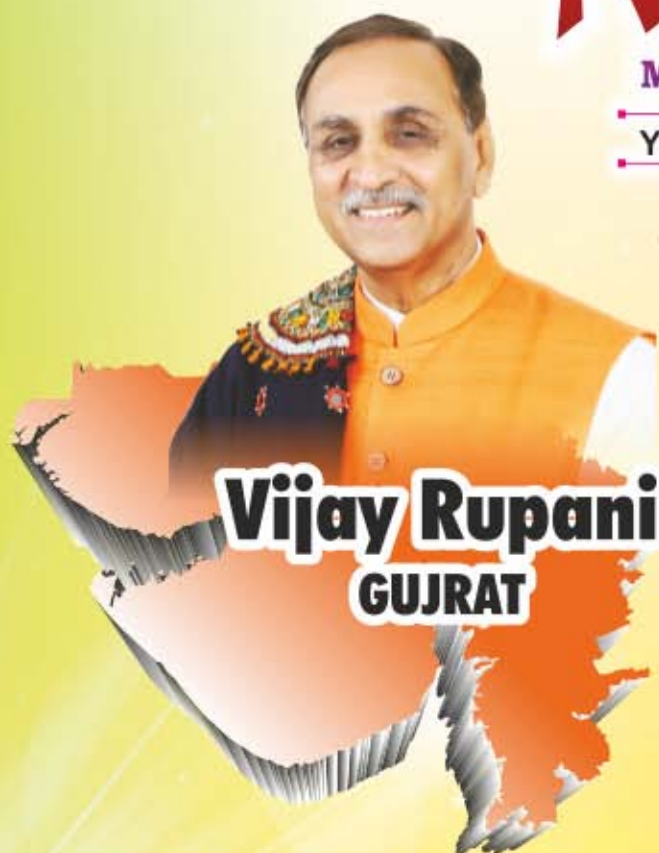


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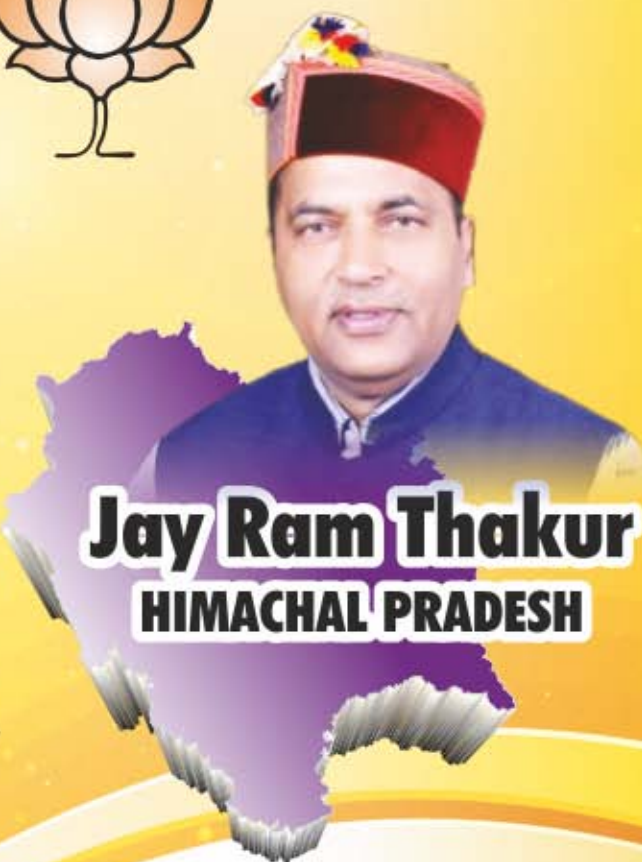
# NAVATRA

Monthly Magazine on Current Events

Year - 1 >>> Issue - 5 >>> January, 2018



**Vijay Rupani**  
**GUJRAT**



**Jay Ram Thakur**  
**HIMACHAL PRADESH**



# ASSEMBLY ELECTION 2017

## Preface

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

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

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

Our plan will be to publish our monthly PDF on very first day of every month with making appropriate modifications of day-to-day events. In general, the events happened till 28th day will be given place in the PDFs. The necessity of this is to ensure the contents factual authenticity.

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

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

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## **NATIONAL**

### **Gujarat and Himachal Pradesh Election-2017**

**Question: Consider the following statements in regards to the recently concluded Gujarat and Himachal Pradesh elections-**

- (i) Election of Himachal Pradesh assembly was completed in two phases.**
- (ii) The election of the Gujarat Legislative Assembly was completed in three phases.**
- (iii) In the Gujarat assembly elections, NOTA got 551615 votes with 1.8 percent votes.**
- (iv) There are total 68 seats in Himachal Pradesh Assembly.**

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

- (a) Only (iii) and (iv) (b) Only (i), (ii) and (iv) (c) Only (ii), (iii) and (iv) (d) All of the above**

**Answer: (a)**

**Related Facts:**



- On December 18, 2017, election results of Himachal Pradesh and Gujarat Legislative Assembly were declared by the Election Commission.
- Significantly, the term of the 12th Assembly of Himachal Pradesh ends on January 7, 2018 and the term of the 13th Assembly of Gujarat ends on 22 January 2018.
- **Himachal Pradesh Legislative Assembly-**
- Under the notification issued by the Election Commission, the Assembly elections of Himachal Pradesh concluded on November 9, 2017 in single phase.
- In the 68 member's Himachal Pradesh assembly elections, a total of 74.61 percent voting was registered.
- In the declared election results, BJP got 44 seats with 48.8 percent votes. The ruling Congress National Congress (INC) got a total of 21 seats, with 41.7 percent of the votes.
- In addition, the Communist Party of India (Marxist) got 1 seat and two independent candidates won.
- In this election, Nota received 34232 votes, with 0.9 percent votes.
- For the majority in the Himachal Pradesh assembly, it is necessary to win over 35 seats.
- Thus, in Himachal Pradesh, the BJP won by a huge majority.
- On December 27<sup>th</sup>, 2017, BJP leader Jai Ram Thakur took oath as the new Chief Minister of Himachal Pradesh.
- Governor Acharya Debavrat administered his oath of office and secrecy.
- It is notable that Jai Ram Thakur defeated Chetram (Indian National Congress) from the Seraj assembly constituency.
- He has been elected for the Himachal Pradesh Assembly continuously since 1998.
- He has had been the Minister of Panchayati Raj and Rural Development in Himachal Pradesh BJP Government headed by Prem Kumar Dhumal.
- **Gujarat Assembly-**
- There are a total of 182 seats in the Gujarat assembly, out of which 13 seats are reserved for Scheduled Castes and 27 seats for Scheduled Tribes.
- The Gujarat assembly elections were organized in two phases by the Election Commission.
- In the first phase, the elections for 89 constituencies were held on December 9, 2017 and election for 93 constituencies was held in the second phase on December 17, 2017.

- A total of 68.41 percent voting was registered in the Gujarat assembly elections.
- In the result of the Gujarat assembly election declared on December 18, 2017, Bharatiya Janata Party won 99 seats with 49.1 percent of the total votes, while the Indian National Congress got 77 seats with 41.4 percent of the total votes.
- Apart from this, the Nationalist Congress Party has won 1 seat, the Indian Tribune Party won 2 seats and 3 Independent candidates won.
- It is notable that in Gujarat Legislative Assembly elections, NOTA won 551615 votes, with 1.8 percent of the votes.
- BJP has won for the sixth consecutive time in the Gujarat assembly elections.
- On December 26, 2017, Vijay Rupani took oath as the 16th Chief Minister of Gujarat.
- Governor O.P. Kohli administered his oath of office and secrecy.
- At the same time, Nitin Patel took the oath of office and secrecy as Deputy Chief Minister of the state.
- Vijay Rupani became Chief Minister of Gujarat for the second time.
- Earlier on August 7<sup>th</sup>, 2016, he became the Chief Minister of Gujarat in place of Anandiben Patel.
- Vijay Rupani was born on August 2, 1956 in Rangoon (currently Yangon, Myanmar).
- He was a Rajya Sabha member between the years 2006-2012.

**Reference:**

<http://eciresults.nic.in/>

## Year End Review-2017 Ministry of Earth Science

**Question: Indigenous Doppler weather radar was inaugurated by Dr. Harsh Vardhan on 12<sup>th</sup> July 2017. From which of the following places this launching was done?**

(a) Ahmedabad (b) Nellore (c) Kochi (d) Odessa

**Answer: (c)**

**Related Facts:**

- On December 28<sup>th</sup>, 2017, Year End Review-2017 Ministry of Earth Science was released.
- Some Major achievements of the ministry are as follows:
- On May 12<sup>th</sup>, 2017, an integrated early warning System of Air Quality and Weather Forecasting and Research (SAFAR) was dedicated to the nation by Dr. Harsh Vardhan, Union Minister for Science & Technology and Earth Sciences in Ahmedabad.
- A Foundation Stone for the Marine Finfish Hatchery and Test Facility for Ballast Water Treatment Technologies was laid on April 8<sup>th</sup>, 2017 by Shri Y.S. Chowdary, Minister for State for Science & Technology and Earth Sciences, at Nellore sea front facility.
- For the first time, India Meteorological Department used the Monsoon Mission dynamical model to prepare operational seasonal forecast of 2017 monsoon rainfall over India.
- The Ministry has now launched the Monsoon Mission Phase II program, for next 3 years (2017-2020) with emphasis on predicting extremes and development of applications based on monsoon forecasts.



**Ministry of Earth Sciences  
Government of India**

- On 11<sup>th</sup> July 2017 Stratosphere-Troposphere (ST) Radar Facility at the Advanced Centre for Atmospheric Radar Research at the Cochin University of Science and Technology (CUSAT) was dedicated to nation.
- On 12<sup>th</sup> July 2017, a state-of-the-art, indigenous Doppler weather radar was inaugurated by Dr. Harsh Vardhan, in Kochi.
- This Radar is capable of predicting with increased accuracy weather events such as cyclone occurring in 500-km radius from Kochi.
- The Ministry through its constituent unit, the National Institute of Ocean Technology (NIOT) has developed indigenized technologies for producing clean drinking water from the ocean.
- Currently there are three desalination plants operational at Kavaratti, Agatti and Minicoy islands, which are individually producing 1 lakh liters of drinking water per day.
- The plants are operated by the local islanders.
- NIOT is now installing another six more plants in Lakshadweep islands, each with a capacity to produce 1.5 lakh liters of water every day, with the help of Lakshadweep administration.
- Two plants will be commissioned by December 2018.

**Reference:**

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=174928>

## Year End Review 2017: Ministry of Coal

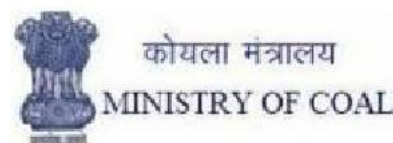
**Question: on 22.05.2017, New More Transparent Coal Allocation Policy for Power Sector, 2017 n has been issued. What is the name of this Policy?**

(a) Vidhut (b) Vikash (c) Urja (d) Shakti

**Answer: (d)**

**Related Facts:**

- On December 28<sup>th</sup> 2017, Year End Review 2017: Ministry of Coal was released.
- Major achievement for year 2017 according to review is as follows:
- Total 84 coal mines (53-Allotment, 31-Auction) have been successfully allocated under the provisions of the Coal Mines (Special Provisions) Act, 2015 and Rules.
- A total of 36.25 MT coal has been produced till October, 2017 from the operational allocated coal mines since allotment.
- A total revenue of Rs. 4109.31crores (excluding royalty, cess, taxes etc.) has been generated till November, 2017 from the above said coal mines.
- A High Power Expert Committee has been constituted on 18.12.2017 to examine efficacy and challenges of the current bidding system to suggest changes for conducting future auction of coal mines.
- A Technical Committee has been constituted on 29-11-2017 to operationalize the methodology for flexibility in utilization of coal extracted from the coal mines allotted for



optimum utilization of coal mine for the same end uses in the public interest and to achieve cost efficiencies.

- Two-level Monitoring Committee (level-1 under chairmanship of Hon'ble Minister of Coal and level-2 under chairmanship of Secretary (Coal) has been constituted.
- Committee will review the development/operationalization of coal blocks with Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change and Chief Ministers of concerned States along with concerned officials on quarterly basis.
- A Scrutiny Committee has been constituted to consider/examine the submissions/replies made by Successful Bidders/Allottees of the coal mines.
- Coal Blocks Development & Production Agreements for 3 coal blocks, viz. Pachwara South, Kerwa and Brahmani have been signed on 22.02.2017, 18.08.2017 and 04.09.2017 respectively.
- Deocha-Pachami block was decided to be jointly allocated to the entities of 6 State viz. West Bengal, Karnataka, Bihar, Uttar Pradesh, Punjab and Tamil Nadu.
- The production of raw coal in the country during April-November 2017-18 was 396.53 Mte compared to 388.68 Mte during the corresponding period of previous year.
- The overall growth in Coal production during April- November, 2017 was 2 %.
- Coal production and coal dispatch/off-take of Coal India Limited (CIL), the state sector coal mining company, during April-November 2017-18 were 329.30 MT and 367.98 MT respectively.
- New More Transparent Coal Allocation Policy for Power Sector, 2017- SHAKTI has been issued on 22.05.2017.
- Inter-Ministerial Task Force was constituted in June, 2014 for review of existing coal sources as also feasibility for rationalization of these sources with a view to optimize transportation cost.
- The composition of new exchange traded fund namely Bharat 22 ETF with 22 constituent entities approved.
- Inter-Company Safety Audit of all the 366 operative mines of CIL was completed during Jan-April 2017.
- Mines were categorized in high, medium and low category. The Mitigation plan along with time line for mines has been identified.
- In respect of exploration of coal, for 2017-18, a target of 12.50 lakh metre of drilling (Departmental: 4.75 lakh metre, Outsourcing: 7.75 lakh metre) was envisaged.
- In respect of Research and Development, sixteen (16) projects are on going, out of which one project namely CP-49 started during the year 2017.

**Reference:**

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=174981>

## National Conference on E-Courts Project

**Question- Where did the national conference be held regarding the e-courts project during the 2<sup>nd</sup>-3<sup>rd</sup> December 2017?**

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

**Answer: (b)**

**Related Facts:**

- On December 8<sup>th</sup>, 2017, the eCommittee, of the Supreme





Court of India in association with the Department of Justice (DoJ) of the Government of India held a two day National Conference in New Delhi on December 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup>.

- In this conference all the Central Project Coordinators of various High Courts connected with the ongoing National eCourts Project along with eCommittee Members, senior officers from DoJ, NIC and many other senior judicial officers participated.
- The Conference was chaired by the Hon'ble Mr. Justice Madan B. Lokur the Judge-In-Charge of eCommittee and co-Chaired by Dr. Alok Srivastava, Secretary DoJ.
- The Conference focused on the progress, sharing of best practices, experiences, important issues and emerging challenges under the Project.
- The eCourts Mission Mode Project (Phase I 2010-15; Phase II 2015-19) is a national eGovernance project for ICT enablement of district and subordinate courts of the country.
- It is being implemented by the Government of India with a total outlay of 1670 crores (Phase II).
- The major objectives of the Project are as follows:
- To make whole judicial system ICT enabled by putting in place adequate and modern hardware and connectivity; automation of workflow management in all courts;
- Electronic movement of records from taluka/trial to appeal courts; installation of video conferencing (VC) facility and recording of witness through Video Conferencing;
- Connecting all courts in the country to the National Judicial Data Grid (NJDG) through WAN and additional redundant connectivity;
- Citizen centric facilities such as electronic filing, e-payment and use of mobile applications in all courts; touch screen based kiosks in each court complex, full computerisation of State and district level judicial and service academies and centres.
- Specific targets set under the Project include:
- Computerization of all the courts (around 20400) and DLSA and TLSC; WAN and cloud connectivity in 3500 court complexes;
- Full Installation and use of Video Conferencing facility at 3000 Court Complexes and 1150 prisons; and
- Charting out key identified citizen services like electronic filing, daily orders, delivery of decrees, online case status in all the district courts etc.

**Reference:**

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=174192>

## New Solar Power Policy-2017

**Question- Under the New Solar Power Policy-2017, in which of the following areas the public sector Mega Solar Park will be set up in view of the possibility of land availability?**

(a) Purvanchal (b) Bundelkhand (c) Awadh (d) Western Uttar Pradesh

**Answer: (b)**

**Related Facts:**

- On December 5, 2017, the Uttar Pradesh Cabinet approved the New Solar Power Policy, 2017.
- The objective of this policy is to reduce the gap between the huge potential of generation of electricity by solar energy and the gap between fulfillment and availability of energy demand.



- The validity period of this policy will be 5 years from the date of issue.
- As per the estimation of the Government of India during the policy operation period, the target of setting up a total of 10700 MW Grid Connected Solar Power Project has been fixed.
- Estimation of total targeted capacity 10,700 MW will decrease annually in 13669250 tonnes of carbon dioxide emissions, which will be equivalent to carbon dioxide absorbed by 64200000 trees annually.
- For the purpose of making solar panels available at affordable rates to promote solar power, the state government to encourage grid connected Rooftop Solar Power Plant, has made a provision of grant of Rs. 15000/kilowatt, maximum Rs 3,000 per kilowatt per electricity consumer.
- This grant will be in addition to the grants provided by the Government of India.
- With this policy, the grant by the State Government will be given on the establishment of the first 100 MW capacities, of which approximately 50000 electricity consumers will be benefited.
- With a view to simplifying the installation of solar rooftop, Rooftop Solar Power Plant upto 10 kilowatt capacity has been kept free from electrical safety inspection.
- The height of the module structure of the Rooftop Solar Panel will not be recorded in addition to the total height of the building which is permissible under the building bylaws.
- With the aim of reducing consumption of mutual power and reducing the electricity bill, grid composite solar rooftop plants will be established by third party on government / semi-government buildings.
- For the first time, by establishing the solar power project in the state and the power produced from it allowed to sell by power or by the electrical distribution company or third party at 100 percent captive use / mass captive utility or partial production.
- On the sale of Interstate Solar Power, Cross Subsidy Surcharge and Wheeling Charge for the Intergovernmental Trans Mission Mechanism. 100% discount on transmission charge will be provided.
- On sale of state-run solar power to third parties or on wheeling / transposition charges or on captive use, 50 percent discount will be provided.
- Establishment of standalone solar power projects in Bundelkhand and Purvanchal areas of the state, expenditure will be borne by the Government for fixed kilometer of grid combination and construction of solar power projects.
- To encourage private participation in the state and attract investment, the establishment of solar park in public and private sector has been made under the policy.
- Public sector Mega Solar Park will be established by the State Government in view of the possibility of land availability in Bundelkhand region.
- The state government will provide special incentives for the establishment of Solar Parks.

**Reference:**

[http://information.up.nic.in/View\\_Hindinews.aspx?id=825](http://information.up.nic.in/View_Hindinews.aspx?id=825)

## Year End Review 2017- Ministry of Water Resources, River, Development & Ganga Rejuvenation

**Question: 'Namami Gange Programme', a Flagship Programme, was approved by the Union Government in June 2014. Under this programme total how many Projects have been sanctioned till**

16

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



date?

(a) 207 (b) 218 (c) 187 (d) 197

**Answer: (c)**

**Related Facts:**

- On December 28th, 2017, Year End Review 2017- Ministry of Water Resources, River, and Development & Ganga Rejuvenation was released.
- Major Achievements according to this review are as follows:
- Under Namami Gange programme, a total of 187 projects worth Rs. 16565.34 crore have been sanctioned.
- These projects are for various activities such as sewage infrastructure, ghats and crematoria development, river front development, river surface cleaning, institutional development, biodiversity conservation, afforestation, rural sanitation, and public participation.
- 93 projects out of 187 were sanctioned for creation of 2205.08 MLD new sewage treatment plants (STPs), rehabilitation of 564.3 MLD of existing STPs and laying/rehabilitation of 4762.4 km sewer network for abatement of pollution in river Ganga and Yamuna.
- Within a year of reconstitution of NMCG as an Authority (October 07, 2016 to October 07, 2017), 44 projects worth Rs 7,547.87 crore were approved by the Executive Committee.
- Numbers of these projects in Ganga basin States are as follows: Uttarakhand (17) Uttar Pradesh (10), Bihar (11) Jharkhand (1) West Bengal (3) and Delhi (2).
- Total STP capacity of 1402.26 MLD will be created with the approval of these projects and sewer network length of 1429.24 km will be laid down.
- Other projects sanctioned under HAM are Naini, Jhusi, Phaphamau, Unnao, Shuklaganj and Farrukhabad in Uttar Pradesh, Digba, Kankarbagh and Bhagalpur in Bihar, Howrah, Bally and Tolly's Nallah in Kolkata.
- 36 Real Time Water Quality Monitoring Station (RTWQMS) are operational under Namami Gange programme.
- For River Front Development, works at 111 ghats and 46 crematoria are in progress and expected to be completed by 2018.
- For river surface cleaning, 11 trash skimmers have been deployed at Haridwar, Garh Mukhteshwar, Kanpur, Varanasi, Allahabad, Patna, Sahibganj, Nabadwip, Kolkata, Delhi and Mathura-Vrindavan.
- On rural sanitation front, all 4464 villages on the bank of river Ganga have been made Open Defecation Free (ODF).
- Six public outreach programmes were organised in five main stem Ganga basin States.
- They are Ganga Swachhta Pakhwada, Ganga Sankalp Divas, Ganga Nirikshan Yatra, Ganga Dusshera, Ganga Vriksharopan Saptah, and Swachhta Hi Seva Pakhwada.
- Countries like Australia, United Kingdom, Germany, Finland and Israel have shown keen interest in collaborating with the Indian government for river Ganga cleaning.
- NMCG has signed a MoU with OISCA International, a leading NGO of Japan to collaborate in specific activities for pollution abatement and river rejuvenation.
- Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana (PMKSY) has been formulated amalgamating ongoing schemes.
- Under PMKSY, Ninety Nine (99) ongoing Accelerated Irrigation Benefits Programme (AIBP) Major/Medium projects along with their Command Area Development & Water Management (CADWM) works having potential of 76.03 lakh ha. and estimated cost of

Rs. 77595 cr. have been identified in consultation with States, for completion in phases up to December, 2019.

