Trains
- (b) Mumbai and Guwahati Rajdhani Trains
- (c) Howrah and New Delhi Rajdhani Trains
- (d) Amritsar and New Delhi Rajdhani Trains

**Ans: (b)**

**Related facts:-**

- The Indian Space and Research Organisation (ISRO) has developed a satellite-based chip system to alert road users at unmanned level crossings about approaching trains and also help in tracking train movement on a real-time basis.
- On a pilot basis, the Mumbai and Guwahati Rajdhani trains will be equipped with this system.
- This system will warn road users by Hooters once a train approaches an unmanned level crossing.  
This technology will be extended to more trains in a phase-wise manner, according to the plan.
- The satellite-based system will also be used for tracking trains for disseminating information about their movement on real time basis.
- Notably, there are about 10,000 unmanned railway crossings in the country which account for around 40 per cent of accidents involving the railways.

**Related Links:-**

<http://www.thehindu.com/news/national/isro-made-system-to-alert-users-at-unmanned-level-crossings/article19144711.ece>

## Digital MSME scheme launched

**Question: The United Nations observes MSME Day on...**

- (a) 25 June (b) 26 June (c) 27 June (d) 28 June

**Ans: (c)**

**Related facts:-**

- On June 27, 2017, the 'Digital MSME Scheme' was launched by Minister of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises, Kalraj Mishra, on the occasion of National MSME Award Ceremony, 2015.
- This plan focuses on cloud computing, which has emerged as a cost-effective and advantageous option in comparison to in-house IT infrastructure installed by MSMEs.
- In cloud computing, MSMEs use the internet to access common as well as tailor-made IT infrastructure including software for managing their business processes.
- Cloud computing is free from the burden of investment on hardware/software and infrastructural facilities. This scheme would encourage MSMEs towards this new approach i.e. Cloud Computing for ICT adoption.
- On this occasion, Kalraj Mishra handed over three MoUs to SAP India, Intel and HMT.
- 56 National Awards were given in various categories for the performance in the MSME sector, in the National MSME Awards, 2015. Among these award recipients, 50 belong to MSME sector and 6 from the banking sector.
- Importantly, the United Nations has declared 'UN MSME Day' on June 27.

**Related links:-**

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=166915>





## New Training Programme 'COMMIT'

**Question: 'COMMIT' – Comprehensive Online Modified Modules on Induction Training, will be launched in .... States on a pilot basis.**

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

**Ans: (c)**

**Related facts:-**

- On 29 June, 2017, the minister of state for North-Eastern Development, PMO, Personnel, Public Grievances and Pension, Atomic Energy and Space, Dr. Jitendra Singh organized a new training program 'COMMIT' (Comprehensive online Modified Modules on Induction Training) for the state government officials.
- The objective of this new training program is to improve public service delivery system and to provide citizen centric administration by increasing the efficiency of the officers.
- During the current financial year 2017-18, this training program will be started in 6 states- Assam, Haryana, Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu, Telangana and West Bengal, and in the coming year, there is a target to implement it throughout India.
- The COMMIT program has been developed by the Department of Personnel and Training (DoPT) in collaboration with the United Nations Development Program (UNDP).
- This program will supplement the 12-day INT (Induction Training Program) launched in 2014-15.
- Under this program, approximately 74,000 state government officials will be trained in the financial year 2017-18.



**Related Links:-**

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=166988>

## Mobile app 'My Plant'

**Question: Recently, which state government announced to launch 'My Plant' mobile app on July 1, 2017 to register data about plantation?**

(a) Andhra Pradesh (b) Maharashtra (c) Kerala (d) Goa

**Ans: (b)**

**Related facts:-**

- On June 23, 2017, Maharashtra's Forest Minister Sudhir Mungantiwar announced the launch of 'My Plant' mobile application.
- This app will help people and organisations to feed the data about the saplings they have planted with the Forest Department, which would help it in creating a database of trees.
- The Forest Department had set a target to plant four crore saplings through public participation in the state between July 1 to 7, in the state.
- The target of Maharashtra government is to plant 13 crore trees by 2018.



**Related Links:-**

<http://www.hindustantimes.com/mumbai-news/maharashtra-government-to-launch-my-plant-mobile-app-on-tree-plantation/story-p31luQSGQedBdY4Pwgz9AI.html>

## Integrated Handicraft Development and encouragement Scheme

**Question- Recently, which state government, launched Integrated Handicraft Development and encouragement Scheme?**

- (a) Uttar Pradesh (b) Uttarakhand (c) Chhattisgarh  
(d) Jharkhand

**Ans: (b)**

**Related facts:-**

- On June 21, 2017, Uttarakhand Chief Minister, Trivendra Singh Rawat launched Integrated Handicraft Development and Incentive Scheme.
- On this occasion, the Chief Minister gave a tool kit of various crafts to 70 artisans of Dehradun, Uttarkashi, Chamoli, Haridwar, Nainital, Rudraprayag and Tehri Garhwal.
- In order to encourage the Scheduled Caste and Tribal artisans of Uttarakhand state 15,000 craftsman of 15 development blocks of the state are being provided tool kits, for the preparation of various crafts, by the Development Commissioner (Handicrafts), Government of India.

**Related Links:-**

<http://dastavej.in/2017/06/22/%E0%A4%B9%E0%A4%B8%E0%A5%8D%E0%A4%A%E0%A4%B6%E0%A4%BF%E0%A4%B2%E0%A5%8D%E0%A4%AA-%E0%A4%B5%E0%A4%BF%E0%A4%95%E0%A4%BE%E0%A4%B8-%E0%A4%8F%E0%A4%B5%E0%A4%82-%E0%A4%AA%E0%A5%8D%E0%A4%B0%E0%A5%8B/>  
<http://www.angwaal.com/uttarakhandnews/government-start-handicraft-scheme-distribute-tool-kit-19119>



## PLANNING & PROJECT

### Startup India Hub

**Question: What is the current position (Rank) of India amongst the countries having start up ecosystem (entrepreneurial ecosystem)?**

- (a) First (b) Second (c) Third (d) Fourth

**Answer- (c)**

**Related facts:**

- On June 19, 2017, the Commerce & Industry Minister Smt. Nirmala Sitharaman launched the Startup India Virtual Hub at New Delhi.
- This hub is an online platform for all stakeholders of the entrepreneurial ecosystem in India to discover, connect and engage with each other.
- India is the third largest startup ecosystem around the globe
- On this occasion, a new initiative has also been announced, wherein a Startup exchange program amongst the SAARC nations would be organized.
- The portal will host startups, investors, funds, mentors, academia, incubators, accelerators, corporates, Government bodies and more.
- The Virtual Hub is a dynamic & interactive platform that will facilitate learning & development, networking, mentorship and funding for startups.



- The basic principle behind developing this platform is to aggregate different offerings of the ecosystem and enable discovery by the right audience.
- The Hub has also aggregated over 50 relevant Govt schemes/programs
- In the second phase, the platform will also aggregate schemes available across various state governments.

**Reference:**

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=165757>

## Know India Programme

**Question: “Know India Programme” is related to –**

- (a) Indian citizens. (b) Young overseas Indians.  
(c) Foreign nationals. (d) All of the above.

**Answer- (b)**

**Related facts:**

- On June 17, 2017, External Affairs Minister Sushma Swaraj inaugurated a new online portal for “Know India Programme” at New Delhi.
- This is a three-week orientation program for the Young overseas Indian.
- It provides a unique forum for students and young professionals of Indian origin to visit India, share their views, expectations and experiences and develop closer bonds with the contemporary India.
- The programme has been in existence since 2003 through the Overseas Indian Department under the Ministry of External Affairs.



**Reference:**

<http://www.mea.gov.in/know-india-programme.htm>

## Final raising of Sardar Sarovar Dam cleared

**Question: Recently, Narmada Control Authority (NCA) has cleared the final raising of Sardar Sarovar Dam (SSD) by-**

- (a) 136.62 meters (b) 136.65 meters (c) 138.68 meters  
(d) 140.48 meters



**Answer- (c)**

**Related facts:**

- On June 16, 2017, Narmada Control Authority (NCA) cleared the final raising of Sardar Sarovar Dam (SSD) in Gujarat.
- This will be done by lowering of gates and impounding of water in the reservoir up to its Full Reservoir Level (FRL) of EL 138.68 mts.
- The last raising of SSD was cleared on June 12, 2014, wherein permission for Phase-I construction of piers, overhead bridge and installation of gates in open or raised position was granted.
- With lowering of gates of SSD, the live storage capacity would increase from 1565 to 5740 MCM i.e. by 4175 MCM (267%).
- The clean (hydro-power generation) would increase by present 1300 MW to 1450 MW with an increase in annual generation by about 1100 Million Units (i.e. about Rs.400/- crore per annum).

- In addition, this additional storage would irrigate about 8 lakh hectares and about one crore population would get assured drinking water.
- It is well known, the Sardar Sarovar Project would primarily meet the water requirement of drought prone and desert areas of Gujarat and Rajasthan.

**Reference:**

[http://www.ptinews.com/news/8806430\\_NCA-clears-final-raising-of-Sardar-Sarovar-Dam](http://www.ptinews.com/news/8806430_NCA-clears-final-raising-of-Sardar-Sarovar-Dam)

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=165720>

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintHindiRelease.aspx?relid=65543>

## Approval to speed up trains

**Question: Which of the followings rail corridors has got Niti Aayog's approval to a project worth Rs. 18000 crores for increasing trains speeds?**

- (a) Delhi-Amritsar, Delhi-Mumbai
- (b) Delhi-Mumbai, Delhi-Howrah
- (c) Delhi-Guwahati, Delhi-Ahmedabad
- (d) Delhi-Howrah, Delhi-Amritsar

**Answer- (b)**

**Related facts:**

- On June 19, 2017, the policy commission approved an amount of Rs 18,000 crore for increasing the speed of trains. After the approval of the policy commission, it will now be forwarded to the Cabinet for approval.
- The project is related to Delhi-Mumbai and Delhi-Howrah rail corridors.
- The project aims to reduce travel time between the three metropolises -Delhi, Kolkata and Mumbai. The project envisages fencing off the entire 3,000 km on both routes, up-gradation of the signaling system, elimination of all level crossings and installing train protection warning system (TPWS).
- The project will enable trains to run with the increased speed of 160 km per hour on the busiest routes on the Indian railway network.