- Since April 2017, Central assistance of approximately Rs. 150 crore has been released for Flood Management to the States.
- Rs. 199.96 crore (Approx) Central assistance released to different states Since April, 2017 under river Management Activities & Works related to Border Areas (RMBA).
- Total CA released to state Govt. under SMI scheme was Rs. 232.879 crore during the period FY – 2017-18 (till date).
- Total CA released to state Govt. under RRR scheme was Rs. 17.3026 crore during the period FY – 2017-18 (till date).
- Rs. 155.92 crore released/expended to the States and central implementing agencies under NHP for the year 2017-18.
- Dam Rehabilitation and Improvement Project (DRIP) was originally planned to be implemented over a period of six-years starting from April 18, 2012.
- The project has now been extended for two additional years with extended completion date to be June 30, 2020.
- National Hydrology Project (NHP) has been taken up with the assistance of World Bank with total outlay of Rs.3679.7674 crore.
- A memorandum of understanding between India and the Netherlands was signed on June 27, 2017.
- This MoU is on cooperation in the field of Water Management by collaborating and sharing of experience and expertise in the areas mutually agreed upon, including technique in river basin management planning/ integrated water resources management, pollution abatement for river including river Ganga, decision support systems, delta management-water safety including flood management along rivers, water management, water quality issues and waste water recycling, and re-use through innovative concession arrangement.
- The programme named National Aquifer Management (NAQUIM) for mapping of water bearing aquifers has been planned with an aim to enhance the capacity of states in Ground Water Management and Development.
- Total targeted area for National Aquifer Mapping and Management Programme was 8.89 lakh Sq. km including 5.25 lakh Sq.km prioritized area (during 2012-17) against 24 Lakh Sq. km area identified for mapping in the country.
- Two-day event 'Jal Manthan-4' was organized on July 28-29, 2017 at New Delhi by National Water Development Agency (NWDA) with the technical support of Central Water Commission.
- The fifth edition of India Water Week was observed during October 10-14, 2017 New Delhi. It was inaugurated by President of India Shri Ram Nath Kovind.
- The theme for this year's India Water week was "Water and Energy for Inclusive Growth".
- **The following important projects completed successfully by WAPCOS, MoWR, RD & GR:-**
- Afghan-India Friendship Dam Project, Herat Province, Afghanistan Development of Six Irrigation Schemes in Champassack Province, Lao PDR.
- Project Management for Augmentation of Water Supply Scheme in Dar-Es-Salaam and Chalinze, Tanzania, Stung Tasal Dam Project, Cambodia.
- Preparation of Feasibility Report and Detailed Project Report on Sewerage and Sewage Treatment for Bhopal City.

- Project Management Consultancy for Madhya Pradesh Urban Development Project, Bhopal (World Bank Funded).
- Project Development and Management Consultant (PDMC) for Atal Mission for Rejuvenation and Urban Transformation including Project Management of Haryana and Madhya Pradesh.
- Third Party Evaluation Study of DRIP scheme has been carried out by the IIT Roorkee.
- Proposal for DRIP-II covering 684 dams of 18 States and two central agencies grossing to amount Rs. 9070 Crore prepared and sent to MoWR, RD&GR for in-principal approval.
- The project "Protection of Majuli Island from flood and erosion" was approved by the MoWR, RD & GR for a value of Rs 237 crores.
- The Ministry along with all attached/ subordinate/ autonomous organizations/PSUs organised the Swacchta Pakhwada from March 16-31, 2017.
- Ministry celebrated the "World Water Day" on 22nd March 2017 with a cleanliness event at Brij Ghat, Garhmukteshwar, Distt. Hapur, Uttar Pradesh.

**Reference:**

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=174952>

## Year End Review -2017: Ministry of Tourism

**Question: What is the India's rank in the Travel & Tourism Competitiveness Index (TTCI), 2017?**

(a) 34 (b) 40 (c) 52 (d) 65

**Answer: (b)**

**Related Facts:**

- On December 28th, 2017, Year End Review -2017: Ministry of Tourism was released.
- **Important facts relating to this review are as follows:**
- India's rank in the Travel & Tourism Competitiveness Index (TTCI), 2017 has also shown a 25 places jump from 2013.
- Rank of India in TTCI Report of 2017 was 40th as compared to 52nd in 2015 and 65th in 2013.
- Foreign Tourist Arrivals (FTAs) during the period January-November 2017 were 90.01 lakh with a growth of 15.6% over same period of the previous year.
- During January-November 2017, a total of 14.57 lakh foreign tourists arrived on e-Tourist Visa as compared to 9.17 lakh during January-November 2016, registering a growth of 58.8%.
- Foreign Exchange Earnings (FEEs) during the period January-November 2017 were Rs.1, 60,865 Crore with a growth of 16.9% over same period of previous year.
- Theme based circuits are being developed under the Swadesh Darshan Scheme spanning the entire country.
- A total number of 11 projects have been sanctioned during 2017-18 for a total amount of Rs.824.80 Crore.
- Total 67 projects have been sanctioned till date for an amount of Rs.5648.71 Crore under this Scheme.



- Holistic development of identified pilgrimage destinations is being undertaken under the 'National Mission on Pilgrimage Rejuvenation and Spiritual, Heritage Augmentation Drive' (PRASHAD) Scheme.
- A total number of 3 projects have been sanctioned during 2017-18 for a total amount of Rs.98.84 Crore.
- A total number of 21 projects have been sanctioned till date for an amount of Rs.587.29 Crore under this Scheme.
- Ministry of Tourism launched the 'Adopt A Heritage' project.
- Heritage sites are being offered for adoption by the public sector, private sector and individuals to become 'Monument Mitras' for developing amenities and facilities at these sites under this programme.
- Creation of 'Special Tourism Zones' anchored on Special Purpose Vehicles (SPVs) in partnership with the States was announced in the Budget for 2017-18.
- Paryatan Parv was organized in October, 2017 covering 31 States and Union Territories.
- The main objective of the event was to focus on the benefits of tourism, showcasing the cultural diversity of the country and reinforcing the principle of "Tourism for All".
- "National Conference of Central & State/UTs Ministers and Secretaries of Tourism, Culture, Youth Affairs & Sports" was organized at Dhordo, Rann of Kutch in January 2017.
- It was organized by Ministry of Tourism, along with the Ministry of Culture and the Ministry of Youth Affairs & Sports in collaboration with the Govt. of Gujarat.
- The theme for the Conference was "Ek Bharat Shrestha Bharat"
- Bharat Parv event organized by the Government of India at Red Fort, Delhi from 26th to 31st January 2017, as part of the Republic Day Celebrations.
- 'National Tourism Awards 2015-16' were given in various segments of the travel, tourism and hospitality industry at a function organised by the Ministry of Tourism on the occasion of "World Tourism Day" 27th September, 2017.
- The Hon'ble President of India presented Awards.
- Ministry of Tourism launched "Incredible India 2.0 Campaign".
- Ministry of Tourism participated in the "International Tourism Bourse" (ITB) held in Berlin, Germany from 8th to 12th March, 2017.
- Ministry of Tourism participated in World Travel Mart (WTM) held in London from 6th to 8th November, 2017.
- A total of 13 States Governments, 22 Tour Operators, Air India, IRCTC and ITDC participated as co-exhibitors at the India pavilion.
- Ministry of Tourism organized '6th International Tourism Mart' (ITM) in Guwahati, Assam from 5-7 December, 2017.
- Ministry of Tourism has sanctioned an amount of Rs. 2499.98 Lakh for developing tourist amenities at Madgaon, Karmali and Thivim railway stations in Goa.
- Three glass coaches will be deployed on scenic rail routes of the country by the Ministry of Tourism as part of its Rail Tourism Policy.
- These coaches will be available on the Vishakhapatnam – Araku Valley and Dadar to Madgaon route, and Qazigund – Baramullah route in Jammu and Kashmir.

**Reference:**

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=174954>



## Year End Review 2017: Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs

**Question: On which date the presentation of Union Budget was advanced for the first time in Indian Legislative history as a big financial reform so as to make full funds available to line Ministries for execution?**

(a) 1st January (b) 1st February (c) 1st March (d) 1st April

**Answer: (b)**

### **Related Facts:**

- On December 28th, 2017, Year End Review 2017: Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs was released.
- The important facts relating to this review are as follows:
- For the first time in Indian Legislative history, the presentation of Union Budget was advanced to 1st February.
- This is a big financial reform so as to make full funds available to line Ministries for execution of their developmental projects.
- Vote on Account was also dispensed with because of advancement of the Budget.
- Also for the first time the General Budget and Railway Budget were merged in 2017 and integrated Union Budget was presented.
- During the Budget Session, the Productivity of Lok Sabha was 113.27% and of Rajya Sabha was 92.43%; 18 Bills were passed by both Houses of Parliament during the Budget Session 2017.
- Passing of 4 historic Bills namely, the Central Goods and Services Tax Bill, 2017, the Integrated Goods and Services Tax Bill, 2017, the Goods and Services Tax (Compensation to States) Bill, 2017 and the Union Territory Goods and Services Tax Bill 2017 by both Houses of Parliament enabled implementation of Goods and Services Tax across the country w.e.f. 1st July, 2017.
- In Monsoon Session 2017, Number of Bills introduced in Lok Sabha was 17 and 13 passed by both Houses.
- A Special Discussion on 75th Anniversary of the 'Quit India Movement' was held in both Houses on 09.08.2017 to commemorate the 75th Anniversary of the 'Quit India Movement'.
- For the first time the pledge of 'Sankalp se Siddhi' for building a New India by 2022 was taken with wide consensus among all parties during Monsoon Session 2017.
- Extension of Goods and Services Tax (GST) to the State of Jammu & Kashmir was a historic achievement during Monsoon Session 2017.
- 9 Bills introduced in Lok Sabha and 2 was passed by both Houses of Parliament in winter session.
- Under the leadership of Shri Surendrajeet Singh Ahluwalia, the then Minister of State for Parliamentary Affairs, Indian Goodwill Delegation of Parliamentarians consisting of 10 Leaders/Members of Parliament of various political parties (Lok Sabha/Rajya Sabha) had visited Sweden, Norway and Israel from 29th May-6th June, 2017.
- Shri S.S. Ahluwalia, the then Minister of State for Parliamentary Affairs, distributed Prizes for the 29th National Youth Parliament Competition, 2016-2017 for Kendriya Vidyalayas and 51st Youth Parliament Competition, 2016-17 for Delhi Schools.
- At 39 different locations during the months of August – October 2017 75th Anniversary of Quit India Movement was celebrated.





- A resolution to make a 'New India by 2022' was passed on the 75th Anniversary of India's Independence.
- This exhibition titled as 'Naya Bharat Karke Rahenge' was also organized.

**Reference:**

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=174959>

## Year End Review 2017: Ministry of Space

**Question: On which date 104 satellites were launched successfully in a single launch by ISRO?**

- (a) February 14, 2017 (b) February 15, 2017  
(c) February 16, 2017 (d) February 17, 2017

**Answer: (b)**

**Related Facts:**

- On December 26, 2017, Year End Review, 2017 was released by the Department of Space.
- **The main facts related to this review are as follows:**
- Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) has launched 104 satellites, in a single launch, onboard PSLV-C37 on February 15, 2017.
- 31 satellites were also launched, in a single launch, on-board PSLV-C38 on June 23, 2017.
- These satellites include – Two Indian Cartosat-2 series satellites, two Indian Nano-Satellites, one Nano satellite from Indian University and 130 foreign satellites from 19 countries.
- These 19 countries were Austria, Belgium, Chile, Czech Republic, France, Finland, Germany, Italy, Israel, Japan, Kazakhstan, Latvia, Lithuania, Slovakia, Switzerland, The Netherlands, UAE, UK and USA.
- The Cartosat-2 series satellites are placed in a sun synchronous orbit with a designed mission life of 5 years.
- The main objective of these satellites is to provide high resolution images of earth's surface at sub-meter resolution (Black & White image) and at 2 meter resolution (4-band coloured image).
- India's Geosynchronous Satellite Launch Vehicle Mark-II (GSLV-F09) successfully launched the 2230 kg South Asia Satellite (GSAT-9) into its planned Geosynchronous Transfer Orbit (GTO) on May 05, 2017.
- The launch of GSLV was its eleventh and took place from the Second Launch Pad at the Satish Dhawan Space Centre SHAR (SDSC SHAR), Sriharikota, the spaceport of India.
- This was the fourth consecutive success achieved by GSLV carrying indigenously developed Cryogenic Upper Stage.
- The first developmental flight (GSLV MkIII-D1) of India's heavy lift launch vehicle GSLV Mk-III was successfully conducted on June 05, 2017 from Satish Dhawan Space Centre SHAR, Sriharikota with the launch of GSAT-19 satellite.
- This was the first orbital mission of GSLV MkIII which was mainly intended to evaluate the vehicle performance including that of its fully indigenous cryogenic upper stage during the flight.



- Weighing 3136 kg at lift-off, GSAT-19 became the heaviest satellite launched from the Indian soil.
- On June 29, 2017, GSAT-17 became India's third communication satellite to successfully reach orbit in two months. GSAT-17 was launched by the European Ariane 5 Launch Vehicle from Kourou, French Guiana.
- A two-day International Seminar on Indian Space Programme: 'Trends and Opportunities for Industry' was organized in New Delhi on November 20-21, 2017.
- AstroSat, India's multi-wavelength space telescope completed two years in orbit during the year and has successfully accomplished the difficult task of measuring X-ray polarisation.
- An exhibition highlighting the achievements of Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO) was inaugurated by the MoS Dr Jitendra Singh, in Surat, Gujarat on September 29, 2017.
- Mars Orbiter Mission successfully completed three years in its orbit on September 24, 2017, surviving well beyond its designed mission life of six months.
- SRO and Jet Propulsion Laboratory (JPL)/NASA are jointly working on the development of Dual Frequency (L&S band) Synthetic Aperture Radar Imaging Satellite named as NASA-ISRO Synthetic Aperture Radar (NISAR).

**Reference:**

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=174820>

## YEAR END REVIEW – 2017: Ministry of Mines

**Question: Which of the following temple has been adopted by NALCO for beautification under Swachha iconic city initiative?**

- (a) Jagannath Temple, Puri (b) Kamakhya Temple  
(c) Lingaraj Temple (d) Sun Temple, Konark

**Answer: (a)**



**Related Facts:**

- On December 26, 2017, Year End Review: 2017 was released by the Ministry of Mines released.
- **The main facts related to review are as follows:**
- The Mines and Mineral Development and Regulation Act, 1957 was amended in 2015.
- Subsequent to the amendment, the Ministry of Mines notified the Mineral Auction Rules, 2015 on 20/05/2015 to prescribe the procedure of the auction process.
- The Mineral Auction Rules have been amended on 30/11/2017.
- The Multi-sensor Aero-geophysical Survey of the Obvious Geological Potential Area was inaugurated on 7th April, 2017.
- A committee has been constituted under the Chairmanship of Additional Secretary (Mines) to review the National Mineral Policy, 2008 as directed by the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India vide its judgment dated 2.08.2017 in Writ Petition (Civil) No. 114 of 2014.

- Ministry of Mines has evolved a system of Star Rating of Mines.
- The Ministry of Mines instituted the Sustainable Development Framework (SDF) for taking up mining activity, encompassing inclusive growth, without adversely affecting the social, economic and environmental well-being, at present and also in future generation.
- Ministry of Mines & Indian Bureau of Mines (IBM) have developed the Mining Surveillance System (MSS).
- Mining Surveillance System (MSS) is a satellite-based monitoring system which aims to establish a regime of responsive mineral administration by curbing instances of illegal mining activity through automatic remote sensing detection technology.
- Geological Survey of India Training Institute (GSITI) and the Indian Institute of Technology, Hyderabad (IIT-H), have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (moU) on collaboration for academic and research programs leading to award of Ph. D. Degree by GSITI from academic year beginning 1st April, 2018.
- NALCO has taken up beautification of Shri Jagannatha Temple, Puri under Swachha iconic city initiative.

**Reference:**

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=174822>

## End Year Review 2017: Ministry of Textiles

**Question: Which of the following statements is not true?**

- (a) 'Textiles India, 2017' was organized in Gandhinagar, Gujarat in June-July, 2017.
- (b) On April 1, 2017, 'Powertex India' was launched.
- (c) 'SAATHI' initiative was launched jointly by Ministry of Textiles and Ministry of Power.
- (d) Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated the Deendayal Hastkala Sankul' in Lucknow on 22nd September, 2017.

**Answer: (d)**

**Related Facts:**

- On December 26th, 2017, Yearly Review: 2017 has released by the Ministry of Textiles.
- **The important facts relating to tis are as follows:**
- The first ever mega international trade event for the textile sector was organized in Gandhinagar, Gujarat from 30 June, 2017 – 2 July, 2017.
- A total of 65 MoUs with an estimated value of more than Rs. 11,000 crore were signed during the event.
- "PowerTex India" has been launched on 1st April, 2017, with an outlay of Rs. 487 crores for three years.
- PowerTex India will support 44 lakh workers/weavers.
- 'SAATHI' (Sustainable and Accelerated Adoption of Efficient Textiles Technology to Help Small Scale Industries) was launched jointly by Ministry of Textiles and Ministry of Power.
- This will provide energy-efficient powerlooms, motors and rapier kits to small and medium powerloom units at no upfront cost.



- Energy Efficient Services Limited (EESL) would procure and provide these equipments to the workers at no upfront cost and the worker would repay in installments to EESL over a period of 4 to 5 years.
- A toll free helpline No. 1800220017 has been started at Office of the Textile Commissioner, Mumbai from 01.04.2017, to facilitate Powerloom weavers.
- On 1st December, 2017 iPowerTex android Mobile App was launched.
- India Handmade Bazaar, an online portal to provide direct market access facility to artisans and weavers, was launched on January 29, 2017.
- Deendayal Hastkala Sankul, the first ever state-of-the-art trade centre and crafts museum at Varanasi, was dedicated to the public by the Hon'ble Prime Minister of India on September 22, 2017.
- An MoU was signed with National Backward Classes Finance Development Corporation (NBCFDC) and National Schedule Castes Finance Development Corporation (NSFDC), to implement schemes of Government of India for artisans and weavers belonging to OBC and SC categories in 14 identified clusters, with necessary forward linkages for income sustainability and enhancement.
- Memorandums of Understanding were signed with IGNOU and National Institute of Open Schooling (NIOS) to provide customized educational services to weavers.
- Kamala Devi Chattopadhyaya National Award for women weavers was introduced on the occasion of International Women's Day, on March 8, 2017.
- Pushtaini Hunar Vikas Yojana was launched at Institute of Carpet Technology, Badohi to impart technical and soft-skills training to weavers from traditional carpet-weaving families.
- Technotex 2017, the 6th International Exhibition and Conference on Technical Textiles, was held from April 12 – 14, 2017 in Mumbai.
- Maharashtra was the host state while Gujarat, Jharkhand and Karnataka participated as partner states.
- Bivoltine silk production has grown by 105% in the last three years and has enabled substantial import substitution.
- India has emerged the largest producer of cotton in the world, with a production of 345 lakh bales in 2016-17. India is also the 2nd largest exporter of cotton.
- First ever North East Investment Summit focusing on manufacturing in textiles and allied sectors at Shillong during January 29 – 30, 2017, to unveil the potential of the region as a global investment destination.
- The Apparel & Garment Centre at Ampati, Meghalaya was inaugurated by the Union Textiles Minister Smt. Smriti Zubin Irani on January 30, 2017.
- USTTAD (Upgradation of Skills and Training in Ancestral Arts/Crafts for Development) project initiated in collaboration with Ministry of Minority Affairs will encompass 25 handicraft and handloom clusters.
- As part of the Government's broad focus on Skill Development, Ministry has been implementing Integrated Skill Development Scheme (ISDS), an employment linked programme for meeting the skill requirement of textile industry.
- On December 20, 2017, the Union Cabinet gave its approval for a new skill development scheme covering the entire value chain of the textile sector excluding Spinning & Weaving in organized Sector.
- Scheme was titled "Scheme for Capacity Building in Textile Sector (SCBTS)" from 2017-18 to 2019-20 with an outlay of Rs. 1300 crore.

**Reference:**

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=174826>

## Launching of LOGO of KUMBH-2019

**Question: Where will Kumbh-2019 be organized?**

(a) Haridwar (b) Ujjain (c) Prayag (Allahabad) (d) Nashik

**Answer: (c)**

**Related Facts:**

- On December 12, 2017, logo of Kumbh-2019 was launched at a ceremony organized in Raj Bhavan.
- The theme of the logo for Kumbh is: (giving all kinds of accomplishments).
- The logo comprises temples, seers, a kalash (pitcher) and a 'Swastika'.
- On this occasion Uttar Pradesh Tourism's slogan "U.P. Nahin Dekha to India Nahin Dekha" was also unveiled.
- Apart from this OTS (One Stop Travel) the portal was also launched. This portal has been started by Uttar Pradesh Tourism Department.
- This portal will be listed by listing all the important tourist destinations of Uttar Pradesh, which will facilitate tourists to get information about the state's tourist destinations.
- Kumbh logo will be used in all the works of the state government, such as advertising, billboards, letters etc., so that people can recognize this event and connect with it.
- Kumbh-2019 will be organized at Prayag (Allahabad).
- Uttar Pradesh Government will soon constitute Tourist Police for the convenience of tourists.
- Recently, in the wake of the importance of Aquarius, UNESCO has given it the status of the Intangible Cultural Heritage Global Cultural (Heritage) status.



**Reference:**

<http://www.thehindu.com/todays-paper/tp-national/tp-otherstates/up-governor-launches-kumbh-2019-logo/article21617526.ece>

## Cabinet approves Wage Policy

**Question: For which Round of Wage Negotiations for workmen in Central Public Sector Enterprises (CPSEs), Union Cabinet chaired by the Prime Minister has approved the Wage Policy?**

(a) Fifth (b) Sixth (c) Seventh (d) Eighth

**Answer: (d)**

**Related Facts:**

- On 22<sup>nd</sup> November 2017, Union Cabinet chaired by the Prime Minister has approved the Wage Policy for the 8<sup>th</sup> Round of Wage Negotiations for workmen in Central Public Sector Enterprises (CPSEs).
- The Highlights of the policy are as follows:
- Management of the CPSEs would be free to negotiate wage revision for workmen where the periodicity of wage settlement of five years or ten years has expired generally on





31.12.2016 keeping in view the affordability and financial sustainability of such wage revision for the CPSEs concerned.

- No budgetary support for any wage increase shall be provided by the Government. The entire financial implication would be borne by the respective CPSEs from their internal resources.
- iii. In those CPSEs for which the Government has approved restructuring/ revival plan, the wage revision will be done as per the provisions of the approved restructuring / revival plan only.
- The management of the concerned CPSEs have to ensure that negotiated scales of pay do not exceed the existing scales of pay of executives/officers and non-unionized supervisors of respective CPSEs.
- The Management of CPSEs where the five year periodicity is followed have to ensure that negotiated scales of pay for two successive wages negotiations do not exceed the existing scales of pay of executives/officers and non-unionized supervisors of respective CPSEs for whom ten years periodicity is being followed.
- To avoid conflict of pay scales of executives/non-unionised supervisors with that of their workmen, CPSEs may consider adoption of graded DA neutralization and/or graded fitment during the wage negotiations.
- vii. CPSEs must ensure that any increase in wages after negotiations does not result in increase in administered prices of their goods and services.
- viii. The wage revision shall be subject to the condition that there shall be no increase in labour cost per physical unit of output. In exceptional cases where CPSEs are already working at optimum capacity, the administrative Ministry / Department may consult DPE considering industry norms.
- The validity period of wage settlement would be for a minimum period of five years for those who opted for a five year periodicity and for a maximum period of ten years for those who have opted for a ten year periodicity of wage negotiation w.e.f. 01.01.2017.
- The CPSEs would implement negotiated wages after confirming with their Administrative Ministry/Department that the wage settlement is in conformity with approved parameters.
- It is noteworthy that about 12.34 lakh employees in 320 CPSEs in the country. Out of these, about 2.99 lakh employees are Board level and below Board level executives and non-unionized Supervisors.
- The remaining about 9.35 lakh employees belong to the unionized workmen category.

**Reference:**

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=173724>

## Year End Review-2017: Ministry of Drinking Water and Sanitation

**Question: Which amongst the following statements is not true?**

- (a) Swachh Bharat Mission was launched on October 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2014.
- (b) 10 States and Union Territories of India are free from defecation in the open.
- (c) Except for October 2, 2019, the goal of India free from defecation is to be achieved.
- (d) 'Swachh Shakti' was organized in Mahatma Mandir,



Gandhinagar on March 8<sup>th</sup>, 2017.

**Answer: (b)**

**Related Facts:**

- On 20<sup>th</sup> December, 2017, Year End Review-2017 of Ministry of Drinking Water and Sanitation was released.
- The main facts related to this are as follows:
- Accelerate the efforts to achieve universal sanitation coverage and to put focus on access to safe sanitation.
- SBM aims at achieving Open Defecation Free (ODF) nation and a Swachh Bharat by 2<sup>nd</sup> Oct, 2019 thereby paying a befitting tribute on his 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary.
- Sanitation Coverage at the launch of SBM (G) on 2<sup>nd</sup> Oct, 2014 was 38.70%. This has increased to 74.15% as on 18<sup>th</sup> Dec, 2017.
- 225 districts have been declared open-defecation free.
- 8 States and Union Territories: Sikkim, Himachal Pradesh, Kerala, Uttarakhand, Haryana, Gujarat, Daman-Diu and Chandigarh have been declared as free from open-defecation.
- 2, 92,896 villages have been declared free from open- defecation.
- With the objective of bringing a fortnight of intense focus on the issues and practices of Swachhata by engaging Central Ministries and Departments in their jurisdiction, Swachhata Pakhwada was started in April 2016.
- All 4470 villages located across 52 districts of Uttarakhand, Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Jharkhand and West Bengal has been declared ODF with active help of state governments.
- Ministry has taken up 24 villages on the bank of River Ganga to transform them as Ganga Grams in coordination with NMCG.
- SAP, a first of its kind inter-ministerial programme for Swachhata was started on 1<sup>st</sup> April 2017.
- Ministry has taken up a multi-stakeholder initiative focusing on cleaning up 100 places across India that are “iconic” due to their heritage, religious and/or cultural significance.
- So far in first two phases, 20 iconic places have been taken up.
- All these 20 Iconic Sites have designated PSUs or corporates for financial and technical support.
- Swachh Shakti was organized on March 8<sup>th</sup>, 2017, International Women’s Day, at Mahatma Mandir, Gandhinagar.
- During 9-15 August, 2017, Freedom from Open Defecation week was organized.
- ‘Swachh Sankalp se Swachh Siddhi Competition’ was organized during August 17th-8th September, 2017.
- Aiming at Behavior Change, an aggressive mass media campaign titled ‘Darwaza Band’ was launched to encourage continuous use of toilets.



- Swachhata Hi Seva (SHS) was organized from September 16<sup>th</sup>-October 2nd, 2017.

**Reference:**

<http://pib.nic.in/PressReleaseDetail.aspx?PRID=1513284>

### Eco Paryatan Anubhuti Karyakram

**Question- Which of the following state governments is organizing an Anubhuti program to provide information related to forest, wildlife and environment protection to children studying at government schools in the state from December 15<sup>th</sup>, 2017 to January 15<sup>th</sup>, 2018?**

(a) Jharkhand (b) Chhattisgarh (c) Madhya Pradesh (d) Manipur

**Answer: (c)**

**Related facts:**

- During December 15<sup>th</sup>, 2017 and January 15<sup>th</sup>, 2018, the Madhya Pradesh Government is organizing an Anubhuti program to provide information related to forest, wildlife and environmental protection to the children studying at government schools in the state.
- Under this program, 1 lakh children will be linked to this program.
- Under the Anubhuti program, the selected students will be toured to the forests.
- With the excursion of forests, they will be given information about environmental protection, bio-diversity, bird watching, forestry and forest management.
- In the program, 225 school students will be included in each forest range and one day eco camp will be organized.



**Reference:**

<http://dprmp.org/NewsDetail.aspx?newsid=490414&disid=29>

### Year End Review: Ministry of Shipping 2017

**Question: What percentage of Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) is allowed in public-private partnership (PPP) projects in the port sector?**

(a) 100% (b) 75% (c) 49% (d) 26%

**Answer- (a)**

**Related Facts:**

- On December 20<sup>th</sup>, 2017, year end review of Ministry of Shipping was released.
- The main facts related to this are as follows:
- Over all the ports in India handle 90% by volume and 70% by value of India's external trade.
- With a view to promote Port led development, the Sagarmala Programme was approved by the Cabinet on 25-03-2015.
- Under this flagship initiative 142 Port Projects involving an investment of around Rs. 91,434 crore for capacity enhancement have been identified for implementation during the next 10-15 years.
- 100% FDI is being allowed in PPP Projects in the Port Sector.
- A new Major Ports Authorities Bill, 2016 to replace the existing Major Port Trusts Act, 1963 with a view to provide greater autonomy and modernization of institutional structure has been introduced in the Lok Sabha on 16.12.2016.



- On September 24th 2017, notification was issued to change the name Kandla Port to Deendayal Port in recognition of the invaluable contribution and sacrifices made by Pandit Deendayal Upadhaya towards serving the nation.
- Major Ports are taking up renewable energy projects to generate more than 150 MW (solar & wind energy) in the next five years.
- 15 MW Solar and 6 MW Wind Powers has already been commissioned in the Major Ports during 2016-17.
- 91.5 MW Solar and 45 MW Wind Powers is expected to be achieved by the end of 2018.
- India is also engaged in the development of Chahbahar Port in Iran.
- A MoU has been signed between the two countries in this regard.
- Inauguration ceremony of the Phase-I of Shahid Beheshti Port at Chabahar, Iran was held on December 3rd, 2017 by the Hon'ble President of Iran.
- 'Jal Marg Vikas' (National Waterway-I: River Ganga) Project envisages to develop a fairway with upto 3 meters depth between Varanasi and Haldia covering a distance of 1380 kms at an estimated cost of Rs. 5369 crore.
- Multi-modal terminal is being established in Varanasi, Sahibganj and Haldia.
- On October 3rd, 2017, the foundation stone of the first phase was carried out by National Vice-President Venkaiah Naidu from National Waterway-4 Mukti Mala to Vijayawada.
- Mandovi, Zuari, Camberjua, Barak, Gandak, Rupnarayan, Alappuzha-Kottayam-Athirampuzha Canal and Sunderbans National Waterways were considered for development during 2017-18.
- A Freight Village and Logistics Hub to improve logistics efficiency is proposed to set up in Varanasi in continuation of the multi-modal terminal under construction as part of the Jal Marg Vikas Project.
- International movement of cargo has commenced on NW-16 (River Barak).
- On April 8, 2017 Agreement on passenger and cruise service on coastal routes between India and Bangladesh.
- On 9th August, 2017, 'The Admiralty (Jurisdiction and Settlement of Maritime Collections) Act, 2017' came into effect.
- 18 July 2017, the Standing Committee of Parliament presented its recommendations on 'Merchant Shipping Bill, 2016'.
- For the promotion of indigenous shipbuilding by the Government of India 4000 crores 'Ship' building financial assistance policy has been released for 10 years (2016-2026).
- On November 17, 2017, Shipping Minister laid the foundation of 'International Ship Repair Facility' at Cochin Port Trust, Kochi.
- On December 1st, 2017, the member re-elected under the India International Marine Organization (IMO) Council B category.
- On 25th January, 2017, an agreement was signed on maritime transport between India and the United Arab Emirates.
- On April 28th, 2017 Agreement between Merchant Shipping between India and Cyprus was signed.
- On October 11th, 2017, bilateral cooperation between the two countries of India and the Netherlands, ports, maritime transport and logistics was extended for the next three years.
- On July 14th, 2017, New Merchant Shipping (Continuous Discharge Certificate) Rules, 2017 have been notified.

Government has constructed new cruise terminals at Mormugao port and Chennai Port to develop cruise shipping and tourism in the country.

**Reference:**

<http://pib.nic.in/PressReleaseDetail.aspx?PRID=1513281>

## INTERNATIONAL HERBAL FAIR 2017

**Question: Where was the International Herbal Fair organized during December 14-20, 2017?**

(a) Bhopal (b) Raipur (c) New Delhi (d) Jaipur

**Answer: (a)**

**Related Facts:**

- From December 14<sup>th</sup>-20<sup>th</sup>, 2017, a 7 days International Herbal Fair was held in Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh.
- This fair was organized jointly by the Forest Department and State Minor Forest Produce association.
- This fair was launched by Dr. Harsh Vardhan, Minister for Environment, Forest and Climate Change.
- In this fair, participants from different regions participated in Bhutan, Nepal, Malaysia, Sri Lanka as well.
- About 300 stalls of herbs collected from different districts of the state were planted in the Mela, where the sale of herbs was sold.
- During the fair, workshop and Ayurvedic medical camps, buyer-seller conference, small forest conservation and marketing were organized.
- In addition to the varied colorful cultural programs, there were also programs of puppetry, street plays and folklore.
- It is known that this fair was also held in Bhopal in the last year.



**Reference:**

<http://mpintherbalfair.net/>

## CCEA approves “Scheme for Capacity Building in Textiles Sector (SCBTS)”

**Question: For which period the Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA) recently approved the ‘Capacity Building Scheme in Textile Sector’?**

(a) Year 2017-18 to 2019-20 (b) Year 2018-19 to 2020-21  
(c) Year 2017-18 to 2021-22 (d) Year 2019-20 to 2021-22

**Answer: (a)**

**Related Facts:**

- On December 20<sup>th</sup>, 2017, Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs, chaired by the Prime Minister has given its approval for a new skill development scheme covering the entire value chain of the textile sector excluding Spinning & Weaving in organized Sector.
- The scheme has been titled as “Scheme for Capacity Building in Textile Sector (SCBTS)”.
- The approval of the scheme is from 2017-18 to 2019-20 with an outlay of Rs. 1300 crore.



- The scheme will have National Skill Qualification Framework (NSQF) compliant training courses with funding norms as per the Common Norms notified by Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship (MSDE).
- The objectives of the scheme are to provide demand driven, placement oriented skilling programme to incentivize the efforts of the industry in creating jobs in the organized textile and related sectors; to promote skilling and skill up-gradation in the traditional sectors through respective Sectoral Divisions/organizations of Ministry of Textiles; and to provide livelihood to all sections of the society across the country.
- The skilling programmes would be implemented through:
  - a. Textile Industry /Units in order to meet the in-house requirement of manpower;
  - b. Reputed training institutions relevant to textile sector having placement tie-ups with textile industry/ units; and
  - c. Institutions of Ministry of Textiles /State Governments having placement tie-ups with textile industry/units.
- **The scheme will broadly adopt the following strategy:**
  - A. Job role wise skilling targets will be based on skill gap identified for various levels i.e. Entry level courses, Up-skilling/ Re-skilling (supervisor, managerial training, advanced courses for adapting technology etc.), Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL), Training of Trainers, Entrepreneurship Development.
  - B. Segment Wise/ Job role wise requirement of skill needs will be assessed from time to time in consultation with the industry.
  - C. Web-based monitoring will be adopted for steering every aspect of implementation of the programme.
  - D. Skilling requirement in the traditional sectors such as handlooms, handicrafts, jute, silk etc. will be considered as special projects through respective Sectoral Divisions/organizations. Skill up gradation will be supported further for entrepreneurial development through provision of MUDRA loans.
  - E. With a view to make outcomes measurable, successful trainees will be assessed and certified by an accredited Assessment Agency.
  - F. At least 70% of the certified trainees are to be placed in the wage employment. Post Placement tracking will be mandatory under the scheme.
  - G. Acknowledging the high levels of employment of women in the sector post training, all partner institutions will be required to comply with the guidelines regarding Internal Complaints Committee to be constituted under the Sexual Harassment of Women at Workplace (Prevention, Prohibition & Redressal) Act, 2013 to become eligible for funding under the scheme.

**Reference:**

<http://pib.nic.in/PressReleaseDetail.aspx?PRID=1513467>

## Year End Review- 2017: Ministry of Information and Broadcasting

**Question: On October 5th, 2017, India signed an agreement with which of the following country to cooperate in the field of information, communications and media?**

(a) Ethiopia (b) Somalia (c) Lithuania (d) Kenya

**Answer: (a)**

**Related Facts:**



- On December 19th, 2017 Year End Review, 2017 was released by the Ministry of Information & Broadcasting.
- **The main facts related to this are:**
- MoU signed between Publications Division and Sasta Sahitya Mandal for Joint Publication of books, to sensitise the young generation about India's rich and diverse culture and history.
- 6th National Photography Awards organized. Shri Raghu Rai conferred Lifetime Achievement Award. Professional Photographer of the year award to Shri K.K. Mustafah and Amateur Photographer of the year award to Shri Ravinder Kumar.
- Set of books titled 'Swachh Jungle ki kahani – Dadi ki Zubani' Books published in 15 Indian languages released.
- "Saath Hai Vishwaas Hai, Ho Raha Vikas Hai" Exhibition organized.
- Special Webpage on Goods and Services Tax (GST) <http://pib.nic.in/gst> was created on PIB Website.
- RNI Annual Report – Press in India, an Important Index of Print Media was released.
- 14 short films produced by Doordarshan on success stories of various Flagship schemes of the Government.
- A separate 24x7 DD Channel for Jharkhand announced.
- New website of DD News launched.
- 2 new Shortwave Solid State digital transmitters of 100 KW to broadcast across the border for Afghanistan- Pakistan region announced.
- Indian Panorama Film Festival organized in Delhi.
- Film Condition Assessment Project under National Film Heritage Mission launched.
- North East Film Festival – Fragrances from the North East organized at National Film Archives of India, Pune.
- Bhojpuri Film Festival organized in Delhi.
- Film Facilitation Office platform established by India to strengthen bilateral cooperation through the medium of Film Festivals and utilizing between India & Ukraine.
- MoU signed between FTII and Canon to promote short courses in Film & Television.
- 64th National Film Awards organized in Delhi. Kassav awarded Best Feature Film and Sathamanam Bhavathi awarded as Best Popular Film providing Wholesome Entertainment.
- Akshay Kumar given Best Actor award for the film Rustom, Ms. Surabhi awarded Best Actress for the Malayalam movie Minnaminungu-The Firefly Rajesh Mapuskar given Best Direction Award for Marathi movie Ventilator.
- Renowned Film Director & Actor Shri Kasinadhuni Viswanath to be conferred Dadasaheb Phalke Award for the year 2016.
- The 48th International Film Festival of India (IFFI), 2017 was organised in Goa.



- Mumbai International Film Festival for Documentary, Short and Animation Film (MIFF) 2018 will be inaugurated on 28 January, 2018 at the National Centre for Performing Arts, Mumbai.

**Reference:**

<http://pib.nic.in/PressReleaseDetail.aspx?PRID=1513214>

## NDMA to conduct Training of Trainers for Sendai Framework

**Question: Where was the first national level program for trainers organized from 18th-20th December, 2017?**

(a) New Delhi (b) Jaipur (c) Hyderabad (d) Visakhapatnam

**Answer: (a)**

**Related Facts:**

- From December 18-20, 2017, the three-day programme is being organised by the National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) in collaboration with the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction-Global Education and Training Institute (UNISDR-GETI).
- Union Minister of State for Home Affairs, Kiren Rijiju inaugurated the first national-level Training of Trainers programme to sensitise various Central Ministries and Departments on utilisation of Sendai Monitor for developing action plans for Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR).
- The Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction (SFDRR), 2015-2030, is the first major agreement of the post-2015 development agenda and identifies targets and priority actions towards reducing disaster risks and implementing development that is both resilient and sustainable.
- In June 2016, India became one of the first countries to align its National Disaster Management Plan (NDMP) with the SFDRR, which clearly identifies regional, national and local targets along with short, medium and long-term timelines.



**Reference:**

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=174409>

## NGT banned plastic items at the banks of the river Ganges

**Question: Recently, the National Green Tribunal (NGT) banned plastic items at the banks of the river Ganges. How many rupees will be the penalty for those violating this order?**

(a) 10,000 (b) 50,000 (c) 5,000 (d) 15,000

**Answer: (c)**

**Related facts:**

- On December 15th, 2017, the National Green Tribunal (NGT) imposed full restrictions on things made from plastic such as carry bags, plates and spoons in cities like Haridwar and Rishikesh situated on the bank of river Ganga.
- The bench chaired by NGT Chairman Justice Swatantra Kumar also stopped the sale, manufacturing and storage of such things till Uttarkashi.
- The NGT said in its order that those who will violate the order be fined Rs 5,000.



- Along with this, action will also be taken against the wrongful officials.
- The NGT passed the order after mentioning that despite its earlier order, plastic bags are being used in these areas, which is causing pollution in Ganga River.
- It is worth mentioning that this latest order was passed by the Green Unit hearing on Environmentalist M.C. Mehta's petition.

**Reference:**

<http://www.thehindu.com/news/national/ngt-once-again-bans-plastic-use-in-haridwar-rishikesh-to-save-ganga/article21726431.ece>

### Fourth India-Australia-Japan trilateral talks

**Question: Where did the fourth India-Australia-Japan trilateral talks concluded recently?**

(a) Tokyo (b) Melbourne (c) Canberra (d) New Delhi

**Answer: (d)**

**Related facts:**

- On December 13th, 2017, the fourth India-Australia Japan Trilateral Dialogue was concluded in New Delhi.
- In this dialogue was attended by India's Foreign Secretary Dr. S. Jayashankar, Secretary of Foreign and Business Department of Australia, Francis Adamson and Deputy Foreign Minister Shinsuke J. Sugiyama of Japan.
- The three sides highlighted the growing convergence of their respective countries' interests in the Indo-Pacific region and underscored their shared commitment to peace, democracy, economic growth and a rules-based order in the region.
- They underscored their support for ASEAN centrality in the political and security architecture of the Indo-Pacific region.
- The three sides stressed the need for greater collaboration on maritime security and domain awareness and disaster response capabilities.
- They also renewed their resolve to fight the scourge of terrorism in all its forms and manifestations and stressed the need for enhanced cooperation on counterterrorism.
- They deliberated on strengthening regional connectivity as well.
- The three sides welcomed the regular meetings of this important dialogue mechanism. The Japanese vice Minister proposed to host the next round in Tokyo.



**Reference:**

[http://mea.gov.in/press-releases.htm?dtl/29176/4th\\_IndiaAustraliaJapan\\_Trilateral\\_Dialogue\\_December\\_13\\_2017](http://mea.gov.in/press-releases.htm?dtl/29176/4th_IndiaAustraliaJapan_Trilateral_Dialogue_December_13_2017)

### Kumbh Mela intangible cultural heritage of humanity: UNESCO

**Question: Recently, Kumbh Mela- India has been inscribed on the Representative List of the “Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity” by UNESCO. At which of the following places Kumbh Mela does not organize ?**

(a) Devprayag (b) Nashik (c) Haridwar (d) Ujjain

**Answer: (a)**

**Related Facts:**





- On December 7th, 2017, Kumbh Mela- India has been inscribed on the Representative List of the “Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity” by UNESCO.
- The inclusion on the Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity was done in the Intergovernmental Committee for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage meeting in Jeju, South Korea.
- It is remarkable that inscription is the third in two years following ‘Yoga’ and ‘Nouroz’.
- According to mythology, gods and the demons fight for a pot of nectar (Amrit Kumbh): the nectar of immortality and in the ensuing struggle, a few drops of the precious nectar fell on Allahabad, Nasik, Haridwar and Ujjain.
- Since then, the Kumbh Mela has been held in all these places, alternately, every 12 years.
- The Ardh or half Kumbh is held every six years on the banks of Sangam.