**Reference:**

<http://economictimes.indiatimes.com/industry/transportation/railways/niti-aayog-clears-a-rs-18000-crore-plan-to-make-your-train-travel-faster/articleshow/59238254.cms>



## First Time Nationwide “Voter Registration Reminder” on Facebook

**Question: With whom the election commission of India has joined hands for Nationwide “Voter Registration Reminder”?**

- (a) Twitter (b) Facebook (c) Instagram (d) LinkedIn

**Answer (b)**

**Related Facts:**

- Election Commission of India (ECI) is launching a 'Special Drive to enrol left out electors, with a special focus on first-time electors from 1st July, 2017 so as to move in the direction of Commission's motto that 'NO VOTER TO BE LEFT BEHIND'.



- In order to reach out to maximum eligible voters, the ECI is collaborating with Facebook to launch first Nationwide “Voter Registration Reminder” on 1st July ,2017.
- With over 180 million people in India on Face book, the ‘Register Now’ button is designed to encourage Indian citizens to register themselves with the Election Commission of India.
- On 1st July, a notification of the “voter registration reminder” will be sent to people on Facebook in India who are eligible to vote. The reminder will be sent out in 13 Indian languages – English, Hindi, Gujarati, Tamil, Telugu, Malayalam, Kannada, Punjabi, Bengali, Urdu, Assamese, Marathi and Oriya.
- This is the first time Facebook’s voter registration reminder has been rolled out across India.

**Reference:**

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=166928>

## Innovate in India (i3) Program

**Question: Innovate in India (i3) Programme has been started by...**

- (a) Department of Heavy Industry (DHI)
- (b) Department of Public Enterprises
- (c) Department of Bio-Technology (DBT)
- (d) Department of Science and Technology (DST)

**Ans: (c)**

- In a bid to create a globally competitive biopharmaceutical industry that addresses the country’s major concerns around barriers to affordable healthcare, Union Minister for Science & Technology, Dr. Harsh Vardhan launched ‘ Innovate in India (i3)’ program on June 30, 2017 in New Delhi.
- This program has been started by the Department of Biotechnology (DBT), Ministry of Science & Technology and is a first- of-its-kind mission that brings together industry and academia to promote entrepreneurship and indigenous manufacturing in the biopharmaceutical sector.
- This 250 million USD flagship program of the GOI in collaboration with World Bank, will be implemented by Biotechnology Industry Research Assistance Council (BIRAC), a Public Sector Enterprise, set up by DBT.
- This programme is focussed on targeted measures to develop platform technologies for product validation, link disparate institutions to strengthen clinical trial networks, promote partial de-risking for novel products, and build capacities in emerging areas such as translational bioinformatics, bioethics etc.



**Reference:**

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=167052>



## TREATY & AGREEMENTS

### Cabinet apprised of the Joint Declaration of Intent between India and Germany

**Question:-**Under the Joint Declaration of Intent between India and Germany, Department of Science & Technology and Federal Ministry of Education and Research will jointly support the Indo German-Centre for Sustainability for a period of ...

(a) 5 years (b) 10 years (c) 3 years (d) 2 years

**Ans: (a)**

**Related facts:-**

- On July 26, 2017, the Union Cabinet chaired by the Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi was apprised of the Joint Declaration of Intent (JDI) between Department of Science & Technology, India and the Federal Ministry of Education and Research (BMBF), Germany on Indo German-Centre for Sustainability (IGCS).
- The JDI was concluded on 30th May, 2017 in Germany during the fourth Inter-Governmental Consultations (IGC) between India and Germany between Prime Minister of India and the German Federal Chancellor in Berlin.
- The objective of the JDI on IGCS is to promote cooperation between German and Indian scientists on fundamental and applied scientific research.
- It includes areas such as policy support, teaching, training and dissemination of information in the area of sustainable development and climate change through inter-disciplinary/trans-disciplinary research.
- The IGCS will nurture future collaboration by widening the network with other Universities, Institutes and industries both in India and Germany.
- On the Indian side, Indian Institute of Technology (IIT), Madras will act as the host institution for IGCS.
- Department of Science & Technology and Federal Ministry of Education and Research will jointly support the IGCS for a period of five years starting from January 2018.



**Reference:**

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=169105>

### Cabinet apprised of the MoU between India and Palestine

**Question:-**Mahmoud Abbas is the president of ...

(a) Palestine (b) Turkey (c) Lebanon (d) Syria

**Answer:- (a)**

**Related facts:-**

- On July 26, 2017, the Union Cabinet chaired by the Prime Minister Narendra Modi has apprised of the Memorandum of Understanding signed between India and Palestine on cooperation in the field of youth affairs and sports.



- The MoU will help in promoting the exchange of ideas, values and culture amongst all youth irrespective of their caste, religion and gender as well as the development of sports in the two countries.
- In turn, it will help in consolidating friendly relations between the two countries.

**Reference:**

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=169107>

## MoU between Bank of Baroda and PGS&D

**Question:-Bank of Baroda was established in ...**

(a) 1908 (b) 1952 (c) 1986 (d) 1985

**Ans: (a)**

**Related facts:-**

- On July 21, 2017, Bank of Baroda signed an agreement with Directorate General of Supplies & Disposal (DGS&D) for extending various banking services to Government e-Marketplace (GeM).
- DGS&D has been mandated to set up GeM, an initiative intended to bring greater transparency and efficiency in public procurements.
- The Cabinet had in April 2017 approved creation of GeM Special Purpose Vehicle (SPV), which will replace DGS&D, nodal purchase organisation of the central government.
- The GeM special purpose vehicle has been established as National Public Procurement Portal to provide an end-to-end online marketplace for central and state government departments, their public sector undertakings, autonomous institutions and local bodies, for procurement of common goods and services in a transparent and efficient manner.

**Reference:**

<http://economictimes.indiatimes.com/industry/banking/finance/banking/bob-signs-mou-with-dgsd-for-services-to-govts-e-marketplace/articleshow/59698665.cms>



## MoU between Department of Defence Production and GSL

**Question: A Memorandum of Understanding was signed between department of Defense Production and Goa Shipyard Limited for the financial year 2017-18. What percent of 'Revenue from Operations' has been set as an export target?**

(a) 24 percent (b) 28 percent (c) 30 percent (d) 35 percent

**Answer- (b)**

**Related facts:**

- On July 18, 2017, a Memorandum of Understanding was signed between the Defense Production Department and Goa Shipyard Limited (GSL), a mini Ratna Defence Public Sector Undertaking (DPSU) for the financial year 2017-18.
- 'Revenue from Operations' target under this MoU has been set at 1150 crore.
- This target is 43 percent higher than the financial year 2016-17 target of 800 crore.
- Export target has been set at 28 percent of 'Revenue from Operations', which is highest among DPSU Shipyards.

**Reference:**

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=168586>



## Agreement between Microsoft India and NISA

**Question: An agreement was signed between Microsoft India and National Independent School Alliance (NISA) to equip schools with**

- (a) sports facilities (b) Laboratories (c) Learning materials.  
(d) Digital classrooms.

**Ans : (d)**

**Related facts:-**

- On July 3, 2017, an agreement was signed between Microsoft India and National Independent School Alliance (NISA) to equip over 55,000 schools spread across 20 states in the country covering around two crore students with digital classrooms.
- Under this agreement, Microsoft India has proposed the launching of Microsoft Aspire School Program (MASP) Pro Plus to over 55 thousand member schools.
- The program aims modernize school campuses, drive transformation for enhanced learning experiences and prepare future-ready students by use of an integrated set of technology and innovative learning solutions.
- The National Independent School Alliance is a platform that brings together budget private schools (BPS) from across the country to give them a unified voice to address their concerns about legislation and bye-laws which apply to them and to facilitate quality improvement in school.
- At Present, NISA represents 36,400 schools from 20 states.

**Related Links:-**

<http://ccs.in/about-nisa>



## MoU Signed between Department of Defence Production and BEL

**Question: Bharat Electronics Limited is a Central Public Sector Enterprise (CPSE) under the Ministry of ...**

- (a) coal (b) steel (c) defence (d) Science

**Answer- (c)**

**Related facts**

- On July 17, 2017, Bharat Electronics Limited (BEL) signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with the department of defence production for the financial year 2017-18.
- Under this MoU, the revenue from operations has been targeted at Rs. 9000 crore.
- The Operating Profit to Revenue from Operations target has been set at 14 percent.
- Additional focus on turnover from exports and increase in indigenous content is to be given during the year.
- Bharat Electronics Limited (BEL) is a Navratna Schedule 'A' Central Public Sector Enterprise (CPSE) under the Department of Defence Production, the ministry of defence.

**Reference:**

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintHindiRelease.aspx?relid=66089>



## ESIC & DGFASLI sign MoU

**Question: At which of the following places DGFASLI-ESIC Occupational Health Training, Research & Development Centre' (OHRDC) will be established in Haryana?**

(a) Bhiwani (b) Faridabad (c) Gurugram (d) Rohtak

**Answer- (b)**

**Related facts:**

- On July 11, 2017, a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed between Employees' State Insurance Scheme of India (ESIC) and Directorate General Factory Advice Service & Labour Institutes (DGFASLI) for collaboration in the field of occupational health and prevention of occupational injuries and diseases.
  - The MoU will help in spreading awareness for healthy working conditions, reduce the danger of diseases or injuries and provide a good quality life for workers.
  - The MoU seeks to establish a mutual collaboration that will enhance Occupational Health of workers; reduce the occurrence of work related injuries and diseases.
  - Under the Memorandum, Special focus shall be paid to precarious working conditions in the formal and informal sectors.
  - DGFASLI-ESIC Occupational Health Training, Research & Development Centre' (OHRDC) will be established at Regional Labour Institute, Faridabad.
  - Subsequently, such centres will be set up at other institutes located in Mumbai, Chennai, Kolkata and Kanpur.
  - The collaboration aims at improving the quality of life through joint scientific research following other activities: –**
    - a. Assessment of Occupational Safety and Health challenges in all the spheres of economic activity.
    - b. Special activities for prevention and control of Asbestosis, Silicosis and other occupational diseases.
    - c. Development of training modules for different target groups.
- This Memorandum comes into force from today and will remain in force for a time period of three (03) years.

**Reference:**

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintHindiRelease.aspx?relid=65959>



## MoU between India and Israel

**Question: Union cabinet on June 28, 2017 approved signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between India and Israel for which of the following fields?**

(a) Tourism (b) Water conservation (c) Agriculture  
(d) Environmental protection

**Answer- (b)**

**Related facts:**

- On June 28, 2017, the Union Cabinet chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi approved the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between India and Israel on National Campaign for Water Conservation in India.
- This MoU will benefit the country in conserving water for future generations.



- Under this MoU, the two countries shall work to enhance cooperation at the national, regional and international level to design, implement and monitor a professionally-designed National Water Conservation Campaign in India.
- The Ministries agree to jointly work on the water conservation campaign to achieve the following objectives:
- Put water conservation on the national agenda in India.
  - (ii) Encouraging every citizen to save water in everyday life.
  - (iii) Generating awareness about water.
  - (iv) Promoting Reuse, Recharge and Recycling of water.
  - (v) Development of digital tools such as websites, mobile applications on the subject of water conservation.

**Reference:**

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=166960>

## Switzerland ratified adoption of automatic exchange of information on Black Money

**Question: Recently, the Swiss Federal Council agreed to adopt the dispatch on the introduction of Automatic Exchange of Information (“AEOI”) with 41 states and territories. As part of this dispatch, the first set of data exchange will begin in –**

(a) 2017 (b) 2018 (c) 2019 (d) 2020

**Answer- (c)**

**Related facts:**

- On June 16, 2017, the Swiss Federal Council agreed to adopt the dispatch on the introduction of the Automatic Exchange of Information (“AEOI”) with 41 states and territories
- As part of this dispatch, the first set of data exchange will take place in 2019.
- The collection of information for data exchange will begin in 2018.
- The Federal Council will prepare a status report from the exchange of data, which is proposed to be prepared in the autumn of 2019.
- AEOI network has extended to most of the G20 and OECD states in addition to the already existing agreements with 38 states and territories, including all EU member states.
- Brazil, China, Liechtenstein, and Russia are notable states included within the list of 41 states and territories.



**Reference:**

<http://news.pwc.ch/34401/swiss-federal-council-adopts-dispatch-aeoi-41-jurisdictions/>



## Cabinet approved JDI between India and Germany

**Question-** On July 12, 2017, the Union Cabinet gave ex-post facto approval for signing a Joint Declaration of Intent (JDI) between India and Germany on cooperation in the field of

- (a) Agriculture (b) Information Technology (c) Health  
(d) Electronics

**Ans: (c)**

**Related facts:-**

- On 12 July, 2017, the union cabinet chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi gave its ex-post facto approval for signing a Joint Declaration of Intent (JDI) between India and Germany on cooperation in the field of Health.
- The Joint Declaration of Intent was signed on 1st June, 2017.
- The JDI covers the following areas of cooperation:-
  - (a) postgraduate education;
  - (b) training of medical personnel;
  - (c) pharmaceuticals and pharmacoeconomics; and
  - (d) health economics.
- A Working Group will be set up to further elaborate the details of cooperation and to oversee the implementation of this JDI.



**Related Links:-**

[http://www.pmindia.gov.in/en/news\\_updates/cabinet-approves-joint-declaration-of-intent-jdi-between-india-and-germany-on-cooperation-in-the-field-of-health/](http://www.pmindia.gov.in/en/news_updates/cabinet-approves-joint-declaration-of-intent-jdi-between-india-and-germany-on-cooperation-in-the-field-of-health/)

## Agreement between Railway Land Development Authority and National Building Construction Corporation

**Question-** Recently, Railway Land Development Authority signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the National Building Construction Corporation for the development of how many railway stations?

- (a) 8 (b) 10 (c) 12 (d) 15

**Ans: (b)**

**Related facts:-**

- On June 30, 2017, the Railway Land Development Authority (RLDA) signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the National Building Construction Corporation (NBCC) for the redevelopment of 10 railway stations across the country on global standards.
- Selected railway stations in the first phase of redevelopment include Tirupati, Sarai Rohilla (Delhi), Nellore, Puducherry, Madgaon, Lucknow, Gomti Nagar, Kota, Thane (New station) and Ernakulam.
- A Special Purpose Vehicle will be formed at the national level as a Joint Venture between RLDA and NBCC on 50 : 50 share holding basis.
- The SPV, in turn, will enter into City Support Agreements with respective cities. The redevelopment of stations and commercial development on Railway land will be done in alignment with the Smart City Plans of respective cities.



- The upkeep and maintenance of the stations and the commercial property shall be done by the SPV. Non-fare revenues generated from the Railway station except that from Railway Display Network will be passed on to SPV to meet expenditure on redeveloped stations.
- Project completion period will be three years from the date of availability of encumbrances free site or award of works to construction agency, whichever is later.

#### Related Links

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=167036>

## MoU between RINL and CCI for setting up Cement Plant

**Question: Rashtriya Ispat Nigam Limited (RINL) is an entity of**

- (a) Visakhapatnam Steel Plant (b) Bhilai Steel Plant  
(c) Bokaro Steel Plant (d) Tata Iron and Steel Company

**Ans. (a)**

#### Related Fact :

- On July 14, 2017, Rashtriya Ispat Nigam Limited (RINL) and Cement Corporation of India (CCI) signed a Memorandum of Understanding in Vishakhapatnam to set up 2 metric Tonnes per annum Fly Ash and Blast Furnace Slag based Cement Plant.
- Rashtriya Ispat Nigam Limited is the corporate entity of Visakhapatnam Steel Plant and Cement Corporation of India is a PSU under Ministry of Heavy Industries and Public Enterprises.
- Cement Plant will be set up in a Joint Venture arrangement in two phases of one million tonne capacity each.
- The JV Project cost is approximately Rs.150 Cr. RINL is offering around 35 acres of land for the proposed plant in its premises. The project is proposed to be completed in 15 months from the date of placement of order.
- The location of the proposed plant shall result in immense logistical cost benefits due to the availability of BF slag and Fly ash.
- The nearby port shall also provide avenues for export of Cement as well as import of Clinker, if required.
- Plant and machinery available with CCI are expected to bring down the project cost. The cost data as indicated by CCI apparently makes CCI one of the lowest cost manufacturers of Clinker in India.



#### Reference:

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=167423>

## Cabinet approves MoU between India and Palestine on Health, Medicine and electronics

**Question: Which of the following is not a communicable disease?**

- (a) Rabies (b) Tuberculosis (c) Ebola (d) Asthma

**Ans: (d)**



- On July 12, 2017 the Union Cabinet chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi gave its ex-post facto approval for signing a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between India and Palestine on cooperation in the field of Health and Medicine. The MoU was signed on 16th May, 2017.
- The MoU covers the following areas of cooperation: –
  - (i) Capacity building of health staff;
  - (ii) Prevention and control of communicable diseases;
  - (iii) Physiotherapy and rehabilitation;
  - (iv) Drugs, Pharmaceuticals and Medical Equipment; and
  - (v) Any other area of mutual interest.
- A Working Group will be set up to further elaborate the details of cooperation and to oversee the implementation of this MoU.
- The Union Cabinet was also apprised of the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between India and Palestine on Cooperation in the field of Information Technology and Electronics (IT&E).
- The MoU intends to promote closer cooperation in the areas of e-Governance, m-Governance, e-Public Services Delivery, cyber security, software technology parks, start-ups ecosystem etc.
- This MoU shall come into effect from the date of signature of the parties and shall remain in force for a period of 5 years. The MoU shall be implemented by establishing a Working Group on IT&E composed of representatives of the two Parties.

**Reference:**

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=167349>

## Agreement between Reliance Defense Ammunition and Yugoimport

**Question: Yugoimport is the government-owned enterprise of which country?**

(a) France (b) Germany (c) Serbia (d) Israel

**Ans: (c)**

**Related facts:**

- On June 20, 2017, Anil Ambani group company Reliance Defense Ammunition signed a Strategic Partnership Agreement to create ammunition in India with the Serbian public-Defense establishment Yugoimport.
- Under this strategic agreement, the target of doing the business of 20,000 crore in the next 10 years has been set.
- Both companies will work jointly in the field of ammunition.



- This agreement has options for export of ammunition and simultaneously envisages the transfer of manufacturing and technology to the original equipment manufacturers and indigenous manufacturers in India.
- Yugoimport is the government-owned venture of Serbia, which is a leading organization in the field of ammunition production internationally.

**Related Links:-**

<http://www.vishvatimes.com/reliance-defence-enters-into-partnership-with-yugoimport-of-serbia>

## Purchase of Bombardier Aircraft

**Question: Recently, SpiceJet signed a letter of intent to buy 50 Q400 Turboprop airliners with the Bombardier Commercial Aircraft. Bombardier is a leading manufacturer of planes and trains in ....**

(a) America (b) Canada (c) France (d) UK

**Ans: (b)**

**Related facts:-**

- On June 20, 2017, Indian airline company SpiceJet signed a letter of intent to purchase 50 Q400 turboprop airliners with the Bombardier Commercial Aircraft.
- The deal was announced by Bombardier Commercial Aircraft and SpiceJet during the International Paris Air Show.
- This signed letter contains 25Q Turboprop and the right to purchase 25 additional aircraft.
- The number of seats in the aircraft is 86.
- Based on the Q400 turboprop price list, this order can be up to 1.7 billion US dollars.
- SpiceJet will use this new aircraft to start flights with regional connectivity as well as neighbouring countries.
- The Canadian company Bombardier Commercial Aircraft is one of the leading aircraft and train manufacturing companies in the world.