**Reference:**

<https://en.unesco.org/news/twelve-new-elements-inscribed-representative-list-intangible-cultural-heritage-humanity>

<http://www.thehindu.com/todays-paper/tp-national/unesco-names-kumbh-mela-intangible-cultural-heritage/article21293491.ece>

<http://ddinews.gov.in/people/kumbh-mela-intangible-cultural-heritage-humanity-unesco>

### [Consent on the draft of triple talaq three divorce legislation](#)

**Question: Which is the first state in the country to give consent on the draft of the triple talaq legislation proposed by the central government?**

- (a) Madhya Pradesh (b) Uttar Pradesh (c) Rajasthan  
(d) Jharkhand

**Answer: (b)**

**Related facts:**

- On December 5th, 2017, in the concluding meeting of the Uttar Pradesh Cabinet, given its approval on a draft of the bill on triple talaq proposed by the Central Government.
- Uttar Pradesh is the first state in the country to ratify the draft of the triple talaq legislation.
- In the proposed draft, triple talaq or Talaq-e-Biddat is declared as a cognizable and non-bailable offense, and the convict would be given three years imprisonment.
- Simultaneously, the expenses for the maintenance of wife and her dependent children will also have to be paid.
- On August 22, 2017, the Supreme Court had termed three divorces as unconstitutional.
- Despite the Supreme Court’s ban, the central government has drafted the ‘Muslim Women Protection of Rights on Marriage Bill’ in view of the rising cases of three divorces in the country.
- This draft has been referred to various state governments for consideration.
- This draft has been prepared by the Inter-Ministerial Group under the chairmanship of Union Home Minister Rajnath Singh.
- The proposed law will apply only in the case of Talaq-e-Biddat.



- Under the proposed bill, triple talaq given by e-mail SMS and Whatsapp including any electronic equipment has been considered illegal.

**Reference:**

<http://www.thehindu.com/news/national/other-states/up-becomes-first-state-to-endorse-centres-triple-talaq-draft-bill/article21275199.ece>

## [The Million Farmers School \(Kisan Pathshala\)](#)

**Question: The Government of Uttar Pradesh announced the purchase of which of the following crops first time at the minimum support price?**

(a) Gram, lentil (b) Tur, onion (c) Moong, Gram (d) Urad, Moong

**Answer: (d)**

**Related Facts:**

- On December 5<sup>th</sup>, 2017, on the occasion of World Soil Day, Uttar Pradesh's Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath launched the 'The Million Farmers School' (Kisan Pathshala) at his official residence.
- Under this program, through the organizing of 15 thousand schools, awareness of the protection and promotion of soil health will be provided to about 10 lakh farmers of the state, along with information related to the programs run by agriculture and other related departments to double the income of the farmers.
- On this occasion, the Chief Minister handed over symbolic keys of tractor to 10 Farm Machinery Banks under the Submissions on Agriculture Mechanization Scheme organized by the Central Government.
- Apart from this, the Chief Minister also launched Mobile App of Pardarshi Kisan Seva Yojana.
- During the program, the Chief Minister also released the booklet regarding the information given to farmers in Kisan Vidyalaya and doubling the income of the farmers in 5 years.
- Kisan Vidyalaya will be organized from 4 pm to 5 pm after the closure of primary and junior high school in selected judicial Panchayats.
- It will be organized in the first phase from December 5-9, 2017 and in the second phase 11-15 December, 2017.
- The state government will manage to irrigate 60 thousand hectares of unirrigated land from March to June.
- For the first time, the state government announced the purchase of urad and moong at the minimum support price.



**Reference:**

[http://information.up.nic.in/View\\_Hindinews.aspx?id=821](http://information.up.nic.in/View_Hindinews.aspx?id=821)

## Crime in India 2016- Statistics

**Question: On November 30<sup>th</sup>, 2017, Union Home Minister, Shri Rajnath Singh released the 'Crime in India – 2016' published by the National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB), Ministry of Home Affairs. According to the report which of the following states, has reported highest number of murder in year 2016?**

(a) Bihar (b) Uttar Pradesh (c) Madhya Pradesh (d) Rajasthan

**Answer: (b)**

**Related facts:**

- On November 30<sup>th</sup>, 2017, Union Home Minister, Shri Rajnath Singh released the 'Crime in India – 2016' published by the National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB), Ministry of Home Affairs.
- It is for the first time, for 19 Metropolitan cities (having population above 2 million) also, chapters on "Violent Crimes", "Crime Against Women", "Crime Against Children", "Juveniles in conflict with law", "Crime Against SC/STs", "Economic Crimes", "Cyber Crimes", "Crime Against Senior Citizens" and "Disposal of Cases by Police and Court" have been included in the report.
- In addition to first time Statistics on the seizures of Arms, Ammunitions, Drugs and Currency by CAPFs/CPOs (Assam Rifles, CISF, BSF, CRPF, NIA and SSB).
- Murder cases in the country have shown declining trends during the last three years. Murder cases decreased by 5.2% in 2015-16, from 32,127 cases in 2015 to 30,450 cases in 2016.
- For States perspective, Uttar Pradesh accounted for 9.5% of total IPC crime reported in the
- The highest cases of crime were registered in Uttar Pradesh followed by followed by Madhya Pradesh (8.9%), Maharashtra (8.8%) and Kerala (8.7%).
- Cases under 'Crime Against Women' have reported a marginal decrease in the year 2016 (3,38,954) compared to the year 2014 (3,39,457), however for 2016, it is a marginal increase compared to 2015 (3,29,243).
- Delhi City accounted for 38.8% of total IPC crime reported in the cities followed by Bengaluru (8.9%) and Mumbai (7.7%).
- According to the report, the incidents of murder were highest in Uttar Pradesh.
- 4,889 cases of murder were reported here, which is 16.1 percent of the total cases.
- After this, the maximum 2,581 (8.4%) incidents of murder were registered in Bihar.
- In the year 2014, 14.5 percent of the total cases of crimes against women (49,262 cases) were held in Uttar Pradesh. After this, West Bengal is at second with 9.6 percent (32,513) cases.
- Rape incidents rose 12.4 percent in the year 2016 compared to year 2015.
- According to the Reports, the highest rape cases took place in Madhya Pradesh and Uttar Pradesh.
- Out of total incidents, 12.5 percent were in Madhya Pradesh, 12.4 percent in UP and 10.7 percent in Maharashtra.



**Reference:**

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=173986>

<http://www.ncrb.gov.in/>

## Cabinet approves setting up of National Nutrition Mission

**Question: Recently, Union cabinet has approved setting up of National Nutrition Mission (NNM) with a budget of Rs-**

- (a) 552.4 crores (b) 885.17 crores (c) 9046.17 crores  
(d) 8045.17 crores

**Answer: (c)**

**Related Facts:**

- On November 30<sup>th</sup>, 2017, Union Cabinet chaired by Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi yesterday has approved setting up of National Nutrition Mission (NNM).
- The mission is commencing from 2017-18 with a three year budget of Rs.9046.17 crore.
- The NNM, as an apex body, will monitor, supervise, fix targets and guide the nutrition related interventions across the Ministries.
- The proposal consists of
  - Mapping of various Schemes contributing towards addressing malnutrition
  - Introducing a very robust convergence mechanism
  - ICT based Real Time Monitoring system
  - Incentivizing States/UTs for meeting the targets
  - Incentivizing Anganwadi Workers (AWWs) for using IT based tools
  - Eliminating registers used by AWWs
  - Introducing measurement of height of children at the Anganwadi Centres (AWCs) Social Audits
- Setting-up Nutrition Resource Centres, involving masses through *Jan Andolan* for their participation on nutrition through various activities, among others.
- This program will take measures to reduce the level of weight loss of children, short nutrition, deficiency of blood and at the time of birth, through targets.
- More than 10 crore people will be benefitted by this programme. All the States and districts will be covered in a phased manner i.e. 315 districts in 2017-18, 235 districts in 2018-19 and remaining districts in 2019-20.
- An amount of 9046.17 crore will be expended for three years commencing from 2017-18.
- This will be funded by Government Budgetary Support (50%) and 50% by IBRD or other MDB. Government budgetary support would be 60:40 between Centre and States/UTs, 90:10 for NER and Himalayan States and 100% for UTs without legislature.
- Total Government of India share over a period of three years would be Rs. 2849.54 crore.



- NNM targets to reduce stunting, under-nutrition, anemia (*among young children, women and adolescent girls*) and reduce low birth weight by 2%, 2%, 3% and 2% per annum respectively.

**Reference:**

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=174025>

## 22nd conference of Asian Harmonization Working Party

**Question: Where was 22nd Conference of Asian Harmonization Working Party (AHWP) recently organized from December 4<sup>th</sup>– 8<sup>th</sup>, 2017?**

(a) Jaipur (b) Ahmedabad (c) New Delhi (d) Hyderabad

**Answer: (c)**

**Related facts:**

- Asian Harmonization Working Party (AHWP)'s 22nd conference was recently organized in New Delhi from 4<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup>
- Anupriya Patel, Hon'ble MoS (Health & Family Welfare) recently inaugurated the conference.
- The five day conference is being conducted by Central Drugs Standard Control Organization (CDSCO) and National Drug Regulatory Authority (NDRA) of India in collaboration with Ministry of Health & Family Welfare.
- Asian Harmonization Working Party (AHWP) was established in 1999 as a voluntary non-profit organization of the 30 national regulators of member countries and industry members.
- The key objective of the event is to develop and recommend approaches for the convergence and harmonization of medical device regulations in Asia and beyond and to facilitate the exchange of knowledge and expertise amongst regulators and the industry.
- The AHWP works in collaboration with related international organizations such as IMDRF, WHO, International Organization for Standardization (ISO), etc.



**Reference:**

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=174105>

## Expansion in the National Capital Region

**Question: On December 4, 2017, in the 37th meeting of the National Capital Region Planning Board, which district of Uttar Pradesh was announced to be included in the National Capital Region (NCR)?**

(a) Kannauj (b) Mathura (c) Shamli (d) Aligarh

**North- (c)**

**Related facts**

- On December 4<sup>th</sup>, 2017 in the 37<sup>th</sup> meeting of the National Capital Region Planning Board (NCRPB) chaired by Shri Hardeep Singh Puri, Minister of State(IC), Housing & Urban Affairs, approved the



inclusion of Shamli district of Uttar Pradesh in NCR.

- Thus, now in the National Capital Region, 8 districts of Uttar Pradesh (Meerut, Ghaziabad, Gautam Buddha Nagar, Bulandshahr, Hapur, Baghpat, Muzaffarnagar and Shamli) have been included.
- It is worth mentioning that four states Delhi, Haryana, Uttar Pradesh and Rajasthan are included in National Capital Region.
- Now in NCR there will be 23 districts (including Haryana 13, Uttar Pradesh 8 and 2 districts of Rajasthan) beside Delhi.
- The NCR includes 13 districts (Faridabad, Gurgaon, Mewat, Rohtak, Sonapat, Rewari, Jhajjar, Panipat, Palwal, Bhiwani, Mahendergarh, Jind and Karnal) of Haryana and 2 districts of Rajasthan (Alwar and Bharatpur).
- The NCR is one of the first experimental regions in the country.
- This is a unique example of the Inter-State Regional Development Planning for the development of affiliated areas by keeping the national capital at the center.

**Reference:**

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=174084>

## Inauguration of the first phase of Chabahar Port

**Question: Who recently inaugurated the first phase of Chabahar port?**

(a) Ashraf Ghani (b) Hassan Rouhani (c) Sushma Swaraj (d) Narendra Modi

**Ans: (b)**

**Related facts:-**

- On December 3, 2017, Iranian President Hassan Rohani inaugurated the first phase of Chabahar port.
- India, Afghanistan and regional representatives were also present on this occasion.
- Simultaneously, bypassing Pakistan a new strategic transit route has opened among three countries Iran, India and Afghanistan.
- Chabahar port is an important port on the banks of the Gulf of Oman in southeastern Iran, which offers a minimum distance of sea route to trade with South Asian countries in Asia.
- Chabahar port is important for both business and strategic approaches to India.
- Strategically, it provides a sea route to India for Afghanistan.
- Apart from this, it will also balance the Gwadar port (Baluchistan, Pakistan), which is being developed by the China.
- In the view of business it is a better option for trading with Central Asia than India's dependence on Pakistan.
- It is to be mentioned that the first phase of the Chabahar port project was inaugurated with the Shaheed Beheshti port in Chabahar and its first phase was called 'Shaheed Beheshti Port'.
- It is worth noting that almost a month ago; India sent the first shipyard of wheat to the Afghanistan through the sea route through the Chabahar Port.



**Related Links:-**

<http://indiatoday.intoday.in/story/1st-phase-of-strategically-important-chabahar-port->



## 48th International Film Festival of India-2017

**Question: Who has been awarded Lifetime Achievement Award at the 48<sup>th</sup> International Film Festival held in Panaji, Goa, during November 20<sup>th</sup>-28<sup>th</sup>?**

- (a) Peter Green Away (b) Nikita Mikhakov (c) Amitabh Bachchan  
(d) Atom Egoyan

**Answer: (d)**

**Related Facts:**

- During 20<sup>th</sup>-28<sup>th</sup> November, 2017, India's 48th International Film Festival of India was held in Panaji, Goa.
- This year Canada was chosen as Focus Country in 48<sup>th</sup> IFFI 2017.
- This year's IFFI theme was 'Connecting the World through Stories'.
- On November 21<sup>st</sup>, 2017, famous actress Sridevi inaugurated the 48th IFFI Panorama.
- During the inauguration, the audience was introduced to the official selection of 26 feature and 16 non-feature films of IFFI under the Indian Panorama 2017 category.
- In IFFI-2017, about 195 films from over 82 countries were exhibited.
- Of which 10 were world premieres, 10 Asian and international premieres and more than 64 Indian premieres.
- The exhibition of the films was inaugurated with the performance of Iranian master Majeedis first film featured in India 'Beyond the Clouds'. While the festival ended with Pablo Caesar's Indo-Argentine co-production 'Thinking of him'. This film is based on an episode of Gurudev Ravindra Nath Tagore's life.
- The Golden Peacock Award for Best Film of this Festival was awarded to the film directed by Moroccan-born film director Sebile Campello, '120 Bits per Minutes'.
- This film is made on the backdrop of the homosexuality and AIDS epidemic spread in France in the 1990s. Its world premiere was held at the 2017 Cannes Film Festival.
- China's director Vivian Qu won the best director award for her film 'Angels wear White'.
- Best Actor Male Award was awarded to Nahuel Perez Biscayart for his film '120 Bits 'Per Minute'.
- Parvathy Thiruvoth Kottuvatta was given the Best Actress Award for her Malayalam film 'Take-Off'.
- Famous actor Amitabh Bachchan was awarded the Best Indian Film Personality of the Year for his contribution to Indian cinema.
- In the 48th IFFI, Canadian filmmaker Atom Egoyan was awarded the Lifetime Achievement Award.
- Marathi film 'Kshitij- A Horizon' was awarded the ICFT UNESCO Gandhi Medal.
- In this festival world's first 3D film in the Sanskrit language, 'Anurakti' was performed.

**Reference:**

<http://indianexpress.com/article/entertainment/bollywood/iffi-2017-complete-list-of-winners-closing-ceremony-see-photos-4958866/>



# INTERNATIONAL

## World Social Protection Report 2017-19

**Question: According to the World Social Protection Report 2017-19 of the recently released International Labor Organization (ILO), how many people worldwide are without social security?**

(a) 4 billion (b) 5 billion (c) 6 billion (d) 3 billion

**Answer: (a)**

**Related Facts:**

- On 29 November 2017, International Labor Organization, World Social Protection Report 2017 -19 'issued According to the Report, 4 billion people worldwide are without social security.
- There is a need to make massive efforts to ensure social security for all at the global level, according to the Reports.
- The population covered by least social benefits effectively, is only 45 percent of the global population.
- While the remaining 55 percent of the global population (4 billion) are socially defenseless.  
29 percent of the global population is comprehensive social security.
- Such a population was 27 percent in the year 2014-15.
- Thus, 71 percent or 5.2 billion population is such a social security or only partially protected.
- The lack of social security weakens people to fight illness, poverty, inequality and social exclusion throughout life.
- This situation is an important obstacle in global social development.
- Report recommends the increase of public expenditure on social protection (especially in the context of Africa, Asia and Arab countries).
- To provide at least one basic social security to the people.
- The Reports show that Universal Social Protection is helpful in achieving sustainable development goals.
- Report emphasizes the need to expand social security to workers in the informal economy. According to the Report, only 35 percent of the children in the world are socially protected.
- About two-thirds of the world (1.3 billion) children (mostly in Africa and Asia) are deprived of social security. On average, the expenditure on children and family welfare is only 1.1 percent of GDP for the benefit of children under the age of zero to 14 years of age. Due to the fiscal consolidation policies, many countries have reduced social protection for children.
- Mothers only 41.1 percent of the world's mothers receive maternity benefits.
- While the remaining 58.9 percent (83 million) of the newborns are deprived of this benefit.  
21.8 percent of the unemployed workers are covered with 'unemployment benefits'.
- The number of non-custodians is 152 million.
- Worldwide, the percentage of overlap with disability benefits is 27.8.
- 68% of the world's people get pension in old age.



- There are wide regional variations in the pension and other benefits of the elderly. On this item, there is an average 6.9 percent expenditure on GDP globally which is insufficient to spend.
- Global level, 56% of the population in rural areas is undermined by health, service protection.  
In terms of urban areas it is 22 percent.
- 10 million additional health workers are estimated at the global level to achieve universal health coverage.

**Reference:**

[http://www.ilo.org/global/publications/books/WCMS\\_604882/lang-en/index.htm](http://www.ilo.org/global/publications/books/WCMS_604882/lang-en/index.htm)

### 3rd Annual Meeting of Board of Governors of Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank

**Question: Where will the third annual meeting of the Board of Directors of Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank be organized?**

(a) New Delhi (b) Mumbai (c) Beijing (d) Shanghai

**Answer:(b)**

**Related Facts:**

- 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Meeting of the Board of Governors of AIIB will be organized at Mumbai on 25<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup> June 2018.
- India will host this Meeting.
- The Theme of the Annual Meeting, 2018 will be “Mobilizing Finance for Infrastructure: Innovation and Collaboration”.
- The Annual Meeting will bring to Mumbai the delegates from all 80 AIIB Member countries, business leaders, members of civil society organizations and media among others.
- Annual Meeting related Seminars would also be organized in some Indian cities like Delhi, Kolkata, Guwahati, Hyderabad, Chennai, Bangalore & Vishakhapatnam etc. prior to the main Annual Meeting.
- The Government of India and Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB) Secretariat today signed the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to delineate the duties and responsibilities of major stakeholders who would be involved in organizing the aforesaid Annual Meeting.



**Reference:**

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=174278>

### 11th WTO Ministerial Conference-2017

**Question: Where was the '11th WTO Ministerial Conference' organized during December 10-13, 2017?**

(a) Muscat (b) Doha (c) Buenos Aires (d) Jakarta

**Answer: (c)**

**Related facts:**

- During 10-13 December, 2017, the '11th WTO Ministerial Conference' was held in Buenos Aires, Argentina.
- This conference was chaired by the Argentine Minister



Malcorra.

- Representatives of 164 member countries participated in this conference.
- Union Commerce and Industry Minister Suresh Prabhu led the Indian delegation to this conference.
- It is notable that the Ministerial Conference is the top decision unit of this organization.
- The four-day meeting ended without any ministerial declaration or any concrete results.
- The key reason for this is the withdrawal of America from the commitment to finding a permanent solution to the public food storage issue.
- With the failure of talks in the conference, other developing countries like India have been disappointed.
- The United States refused to reach at a common platform about the demand for food security raised by India, which made this conversation unsuccessful.
- Only a slight progress has taken place in the field of fishery and e-commerce, as it has been agreed on the working programs.
- Significantly, India has been advocating a permanent solution to the food stock issue and a positive result was expected in this negotiation.
- The Indian delegation led by Suresh Prabhu and the group of G-33 countries of the world was also emphasizing its permanent solution.
- Because it is essential for providing food to millions of poor in developing countries of the world.
- Under the Global Business Rules, food subsidies of member countries of the organization should not exceed 10 percent of the value of production based on the value of 1986 to 1988.
- India has been demanding amendment in the formula for assessment of food subsidy limits.
- It says that due to the implementation of the food security program, there will be a violation of the WTO set limits.
- All developing countries, including India, believe that the priority of the WTO should not be confined to agricultural products, but it must also include the manufacturing and service sector.
- It is noteworthy that for the last two decades, the meaning of international trade has changed, in which the developing countries in the field of manufacturing and service sector are putting tremendous challenge to developed countries.
- After this, developed countries have tried to provide protection to their industries, which is being opposed by developing countries.
- Having a no outcome of the meeting has raised a big question about the relevance and reliability of this organization.

**Reference:**

[https://www.wto.org/english/thewto\\_e/minist\\_e/mc11\\_e/mc11\\_e.htm](https://www.wto.org/english/thewto_e/minist_e/mc11_e/mc11_e.htm)

## Palestine's Capital declared at the OIC Conference

**Question: OIC summit was recently organized at-**

(a) Doha (b) Istanbul (c) Dubai (d) Oman

**Answer: (b)**

**Related facts:**



- On December 13th, 2017; Eastern Jerusalem has been declared as the capital of Palestine during the summit of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) held in Istanbul, Turkey.
- This announcement has been made by the member countries of this organization in response to the recent recognition of Jerusalem by the United States as the capital of Israel.
- All 57 member countries in the general meeting rejected this decision of the United States.
- The summit was organized by Turkish President Tayyip Erdoğan.
- In the conference, Turkey strongly opposed the America's decision, which is a member of the United States-led NATO.