**Related Links:-**

<http://www.bombardier.com/en/media/newsList/details.bca-20170620-spicejetq400.bombardiercom.html>

## Agreement between Lockheed Martin and TASL

**Question- Recently, the American company Lockheed Martin signed an agreement to produce which aircraft in India with the Tata Advanced System Ltd?**

(a) C-26 Metro Liner (b) F-16 block 70 (c) C-130J Hercules  
(d) C-17A Globemaster

**Ans: (b)**

**Related facts:-**

- On June 19, 2017, American company Lockheed Martin signed an agreement with India's Tata Advanced Systems Limited to produce F-16 Block 70 aircraft in India.
- This F-16 Block 70 aircraft is ideally suited for the Indian Air Force's single engine fighter.



- This unmatched Indian-American entrepreneurship partnership directly supports India's initiative for the development of private aerospace and defence manufacturing capabilities in India.
- This will provide India with the opportunity to produce, operate and export F-16 Block 70 aircraft.
- Under this agreement, Lockheed Martin will start production of this aircraft in India jointly with Tata Advanced Systems Limited.
- With the production of F-16 in India, the jobs of Lockheed Martin and F-16 suppliers in the US will continue and this will also give new employment opportunities in India.
- F-16 remains the world's most successful, combat-proven multi-role fighter ever produced. The F-16 Block 70 is the newest and most technologically advanced F-16 ever offered.

**Related Links:-**

<http://news.lockheedmartin.com/2017-06-19-Lockheed-Martin-Tata-Announce-F-16-India-Partnership>

## Agreement between India and Portugal

**Question: India and Portugal have signed a historical agreement recently to promote cooperation in the field of –**

- (a) Agriculture (b) Tourism (c) Archives  
(d) Information and technology

**Answer- (c)**

**Related facts:**

- On May 17, 2017 a 'Protocol of Cooperation' was signed between the National Archives of India and the Minister of Culture of the Portuguese Republic at Lisbon.
- This Historical agreement will promote Cooperation in the field of Archives.
- As a first step under this agreement, the Torre do Tombo (National Archives of Portugal) handed over to the National Archives of India digital copies of 62 volumes of the collection known as 'Moncoes do Reino' (Monsoon correspondence).
- These volumes were originally part of over 456 volumes that cover the period from 1568 to 1914 and from the largest of all record collections in the Goa State Archives.
- These 62 volumes, consisting of over 12,000 documents, pertaining to the period from 1605 to 1651 were shifted from Goa to Lisbon in 1777.
- These were subsequently printed in Lisbon under the title 'Documentos Remetidos da India' (Documents sent from India) by the Academy of Science at Lisbon between 1880 and 1893.



**Reference:**

<http://pib.nic.in/mobile/mbHErel.aspx?relid=65590>

## Loan Agreement for “Assam State Public Financial Institutional Reforms Project”

**Question: India Signed a Loan Agreement with the World Bank for “Assam State Public Financial Institutional Reforms Project” The agreement is a sum of –**



- (a) USD 35 Million (b) USD 30 Million (c) USD 40 Million  
(d) USD 45 Million

**Answer (a)**

**Related Facts:**

- On June 27, 2017, an agreement for IBRD Credit of USD 35 Million from World Bank for “Assam State Public Financial Institutional Reforms Project” was signed at New Delhi.
- The programme size is USD 44 million, of which USD 35 million will be financed by the Bank, and the remaining amount will be funded out of State Budget.
- The programme duration is 5 years.
- The objective of the project is to improve predictability and transparency in budget execution and efficiency in tax administration in Assam.
- The project will benefit the citizens of Assam through efficient processes, enhanced transparency and better service delivery provided by public institutions.

**Reference:**

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=166925>

## MoU between Rail Land Development Authority (RLDA) and NBCC

**Question: According to a recently signed MoU between Rail Land Development Authority and National Building Construction Corporation, how many stations have been chosen for redevelopment?**

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

**Ans: (d)**

- On June 30, 2017, Rail Land Development Authority (RLDA), and National Building Construction Corporation (NBCC) signed a memorandum of understanding for the implementation of station redevelopment projects for 10 identified stations in partnership with respective Smart Cities.
- These 10 stations are – Tirupati, Delhi, Sarai Rohilla, Nellore, Madgaon, Lucknow, Gomtinagar, Kota, Thane New and Ernakulam Jn.
- Rail Land Development Authority (RLDA) is an institution under Ministry of Railways and National Building Construction Corporation (NBCC) is a public sector undertaking of Ministry of Urban Development.
- RLDA and NBCC shall form a Special Purpose Vehicle in the form of a Joint Venture (JV) Company to execute the station redevelopment project.
- The JV shall redevelop the stations on a self-financing model. NBCC shall use its expertise in preparing DPR of the Project and business model.
- RLDA shall extend necessary help to NBCC in arranging all requisite data pertaining to the stations and get the vacant land entrusted from Ministry of Railway as per approved master plan of the station.
- The JV of NBCC and RLDA shall also enter into city support agreement with the respective Smart City Authorities and local bodies to obtain support relating to the development of approach infrastructure and favourable Development Control Norms for the project.



**Reference:**

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=167045>

## CONFERENCE

### Literary festival with tolerance as theme

**Question:- Which of the following states held a literary festival with tolerance as a theme?**

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

**Answer:- (c)**

**Related facts:-**

- Kerala is hosting a literary festival with tolerance as the core theme from July 24-26, 2017 at Chengannur in Alappuzha district.
- Creative writers, journalists, theatre and film personalities will deliberate on tolerance in the fifth edition of South India Writers Ensemble (SIWE).
- The festival will be organised by People for Performing Arts and More, an art-cum-cultural outfit.
- The three-day annual literary gathering is aimed at bringing about an enriching interaction between writers from different languages and regions.

**Reference:**

[http://www.ptinews.com/news/8908260\\_Kerala-to-host-literary-fest-with-tolerance-as-theme---.html](http://www.ptinews.com/news/8908260_Kerala-to-host-literary-fest-with-tolerance-as-theme---.html)



### 10th India- Jordan Trade and Economic Joint Committee meeting

**Question: At which of the following places 10<sup>th</sup> India- Jordan Trade and Economic Joint Committee meeting was held?**

- (a) Amman (b) New Delhi (c) Irbid (d) Madaba

**Answer- (b)**

**Related facts:**

- The 10<sup>th</sup> meeting of India-Jordan Trade and Economic Joint Committee (TEJC) was held in New Delhi on July 4-5, 2017.
- The meeting was co-chairs of Smt. Nirmala Sitharaman, Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Commerce and Industry, Government of India, and H.E Eng. Mr. Yarub Qudah, Minister of Industry, Trade and Supply, the Government of Jordan.
- During the meeting, two countries emphasized the need for diversification of bilateral trade and deepening their engagements for greater cooperation in the investment sector.
- Both the country also reaffirmed their mutual interest and discussed the roadmap for cooperation in various fields.
- The two leaders also inked the revised Economic and Trade Cooperation Agreement between the Government of India, and the Government of Jordan.



- This agreement aims to boost and diversify bilateral trade relations, in addition to promoting economic, trade and investment cooperation based on the principle of equity and non-discrimination.

**Reference:**

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=167151>

## Collectors' Conference on Swachh Bharat

**Question: Where was the collector's conference organized?**

- (a) National Academy of Sciences
- (b) Lal Bahadur Shastri National Academy of Administration
- (c) Indian Military Academy
- (d) Indira Gandhi National Forest Academy

**Ans: (b)**

**Related facts:-**

- On June 29-30, 2017, the Ministry of Drinking Water and Sanitation organized a two-day Collectors' Conference under Swachh Bharat Mission Gramin at Lal Bahadur Shastri National Academy of Administration (LBSNAA), Mussoorie.
- The conference was also a part of the Swachhta Pakhwada celebrations of the Department of Personnel and Training, under which the academy has been rechristened the Swachh Bharat Academy for the duration of the fortnight.
- The Collectors' Conference was organized to discuss the ODF (open defecation free) verification guidelines, sustainability, successful ODF models and best practices from successful districts and States across the country.
- The conference was attended by collectors of 100 districts, 20 State representatives, development partners working in the field of Sanitation, sectoral experts, along with other senior officers from the Ministry.



**Related Links:-**

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintHindiRelease.aspx?relid=65775>

## World Petroleum Congress

**Question: The 22nd World Petroleum Congress was held from July 09-13, 2017 in ...**

- (a) Hamburg (b) Jinjiang (c) Istanbul (d) New Delhi

**Answer- (c)**

**Related facts:**

- The 22nd World Petroleum Congress (WPC) was held from July 09-13, 2017 in Istanbul, Turkey.
- The theme of the 22nd WPC was "Bridges to Our Energy Future".
- Dharmendra Pradhan Minister of State (I/C) for Petroleum and Natural Gas, represented India in the conference.



**Reference:**

<http://www.22wpc.com/22wpc.php>

## Conference of State Panchayati Raj Ministers

**Question: Where was the conference of state Panchayati Raj ministers held recently?**

(a) Bhopal (b) Jaipur (c) Indore (d) Lucknow

**Ans: (a)**

**Related facts:-**

- On June 27, 2017, the Conference of Panchayati Raj ministers of various states was held in Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh.
- Union Panchayati Raj and Rural Development Minister Narendra Singh Tomar also attended the conference.
- Presentations were made on a number of issues related to Panchayats in the country. It included gram panchayat development, grant of 14th Finance Commission (FFC) to gram panchayats, innovative training programme, e-governance and Panchayat (Expansion till Scheduled Areas) Act, 1996.
- On this occasion, Sarpanchs of 15 Gram Panchayats were honoured for excellent work in different areas of development.



**Related Links:-**

<http://www.freepressjournal.in/bhopal/bhopal-state-panchayati-raj-ministers-meet-held/1092545>

## Indian Film Festival of Melbourne (IFFM) -2017

**Question- The 'Indian Film Festival of Melbourne' (IFFM) will be organized in Melbourne, Australia between August 10-20, 2017. Who will be the brand ambassador of the festival?**

(a) Sridevi (b) Vidya Balan (c) Alia Bhatt (d) Aishwarya Rai

**Ans: (b)**

**Related facts:-**

- From 10-22 August, 2017 The Indian Film Festival of Melbourne (IFFM) will be held in Melbourne, Australia.
- This festival is focused on 'Diversity' which is the main theme of the festival.
- Famous Bollywood actress Vidya Balan will be the brand ambassador of the film festival.
- This film festival will be started with the performance of Alankrita Shrivastava's film 'Lipstick under my Burka'.
- This year, IFFM will show more than 60 films from 20 languages.



**Related Links:-**

<http://www.iffm.com.au/>

## National-level conference on 'Crowd Management'

**Question- National Conference on Crowd Management was recently organized in ...**

(a) Chennai (b) Thiruvananthapuram (c) Bangalore (d) Vijayawada



**Ans: (b)**

**Related facts:-**

- On July 11-12, 2017, a National Conference on 'Crowd Management' was organised in Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala.
- The two-day conference was jointly organized by the National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) and the Kerala State Disaster Management Authority (KSDMA).
- The conference aims to strengthen the capacity of all the stakeholders to organise safe mass gathering events.

**Related Links:-**

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintHindiRelease.aspx?relid=65957>

## Van Mahotsav

**Question: Van Mahotsav- an annual tree -planting movement began in India in ...**

(a) 1950 (b) 1952 (c) 1954 (d) 1955

**Ans: (a)**

**Related facts:**

- On July 1, 2017, Van Mahotsav- the annual tree-planting festival was inaugurated by Uttar Pradesh's Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath by planting trees in Kukerail East, Jarhara forest block.
- The Van Mahotsav concluded on July 7, 2017.
- During the Van Mahotsav, tree-plantation campaign was conducted in 27 districts along the Ganges coast.
- On July 5, 2017, the Chief Minister launched a special tree-plantation campaign on the Ganges coast in Garhmukteshwar (Hapur).
- During the Van Mahotsav, about 6.55 crore saplings were planted in the entire state.
- On this occasion, the Chief Minister also released a booklet titled ' Dharmik Vatika'.
- Van Mahotsav festival is celebrated in the first week of July every year since 1950.
- It was started by the then Union Agriculture and Food Minister K.M Munshi.
- On this occasion, the Chief Minister inaugurated the 'School Chalo Abhiyan' for the academic session 2017-18 by distributing school bags, uniforms and books for 10 children of primary and pre- secondary schools and flagged off the nomination chariot of this campaign.



**Related Links:-**

[http://information.up.nic.in/View\\_Hindinews.aspx?id=391](http://information.up.nic.in/View_Hindinews.aspx?id=391)

## Heimtextil India and Ambiente India 2017

**Question: World's largest cushion was unveiled by Textile Minister Smriti Irani on the occasion of ...**

- (a) India Expo 2017  
(b) Heimtextil India and Ambiente India 2017  
(c) Textile Expo 2017 (c) Indian Handicrafts Exhibition 2017

**Ans: (b)**

**Related facts:-**





- From 20-22 June, 2017 Heimtextil India and Ambiente India- 2017 Fair was organized in Pragati Maidan, New Delhi.
- It was organized by Messe Frankfurt Trade Fair India and inaugurated by Union Textile Minister Smriti Irani.
- On this occasion, she unveiled the world's largest cushion representing the Indian textile and embroidery.
- This world largest cushion titled CushionKari is Made in India by leading exhibition company Messe Frankfurt Trade Fairs India.
- Over 180 leading companies from India, Bangladesh China, Korea, Thailand and Nepal participated in the fair.

**Related links:-**

<http://bwhotelier.businessworld.in/article/Heimtextil-India-Ambiente-India-Begins-at-Pragati-Maidan/21-06-2017-120520/>

## Textiles India 2017

**Question: Where was the 'Textiles India 2017' organized recently?**

(a) Delhi (b) Surat (c) Gandhinagar (d) Ahmedabad

**Ans: (c)**

**Related Fact :**

- The three-day event, Textiles India 2017 was organized in Gandhinagar by Union ministry of textiles from June 30th to July 2nd, 2017.
- This mega event was aimed at showcasing the country as a global sourcing hub and investment destination.
- On this occasion, 65 Memorandum of Understanding (MoUs) were signed related to the textiles sector.
- The MoUs signed related to exchange of information and documentation, Research & Development, commercialization of handloom products and silk production, cooperation in Geo textiles, skill development, the supply of cotton and trade promotion with overseas partners, etc.
- Significantly, the domestic market for apparel and lifestyle products, currently estimated at \$85 billion, is expected to reach \$160 billion by 2025.
- Notably, textiles industry contributes to 10% of manufacturing production, 2% of India's GDP and up to 13% of country's export earning.



**Reference:**

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=167068>

## Joint Trade Committee Meeting between India and Myanmar

**Question: On June 27th, 2017, India – Myanmar Joint Trade Committee (JTC) Meeting was held at New Delhi. This was –**

- (a) 2nd Meeting (b) 3Rd Meeting (c) 5th Meeting  
(d) 6th Meeting

**Answer (d)**

**Related Facts:**

- On June 27, 2017, the 6th India – Myanmar Joint Trade Committee (JTC) Meeting was held at New Delhi.
- The meeting was co-chaired by Smt. Nirmala Sitharaman, Minister of Commerce & Industry from India and Dr. Than Myint, Union Commerce Minister from Myanmar.
- This Joint Trade Committee plays a key role in facilitating issues related to the enhancement of the bilateral economic partnership between the two countries.
- Discussions were held on exploring the feasibilities of direct shipping lines with Sittwe port and Vizag/ Chennai and need for direct air connectivity with Chennai/ Guwahati
- Smt.Sitharaman noted that total export between India-Myanmar achieved in 2016-17 was \$ 1.11 Billion, reflecting an annual growth of 3.79%.
- The import stood at \$ 1.06 Billion showing a growth of 8.43%.
- It is noteworthy that Myanmar shares a long land border of over 1600 Km with India as well as a maritime boundary in the Bay of Bengal.

**Reference:**

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/mbErel.aspx?relid=166924>

## **ASSOCIATIONS & ORGANIZATIONS**

### **Regional office of the Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship**

**Question: In which state, the regional office of the Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship, of the Government of India will be opened?**

- (a) Uttarakhand (b) Uttar Pradesh (c) Madhya Pradesh  
(d) Assam

**Ans: (a)**

**Related facts:-**

- On June 21, 2017, Dr. K.P. Krishnan, secretary, the ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship informed about the opening of the Regional Office of the Ministry in Uttarakhand.
- This will be the first time that the regional office of a central Ministry will be opened in any state of the country beyond Delhi.
- The State Government will provide land for its establishment.
- It will be easy to implement all the related schemes of Central Government and State Government, including the Prime Minister Skill Development Plan, through this Regional Office.



- On this occasion, the Chief Minister directed the Chief Secretary to make a joint working group of Tata Trust and Uttarakhand government officials.
- This Joint Working Group will prepare a road map for the state in areas of skill development, employment generation, bio-economy, e-governance, tourism etc.
- Tata Strives, a subsidiary of Tata Group, will set up two residential training centres in Kumaon and Garhwal with the support of the state government to provide employment training.

**Related Links:-**

<http://www.dailypioneer.com/state-editions/dehradun/regional-office-of-skill-development-and-entrepreneurship-min-to-come-up-in-ukhand.html>

## LAW & JUSTICE

### The Constitution (Application to Jammu & Kashmir) Amendment Order, 2017

**Question:- Through which of the following orders Goods and Services Tax regime will become applicable in the State of Jammu & Kashmir?**

- (a) Constitution Jammu & Kashmir Amendment Order, 2017.
- (b) Constitution Jammu & Kashmir Amendment Order, 2012
- (c) Constitution Jammu & Kashmir Amendment Order, 1956
- (d) Constitution Jammu & Kashmir Amendment Order, 2013

**Answer:- (a)**

**Related facts:-**

- On July 26, 2017, the Union Cabinet, chaired by the Prime Minister Narendra Modi gave its ex-post facto approval for amendment of the Constitution (Application to Jammu & Kashmir) Order, 1954 by way of the Constitution (Application to Jammu & Kashmir) Amendment Order, 2017.
- The approval paves the way for applicability of Goods and Services Tax regime in the State of Jammu & Kashmir.
- The Constitution (Application to Jammu & Kashmir) Amendment Order, 2017 has already been notified in Gazette of India on 6th July, 2017 after the assent of the President.

**Reference:**

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=169109>



### Bangladesh Supreme Court voided parliamentary authority to impeach judges

**Question: The Supreme Court of Bangladesh recently voided parliamentary authority to impeach apex court judges. Who amongst the following is CJ of Bangladesh's SC?**

- (a) Mahbebey Alam
- (b) Surendra Kumar Sinha
- (c) Ali Ahmed
- (d) Bakhtiyar Chaudhary

**Answer- (b)**

**Related facts:**



- On July 3rd, 2017, Bangladesh's Supreme Court of Bangladesh declared void a 2014 constitutional amendment empowering parliament to impeach apex court judges.
- A seven-member apex court bench headed by CJ Surendra Kumar Sinha unanimously pronounced the verdict.
- Bench unanimously upheld a previous High Court judgment calling the 16th amendment to the constitution as illegal.