**Reference:**

<http://www.aljazeera.com/news/2017/12/oic-leaders-reject-trump-decision-jerusalem-171213095417995.html>

## The Legatum Prosperity Index 2017

**Question- Legatum Prosperity Index released by the International Non-Governmental Organization Legatum Institute. In this list India has got which place?**

(a) 101<sup>st</sup> (b) 100<sup>th</sup> (c) 98<sup>th</sup> (d) 85<sup>th</sup>

**Answer: (b)**

**Related Facts:**

- On November 29th, 2017, the Legatum Prosperity Index-2017 was released by the international non-governmental organization 'Legatum Institute'.
- This index covers 149 countries of the world.
- It is worth noting that this index is being released every year since 2007, which is based on the prosperity of nations, economic growth and quality of life.
- **These conditions have been described as the combination of nine pillars:**
- Economic Quality, Business Environment, Governance, Personal Freedom, Social Capital, Safety and Security, Education, Health, and the Natural Environment.
- Norway has been ranked 1st in index.
- Norway was followed by New Zealand, Finland, Switzerland and Sweden respectively.
- The lower-ranked countries in this index are respectively ranked Yemen (149th), Central African Republic (148th), Sudan (147th), Afghanistan (146th), and Chad (145th).
- India has been ranked 100th in the Legatum Prosperity Index, while it was at 104th position last year (LIP-2016).
- In this index, India's the neighboring countries position is as follows: Sri Lanka (53rd), China (90th), Nepal (89th), Bangladesh (111th) and Pakistan (137th).
- **The situation in the following 9 sub-indices of India in this index is as follows:**
  - (i) Economic Quality – 56th place
  - (ii) Business Environment -65th place.
  - (iii) Administration (Governance) -41st place.
  - (iv) Personal Freedom – 100th place.
  - (v) Social Capital – 82nd place.
  - (vi) Safety and Security – 134th place.
  - (vii) Education – 99th place.



(viii) Health – 109th place.

(ix) Natural Environment -139th place.

- According to the Legatum Prosperity Index, 2017, if the BRICS countries are compared, then India is ranked lower in comparison to other BRICS countries except Russia.
- In this year's index, the position of BRICS countries is as follows: South Africa (52nd place), Brazil (54th), China (90th) and Russia (101st).

**Reference:**

<http://prosperitysite.s3-accelerate.amazonaws.com/3515/1187/1128/Legatum Prosperity Index 2017.pdf>

## TIME Person of the Year-2017

**Question: Who has recently been selected for 'Time Person of the Year-2017' by US prestigious international magazine 'TIME'?**

- (a) Angela Merkel (b) Ebola Fighters (c) The Silence Breakers  
(d) Donald Trump

**Answer: (c)**

**Related Facts:**

- On December 7th, 2017, 'The Silence Breakers' (The SILENCE BREAKERS: The Voices That Launched A Movement) has been selected as the 'Time Person of the Year-2017' by prestigious Times Magazine of America.
- The list of the individuals who have been selected for 'Person of the Year' include famous actresses of Hollywood and Women who have faced sexual harassment and misbehavior in public life.
- These women made public their harsh experiences of sexual harassment through a campaign of #MeToo on a social media.
- It is worth noting that by the time magazine, such persons, groups, ideas or events are selected every year since 1927 on the basis of voting of their readers who has affected the world community (positively or negatively).
- US President Trump stood second while Chinese President Xi Jinping remained in the third place in the race of 'Person of the Year-2017'.
- It is worth mentioning that in the year 2016, Time Magazine selected US President Donald Trump as 'Time Person of the Year'.
- Mahatma Gandhi was the first and only person from India who was selected by Time magazine as 'Time Person of the Year' in the year 1930.



**Reference:**

<http://time.com/time-person-of-the-year-2017-silence-breakers/>



## Miss Universe

**Question: Who won the title of the 66th Miss Universe contest, 2017, held in America's Las Vegas on November 26, 2017?**

- (a) Paulina Vega (b) Demi-Leigh Nel-Peters  
(c) Shraddha Shashidhar (d) Iris Mittenaere

**Answer: (b)**

**Related Facts:**

- On November 26, 2017, the 66th edition of Miss Universe Beauty Competition concluded in Los Angeles, United States.
- A total of 92 participants from different countries participated in this.
- Demi-Leigh Nel-Peters from South Africa won the Miss Universe title of 2017 in the competition.
- Miss Universe 2016 France's Iris Mittenaere crowned Demi-le Nell-Peters for the Miss Universe 2017.
- The first Runner Up of the Contest was Columbia's Laura Gonzalez and second runner up, Davina Bennett of Jamaica.
- Shraddha Shashidhar represented India in this competition.

**Reference:**

<https://www.missuniverse.com/post/2340>



## ECONOMICS

### New Service by EPFO's for Members

**Question: Under the new facility introduced recently by the Employees Provident Fund Organization, the subscribers of the Employees Provident Fund Organization will be able to associate how many their previous accounts with the Universal Account Number at one go?**

- (a) 5 (b) 7 (c) 8 (d) 10

**Answer: (d)**

**Related Facts:**

- On 7<sup>th</sup> December, 2017 Employee Provident Fund Organization introduced a new service facility for its more than 4.5 million members.
- Under this new facility, many provident fund registered accounts Will be allowed to link with existing Universal Account Number.
- Under this facility, the Contributor of the Employees' Provident Fund Organization will be able to connect their last 10 accounts with the Universal Account Number at one go.



- This facility will be effective for availing the goal of one provident fund account for one employee.

**Reference:**

<https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/business/india-business/merge-10-old-epf-a/cs-at-one-go-with-epfos-new-service/articleshow/61951884.cms>

## Fitch reduced the growth rate of 2017-18 to 6.7 percent

**Question- Recently, International Rating Agency Fitch lowered the India's GDP growth projection for 2017-18 to what percentage?**

- (a) 6.6 percent (b) 6.7 percent (c) 6.8 percent (d) 6.5 percent

**Answer: (b)**

**Related Facts:**

- On December 4<sup>th</sup>, 2017, International Rating Agency Fitch lowered the India's GDP growth projection for 2017-18 to 6.7 per cent.
- Fitch has released its 'Global Economic Outlook' in December.
- This global ratings agency reduced the growth forecast for the fiscal year to end-March 2018 (FY18) to 6.7 per cent from 6.9 per cent.
- Apart from this, Fitch has expressed the hope that the growth rate in the year 2019 would be 7.3 percent instead of 7.4 percent.
- Improvement in the report of Fitch is less than expected.
- In the recent scenario, inflation has remained low at present and the graph of rupee is going upwards against the dollar.



**Reference:**

<http://www.moneycontrol.com/news/business/economy/fitch-cuts-indias-fy18-gdp-growth-forecast-to-6-7-2454015.html>

## Bagga and Bhariya tribe

**Question: Which of the following states government has recently decided to provide financial assistance of 1000 rupees per month from December 2017 to the families of Sahria, Bagga and Bhariya (Special Backward tribe) tribes to get a rid of malnutrition?**

- (a) Madhya Pradesh (b) Chhattisgarh (c) Jharkhand (d) Odisha

**Answer: (a)**

**Related Facts:**

- On December 20<sup>th</sup>, 2017, in the meeting of the Council of Ministers of Madhya Pradesh, it has been decided to provide financial assistance of 1,000 rupees per month from December 2017 to the families of Sahria, Bagga and Bhariya (Special Backward tribes) tribe to get rid of malnutrition.
- This amount will be deposited in the account of the female head of the family.
- Approximately 2.5 million families of these tribes will be benefitted with this new scheme.



**Reference:**

<http://mpinfo.org/News/TodaysNews.aspx?newsid=20171220N7&LocID=1&PDt=12/20/2017>

## Tehsil Level Consolidated Gaon Fund

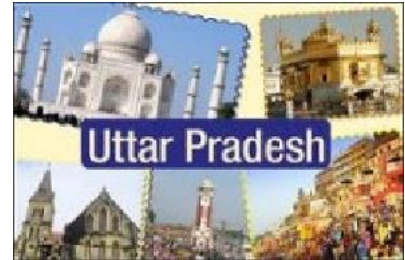
**Question: Under sub-section (5) of which of the following sections of Uttar Pradesh Revenue Code, 2006, a Consolidated Gaon Fund is being set up, by the Government of Uttar Pradesh in each Tehsil?**

(a) Section 62 (b) Section 65 (c) Section 69 (d) Section 72

**Answer: (c)**

**Related facts:**

- On December 13, 2017, the Uttar Pradesh Cabinet approved the formation of Tehsil Level Consolidated Gaon Fund.
- Under the sub-section (5) of Section 69 of Uttar Pradesh Revenue Code, 2006, the Tehsil level Consolidated Gaon Fund is being set up in each tehsil.
- Under Section 69 of the Uttar Pradesh Revenue Code, 2006, the amount deposited in the Consolidated Gaon Fund with the village fund is fixed at 25 percent of the amount deposited in the village fund.
- 2/5 of the funds deposited under section 68 (1) of the Uttar Pradesh Revenue Code, 2006 has been prescribed for the consolidated District Gaon Fund and 3/5 of the Tehsil Consolidated Gaon Fund.
- 50% of the amount of damages or compensation received under Section 68 in the light of section 68 (1) of the said Code shall be deposited in the consolidated District Gaon Fund and 50% Tehsil Level Consolidated Gaon Fund.



**Reference:**

[http://information.up.nic.in/View\\_Hindinews.aspx?id=836](http://information.up.nic.in/View_Hindinews.aspx?id=836)

## Ban on Bitcoin

**Question: Which of the following countries of East Asia has recently issued an order to banks to deal in bitcoin?**

(a) Japan (b) South Korea (c) Taiwan (d) Macau

**Answer: (b)**

**Related Facts:**

- On December 13<sup>th</sup>, 2017, South Korea directed their banks to stop transaction in Bitcoin.
- *Bitcoin* is a new virtual currency that was created in 2009 by using it a person can be paid to someone anywhere in world.
- The special thing is that there is no need to make any bank a medium for this payment.
- Bitcoin is based on Peer to Peer Technology means that the Bitcoin transaction can be done between two computers.
- Bitcoin has been developed by an engineer Satoshi Nagamoto (fake name).
- 1 Bitcoin = 10, 00, 00,000 (10 million) *Satoshi*.
- South Korea has directed to its financial institutions (banks) from transacting in this virtual currency.



- It has taken this step in view of the risk of bubble due to unexpected and steady acceleration.
- In the countries where there are more people using the Internet, the transaction of this virtual currency is increasing.
- Estimates show that ten million people in South Korea have Bitcoin which includes all the small investors.
- The price is 20 percent higher than the US due to its high demand.
- Its price was less than \$ 1000 in January, while its price has reached \$ 17,000 in the second week of December, 2017.

**Reference:**

<https://news.bitcoin.com/south-korean-banks-crypto-accounts-government-plans-a-ban/>

## EU External Investment Plan: climate-smart investments

**Question: Recently during the one Planet summit organized by the European Commission in Paris, how much amount for the climate-smart investments under EU External Investment Plan was announced for Africa and the EU Neighbourhood countries?**

(a) €5 billion (b) €8.5 billion (c) €9 billion (d) €10.5 billion

**Answer: (c)**

**Related Facts:**

- On December 12, 2017, the European Commission during the One Planet Summit in Paris announced the launch of climate-smart investments worth €9 billion as part of the EU External Investment Plan (EIP), for Africa and the EU Neighbourhood countries.
- EU External Investment Plan (EIP) is set to mobilise at least €44 billion of sustainable investment for Africa and the EU Neighbourhood countries by 2020.
- EIP was adopted in September to boost climate investment.
- Miguel Arias Cañete, Commissioner for Climate Action and Energy announced it.
- Investment was made in three targeted areas – sustainable cities, sustainable energy and connectivity and sustainable agriculture, rural entrepreneurs and agribusiness.
- It is known that the one Planet Summit in Paris was organized by the President of France, Emmanuel Macron.



**Reference:**

[https://ec.europa.eu/clima/news/eu-external-investment-plan-climate-smart-investments-worth-eur-9bn-unveiled-one-planet-summit\\_en](https://ec.europa.eu/clima/news/eu-external-investment-plan-climate-smart-investments-worth-eur-9bn-unveiled-one-planet-summit_en)

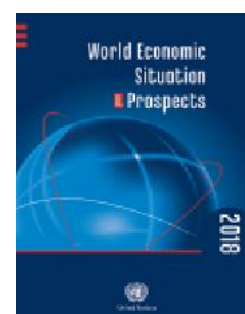
## World Economic Situation and Prospects 2018

**Question- According to the World Economic Situation and Prospects 2018 issued by UN, What is the percentage of India's economic growth rate predicted for 2018?**

(a) 7.2 percent (b) 7.4 percent (c) 7.1 percent (d) 7.5 percent

**Answer: (a)**

**Related Facts:**



- On December 11<sup>th</sup>, 2017, World Economic Situation and Prospects 2018 was issued by UN.
- According to this, the Indian economy is expected to grow at a rate of 7.2 percent in 2018.
- India's economic growth rate will reach 7.4 percent in the year 2019.
- According to the latest report, the global growth rate in 2017 was 3.0 percent, which is more than the global growth rate (2.4 percent) of 2016.
- It is expected to be 3.0 percent in 2018 and 2019.
- The growth rate of developed economies is predicted 2.0 percent and 1.9 percent in 2018 and 2019 respectively.
- While growth rate of developing economies is expected to be 4.6 percent and 4.7 percent in 2018 and 2019 respectively.
- It is noteworthy that the global growth rate in 2017 is at the highest growth since 2011.
- According to the report, the growth rate of United States is estimated to be remained 2.1 percent in both the years 2018 and 2019.
- The growth rate of euro zone is estimated to be 2.0 percent in 2018 and 1.9 percent in 2019.
- The growth rate of East and South Asia will be 5.8 percent in 2018 and 5.9 percent in 2019.
- Growth rate of South Asia is estimated to be 6.5 percent in 2018 and 7.0 percent in 2019.
- It has been said in the report that despite the initial economic slowdown and side effects of the demonetization due to the more private consumption and public investment, in addition to more structured reforms the scenario for India remains quite positive.
- In 2018, India's fiscal deficit is likely to be 3.2 percent of GDP.
- China's growth rate in BRICS countries is likely to be 6.5 and 6.3 percent in 2018 and 2019 respectively.
- Russia's growth rate for both year (2018 and 2019) is estimated to be 1.9 percent.

**Reference:**

<https://www.un.org/development/desa/dpad/publication/world-economic-situation-and-prospects-2018/>

## [The Most Expensive Celebrity Brands in the Country](#)

**Question: According to the rankings released by Duff & Phelps recently, who amongst the following is the most expensive celebrity brands in the country?**

- (a) Shahrukh Khan (b) Salman Khan  
(c) Mahendra Singh Dhoni (d) Virat Kohli

**Answer: (d)**

**Related Facts:**

- On December 20<sup>th</sup>, 2017, Duff & Phelps released the country's most expensive celebrity brand Ranking.
- According to the ranking, out of the top 10 celebrity brands in the country 9 are from acting / film segments and only 1 cricketer is included.
- According to this, Indian cricket captain Virat Kohli is the most expensive celebrity brand in the country.
- His brand value is estimated to be 144 million dollars.





- Famous Bollywood actor Shahrukh Khan (brand value Rs 106 crore) and actress Deepika Padukone (brand value \$ 93 million) are in second and third place respectively.
- After this Akshay Kumar, Ranveer Singh, Salman Khan, Hrithik Roshan, Amitabh Bachchan, Alia Bhatt and Varun Dhawan have 4<sup>th</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup>, 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup>, 8<sup>th</sup>, 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> position respectively.

**Reference:**

<https://www.duffandphelps.com/assets/pdfs/publications/valuation/celebrity-brand-valuation-2017.pdf>

## Most Expensive office Space

**Question: According to the recent report of Property Advisory firm ‘Cushman and Wakefield’, what is the place of Delhi in the list of world’s most expensive office places?**

(a) 82<sup>nd</sup> (b) 83<sup>rd</sup> (c) 84<sup>th</sup> (d) 85<sup>th</sup>

**Answer: (c)**

**Related facts:**

- In December, Property counseling firm ‘Cushman & Wakefield’ released a list of the world’s most expensive office locations.
- According to this list Delhi is 84<sup>th</sup> in this context.
- Delhi has an annual cost of \$ 5,392 per workstation (Rs 3.5 lakh).
- Based on the cost of approximately Rs 430 per square foot per month, the cost of each workstation in Delhi NCR is Rs 3, 51,008 per year which is the highest in India.
- The above list was released under ‘Office Space across the World, 2017’.
- The Hong Kong is at the top position (first place) in the list with an annual cost of \$ 27,431 Per Work Station.
- This is followed by the position of London and Tokyo.
- After Delhi, the rest of India’s offices are out of top 100 rankings.
- In India, the Bandra-Kurla Complex (Mumbai) is the second most expensive place with a rent of more than two lakh rupees per Work station.
- Mumbai’s BKC remained 163<sup>rd</sup> in the global list.
- CBD of Kolkata 207<sup>th</sup>, Pune’s CBD 210<sup>th</sup>, Chennai’s suburban South 211<sup>th</sup>, Bangalore’s outer ring road 213<sup>th</sup>, Hyderabad’s Madhopur 214<sup>th</sup> and Ahmedabad’s SG Highway got the 215<sup>th</sup>



**Reference:**

<http://www.cushmanwakefield.com/en/news/2017/11/office-space-across-the-world-2017/>

## ADB Provides loan to Upgrade State Highways in Karnataka

**Question: Loan for how many million dollars has been approved by the Asian Development Bank (ADB) for the upgradation of highways in state of Karnataka?**

(a) USD 655 million (b) USD346 million (c) USD107 million  
(d) USD 200 million

**Answer- (b)**

**Related Facts:**





- On December 8, 2017, the Asian Development Bank's (ADB) Board of Directors has approved a \$346 million loan to upgrade highways in the Indian state of Karnataka.
- The project will improve 419 kilometers of state highways, upgrading them to two and four-lane widths with paved shoulders, depending on traffic needs, and improving culverts and bridges.
- The project roads will also address the needs of residents along the state roads for adequate footpaths, lights, and improvement to curves that pose safety hazards, especially at night.
- In addition, the project will strengthen the efficiency and work of the Karnataka Public Works, Ports, and Inland Water Transport Department.
- The total cost of this project is \$655 million, of which the state government will provide \$202 million.
- Rest estimated \$107 million will be invested by private sector through hybrid annuity contracts.
- The project is due for completion at the end of 2023.

**Reference:**

<https://www.adb.org/news/adb-provides-346-million-upgrade-state-highways-karnataka-india>

## 24th GST Council Meeting

**Question: In the 24th meeting of the recently concluded GST Council, from when implementation of a similar e-way bill system for inter-state and inter-state movement was decided?**

- (a) February 1, 2018 (b) January 16, 2018 (c) June 1, 2018  
(d) April 1, 2018

**Answer: (c)**

**Related Facts:**

- On December 16th, 2017, the 24th Meeting of the GST Council held today through video conference under the Chairmanship of the Union Minister of Finance and Corporate Affairs, Shri Arun Jaitley.
- It discussed about the implementation of e-way Bill system in the country. Till such time as the National e-way Bill is ready, the States were authorized to continue their own separate e-way Bill systems.
- The GST Council reviewed the progress of readiness of hardware and software required for the introduction of nationwide e-way Bill System.
- After discussions with all the States, the following decisions were taken:
- The nationwide e-way Bill system will be ready to be rolled out on a trial basis latest by 16th January, 2018. Trade and transporters can start using this system on a voluntary basis from 16th January, 2018.
- The Rules for implementation of nationwide e-way Bill system for Inter-State movement of goods on a compulsory basis will be notified with effect from 1st February, 2018. This will bring uniformity across the States for seamless inter-State movement of goods.
- While the System for both inter-State and intra-State e-way Bill generation will be ready by 16th January, 2018, the States may choose their own timings for implementation of e-way Bill for intra-State movement of goods on any date before 1st June, 2018.



- It is known that the GST e-way bill is an electronic bill which is necessary for exchange of goods worth more than Rs. 50 thousand rupees.

**Reference:**

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=174401>

## TCS is at the top in creating wealth

**Question: According to the recent study of Annual Wealth Creation, which Indian company remained top of the wealth creation during the five-year period (2012-2017)?**

(a) ITC (b) Reliance Industry (c) TCS (d) HDFC Bank

**Answer: (c)**

**Related facts:**

- On December 8, 2017, the brokerage firm 'Motilal Oswal' released 22nd Annual Wealth Creation Study.
- According to this report, the top 100 Wealth Creators created INR 38.9 trillion of wealth during 2012-17.
- In this list, Tata Group's IT company TCS has been successful in keeping the top position for the fifth consecutive year.
- TCS created Investor Wealth of about Rs 2.499 lakh crore during 2012-17.
- Private sector HDFC Bank is second in this case.
- During this period, the bank has created assets of Rs 2.31 lakh crore.
- Reliance Industries has been ranked third with assets of 1.89 lakh crore.
- FMCG (Fast Moving Consumer Goods) ITC got fourth place with total assets worth 1.59 lakh crore and Maruti Suzuki with 1.41 lakh crore, got the fifth place.
- The theme of the report for this year was 'CAP & GAP-Power of Longevity in Wealth Creation'.



**Reference:**

<http://www.motilaloswal.com/site/rreports/HTML/636483549560358492/index>

## India's GDP growth rate is estimated at 7.5 percent in 2018

**Question- According to the report released by global financial services company Morgan Stanley, what is the percentage of India's GDP growth rate estimated in 2018?**

(a) 6.4 percent (b) 7.7 percent (c) 7.5 percent (d) 7.2 percent

**Answer: (c)**

**Related facts:**

- According to a report released by the global financial services provider Morgan Stanley in December, India's GDP growth rate is estimated at 7.5 percent in 2018.
- There is a possibility of a cyclic improvement in India's economy.
- There is a possibility of growth of 1.1 percent in 2018 as compared to 2017.
- The growth rate is likely to be 7.7 percent in 2019.
- This report estimates the global GDP growth rate of 3.8 percent.
- China has been ranked second after India in the report, whose estimated GDP growth rate is 6.5 percent.



- According to Morgan Stanley the basic advantages and benefits of the companies are improving.
- This will strengthen the financial system and will be able to meet the needs of credit demand for investment.
- According to the report, now the demand is improving after the problems in issuing banknotes and in implementing GST.
- Thereby, the prospects of improving private capital expenditure are strong.
- In addition, consumption and exports are on the rise.
- Because of this, revenue from companies is expected to increase.
- Founded in 1935, this financial institution is headquartered in New York City of America.