**Reference:**

<http://www.deccanchronicle.com/world/neighbours/040717/bangladesh-cant-impeach-supreme-court-judges.html>

## YEAR, DAY & WEEK

### Statistics Day-2017

**Question- On June 29, 2017, the '11<sup>th</sup> Statistics Day' was observed across the country by the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation. What is the theme of the Statistics day for the year 2017?**

- (a) Administrative Statistics
- (b) Agriculture and Agricultural Welfare
- (c) Better numbers better life (d) Social development

**Ans: (a)**

**Related facts:-**

- On June 29<sup>th</sup>, 2017, the 11th Statistical Day 'was observed across the country by the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation.
- The theme of this day for the year 2017 is 'Administrative Statistic'.
- The objective of the celebration of this Day is to create public awareness about the importance of statistics in socio-economic planning and policy formulation.
- It is noteworthy that Statistics Day is celebrated in recognition of the notable contributions made by Late Professor Prasanta Chandra Mahalanobis in the fields of statistics, statistical system and economic planning.
- The government of India in 2007, designated 29<sup>th</sup> June the birth anniversary of Prof. Mahalanobis as the "Statistics Day".
- Mahalanobis established the Indian Statistical Institute in Kolkata in 1931.
- The Institute was declared an "Institute of National Importance" and made an autonomous body of Ministry of Statistics & Programme Implementation, through an act of Parliament in 1959.



**Related Links:-**

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintHindiRelease.aspx?relid=65746>

## Nelson Mandela International Day

**Question: 'Nelson Mandela International Day' is celebrated on ...**

- (a) July 17<sup>th</sup> (b) July 18<sup>th</sup> (c) July 16<sup>th</sup> (d) July 19<sup>th</sup>

**Answer- (b)**

**Related facts:**



- 'Nelson Mandela International Day' was celebrated all over the world on July 18.
- The theme for this year's celebration was 'Action against Poverty'.
- It is important to know that in November 2009, the UN General Assembly declared 18 July "Nelson Mandela International Day" in recognition of the former South African President's contribution to the culture of peace and freedom.
- This day was first celebrated on July 18<sup>th</sup>, 2010.
- Mandela Day is an occasion for everyone to take action and inspire change.

**Reference:**

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

## International Day of Cooperatives 2017

**Question: 'International Day of Cooperatives 2017 was celebrated on...**

(a) July 2 (b) July 3 (c) July 1 (d) July 4

**Answer- (c)**

**Related facts:**

- On July 1, 2017, the 'International Day of Cooperatives' was celebrated all over the world.
- The theme for this year's International day of cooperatives was – 'Co-operatives ensure no one is left behind'.
- On December 16, 1992, the United Nations General Assembly designated the first Saturday of July to be celebrated as International Day of Cooperatives, marking the centenary of the establishment of the International Cooperative Alliance.



**Reference:**

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

## World Youth Skills Day

**Question: When is 'World Youth Skills Day' observed?**

(a) July 13 (b) July 15 (c) July 14 (d) July 12

**Ans: (b)**

**Related facts:-**

- 'World Youth Skills Day' was celebrated on July 15, 2017 all over the world.
- The theme for 'World Youth Skills Day 2017' is "Skills for the the Future of Work".
- United Nations General Assembly on December 18, 2014, decided to designate 15th July, as World Youth Skills Day to increase awareness about the importance of investing in skill development of the youth.
- Recently, according to the data from the International Labor Organization (ILO) 71 million young people were unemployed in 2015 and this figure will increase in some areas by the year 2017.



**Related Links:-**

<http://www.thp.org/news/world-youth-skills-day-2017-skills-future-work-hunger-project/>



## World Population Day

**Question: What is the theme of World Population Day 2017?**

- (a) Investment in teenage girls
- (b) Unsafe food arrangements
- (c) Family planning: empowering people, developing nations
- (d) Unprotected population in emergency

**Ans: (c)**

**Related facts:-**

- On July 11, 2017, 'World Population Day' was celebrated throughout the world.
- The theme of World Population Day 2017 is 'Family Planning: Empowering People, Developing Nations'.
- It is notable that the United Nations Development Program (UNDP) passed a resolution in 1989, and took the decision to celebrate this day on 11th July every year.
- According to the report 'World Population Probability: Revision-2017' released by the United Nations in June 2017, the present world population is 7.6 billion.
- The world's population is expected to grow 8.6 billion in the year 2030, 9.8 billion in 2050 and 11.2 billion by 2100.
- According to this report, by 2024, India's population will overtake China's population.
- Union Health and Family Welfare Minister J.P. Nadda launched new family planning initiative 'Mission Family Development'.
- 'Mission Family Development' will focus on 146 high reproduction districts of 7 States with high TFR.
- Under this initiative, population stabilization will be stressed upon, through the provision of service, incentive schemes and intensive monitoring.



**संबंधित लिंक**

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

## International Day Against Drug Abuse and Illegal Trafficking

**Question- What is the theme of 'International Day against Drug Abuse and Illegal Trafficking' 2017?**

- (a) First talk
- (b) Listen first – listening to children and youth, is the first step to help them grow healthy and safe
- (c) Prevention of narcotics through education
- (d) Preventing narcotics through group discussion

**Ans: (b)**

**Related facts:-**

- 'International Day against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking' was celebrated all over the world on June 26th.
- The theme of this day for the year 2017 is 'Listen first- listening to children and youth is the first step to help them grow healthy and safe'.
- The United Nations General Assembly announced to celebrate 'International Day against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking' each year on 26th June on December 07, 1987.
- The International Day against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking recognises the severe impact that illicit drugs have on health, development, peace and security.



- The recently released World Drug Report 2017 examines another worrying phenomenon: the nexus between drugs, crime and terrorism and reveals a shifting pattern of relationships.
- Once viewed as a marginal actor on the development stage, drugs and crime are now viewed as a disturbing obstruction to the achievement of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, particularly Goals 3 on health and Goal 16 on peaceful societies.

**Related Links:-**

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

## International Day of the Seafarers

**Question: When is 'International Day of the Seafarers' celebrated?**

(a) 26th June (b) 25th June (c) 28th June (d) 27th June

**Ans: (b)**

**Related facts:-**

- June 25th was celebrated as 'International Day of the Seafarers' all over the world.
- The theme of 'International Day of the Seafarers 2017' is -Seafarers Matter.
- International Maritime Organization (IMO), a specialized agency of the United Nations, announced the celebration of this day in 2010.
- IMO is the global standard-setting authority for the safety, security and environmental performance of international shipping. Its main role is to create a regulatory framework for the shipping industry that is fair and effective, universally adopted and universally implemented.



**Related Links:-**

<http://www.imo.org/en/About/Events/dayoftheseafarer/Pages/Day-of-the-Seafarer-2017.aspx>

## Chartered Accountants' Day

**Question: Chartered Accountants' Day is celebrated to commemorate the implementation of...**

- (a) Chartered Accountants Act, 1949  
 (b) Administration of the Public Debt Act, 1944  
 (c) Administration of the Insurance Act, 1938  
 (d) None of the above.

**Ans: (a)**

**Related Fact :**

- India celebrated 68th Chartered Accountants' day on July 1st, 2017.
- Prime Minister, Narendra Modi, addressed a large gathering in New Delhi on the occasion of Chartered Accountants' Day.
- The Prime Minister called upon Chartered Accountants to introspect and weed out corrupt practices and persons from their fraternity.



- Notably, Chartered Accounts' Day is celebrated to commemorate the implementation of Chartered Accountants Act, 1949.
- Chartered Accountants Act, 1949 came into force on July 1, 1949.
- Since then, this day is celebrated as Chartered Accountants' Day every year.

**Reference:**

[http://www.pmindia.gov.in/en/news\\_updates/pm-addresses-gathering-on-the-occasion-of-chartered-accountants-day/](http://www.pmindia.gov.in/en/news_updates/pm-addresses-gathering-on-the-occasion-of-chartered-accountants-day/)

## International Day of Co-operatives

**Question: International days of Co-operatives is celebrated on ...**

- (a) 15th June (b) 1st July, (1st Saturday in July) (c) 5th July  
(d) 10th July

**Ans:(b)**

- On 1st July, (1st Saturday in July) International Day of Cooperatives was celebrated by Co-operators around the world.
- The theme of International Day of Cooperatives, 2017 is 'Co-operatives ensure no-one is left behind'.
- Based on ethical values and principles, cooperative model open membership access to wealth creation and poverty elimination.
- Cooperatives work on the principle of members' economic participation: 'Members contribute equitably to, and democratically control, the capital of their co-operative.'
- Cooperatives are people-centred, not capital-centred, they do not perpetuate, nor accelerate capital concentration and they distribute wealth in a more fair way.
- United Nations General Assembly proclaimed the International Day of Cooperatives by the UN by resolution 47/90 of 16 December 1992.
- International Day of Cooperatives is celebrated on 1 July (first Saturday in July).



**Reference:**

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

## MISCELLANEOUS

### 315th Sainik Rest House Inaugurated

**Question:-Kendriya Sainik Board functions to ...**

- (a) Recruit soldiers  
(b) Resettlement and Welfare of Ex-Servicemen and their dependents.  
(c) Suggest ways to modernize the army  
(d) Negotiate pension of the soldiers.

**Ans: (b)**

**Related Fact :**



- On July 23, 2017, Defence Minister Arun Jaitley inaugurated the 315th Sainik Rest House in New Delhi.
- The Rest House of the Kendriya Sainik Board (KSB), has been built at a cost of around 8 crore.
- The Defence Minister hoped to expand facilities in future and make these an integral part of facilities for Ex-Servicemen.
- Booking of the Rest House, located at Naraina tri-junction near Delhi Cantt., would be done online. The new portal of SRH was also launched by the Minister. Developed in-house by the KSB, the portal lists out details, facilities, restrictions on use of the Rest House and would soon provide a facility for online payment.
- Notably, Kendriya Sainik Board is the apex body of the Govt. of India, which formulates policies for Resettlement and Welfare of Ex-Servicemen and their dependents. The Board has Hon'ble Raksha Mantri as its President and other members of the Board, including Ministers of Central Govt. besides the three Services Chiefs, Senior Govt. Officials, retired officers, ladies, and retired JCOs.

**Reference:**

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=168863>

## Law criminalizing torture

**Question: Which of the following countries approved a long-awaited law criminalizing torture?**

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

**Answer- (b)**

**Related facts:**

- On July 5, 2017, Italy's parliament approved a long-awaited law criminalizing torture.
- Torture has been declared a crime under this law and introduction of the crime of torture into the penal code has been approved.
- The motion was passed with 198 in favour, 104 abstaining, and 35 against, out of 337 law makers present.
- Most members of the 630-member Lower House were absent.
- This law makes torture punishable by four to ten years in prison.
- Members of the security forces, police, etc. will be punished by an integrated 12-year prison for the offence under the law.
- In 1988, Italy ratified the United Nations Convention against Torture, which was adopted by the international community in 1984.s



**Reference:**

<https://www.reuters.com/article/us-italy-torture-idUSKBN19Q2SQ>

## Dree Festival

**Question:** 'Dree' festival is celebrated by which of the following tribes of Arunachal Pradesh?

(a) Dafla (b) Khampthi (c) Apatani (d) Galong

**Answer- (c)**

**Related facts:**

- The Dree festival celebration started in Arunachal Pradesh on July 5, 2017 by the Apatanis tribe.
- This is an agricultural festival.
- The significance of the festivals is mainly to ensure better cultivation, protection of the grains from hailstone, storms, insects and wild animals and well being of villagers in general and their livestock.
- During the Dree festival, five main deities are worshipped, these are; Tamù, Metw, Medvr, Mepiñ and Danyi.
- On this occasion, grand events and festivals are organized by this community.
- Traditional singing and dance are a part of this celebration.
- Apatani tribe is an inhabitant of a tranquil pine clad valley called Ziro at the core of Lower Subansiri District of Arunachal Pradesh.
- Dree, Yapung, Myoko and Murung are the major festivals of Apatani.



**Reference:**

<http://lowersubansiri.nic.in/html/apatanis.htm>

## Special Rhino Protection Force

**Question:** A new Special Rhino Protection Force is being set up by which of the following state governments?

(a) Assam (b) Meghalaya (c) Tripura (d) Manipur

**Answer: (a)**

**Related facts:-**

- On July 1<sup>st</sup>, 2017, a new Special Rhino Protection Force (SRPF) is being set up by the Assam Government for better protection of one horn Rhinoceros.
- Recently, the Assam Government published advertisements for recruitment of 90 youth in this force.
- After the initial selection, they will be given the necessary training.
- The whole process is expected to be completed by August this year.
- There will be 22 officers for the proposed force, who will be appointed on deputation for leading the force.



**Related Links:-**

<https://www.northeasttoday.in/assam-to-raise-new-force-for-rhino-protection/>

## 450 kg. Jumbo LPG Cylinder

**Question:** Which of the following companies has recently launched a 450 kg. Jumbo LPG cylinder?

(a) Bharat Petroleum Corporation



- (b) Hindustan Petroleum Corporation
- (c) Indian Oil Corporation
- (d) Ministry of Natural Gas and Petroleum

**Answer: (c)**

**Related facts:-**

- On July 3, 2017, Indian Oil Corporation launched in the Indian market a Jumbo LPG cylinder, Weighing 450 kg. at Coimbatore.
- The Indane Jumbo is named 'Mini-Bulk'.
- Its flow rate is 2000 kilogram/ hour.
- The license is not required for the use of this cylinder.
- Presently, 5 and 14.2 kg domestic gas cylinders of Indane are available in the market whereas the company provides 19 and 47.5 kg of gas cylinders for commercial use.
- IOC is India's most profitable PSU and ranked 168<sup>th</sup> in Fortune Global 500 List, 2017 while it was at 161<sup>st</sup> position in the year 2016.
- IOC was the leading company to launch LPG in India in the 1970s and Indane is the largest packed-LPG brands in the world.

**Related Facts:-**

[http://www.business-standard.com/article/companies/ioc-launches-450-kg-jumbo-lpg-cylinder-mini-bulk-in-coimbatore-117070300789\\_1.html](http://www.business-standard.com/article/companies/ioc-launches-450-kg-jumbo-lpg-cylinder-mini-bulk-in-coimbatore-117070300789_1.html)

## ‘G-Ride’

**Question: Which amongst the government of the following state recently launched a digital ride sharing platform “G-Ride (Ride Sharing app)”?**

- (a) Kerala (b) Karnataka (c) Himachal Pradesh
- (d) Uttarakhand

**Ans: (a)**

**Related facts:-**

- On July 2, 2017, Kerala Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan launched the Ride Sharing App 'G-Ride'.
- This is a digital ride sharing platform.
- It has been specially designed and deployed for the IT industry, by the Group of Technology Companies (GTech), the industry body of IT companies in the state.
- G-Ride automatically matches co-workers and neighbours and help them travel together to work.
- This app is available in Android and iOS versions.
- Several IT companies in cities like Bengaluru, Chennai and Noida already encourage carpooling and ride-sharing.
- The purpose of launching this app is to bring down the use of vehicles by half.

**Related Links:-**

<http://indianexpress.com/article/india/pinarayi-vijayan-cpi-m-kerala-cm-launches-g-ride-4732084/>



## Culture on Cruise

**Question: At which of the following lakes a weekly cultural programme series titled “Culture on Cruise” was launched recently in Jammu & Kashmir?**

(a) Bullar lake (b) Dal lake (c) Nilnag lake (d) Nilsar lake

**Answer- (b)**

**Related facts:**

- On July 15, 2017, J&K Academy of Art, Culture and Languages launched a weekly cultural programme series titled “Culture on Cruise” at Dal Lake.
- This innovative programme series brings writers, performance artists, musicians, poets and academics together and offers a program of performances, workshops, talks, forums and debates.
- On this occasion, Kashmir Divisional Commissioner Baseer Ahmad Khan announced that water transport for the public in the Jhelum river will be free of cost for a period of one month.
- In order to develop water transport in the city, the Jhelum river and the Dal Lake water channel will be developed and prepared as per the water transport standards prevalent in Italian and other European countries.
- The water transport facility will be available from Peerzo to Veir Chattabal and back route in the city.
- Later, these services will be extended to Pulwama, Anantnag and Baramulla.



**Reference:**

<http://www.risingkashmir.com/news/jkaacl-tourism-deptt-launch-culture-on-cruise-at-dal-lake>

## Ban on nylon and synthetic manja

**Question: Who amongst the following recently imposed a country-wide blanket ban on nylon and synthetic ‘manja’?**

(a) Ministry of Environment and Climate Change  
(b) National Green Tribunal (c) Supreme Court  
(d) National Biodiversity Authority

**Answer- (b)**

**Related facts:**

- On July 11, 2017, the National Green Tribunal (NGT) imposed a country-wide blanket ban on nylon and synthetic ‘manjha’.
- Earlier NGT had banned the use of Chinese meat.
- A bench headed by NGT chairperson Justice Swatanter Kumar directed every State to impose a total ban on the ‘manja’, which are made of nylon or any other synthetic material or are coated with synthetic non-biodegradable substances.
- The NGT has imposed the ban as it poses a threat to animals and humans.



**Reference:**

<http://www.hindustantimes.com/cities/ngt-bans-nylon-and-synthetic-manja/story-ofhRqeJfSbWbjIAUk0G5cM.html>

## Launch of Web Application for Legal Services to Prisoners

**Question: Which amongst the following recently launched web application for legal services to Prisoners?**

- (a) Supreme Court (b) Law Commission
- (c) Ministry of Law and Justice
- (d) National Legal Services Authority

**Answer- (d)**



**Related facts:**

- On June 28, 2017, the National Legal Services Authority (NALSA) launched a web application to provide free legal services to prisoners.
- This Web application and the Legal Services Management System developed through the NIC was launched by Justice Dipak Misra in a conference held at the Indian Law Institute, New Delhi. Through Web Application, the State Legal Services Authorities and District Legal Services Authorities shall feed the data for each individual prison inmate in the jails within their jurisdiction, with regard to their being represented through a counsel in the court. The software will be able to generate reports showing the total number of inmates, the number of inmates unrepresented, the number of inmates represented by legal services lawyers and the number of inmates represented by private lawyers.
- All the above information will be generated State wise, District wise and also in respect of each jail. The reports can also be generated by the period of incarceration, which will, in turn, generate information with regard to prisoners eligible for bail under Section 436-A Cr.P.C.

**Reference:**

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=166991>

## World's Second Highest Green Rating building

**Question: Recently, SIERRA ODC building was recognized as the world's second highest ranking Green Building. Where is it located?**

- (a) Kolkata (b) Bangalore (c) Chennai (d) Coimbatore

**Answer- (d)**



**Related facts:**

- On June 29, 2017, the SIERRA Odyssey building in Coimbatore was recognised as the world's second highest ranking Green Building by the US Green Building Council (USGBC). The building has been awarded 103 points out of the possible 110 under leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) certification.
- The building was designed and constructed with an emphasis on increasing the efficiency of resource use – energy, water, and materials – while reducing its impact on human health and the environment throughout its entire lifecycle.
- This carbon-neutral building registered a cost saving of 64 per cent on energy.
- The building has water use efficiency of 89 per cent by using water saving fixtures and curbing wastage. Water is recycled cent per cent.

**Reference:**

<http://www.thehindubusinessline.com/news/real-estate/sierra-odc-building-in-coimbatore-gets-worlds-second-highest-green-rating/article9742092.ece>

## ATM- 50 years of operation

**Question: On June 27, 2017, ATMs completed 50 years of operation. Where was the world's first ATM installed?**

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

**Answer- (b)**

**Related facts:**

- On June 27, 2017, ATM i.e. Automated Teller Machine completed 50 years of operation.
- Significantly, the world's the first ATM (automated teller machine) was opened on June 27, 1967, at a branch of Barclays bank in Enfield, north London.
- English actor Reg Varney was the first person (inaugurated) to withdraw cash from the new machine.
- The original ATM was the brainchild of India born John Shepherd-Barron.
- It is notable that the first ATM in India was opened in 1987.
- It was introduced by Hong Kong and Shanghai Banking Corporation Limited (HSBC Ltd.) at Mumbai.
- State Bank of India (SBI) is the largest ATM facility provider in the country, While Axis Bank is the largest private sector ATM service provider bank.
- The State Bank of India (SBI) has installed an ATM machine on board INS Vikramaditya, the largest warship and the latest aircraft carrier of the Indian Navy.