**Reference:**

<https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/business/india-business/indias-gdp-growth-to-rise-to-7-5-in-2018-morgan-stanley/articleshow/61976981.cms>

## Direct Tax Collection in the financial year 2017-18

**Question: What was the total direct tax collection (final) in the financial year 2017-18 till November, 2017?**

- (a) 3.5 lakh crores (b) 4.2 lakh crores (c) 4.8 lakh crore (d) 5.8 lakh crores

**Answer: (c)**

**Related facts:**

- Total Direct Tax Collection (Provisional) upto November, 2017, in the financial year 2017-18, was Rs. 4.8 lakh crore.
- It recorded an increase of 14.4 percent compared to the same period last year.
- The gross direct tax collections show 49 percent of the total estimated budget of 9.8 lakh crore for the financial year 2017-18.
- During the period April-November, 2017, the gross collection (before the refund adjustment) was 5.82 lakh crore rupees.
- It recorded an increase of 10.7 percent.
- Rs 1.02 lakh crore refunded till April-November, 2017



**Reference:**

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=174224>

## Cabinet approves capital investment subsidy to industrial units located in North Eastern Region (including Sikkim)

**Question- Capital Investment Subsidy amounting to how much crore has been approved by Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs to four industrial units located in North Eastern Region (NER) including Sikkim under Central Capital Investment Subsidy Scheme (CCISS), 2007?**

- (a) 150.25 crores (b) 250.68 crores (c) 264.67 crores  
(d) 266.75 crores

**Answer: (c)**

**Related facts:**

- On December 15, 2017, Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs chaired by the Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi has approved Capital



Investment Subsidy amounting to Rs.264.67 crore to four industrial units located in North Eastern Region (NER) including Sikkim under Central Capital Investment Subsidy Scheme (CCISS), 2007 of North East Industrial Investment and Promotion Policy (NEIIPP), 2007.

- The CCEA has also revised financial powers for approval of capital investment subsidy claims upto Rs.500 crore which will be now approved by the Minister of Commerce & Industry. This will facilitate expeditious settlement of claims.
- The grant of subsidy to the industrial units will not only provide incentives to the operational units but also boost confidence of existing investors as well as potential investors in the states of NER.
- The Government of India has been implementing this Scheme to promote industrialization in North Eastern Region.

**Reference:**

<http://www.pib.nic.in/PressReleaseDetail.aspx?PRID=1512792>

## 15th Finance Commission Constituted

**Question: Recently, the central government formed the 15th Finance Commission under whose chair?**

(a) Dr. Anup Singh (b) Dr. Ramesh Chand (c) Dr. Raghuram Rajan (d) N. K. Singh

**Ans: (d)**

**Related facts:-**

- The Central Government constituted 15th Finance Commission on November 27, 2017
- Commission will be Presided over by N. K. Singh, former Rajya Sabha member, former Secretary of the Central Government and former member of the Planning Commission
- Former Union Government Secretary Shantikant Das and Assistant Professor of Georgetown University Dr. Anoop Singh will be the other members of the Commission.
- Ashok Lahiri, Chairman, Bandhan Bank (Non-Executive Part-time) and member of the Policy Commission Dr. Ramesh Chand will be part-time member of the Commission.
- Arvind Mehta will be the secretary of the commission.
- The Chairman and other members of the Commission shall hold the post from the date they hold their position, till the date of submission of report or till 30th October, 2019 whichever is earlier.
- It is notable that the Finance Commission is constituted under Article 280 (1) of the Indian Constitution.
- The 15th Finance Commission will be applicable from 1st April, 2020.
- The Commission will make recommendations about the following topics, i.e.
- the net proceeds between the Union and the States,
- The principles governing grants-in-aid in the revenue of states from the accumulated fund of India and those states as specified in the proviso to clause (1) of that article as a grant-aid in their revenues under Article 275 of the Constitution. For the purposes different from the purposes, assistance is required, funds to be paid, and



- On the basis of the recommendations made by the State Finance Commission, necessary assistance for the promotion of the accumulated fund of any state for the provision of resources of Panchayats and Municipalities in the state.
- In addition, the Commission will review the status of efforts of the Union and States to maintain current financial system, deficit, credit levels, cash surplus and fiscal discipline and recommend fiscal framework for fiscal consolidation for strong fiscal management.
- Following the recommendations of the Commission, the 14th Finance Commission will consider the impact on the financial condition of the Union with the continuation of the national development agenda, including the increase in the overall growth of taxes, renunciation of states, including New India, 2022.
- The Commission will consider the effect of the Goods and Services Tax (GST) on the financial instruments of the Center and the States.
- Including the payment of compensation for potential revenue loss for 5 years and termination of certain subtaxes which will be decided for compensation and other structural improvements.
- The Commission will use the population data of 2011 when making its recommendations.
- The Commission will present its report to the Central Government by October 30, 2019, potentializing the period of 5 years starting from 1st April, 2020.

**Related Links:-**

<http://www.egazette.nic.in/WriteReadData/2017/180483.pdf>

## One rupee note: 100 years complete

**Question: By whom one rupee note is signed?**

- (a) Governor of Reserve Bank (b) Finance Minister  
(c) Finance Secretary (d) Finance Advisor

**Answer: (c)**

**Related Facts:**

- On November 30<sup>th</sup>, 2017, the currency of one rupee note in India completed 100 years.
- One rupee note was issued on November 30, 1917, having the picture of King George V of Britain on it.
- An important feature of one rupee note is that it is not issued by the Reserve Bank of India like other Indian notes.
- It is signed by Finance Secretary of the Government of India.
- On the legal basis, this is the only real currency note (currency note).
- All other notes are the note (promissory notes) on which the holder is promised to pay the same amount.
- *First one rupee note* which was printed in 1917 had the signatures of *three British finance secretaries* – MMS Gubbay, AC McWatters and H
- It is noteworthy that since independence, notes of one rupee signed by 18 Finance Secretaries have been issued so far.



**Reference:**

<http://www.thehindu.com/news/national/one-rupee-note-celebrates-its-100th-birthday/article21196089.ece>



## Largest consumer of agricultural export of Ukraine

**Question: Which country became the largest consumer of agricultural export from Ukraine in the year 2017?**

(a) Egypt (b) India (c) Netherlands (d) Bangladesh

**Answer: (b)**

**Related Facts:**

- According to information provided by the Agriculture Ministry of Ukraine on November 28, 2017, between January and October, 2017, India was the largest consumer country of agricultural products of Ukraine.
- In the aforesaid period, India imports 11.3% of the agricultural product from Ukraine.
- Ukraine's agricultural exports to India in the aforesaid period were \$ 14.7 billion.
- The second largest importer of Ukraine's agricultural products was Egypt (7.5%).
- In this regard, the Netherlands remained third with 6.9%.
- During January-October, 2017; sunflower exported by Ukraine for \$ 3.6 billion.
- In the same period 15.6 million tonnes wheat (\$ 2.4 billion) was exported by Ukraine.
- India is a major market of sunflower oil, maize and wheat germ in Ukraine.



**Reference:**

[http://www.business-standard.com/article/reuters/india-becomes-biggest-consumer-of-ukraine-agriculture-exports-117112800716\\_1.html](http://www.business-standard.com/article/reuters/india-becomes-biggest-consumer-of-ukraine-agriculture-exports-117112800716_1.html)

## SCIENTIFIC

### DEFENSE/SCIENCE SHORT NOTES

#### Successful test of 'Prithvi' Advanced Air Defense Supersonic Interceptor Missile

**Question: From where DRDO successfully tested the indigenously built 'Prithvi' Advanced Air Defense Supersonic Interceptor Missile?**

(a) Pokhran (b) Jaisalmer (c) Balasore (d) Visakhapatnam

**Answer: (c)**

**Related Facts:**

- On December 28<sup>th</sup>, 2017, Defence Research and Development Organization (DRDO) successfully tested 'Prithvi' Advanced Air Defense (AAD) supersonic interceptor missile from Dr Abdul Kalam Island about 100 km away from Balasore coast of Odisha.
- The interceptor directly hit the target at an altitude of about 15 kilometres and destroyed it into fragments.
- The spectacular success puts India in the league of a very few select nations world over in the arena of critical defence technology.





- It is worth mentioning that this is the third supersonic interceptor test carried out this year in which an incoming ballistic missile target was successfully intercepted, within 30 km altitude of the earth's atmosphere by an interceptor.
- Earlier, two successful tests were conducted on 11<sup>th</sup> February and 1<sup>st</sup> March, 2017.
- This missile is part of the multi-level ballistic missile defense system.
- It has been developed by Defense Research and Development Organization (DRDO).
- A 7.5 meter long single phase solid fuel guided missile is equipped with a directive system, high-tech computer and electro-mechanical activator.

**Reference:**

<https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/defence/india-successfully-test-fires-supersonic-interceptor-missile/articleshow/62280037.cms>

## 50 years of Indian Navy submarine branch

**Question- Where was the President of Indian Navy submitting to the President's Colors by President Ramnath Kovind recently?**

(a) Kochi (b) Goa (c) Visakhapatnam (d) Rameswaram

**North- (c)**

**Related Facts**

- December 8, 2017, President Ramnath Kovind has given the submarine branch of the Indian Navy to Visakhapatnam (Andhra Pradesh) ) In the President Colors.
- This respect was given on the occasion of the 50th anniversary of this prestigious submarine branch of Navy.
- Earlier, the President inaugurated the naval marine science museum.
- This museum has been mounted for sea surveillance Tupolov 142 S, which has been in service for the Navy for almost three decades.



**Referens :**

<http://pib.nic.in/PressReleaseDetail.aspx?PRID=1512042>

## Commissioning of Offshore Patrol Vessel (OPV) ICGS Sujay

**Question: Recently "Sujay", the sixth in the series of six 105m Offshore Patrol Vessel (OPV) was commissioned. This OPV has been designed and built by which of the following shipyard?**

(a) Cochin Shipyard Ltd. (b) Mazagon Shipyard Ltd. (c) Goa Shipyard Ltd.  
(d) L & T Shipyard Ltd.

**Answer- (c)**

**Related Facts:**

- On December 21, 2017, "Sujay", the sixth in the series of six 105m Offshore Patrol Vessel (OPV) was commissioned by Director General Indian Coast Guard Shri Rajendra Singh at Goa.
- 'Sujay' means 'Great Victory' which is also projection of Indian Coast Guard's will and commitment "To serve and Protect" the maritime interest of the nation.



- OPV has been designed and built indigenously by Goa Shipyard Ltd and is fitted with state-of-the-art navigation and communication equipment, sensors and machineries.
- The ship is based at Paradip, Odisha under the operational and administrative control of Commander Coast Guard Region (North-East).
- The features include 30mm CRN 91 Naval Gun, Integrated Bridge System (IBS), Integrated Machinery Control System (IMCS), Power Management System (PMS) and High Power External Fire Fighting System.
- The ship is designed to carry one twin engine Light Helicopter and five high speed boats including two Quick Reaction Inflatable Boats for swift boarding operations, search and rescue, law enforcement and maritime patrol.
- The ship draws 2350 tons(GRT) propelled by two 9100 KW diesel engines to attain a maximum speed of 23 Knots and has an endurance of 6000 NM at economical speed.

**Reference:**

<http://www.pib.nic.in/PressReleaseDetail.aspx?PRID=1513680>

## Ajeya Warrior – joint military exercise

**Question: Between which of the following two countries joint military exercise-‘Ajeya Warrior’ concluded during December 1<sup>st</sup>– 14<sup>th</sup> 2017?**

- (a) India and UK (b) India and Oman (c) India and China  
(d) India and Australia

**Answer: (a)**

**Related Facts:**

- Between December 1<sup>st</sup>– 14<sup>th</sup>, 2017 joint military exercise- ‘Ajeya Warrior’ concluded between armed forces of India and UK.
- Fourteen-day joint Military exercise was organized at the Mahajan Field Firing Ranges in Rajasthan.
- This is the third joint military exercise between these two countries.
- Earlier, the first exercise of this series was held in Belgaum, Karnataka in 2013 and the second in year 2015 in the UK.
- In this exercise, the 20th battalion of the Indian Army’s Rajputana Rifle and the first battalion of Britain, the Royal Anglian Regiment, shared the experience of counter-terrorism.
- Approximately 120 personnel from each side participated in it.



**Reference:**

<http://www.firstpost.com/india/ajeya-warrior-india-uk-third-joint-military-training-exercise-in-rajasthan-concludes-4258733.html>

## World’s First Political Robot

**Question: The world’s first political robot was developed by scientists recently. What is the name of this virtual politician?**

- (a) Uncle (b) Sam (c) Tony (d) Billy-Billy

**Answer: (b)**

**Related Facts:**



- In the year 2017, the World's first Political Robot was developed by scientists of New Zealand.
- This virtual politician has been named Sam.
- This robot is capable of answering the questions asked on local issues related to housing, education and immigration policies.
- This robot is being prepared to make candidates in the general elections to be held in New Zealand in the year 2020.
- It is created by 49 year old entrepreneur Nick Gerritsen of New Zealand.

**Reference:**

<http://www.thehindu.com/sci-tech/technology/worlds-first-ai-politician-developed/article20945483.ece>

## Exercise Ekuverin- 2017

**Question: Where did the eighth joint military exercise 'Ekuverin 2017' is being organised between India and Maldives recently?**

- (a) Trivandrum, Kerala (b) Kadhdhoo Lamu Atoll, Maldives  
(c) Belagavi, Karnataka (d) Visakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh

**Answer: (c)**

**Related facts:**

- During 15-28 December, 2017, the eighth joint military exercise between India and Maldives 'Ekuverin-2017' began in Belagavi Karnataka.
- This 14 day practice is the annual joint exercise between the Indian Army and the Maldives National Defense Force (MNDF).
- Exercise is being organized alternatively in India and Maldives with participation of an Infantry platoon from each side.
- The objectives of the exercise are to enhance defence cooperation and interoperability between the army of both countries with emphasis on Counter Insurgency and Counter Terrorist operations under UN mandate.
- In this exercise, the Indian Army led by the soldiers of the Gorkha Rifles battalion and the Maldives Army led by the Maldives National Defense Force personnel.
- The seventh edition of this exercise was organized in Kadhdhoo, Lamu Atoll, Maldives in 2016.



**Reference:**

<http://www.thehindu.com/news/national/karnataka/joint-military-exercises-help-in-anti-terror-operations/article21820304.ece>

## Flag4

**Question: At which of the following places the joint military exercise of United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom, United States and France, 'Flag-4' is being organized?**

- (a) Paris (b) Washington (c) Abu Dhabi (d) London

**Answer: (c)**

**Related Facts**



- On December 4<sup>th</sup>, 2017, joint army training exercise of United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom, United States and France is being organized in Abu Dhabi.
- The name of two week long exercise is “Flag-4”.
- Its aim is to increase combat efficiency, gain more field expertise, and work to unify military concepts among participating parties.

**Reference:**

<http://www.news-bharati.com/Encyc/2017/12/5/Army-exercise-UAE.html>

## New President of IDSA

**Question: Recently Who was, elected as the new president of the Institute for Defense Studies and Analysis (IDSA)?**

- (a) Nirmala Sitharaman (b) Sushma Swaraj  
(c) Manohar Parrikar (d) S. Jayashankar

**Ans: (a)**

**Related facts:-**

- On November 23, 2017, Union Defense Minister Nirmala Sitharaman was elected as the President of the Institute of Defense Studies and Analysis (IDSA).
- In this post, she will replace the Manohar Parrikar.
- IDSA was established in November, 1965 by the Ministry of Defense as an autonomous Think Tank.
- Traditionally, the Defense Minister of the country is the President of this institute.



**Related Links:-**

[http://www.business-standard.com/article/news-ians/nirmala-sitharaman-elected-idsa-president-117112500699\\_1.html](http://www.business-standard.com/article/news-ians/nirmala-sitharaman-elected-idsa-president-117112500699_1.html)

## DANX-2017

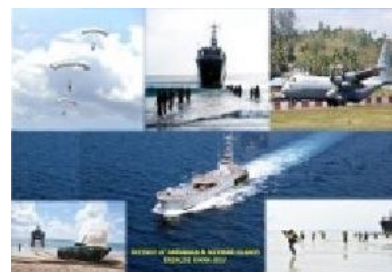
**Question: 20<sup>th</sup>-24<sup>th</sup> November 2017 under the aegis of which Command, Defence of Andaman and Nicobar Islands Exercise (DANX) was conducted?**

- (a) Trident Command (b) Andaman & Nicobar Command  
(c) Eastern Command (d) Southern Command

**Answer: (b)**

**Related Facts:**

- From 20<sup>th</sup>-24<sup>th</sup> November, 2017 Defence of Andaman and Nicobar Islands Exercise (DANX) was conducted under the aegis of Andaman & Nicobar Command.
- Main objective of the exercise was to practice & validate procedures and drills of all the Command forces aimed at defending Andaman & Nicobar Islands.
- Accretional forces from the main land including fighters, Special Forces, Naval ships and heavy lift transport aircraft participated in the exercise.



**Reference:**

<http://pi.b.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=173818>

# SPORTS

## CRICKET

### India-Sri Lanka ODI series

**Question: Who amongst the following was chosen as the 'Player of the Series' in the India-Sri Lanka ODI series-2017, concluded in December 2017?**

- (a) Kuldeep Yadav (b) Rohit Sharma (c) Shikhar Dhawan  
(d) Jaspreet Bumrah

**Answer: (c)**

**Related facts:**

- Three-matches ODI series between India and Sri Lanka concluded. (December 10-17, 2017)
- India won the ODI series with 2-1.
- This is India's eighth consecutive series win in ODIs.
- In this ODI series, Rohit Sharma was the captain of the Indian team.
- Kuldeep Yadav, who took 3 wickets in the third ODI, was selected for 'Man of the Match'.
- India's Shikhar Dhawan was selected as 'Player of the Series'.
- In the second ODI, Rohit Sharma made his third double century (unbeaten 208 runs in 153 balls).
- Rohit Sharma is the only batsman who scored three double centuries in ODIs.
- In 2014, Rohit Sharma had scored 264 against Sri Lanka.
- In the second ODI, India made the 300 plus run for the 100th time.
- In the second ODI, Shreyas Iyer put the first half century of his ODI career.
- It is known that India has not lost any series at home-ground against Sri Lanka yet.



**Reference:**

<http://www.cricbuzz.com/cricket-news/98989/india-cricket-team-first-to-100-instances-of-300-plus-scores-stats>

### India-Sri Lanka Test Series -2017

**Question: India-Sri Lanka test series of three Tests held on December 6, 2017, 2017 India won 1-0. India won 9 consecutive Test series, which country's world record in this case?**

**(i) Australia (ii) the Africa (iii) England**

- (a) (i) (b) (i), (ii) (c) (i), (iii) (d) (ii), (iii)

**Answer: (c)**

**Related Facts:**

- Indian cricket team tour of Sri Lanka (11 November – 24 December, 2017)
- During this tour, 3 Tests, 3 ODIs and 3 T20 matches will be played.
- Test series of three matches concluded. (November 16-December, 2017)
- India won the Test series 1-0.
- Player of the series- Indian captain Virat Kohli (most run 610 runs in the series)





- Indian bowler Ravichandran Ashwin secures the most 12 wickets in the series.
- After winning the series, India equaled the world record of winning consecutive 9 Test series in Australia and England.
- This series captain of India was Virat Kohli and Sri Lankan Captain was Dinesh Chandimal.
- Earlier, Australia had won 9 consecutive test series in the captaincy of Ricky Ponting between 2005-08.
- England had won 9 consecutive Tests during 1884-92.
- India has won 9 matches, 6 played in India, 2 in Sri Lanka and 1 in West Indies.
- Cheteshwar Pujara became the Third Indian batsman and Ninth batsman of the world to bat five days in the first match of the Series.
- In this series Virat Kohli made his 50th international century of his career.
- Virat Kohli, after scoring his 12th century as captain in the second Test, broke the record of former captain Sunil Gavaskar to have 11 centuries.
- In this series, Indian bowler Ravichandran Ashwin became the fastest bowler to take 300 wickets (54th Test) in international cricket.
- Earlier this record was in the name of Australia's Dennis Lillee (56 Test matches).
- In the third test match, Virat also broke the records of West Indian Brian Lara as the captain of most five double centuries.
- Virat scored the sixth double century (243 runs) as captain.
- Virat Kohli, who scored 2 consecutive double centuries in the Test world, also became the first captain of the world to do so.
- Unbeaten 119 runs made by Sri lankan Dhananjay D'Sillah in the last match, the highest score made by any foreign batsman in the fourth innings of a Test match in India.
- The third Test match of the series was played in Feroz Shah Kotla Ground; the second day Sri Lankan players had to wear anti-pollution masks due to smog / smog.
- The first match in the three-match series was played in Kolkata, which was a draw.
- In the second match played in Nagpur, India won by an innings and 239 runs. The last match played in Delhi was a draw.

Reference:

<http://www.espncriinfo.com/ci/engine/series/1122718.html>

## HOCKEY

### Hockey World League Final-2007

**Question: Which of the following teams won the title of Hockey World League Final-2007?**

(a) India (b) Australia (c) Argentina (d) Germany

**Answer: (b)**

**Related Facts:**

- Hockey World League Final-2017 concluded in Bhubaneswar Odisha. (1-10 December, 2017)
- On December 10, 2017, Australia won the title by defeating Argentina 2-1 in the final match played at Kalinga Stadium, Bhubaneswar.





- India won the Bronze medal by defeating Germany 2-1.
- Man of the Match Award-*Juan Ignacio Gilardi*.
- In the final match, the award for ONGC Junior Player of the Match was given to Laclan Sharpe (Australia).
- The other awards given were:
- Best Player of the Tournament -Mats Grambush (Germany),
- ONGC Best Junior Player Award – Victor Wagnez (Belgium),
- Odisha Tourism Best Goalkeeper Award – Juan Vivaldi (Argentina),
- Hero Top Scorer Award -Luike LoiPort made 8 goals (Belgium)
- 8 participant teams in the competition were Australia (winner), Argentina (runner-up), India (bronze medalist and hosting country), Germany (four), Belgium (fifth), Spain (sixth), Netherlands (Seventh) and England (eighth) respectively.