**Reference:**

<https://www.atmia.com/committees/atm-50th-anniversary/>

## National Data Repository (NDR) and Open Acreage Licensing Policy (OALP)

**Question: Minister of State (I/C) for Petroleum and Natural gas, Shri Dharmendra Pradhan, recently launched the National Data Repository (NDR) and Open Acreage Licensing Policy (OALP) under which of the following Policy?**

- (a) Petroleum exploration and licensing policy  
(b) Natural gas exploration and licensing policy  
(c) Shell Gas exploration and License Policy  
(d) Hydrocarbon Exploration and Licensing Policy

**Answer- (d)**

**Related facts:**

- On June 28, 2017, Minister of State (I/C) for Petroleum and Natural gas, Dharmendra Pradhan launched the National Data Repository (NDR) and Open Acreage Licensing Policy (OALP) under the progressive, market driven Hydrocarbon Exploration and Licensing Policy (HELP) at New Delhi.
- The government has set up a target to reduce import dependence in Exploration and production sector by 10% by 2022.



**Reference:**

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=166950>

## Terrorist attack on Amarnath pilgrims

**Question- At which place in Jammu and Kashmir was a bus carrying Amarnath pilgrims attacked by terrorists?**

(a) Sonamarg (b) Anantnag (c) Pulwama (d) Badgam

**Ans: (b)**

**Related facts:-**

- On July 10, 2017, terrorists attacked a bus carrying Amarnath pilgrims in which 7 pilgrims were killed and 19 other injured.
- The attack was carried out in Kashmir's Anantnag district.
- The responsibility of the attack was taken by terrorist organizations Lashkar-e-Toiba and Jamaat-ul-Dawa.



**Related Links:-**

[http://www.business-standard.com/article/current-affairs/terror-attack-on-amarnath-yatra-7-pilgrims-killed-in-anantnag-117071001273\\_1.html](http://www.business-standard.com/article/current-affairs/terror-attack-on-amarnath-yatra-7-pilgrims-killed-in-anantnag-117071001273_1.html)

## Capacity building training on 'Voter Education'

**Q- Capacity building training program on voter education for delegated officials of FEMBOSA was organized in ...**

(a) India (b) Bhutan (c) Sri Lanka (d) Maldives

**Ans: (a)**

**Related facts:-**

- A five-day capacity building training on 'Voter Education' for delegated officers of the Forum of the Election Management Bodies of South Asia (FEMBoSA) was organized from June 19, 2017, to June 23, 2017.
- This training program was organized by Indian International Institute for Democracy and Election Management (IIIDEM), in collaboration with the Malaysian Commonwealth Studies Centre (MCSC), Cambridge University, United Kingdom.
- In this program, 15 election officials took part from the Federation of Election Managing Departments of South Asia (Nepal, Bhutan, Bangladesh, Afghanistan, Sri Lanka, Maldives and India).



**Related Links:-**

[http://eci.nic.in/eci\\_main1/current/PN49\\_19062017.pdf](http://eci.nic.in/eci_main1/current/PN49_19062017.pdf)

## Country's first Iron ore mine with solar plant

**Question: Recently which mine became the country's first iron ore mine with the solar plant?**

(a) Jharia Mine (b) Noamundi Mine (c) Raniganj Mine  
(d) Mayurbhanj Mine

**Ans: (b)**

**Related facts:-**





- On July 10, 2017, the Noamundi Mine of Tata Steel located in Jamshedpur, became the first iron-ore mine of the country with the solar plant.
- Tata Steel Company launched 3 MW Solar Power Plant in Noamundi
- This Solar Photo Voltaic (PV) will reduce 3,000 tonnes of carbon emissions annually.

**Related Links:-**

<http://www.tata.com/company/releasesinside/tata-steel-first-3mw-solar-power-plant-noamundi>

## India's contribution to UN peacekeeping fund

**Question: How much has India contributed to the UN peacekeeping fund recently?**

(a) \$ 4 lakh (b) \$ 5 lakh (c) \$ 10 lakh (d) \$ 15 lakh

**Ans: (b)**

**Related facts:-**

- According to a report published on July 1, 2017, India contributed \$ 5 lakh to UN peacekeeping fund.
- India became a member of the Peacekeeping Commission since its inception in 2005.
- India's total contribution to the Peacekeeping Commission so far amounts to \$ 50 lakh.
- The fund provided by member countries support efforts to build peace in countries emerging from conflict.



**Related Links:-**

<http://www.businessinsider.in/India-contributes-500000-to-UN-Peacebuilding-Fund/articleshow/59398963.cms>

## Release of draft regulation for organic food products

**Question: The central authority issuing a draft memorandum for ensuring authenticity of organic food products is-**

- (a) Food Safety Central Authority  
 (b) Health and Safety Mission Authority  
 (c) Food Safety and Standards Authority of India  
 (d) Food and Drug Administration Authority

**Ans: (c)**

**Related facts:-**

- On June 27, 2017, a draft regulation was issued by the Indian Food Safety and Standards Authority (FSSAI) to ensure the authenticity of organic food products in the country.
- The main purpose of the draft regulation is to ensure the authenticity of food products sold in the market.
- Organic foods will have to comply with the provisions of the National Programme for Organic Production (NPOP) administered by the government or the Participatory Guarantee System for India (PGS-India) run by the Agriculture Ministry or any other standards notified by the food authority.
- Organic food products are either those grown under a system of agriculture without the use of chemical fertilisers and pesticides or made from organically produced raw materials.



- The draft regulation mandates that labelling of organic foods should convey full and accurate information on the organic status of the product.
- Organic food products should also carry a certification mark or a quality assurance mark given by any of the notified certification bodies.

#### Related Links

<http://www.thehindubusinessline.com/news/fssai-issues-draft-regulations-for-organic-food-products/article9737535.ece>

## Chhattisgarh made world record on 3<sup>rd</sup> International Yoga Day

**Question: On the occasion of 3rd International Yoga Day, about five million people performed yoga together at various places in Chhattisgarh State making a new...**

- (a) Guinness Book of World Record.
- (b) Golden Book of World Record.
- (c) Limca Book of World Record.
- (d) None of the above.

**Ans: (b)**

#### Related facts:-

- On June 21, 2017, on the occasion of International Yoga Day, approximately 50 lakh people of Chhattisgarh State made the world record by doing Yogyabhyaas together at different places.
- This record was included in Golden Book of World Record.
- Golden Book of World Records' Supervisor Santosh Agrawal presented the certificate of this world record to Chhattisgarh Chief Minister Raman Singh.
- The yoga session was organized at approximately 11 thousand places in the state, in which all sections of society including children, the elderly, youth and women participated.



#### Related Links:-

[http://www.cmo.cg.gov.in/user/News\\_Details.aspx?guid=13809](http://www.cmo.cg.gov.in/user/News_Details.aspx?guid=13809)

## Final Location Survey of Bilaspur-Manali-Leh New Broad Gauge Line

**Question-Rail Minister Suresh Prabhakar Prabhu laid the foundation stone for the final survey of Bilaspur-Manali-Leh New Broad Gauge Line in Leh. Who has been given the task of final location survey by the Ministry of Railways?**

- (A) Rail Engineering Department (B) IRCTC
- (C) Rights Limited (D) Larsen and Toubro

**Ans: (c)**

#### Related facts:-

- On June 27, 2017, the railway minister Suresh Prabhakar Prabhu laid the foundation stone for the final survey of Bilaspur-Manali-Leh New Broad Gauge Line in Leh.
- The length of this proposed world's highest railway route is 498 km.
- The Proposed alignment passes through the Shivalik, Great Himalayan & Zaskar Ranges, areas with wide variation in height (600m to 5300 m above MSL) and Seismic



zone IV and V necessitating the building of a large number of tunnels, deep viaducts & bridges.

- The work of Final Location Survey has been entrusted by Ministry of Railways to RITES Ltd and is planned to be completed by March 2019 with an approximate cost of 157 crores.
- The project is of both strategic and economic, development and tourism importance.
- The survey includes the following activities:
- Development of corridors with different grades using Digital Elevation Models, with overlays for Geological Maps, Snow & Avalanche Studies, Hydrological & Seismic Data using the latest software and selection of most optimum corridor.
- Analysis of the selected corridor and development of most suitable alignment.
- Geological and Geophysical investigations and design of bridges, tunnels & viaducts.
- Marking of the central line of alignment on site.
- Preparation and submission of Detailed Project Report.

**Reference:**

<http://indianexpress.com/article/india/prabhu-launches-final-survey-work-for-leh-rail-line-4724979/>

## Jan-MGNREGA

**Question: A Citizen centric mobile application on MGNREGA was recently launched by...**

- (a) Housing and Urban Poverty Alleviation Ministry
- (b) Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment
- (c) Department of Rural Development
- (d) Urban Development Department

**Answer- (c)**



**Related facts:**

- On June 19, 2017, a Citizen centric mobile application on MGNREGA – ‘Jan MGNREGA’ was launched by the Minister for Rural Development in an Award function.
- Through this app, information about various aspects related to the MNREGA program can be obtained.
- This “Jan-MGNREGA” App is a third such citizen centric initiative of the department after “Meri Sadak” and “Aawas” mobile app.
- A total of 144 Awards on Sustainable Livelihood, Transparency and Accountability, Aadhaar Seeding, Conversion and Geo-MGNREGA were given under MGNREGA.

**Reference:**

<http://www.news Bharati.com/Encyc/2017/6/20/Rural-Development>