**Reference:**

<http://fih.ch/events/hockey-world-league/odisha-mens-hockey-world-league-final-bhubaneswar-2017/news/australia-s-kookaburras-claim-odisha-men-s-hockey-world-league-final-bhubaneswar-2017/>

## FOOTBALL

### FIFA Club World Cup Football Competition, 2017

**Question: Which one of the following clubs recently won the FIFA Club World Cup Football Tournament, 2017, which was concluded on December 16th, 2017?**

(a) Gramio (b) Real Madrid (c) Al-Jazeera (d) Auckland City

**Answer: (b)**

**Related facts:**

- 14th edition of the FIFA Club World Cup concluded in United Arab Emirates from December 6-16, 2017.
- **Competition Results:**  
Gold Medal: Real Madrid (1-0), Spain  
Silver Medal: Graeme, Brazil  
Bronze Medal: Pachuca, Mexico
- **Award Given-**  
Adidas Godan Ball and Alibaba Cloud Trophy-Luca Modric (Real Madrid)  
Adidas Silver Ball – Cristiano Ronaldo (Real Madrid)  
Adidas Bronze Ball – Jonathan Eretvieskaya (Pacchuka)  
FIFA FAIR PLAY AWARDS – Real Madrid
- This year, 7 clubs participated in the World Cup. They have been ranked: Real Madrid, Gramio, Pachuca, Al-Jazeera, Urva Red Diamonds, Vedad Casablanca and Auckland City respectively.



**Reference:**

<http://www.fifa.com/clubworldcup/index.html>  
<http://www.fifa.com/clubworldcup/awards/index.html>  
<http://www.fifa.com/clubworldcup/news/y=2017/m=12/news=real-madrid-dominate-uae-2017-individual-awards-2925308.html>

# CHESS

## London Chess Classic -2017

**Question: Who amongst the following won the title of the recently concluded London Classic Chess Competition, 2017?**

- (a) Levon Aronian (b) Magnus Carlsen (c) Viswanathan Anand  
(d) Wesley So

**Answer: (b)**

**Related Facts:**

- The London Chess Classic and the Grand Chess Tour concludes. (December 11, 2017)
- **Tournament Result:**  
Winner- Magnus Carlsen (Norway)
- This win has made Carlson 41 points in the Grand Chase Tour and he moved to the first place by overtaking Maxime Vachier Lagr (38 points).
- Carlsen has won of the Grand Chase Tour for the second time.
- Viswanathan Anand of India remained at the ninth place in the score table based on the performance of five major tournaments.

**Reference:**

[http://www.londonchessclassic.com/gct/gct\\_standings.htm](http://www.londonchessclassic.com/gct/gct_standings.htm)

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



# BADMINTON

## 1st South Asian Badminton Tournament

**Question: Which country won the title of the first South Asian Regional Badminton Tournament concluded recently?**

- (a) India (b) Nepal (c) Maldives (d) Bangladesh

**Answer: (a)**

**Related Facts:**

- First South Asian Regional Badminton Tournament concluded at Tarun Roy Fukan Indoor Stadium, Guwahati (Assam). (November 29-December 8, 2017)
- The tournament was organized jointly by Badminton Asia with the Indian Badminton Association and the Assam Badminton Association.
- In this tournament, India defeated Nepal by 3-0 to win the title.
- Aryaman Tandon of India defeated Dipesh Dhami in the men's singles finals.
- In the women's singles finals, Ashmita Chaliha of India defeated Rashila Maharjan of Nepal.
- In men's doubles, pair of Arintap Dasgupta and Krishna Prasad Gof India defeated the pair of Dipesh Dhami and Nabin Shrestha of Nepal.
- India, Bangladesh, Maldives, Nepal and Bhutan participated in this tournament.



**Reference:**

<https://www.aninews.in/news/sports/others/india-beat-nepal-3-0-to-lift-1st-south-asian-badminton-title201712052231250002/>

## Yonex-Sunrise Hong Kong Open, 2017

**Question: Tai Tzu Ying (Taiwan) won women's singles title in Yonex-Sunrise Hong Kong Open, 2017 by defeating which of the following player?**

- (a) Saina Nehwal (b) P.V. Sindhu (c) Mads-Pierre Kolding  
(d) Ratchanok Intanon

**Answer: (b)**

**Related Facts:**

- Yonex-Sunrise Hong Kong Open tournament concluded in Kowloon, Hong Kong. (21-26 November, 2017)
- The main results of the competition are as follows:
- **Men's Singles**  
winner-Lee Chong Wei (Malaysia)  
runner up-Chen Long (China)
- **Woman's Singles**  
winner-Tai Tzu Ying (Taiwan)  
runner up- PV Sindhu (India)
- **Men's Doubles**  
inner-Marcus Fernando Gideon and Kevin Sanjaya Sukamuljo (both Indonesia)  
runner up- Mads Conrad Petersen and Mads-Pierre Kolding (both Denmark)
- **Women's Doubles**  
winner-Chen Quingchen and Jia Yifan (both China)  
runner up-Greysia Polii and Apriyani Rahayu (both Indonesia)
- **Mixed Doubles**  
winner-Zheng Siwel and Huang Yaqlong (both China)  
runner up-Mathias Kristiynsn and Kristina Pedersen (both Denmark)



**Reference:**

<http://bwfworldsuperseries.com/results/3060/yonex-sunrise-hong-kong-open/2017-11-26>

## India International Series

**Question: Who won the title of the India International Series Badminton Competition held on November 26, 2017?**

- (a) P. Kashyap (b) Chetan Anand(c) Lakshya Sen  
(d) Yi Han Chong

**Ans: (c)**

**Related facts:-**

- Done in BWF Super Series Session, 2017 badminton competition India International Series, Hyderabad. (November 23-26, 2017)
- **Competition Results:-**
- **Men's singles:-**
- Winner-Lakshya Sen (India)



- Runner-up – Yee Han Chong (Malaysia)
- **Women's Singles:-**
- Winner-Tanishq Mamilla Pal (India)
- Runner-up Shikha Gautam (India)
- **Men's Doubles**
- Winner-Arun George and Sanyam Shukla (both India)
- Runner-up-Francis Alvin and K. Nandagopal (both India)
- **Women's Doubles**
- Winner-Putri Sari Citra and Yjia Jin (both Singapore)
- Runner-up Jee Lynn Lim and Zhen Yap (both Malaysia)
- **Mixed Double**
- Winner-Tang Jie Chen and Liu Ying Goh (both Malaysia)
- Runners-Rohan Kapoor and Kuhoo Garg (both India)

**Related Links:-**

<http://bwfbadminton.com/results/3058/india-international-series-2017/podium>

## **BOXING**

### AIBA Women's Youth World Championships 2017

**Question: How many gold medals did Indian boxers won at the AIBA Women's Youth World Championships 2017 recently concluded in Guwahati, Assam?**

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

**Answer: (c)**

**Related Facts:**

- AIBA Women's Youth World Championships 2017 concluded in Guwahati, Assam, India. (November 19<sup>th</sup>-26<sup>th</sup>, 2017)
- This championship was organized by India Boxing Federation.
- Total 160 boxers of 31 countries participated in this championship.
- In the competition, India won 5 gold and 2 bronze medals.
- India became the winner of this competition for the first time.
- Indian Gold medal winner of various weight categories were: Nitu (48kg), Jyoti Singh (51kg), Sakshi Chaudhary (54kg), Shashi Chopra (57kg) and Ankushita Boro (64kg).
- Indian player Neha Yadav (81kg) and Anupama (81kg) was the Bronze medalist.
- Indian boxer Jyoti also qualified for the Olympics to be held in Buenos Aires.
- This competition was held for the first time in India.

**Reference:**

<https://d152tffy3gbaeg.cloudfront.net/2017/10/C74E17.pdf>



# BILLIARDS, SNOOKER & SQUASH

## AJ Bell PSA World Squash Championship

**Question: Who won the men's title of AJ Bell PSA World Squash Championship in December 2017?**

(a) Marwan El Shorbagi (b) Mohamed El Shorbagi (c) Saurav Ghosal (d) Ritwik Bhattacharya

**Answer: (b)**

**Related facts:**

- AJ Bell PSA World Squash Championship, 2017 concluded in the Manchester Central Convention Complex, United Kingdom. (December 8-17, 2017)

- **Competition Results:**

- **Men's Singles:**

- Winner: Mohamed El Shorbagy (Egypt)
- Runner up: Marwan ElShorbagy (Egypt)

- **Women's Singles:**

- Winner: Raneem El Welily (Egypt)
- Runner-up: Noor El Sherbini (Egypt)



**Reference:**

<https://ajbellworldchampionships.com/news/view/5235/egypt-s-elshorbagy-and-el-welily-crowned-2017-psa-world-champions>

## IBSF World Snooker Championship-2017

**Question: Who won the gold medal of the IBSF World Snooker Championship, Men's category of 2017?**

(a) Amir Sarkhos (b) Pankaj Advani (c) Wayne Jones  
(d) Zhao Zintang

**Ans: (b)**

**Related facts:-**

- During 17-27 November, 2017, the IBSF World Snooker Championships concluded in Al-Arabi Sports Club, Doha, Qatar.
- The medal winners of the men, women and master's category of competition are as follows:
- **Male Category :-**
- Gold-Pankaj Advani
- Silver-Amir Sarkhos (Iran)
- **Female Category:-**
- Gold-Waratthanun Sukritthanes (Thailand)
- Silver-Wendy Jans (Belgium)
- **Master's Category:-**
- Gold-Darren Morgan (Wales)
- Silver-Aidan Owens (England)



**Related Links:-**

<http://www.hindustantimes.com/other-sports/pankaj-advani-wins-world-snooker-championship->

## GOLF

### Joburg Open 2018

**Question: Who won the title of the recently concluded golf competition, Joburg Open 2018?**

- (a) Arjun Atwal (b) Shubhankar Sharma (c) Erik van Rooyen  
(d) Justin Thomas

**Answer: (b)**

**Related Facts:**

- Golf Tournament Joburg Open, 2018 concluded at Rand Park Golf Club, Johannesburg, South Africa (7-10 December, 2017)
- **Competition Results:**  
Winner- Shubhankar Sharma (India)  
Runner up- Erik van Rooyen (South Africa)
- Shubhankar Sharma is the first Indian golfer to win the Joburg Open.
- It is also his first European tour title.

**Reference:**

<http://www.europeantour.com/europeantour/season=2018/tournamentid=2017098/news/newsid=339223.html>



## FORMULA ONE

### Abu Dhabi Grand Prix: 2017

**Question: Driver, who won the title of the recently concluded Abu Dhabi Grand Prix, 2017 Formula One car race is**

- (a) Sebastian Vettel (b) Valtteri Bottas (c) Lewis Hamilton (d) Daniel Reichardo

**Answer: (b)**

**Related Facts:**

- 20th Car Race of Formula One Session-2017, Airways Abu Dhabi Grand Prix Yas Marina Circuit, concluded in Yas Marina, Abu Dhabi. (November 24<sup>th</sup>-26<sup>th</sup>, 2017)
- **Competition Results**
- **Winner**-Valtteri Bottas (Finland), Team-Mercedes-Benz
- **Runner up**-Lewis Hamilton (UK), Team-Mercedes-Benz
- After this race, in the year 2017, Mercedes-Benz driver Louise Hamilton remains at the top of the table with 363 points.
- Sebastian Vettel driver of Ferrari team is at number two in the points table with 317 points and Valtteri Bottas (Mercedes Benz driver) is at number three in the points table with 305 points.





**Reference:**

<https://www.formula1.com/en/results.html/2017/races/978/abu-dhabi.html>

## ATHLETICS

### 16th Asian Marathon Championships

**Question: Who amongst the following won gold medal in 16<sup>th</sup> Asian marathon Championship?**

- (a) Gopi Thanakal (b) Andrey Petrov (c) Almas Iyna  
(d) Gopi Dhoknata

**Answer: (a)**

**Related Facts:**

- The 16th edition of the Asian Marathon Championship concluded in Dongguan, China. (November 26, 2017).
- India's Gopi Thanakal won the gold medal in the Championship.
- He is the first Indian player to win gold medal in this competition.
- Gopi took 2 hours, 15 minutes, 48 seconds to win Gold.
- The Silver medalist was Andrey Petrov (Uzbekistan) and Mongolia's Byambalev Tseveenravdan won the bronze medal.



**Reference:**

<http://indiatoday.intoday.in/story/gopi-wins-asian-marathon-championship-gold/1/1097642.html>

## SPORTS MISCELLANEOUS

### World Para Swimming Championships, 2017

**Question- Which of the following Indian won the single gold medal in the World Para Swimming Championship, recently concluded in Mexico City?**

- (a) Kanchan Tiwari (b) Kanchanmala Pandey (c) Nupur Jain (d) Kavita

**Answer: (b)**

**Related Facts:**

- World Para Swimming Championship-2017 concluded in Mexico City (December 2-7, 2017).
- On 7th December, 2017, India's Kanchanmala Pandey won gold medal in 200 meters medley event in S-11 category.
- She is the first Indian women player to win the gold medal in this championship.
- A total of 304 athletes participated in this championship.
- India remained at 25<sup>th</sup> place jointly with Austria and Cyprus by winning only one gold medal in this championship.
- China topped the list by winning 30 gold, 16 silver and 10 bronze medals.
- America remained at second place.



**Reference:**

<https://www.paralympic.org/mexico-city-2017/live-results/info-live->

## Hosting of Afghanistan's first Test match

**Question: Which country's Cricket Board has recently announced to host Afghanistan's first Test match?**

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

**Answer: (b)**

**Related Facts:**

- On December 12, 2017, the Indian Cricket Board announced the hosting of Afghanistan's first Test match.
- This Test match will be held in the upcoming domestic season 2018-19.
- In the year 2015, the BCCI and the Afghanistan Cricket Board signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the Greater Noida Industrial Development Authority.
- Under this MoU Ireland and Afghanistan were granted full membership status by the International Cricket Council (ICC) in Afghanistan and Afghanistan and Ireland became the 11th and 12th country to play Test cricket.
- Recently, Afghanistan played a series against Ireland in Greater Noida.



**Reference:**

<http://www.thehindu.com/sport/cricket/bcci-sgm-india-agree-to-host-afghanistans-first-ever-test-match/article21390547.ece>

## BWF to introduce a new experimental service rule

**Question: In which of the following new BWF tournament series Experimental Service law (Fixed Height) will be introduced?**

- (a) French Open Super Series, 2018  
(b) All England Badminton Championships, 2018  
(c) Korea Open Super Series, 2018  
(d) Japan Open Super Series, 2018

**Answer: (b)**

**Related facts:**

- In November 2017, the World Badminton Federation (BWF) decided to introduce a new experimental service law.
- The new BWF tournament series Experimental Service law (Fixed Height) will be introduced first in the YONEX All England Open badminton championship 2018.
- This decision was taken by the BWF to deal with the suspicious decisions of the service judges.
- After criticizing the controversial decisions given by the service judges, the BWF will now launch this experiment in reputed tournaments.
- This includes the BWF Thomas Cup and Uber Cup finals to be held in Bangkok in 2018 and the BWF World Championships in Nanjing.
- According to this new law "the whole of the shuttle shall be below 1.15 metres from the surface of the court at the instant of being hit by the server's racket".



**Reference:**

<http://bwfbadminton.com/news-single/2017/11/29/experimental-service-law-from-march-2018/>

## Asian Kabaddi Championship-2017

**Question: Which of the following countries won the gold medal in both the men and women category of 2017 Asian Kabaddi Championship?**

(a) South Korea (b) Pakistan (c) India (d) Iran

**Answer: (c)**

**Related Facts:**

- Final of the Asian Kabaddi Championship concluded in Gorgan, Iran. (November 22-26, 2017)
- A total of 10 countries participated in this competition.
- Indian men's kabaddi team won the gold medal by defeating Pakistan with 36-22 in the final.
- In addition to this, the Indian women's kabaddi team also won the gold medal of the competition by defeating South Korea with 42-20.
- The men's team captain was Ajay Thakur and the women's team commanded by Abhilasha Mahatre.



**Reference:**

<http://indianexpress.com/article/sports/sport-others/india-thump-pakistan-south-korea-to-win-asian-kabaddi-championship-2017-titles-4956337/>

<https://www.facebook.com/AKC2017Iran/>

<https://www.sportskeeda.com/kabaddi/asian-kabaddi-championships-2017-schedule-download-pdf-of-fixture-and-time-table>

## **SPORTS PERSONALITY**

### **First Indian to win Gold at World Para Swimming Championship**

**Question: Which of the following Indian Women Swimmer won the gold medal in the recently concluded World Para Swimming Championships in 2017?**

(a) Subha Mishra (b) Alka Shrivastav  
(c) Kanchanmala Pandey (d) Rajni Patel

**Answer: (c)**

**Related Facts:**

- On 7 December 2017 Indian blind women swimmer, Kanchanmala Pandey, won the gold medal in the World Para Swimming championship-2017.
- This championship was held in Mexico.
- Kanchanmala of Nagpur, Maharashtra got this achievement in the 200 meter individual medal event in the SM-11 category.
- She missed the medal in the 100m freestyle event and finished at fifth in Breaststroke and Backstroke.
- Kanchanmala, a 26-year-old Indian working in the Reserve Bank of India, was the only female swimmer to qualify for the competition from India.



**Reference:**

<https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/sports/more-sports/others/nagpurs-kanchanmala-becomes-first-indian-to-win-gold-at-world-para-swimming-championship/articleshow/61969957.cms>

## Raffaele Bergamasco

**Question:** Recently, the coach of Indian Youth Woman Boxing Team Raffaele Bergamasco has been appointed the performance director of senior female Boxing by the Boxing Federation of India. To which of the following countries he belongs?

(a) France (b) Cuba (c) Italy (d) Russia

**Answer: (c)**

**Related Facts:**

- In December 2017, Italian coach Raffaele Bergamasco was appointed the Performance Director of the Senior Women's Boxing Federation of India.
- Raffaele Bergamasco is working as the coach of the Indian Youth Woman Boxing Team.
- Under his coach leadership Indian women boxers have given the best ever performance in the AIBA Youth Boxing Championships till date.
- He has had been coach of Elite Women's Team of Italy from 2001-2007 and coach of Youth Elite men team of Italy from 2008-2016.
- As a coach, he participated in three Olympics Beijing, London and Rio.



**Reference:**

[http://www.espn.co.uk/espn/story/\\_/id/21580044/rafaele-bergamasco-high-performance-director-indian-youth-women-boxing-team-know-india-more-boxers-mary-kom](http://www.espn.co.uk/espn/story/_/id/21580044/rafaele-bergamasco-high-performance-director-indian-youth-women-boxing-team-know-india-more-boxers-mary-kom)

## SHORT NOTES

## PERSONALITIES

### Johnny Hallyday

**Question:** Biggest rock star Johnny Hallyday passed away recently. He was of which country?

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

**Answer: (b)**

**Related Facts:**

- On 6<sup>th</sup> December 2017, biggest Rockstar of France Johnny Hallyday passed away. He was 74 years old.
- He sang about 1000 songs, whose over 80 million records sold worldwide.



**Reference:**

<https://www.nytimes.com/2017/12/05/obituaries/johnny-hallyday-dead-french-elvis.html>

## Adithyan

**Question: Adithyan passed away recently. He was -**

(a) Environmentalist (b) Social worker (c) Composer (d) Politician

**Answer: (c)**

**related Facts:**

- On December 6<sup>th</sup>, 2017 famous music composer of South India, Adithyan passed away. He was 63 years old.
- He gave music for many Telugu and Malayalam films.
- Apart from this, he also hosted a culinary show in a popular Tamil TV channel.



**Reference:**

<http://www.thehindu.com/entertainment/music/noted-musician-adithyan-passes-away/article21276631.ece>

## Joint Secretary in PM's Economic Advisory Council

**Question: Who amongst the following has recently been appointed as the Joint Secretary in the Prime Minister's Economic Advisory Council (EAC-PM)?**

(a) Amardeep Singh Bhatia (b) Sumita Mishra (c) Sudhir Garg  
(d) Mukhmeet Singh Bhatia

**Answer: (b)**

**Related Facts:**

- On December 26, 2017, the Central Government has appointed IAS Officer Sumita Mishra as the Joint Secretary in the Prime Minister's Economic Advisory Council (EAC-PM).
- Her tenure will be of 5 years.
- Apart from this, the Central Government appointed IAS officer Mukhmeet Singh Bhatia as joint secretary, 15th Finance Commission, under the department of economic affairs for a tenure of five years.



**Reference:**

<http://www.livemint.com/Politics/rHz9O1LUgkhuoWmXSXAZeJ/Sumita-Misra-appointed-joint-secretary-in-PMs-economic-advi.html>

## Gautam Singhania

**Question: Recently industrialist Gautam Singhania elected as the member of which of the following?**

(a) International Olympic Association  
(b) World Motor Sports Council (c) World Badminton Federation  
(d) Asian Athletics Association

**Answer: (b)**

**Related Facts:**

- On December 8th, 2017, Indian industrialist Gautam Singhania has been elected to the FIA's World Motor Sport Council (WMSC) during the FIA Annual General Assembly in Paris.





- In this meeting, 14 members out of 22 nominated members were elected which include Gautam Singhania.
- Singhania has replaced Vijay Mallya, the boss of Sahara Force India FI.
- Vijay Mallya resigned from this post in July this year.
- The term of the members is of 4 years.
- Mr Jean Todt has been elected president again in the FIA's General Assembly. This is their third and final term.
- At this post he will remain till the end of 2021.

**Reference:**

<https://www.team-bhp.com/news/gautam-singhania-elected-fia-world-motor-sports-council>

## New DG of NCC

**Question: Who amongst the following has recently took charge as the new Director General of the National Cadet Corps (NCC)?**

- (a) General Pravin Sinha (b) General Vinod Vasistha  
(c) General BS Take Sahrawat (d) General Deepak Gupta

**Answer: (c)**

**Related Facts:**

- On December 22, 2017 Lieutenant General B S Sahrawat took over the reins of National Cadet Corps as its Director General.
- He was commissioned in December 1980 in 13th Battalion (Rezang La), the Kumaon Regiment.
- On this post he replaced General Vinod Vasistha.



**Reference:**

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=174762>

## Acting Chairperson of NGT

**Question: Who amongst the following recently took charge as the new acting Chairperson of the National Green Tribunal (NGT)?**

- (a) Justice Ashok Ganguly (b) Justice Manoj Mishra  
(c) Justice U.U. Lalit (d) Justice U.D. Salvi

**Answer: (d)**

**Related Facts:**

- On December 21<sup>st</sup> 2017, Justice U.D. Salvi took charge as the new acting Chairperson of the National Green Tribunal (NGT).
- He will serve this post till the appointment of the new permanent Chairperson or upto his retirement on February 13, 2018, whichever is earlier.
- At this post, he replaced Justice Swatan Kumar.
- Earlier, he was acting as a judicial member in the NGT.
- The fact is that the NGT was established on October 18, 2010 under the National Green Tribunal Act, 2010.
- It was established for effective and expeditious disposal of cases relating to environmental protection and conservation of forests and other natural resources





including enforcement of any legal right relating to environment and giving relief and compensation for damages to persons and property and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto.

- Apart from this, its work is to provide gratitude and compensation to the damaged person or property and to deal with the matters related to it at an effective and speedy pace.

**Reference:**

<https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/politics-and-nation/justice-u-d-salvi-appointed-as-acting-chairperson-of-ngt/articleshow/62179970.cms>

## François Gabart

**Question: On December 17th, 2017, Francois GABART set a new world record for the entire journey of the world by sea. To which of the following countries he belonged?**

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

**Answer- (d)**

**Related Facts:**

- On December 17th, 2017, French famous sailor François Gabart set a new record for traveling across the world through the sea alone.
- He took 42 days, 16 hours, 40 minutes and 35 seconds to complete the journey.
- Earlier, the world record was in the name of the French navigator Thomas Koval.
- He holds the around the world sailing record single-handed on the trimaran Sodebo Ultim in 49 days 3 hours 7 minutes and 38 seconds.



**Reference:**

<http://www.bbc.com/news/world-europe-42383438>

## New President of the Indian Olympic Association

**Question: Who was recently elected as the new president of the Indian Olympic Association (IOA)?**

(a) Rajiv Shukla (b) Narinder Batra (c) Anil Khanna (d) R.K. Anand

**Answer: (b)**

**Related facts:**

- On December 14th, 2017, the International Hockey Federation (FIH) chief Narinder Batra was elected as the new President of the Indian Olympic Association (IOA).
- All India Tennis Association president Anil Khanna had withdrawn his name just a few days before the election for the post.
- Narinder Batra got a total of 142 votes while Anil Khanna could get only 13 votes due to his withdrawal from the contest.
- His term will be four years in this post.
- With this, R.K. Anand was elected senior vice president of IOA and Rajeev Mehta was elected general secretary of the association for the second term.



**Reference:**

[http://www.ptinews.com/news/9321913\\_Batra-declared-elected-as-IOA-president-Mehta-Secy-](http://www.ptinews.com/news/9321913_Batra-declared-elected-as-IOA-president-Mehta-Secy-)

## Chaudhary Prem Singh

**Question: Chaudhary Prem Singh passed away recently. He was-**

(a) Actor (b) Scientists (c) Environmentalist (d) Politicians

**Answer: (d)**

**Related facts:**

- On December 12<sup>th</sup>, 2017, senior Congress leader and former Delhi Assembly Speaker Chaudhary Prem Singh passed away.
- He has a record of losing no election between 1956 and 2008.
- He remained the president of Delhi Congress three times.

**Reference:**

<http://indiatoday.intoday.in/story/senior-congress-leader-chaudhary-prem-singh-passes-away/1/1108926.html>



## Air India's new Chairman and MD

**Question: Who amongst the following has recently took charge as the new Chairman and Managing Director of Air India?**

(a) Sanjeev Bansal (b) Pradeep Singh Kharola (c) Rajiv Bansal (d) Deepak Gupta

**Answer: (b)**

**Related Facts:**

- On 11 December 2017 Senior IAS officer Pradeep Singh Kharola took charge as the new Chairman and Managing Director of Air India.
- At this post, he replaced the company's interim chairman and managing director Rajiv Bansal.
- Before appointment he was working as the MD of Bangalore Metro Rail Corporation Ltd.

**Reference:**

<http://www.thehindu.com/business/Industry/pradeep-singh-kharola-takes-over-as-air-india-cmd/article21389722.ece>



## Dr. Lalji Singh

**Question- Dr. Lalji Singh passed away recently. He was-**

(a) Environmentalist (b) Scientist (c) Historian (d) Politicians

**Answer: (b)**

**Related Facts:**

- On December 10<sup>th</sup>, 2017; famous scientist and the former Vice Chancellor of the BHU Dr. Lalji Singh passed away. He was 70 years old.
- He was the father of 'Indian DNA Finger Printing'.
- He had worked as Director of the Center for Cellular and Molecular Biology (CCMB), Hyderabad.



- He had searched 'DNA Finger Print Technique' to give new direction to crime investigation in India.
- He was awarded Padma Shri by the Central Government in the year 2004.

**Reference:**

<http://www.thehindu.com/sci-tech/science/lalji-singh-father-of-dna-fingerprinting-in-india-passes-away/article21389954.ece>

## K. Jiva Sagar

**Question:** Recently, in which of the following country the senior official of the Indian Foreign Service K. Jiva Sagar has been appointed as the next ambassador of India?

(a) Kuwait (b) Israel (c) Russia (d) Belarus

**Answer: (a)**

**Related facts:**

- On December 7th, 2017, senior officer of the Indian Foreign Service K. Jiva Sagar was appointed the next ambassador of India to Kuwait.
- He is the IFS officer of the 1991 batch.
- He is currently working as the Joint Secretary in the Ministry of External Affairs.



**Reference:**

[http://mea.gov.in/press-releases.htm?dtl/29161/K Jeeva Sagar appointed as the next Ambassador of India to](http://mea.gov.in/press-releases.htm?dtl/29161/K_Jeeva_Sagar_appointed_as_the_next_Ambassador_of_India_to)

## Dr. Ambedkar International Center dedicated to the nation by the Prime Minister

**Question:** Where did Prime Minister Narendra Modi, recently dedicated the Dr. Ambedkar International Center to the nation?

(a) Nagpur (b) New Delhi (c) Mumbai (d) Bhopal

**Answer: (b)**

**Related facts:**

- On December 7, 2017, The Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi inaugurated the "Dr. Ambedkar International Centre" at 15, Janpath, New Delhi.
- He had laid the foundation stone of this Centre in April 2015.
- It is an important center for research on social and economic issues.
- The Prime Minister expressed confidence that the Centre would play a key role in the dissemination of Dr. Ambedkar's teachings and vision.
- It is also believed that the centre would function as a think-tank for inclusive growth, and related socio-economic matters.



**Reference:**

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=174160>

## Azar A.H.Khan

**Question:** Recently, Azar A.H. Khan, senior officer of the Indian Foreign Service has been appointed as the next ambassador of India in which of the following countries?

(a) Russia (b) Turkmenistan (c) Afghanistan (d) Kuwait

**Answer: (b)**

### **Related Facts**

- On December 4<sup>th</sup>, 2017, senior Indian Foreign Service officer Azar A. H. Khan has been appointed as the next Ambassador of India to Turkmenistan.
- Presently he is the Consul General in the Consulate General of India, Istanbul.



### **Reference:**

[http://mea.gov.in/press-releases.htm?dtl/29150/Azar\\_AHKhan\\_appointed\\_as\\_the\\_next\\_Ambassador\\_of\\_India\\_to](http://mea.gov.in/press-releases.htm?dtl/29150/Azar_AHKhan_appointed_as_the_next_Ambassador_of_India_to)

## Anshu Prakash

**Question:** Recently, senior IAS officer Anshu Prakash was appointed Chief Secretary of which of which of the following states?

(a) Uttarakhand (b) Delhi (c) Madhya Pradesh (d) Haryana

**Answer: (b)**

### **Related Facts:**

- On December 1<sup>st</sup>, 2017, Senior IAS officer Anshu Prakash was appointed the chief secretary of the Delhi government.
- At This post he replaced MM Kuty.
- He is the IAS officer of the 1986 batch Arunachal-Goa-Mizoram and Union Territory (AGMUT) cadre.
- He served as an additional secretary and financial advisor in the ministry.



### **Reference:**

<https://navbharattimes.indiatimes.com/metro/delhi/other-news/anshu-prakash-appointed-delhi-chief-secretary/articleshow/61881589.cms>

## UN Environment Goodwill Ambassador for India

**Question:** Who has recently been appointed the new United Nations Environment Goodwill Ambassador for India?

(a) Priyanka Chopra (b) Dia Mirza (c) Vidya Balan  
(d) Manushi Chhillar

**Answer: (b)**

### **Related Facts:**

- On November 29<sup>th</sup> 2017, Former Miss Asia Pacific, actor, producer, entrepreneur and environmentalist, Dia Mirza, was appointed as UN Environment's Goodwill Ambassador for India.



- She has been appointed in view of his long standing contribution on raising awareness of and seeking solutions to environmental issues that the world and India in particular, facing.
- It is noteworthy that Dia has joined other accomplished and dedicated past and present UN Goodwill Ambassadors, including UN Environment's Li Bingbing, Gisele Bündchen and Don Cheadle, and others such as Cate Blanchett, Anne Hathaway, Angelina Jolie, Katy Perry and Emma Watson.

**Reference:**

<https://www.unenvironment.org/news-and-stories/press-release/dia-mirza-appointed-un-environment-goodwill-ambassador-india>

## Preet Didbal

**Question: Recently Preet Didbal of Indian origin sworn in as the first Sikh woman Mayor of a city in which of the following countries?**

(a) Canada (b) Netherlands (c) America (d) Ireland

**Answer: (c)**

**Related Facts:**

- On December 5<sup>th</sup>, 2017, Indian-origin Preet Didbal, Sworn in as the Mayor of Yuba City of American State California.
- She is the first Sikh woman mayor of any city of America.
- She became a member of Yub City Council in 2014.
- Earlier, she worked as Vice Mayor of Yub City.



**Reference:**

<http://www.thehindu.com/news/international/first-sikh-woman-elected-as-mayor-in-the-us/article21208101.ece>

## Michael I

**Question: King Michael I passed away recently. He was the king of which of the following countries?**

(a) Brussels (b) Romania (c) Czech Republic (d) Thailand

**Answer: (b)**

**Related facts:**

- On December 5<sup>th</sup>, 2017, former Roman king Michael I passed away. He was 96 years old.
- He was one of the last surviving leaders of World War II.
- He ruled Romania twice from 1927 to 1930 and from 1940 to 1947.



**Reference:**

<http://www.bbc.com/news/world-europe-42234880>



## Politico Power List 2018: Indian Democratic lawmaker from Washington

**Question: Recently, which of the following American women MPs of Indian origin has been included in the first Politico Power List of 2018?**

(a) Tulsi Gabbard (b) Asha Khemka (c) Preet Dibal (d) Pramila Jaypal

**Answer: (d)**

**Related Facts:**

- In the first Politico power list of the year 2018 released in December 2018, Pramila Jayapal, American woman MP of Indian origin has been included.
- This place has been given to her to lead the 'opposition' in the House.
- Pramila Jayapal got fifth place among 18 people in the Power List.

**Reference:**

<https://www.politico.com/interactives/2017/politico-power-list/pramila-jayapal/>



## New Chairman of Ordnance Factory Board

**Question: Who amongst the following has recently been appointed as new President of the Ordnance Factory Board (OFB)?**

(a) U.P. Singh (b) S.K. Chaurasia (c) Deepak Sahay (d) Kamal Chaturvedi

**Answer: (b)**

**Related Facts:**

- On December 1<sup>st</sup>, 2017, Shri Sunil Kumar Chourasia, IOFS, has been appointed as the new Chairman of the Ordnance Factory Board (OFB).
- In addition to this he has also been appointed as Director General of Ordnance Factories (DGOF).
- Previously, he was Member, OFB and was in charge of Material & Components division.

**Reference:**

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/mbErel.aspx?relid=174029>



## Justice Adarsh Sen Anand

**Question: Justice Adarsh Sen Anand passed away recently. He was**

(a) the former Chief Justice of Delhi High Court  
(b) Former Chief Justice of India  
(c) Former Chief Justice of Calcutta High Court  
(d) Chief Justice of Allahabad High Court

**Answer: (b)**

**Related Facts:**

- On December 1<sup>st</sup>, 2017, Former Chief Justice of India, Justice Adarsh Sen Anand passed away. He was 81 years old.
- He was the 29th Chief Justice of India from 1998 to 2001.
- He was also the Chairperson of the National Human Rights Commission during 2003 - 2006.





**Reference:**

[http://www.business-standard.com/article/news-ani/former-cji-adarsh-sen-anand-passes-away-117120100396\\_1.html](http://www.business-standard.com/article/news-ani/former-cji-adarsh-sen-anand-passes-away-117120100396_1.html)

## Shashi Kapoor

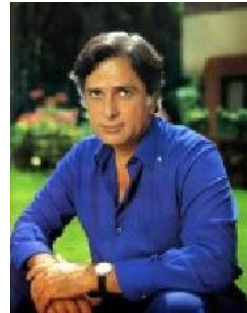
**Question:** Recently, the famous Bollywood film actor and producer Shashi Kapoor passed away. In which year he was honored with the prestigious Dadasaheb Phalke Award?

(a) year 2015 (b) year 2014 (c) year 2013 (d) year 2012

**Answer: (b)**

**Related Facts**

- On December 4<sup>th</sup>, 2017, the famous Bollywood film actor and producer Shashi Kapoor passed away. He was 79 years old.
- He was born on March 18<sup>th</sup>, 1938 in Kolkata.
- He started his career with 'Prakash Theater' drama 'Shankutala'.
- His journey of success began through the movie 'Jab-When Phool Khile'.
- He performed in more than 100 films in his career.
- His best known performances as a child actor were in "Aag" (1948) and "Awaara" (1951), where he played the younger version of the character played by Raj Kapoor.
- Shashi Kapoor also worked as assistant director in the '50s.
- He made his debut as a leading man in the 1961 film "Dharmputra" and went on to appear in more than 116 films during the '70s and until the mid '80s.
- Among his memorable films were "Deewar", "Kabhie Kabhie", "Namak Halal" and "Kaala Pathar".
- He was honoured with the Padma Bhushan in 2011 and received cinema's prestigious Dada Saheb Phalke award in 2015.



**Reference:**

<http://dff.nic.in/dadasahebphalke.asp>

## New Chairman of Prasar Bharati Board

**Question:** Who recently took charge as the chairman of Prasar Bharati Board for the second consecutive term?

(a) Rajiv Singh (b) Shashi Shekhar Vempati (c) A .Surya Prakash  
(d) Deepak Gupta

**Ans: (c)**

**Related facts:-**

- On December 4, 2017, the famous journalist A. Surya Prakash took charge as the Chairman of Prasar Bharti Board for the second consecutive term.
- His tenure will be on this post till 8 February, 2020.
- It is known that Prasar Bharati is India's largest public broadcasting agency.



- It is a statutory autonomous body formed on November 23, 1997 under the Prasar Bharati Act, 1990.
- It includes Doordarshan and Aakashwani.
- Currently Shashi Shekhar Vempati is the Chief Executive Officer of Prasar Bharti.

**Related links:-**

<http://indiatoday.intoday.in/story/a-surya-prakash-takes-charge-as-prasar-bharati-board-chairman/1/1102781.html>

## New CEO and MD of Infosys

**Question: Who was the new chief executive officer and managing director of Infosys recently?**

- (a) T. Sundarajan (b) Ravi Venkatesan (c) R. Sheshsai  
(d) Salil S. Parekh

**Ans: (d)**

**Related facts:-**

- On December 2, 2017, Salil S. Parekh was appointed as New Chief Executive Officer (CEO) and Managing Director (MD) to Infosys Ltd.
- His tenure will begin on January 2, 2018.
- In this post, he will replace the interim CEO of the company and MD U.B. Pravin Rao
- It is noteworthy that Nandan Nilekani is the co-founder and non-executive chairman of Infosys Ltd.



**Related Links:-**

<https://www.infosys.com/newsroom/press-releases/Pages/infosys-appoints-ceo-md-02dec.aspx>

## O.P. Galhotra

**Question: Recently, senior IPS officer O.P. Galhotra was appointed the new Director General of Police of which state?**

- (a) Uttarakhand (b) Gujarat (c) Rajasthan (d) Uttar Pradesh

**Answer: (c)**

**Related Facts:**

- On November 30, 2017, senior IPS officer O.P. Galhotra was appointed as the new Director General of Police (DGP) of Rajasthan.
- He is the senior IPS officer of the 1985 batch.
- Prior to this appointment he was posted as ADG armed battalion.
- Galhotra took charge from Ajit Singh.



**Reference:**

<http://www.hindustantimes.com/jaipur/op-galhotra-is-new-chief-of-rajasthan-police/story-wV4Y8DBda6XsLoxrJuknnl.html>

## First Woman General Secretary of the Lok Sabha

**Question: Who amongst the following has been appointed as the first woman general secretary of the Lok Sabha?**

(a) Rama Devi (b) V.N. Sarna (c) Snehlata Shrivastav (d) Dr. Deepa Mathur

**Answer: (c)**

**Related Facts:**

- On November 29<sup>th</sup>, 2017, senior IAS officer Snehlata Shrivastava was appointed the first woman general secretary of the Lok Sabha.
- Her tenure will be from December 1<sup>st</sup>, 2017 to November 30<sup>th</sup>, 2018.
- On this post, she replaced Anoop Mishra.
- It is significant, Rama Devi has had been the first woman general secretary of the Rajya Sabha.



**Reference:**

<http://www.newindianexpress.com/nation/2017/nov/28/snehlata-shrivastava-appointed-first-woman-lok-sabha-secretary-general-1713212.html>

## New Chairman of National Anti-profiteering Authority

**Question: Who has recently been appointed as the new chairman of the National Anti-profiteering Authority (NAA) under the GST?**

(a) B.N Sharma (b) J.S. Deepak (c) Sushil Chandra (d) V.N. Sarna

**Answer: (a)**

**Related Facts:**

- On November 28, 2017, the Central Government appointed senior IAS officer B. N. Sharma as the new chairman of National Anti-Profiteering Authority under GST.
- In addition, the Central Government appointed four other technical members in the authority to assist the chairman.
- All these are senior officers of the rank of Joint Secretary or above.
- These members are JC Chauhan Chairman, Tax Tribunal, Himachal Pradesh, Vijay Kumar Chief Commissioner GST, Kolkata, C.L Mahar, Chief Commissioner GST, Kolkata and R. Bhagyadevi ADG, Systems, Chennai.
- The tenure of all the members including the chairman will be 2 years.
- It is mention worthy that the tenure of the Authority will be two years from the date of assuming the post of the chairman.
- It is significant that after the decision of a committee headed by Cabinet Secretary Pradeep Kumar Sinha, the decision was taken by the Central Government on the appointment of the Chairman of the Authority and its members.
- This authorization will be responsible for implementing measures against profits in the event of a reduction in GST rate on the supply of goods or services, or if the proportional reduction in prices does not given the benefit of input tax credit to the recipient.



**Reference:**

<http://www.thehindubusinessline.com/economy/policy/gst-bn-sharma-appointed-chairman-of-national-antiprofitteering-authority/article9975506.ece>

## PLACES

### Approval to Gay (Same-sex) Marriage

**Question-** Recently parliament of which of the following countries approved a gay marriage bill to give legal recognition to it?

(a) Netherlands (b) Australia (c) Thailand (d) France

**Answer: (b)**

**Related Facts:**

- On 7<sup>th</sup> September, 2017, Parliament of Australia gave approval to gay marriage bill to give recognition to it.
- The bill was approved by majority.
- On December 8, 2017, the Governor General of Australia signed this bill.
- According to provisions of the Bill gay marriage in Australia will be legally valid from 9 January, 2018.
- This bill changes the marriage act of 1961, which was amended in the year 2004.
- All gay marriage will also be recognized under the new law.
- Joint couples in Australia must be informed about their wedding plan a month ago.

**Reference:**

<http://www.news.com.au/lifestyle/gay-marriage/samesex-marriage-bill-passes-house-of-representatives/news-story/0eb0cfd88183fe0d48453ae5633353d0>



### Centre of Excellence for Cut Flowers

**Question-** In which of the following states center of excellence for cut flower has been opened in collaboration with Israel?

(a) Tamilnadu (b) Haryana (c) Andhra Pradesh (d) Madhya Pradesh

**Answer: (a)**

**Related Facts:**

- On December 7, 2017, India's, first centre of excellence for cut flower has been opened in Thalli village of Krishnagiri district of Tamilnadu.
- This is the first agro-technology development center jointly established by India and Israel.
- This center will not only develop appropriate agricultural practices for selected geographical areas, but will also move around the best practices for the farmers.

**Reference:**

<http://www.thehindu.com/news/cities/Coimbatore/centre-for-excellence-for-cut-flowers-in-thally/article21287408.ece>



### First ornamental Fish Hatchery of North India

**Question-** In which of the following districts of Haryana India's first state-of-the-art decorative fish, hatchery excellence center will be set up?

(a) Panipat (b) Bhiwani (c) Jhajjar (d) Nuh



**Answer: (c)**

**Related Facts:**

- On December 5<sup>th</sup>, 2017, Union Agriculture Minister Radha Mohan Singh inaugurated the Center of Excellence of the state-of-the-art decorative fish hatchery.
- The foundation stone of this fish hatchery was laid in village 'Talav' near Jhajjar district.
- This will be the center of excellence in north India's first state-of-the-art decorative fish.
- Its construction cost will be around 14 crore rupees.
- Haryana Government will also provide training for fisheries and marketing to the youth.
- The Center of Excellence for Flowers Production will be opened in the hands of the Haryana Government.

**Reference:**

<http://indiatoday.intoday.in/story/hry-govt-to-set-up-ornamental-fish-hatchery-in-jhajjar/1/1000439.html>

## India's first Madam Tussauds Museum

**Question: Where in India, India's first Madam Tussauds Museum has been opened?**

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

**Answer: (b)**

**Related Facts:**

- On December 1<sup>st</sup>, 2017, India's first Madame Tussaud Museum, located at Connaught Place, New Delhi, opened to the public.
- Wax statue of 50 Indian and international celebrities have been kept in this museum.
- In this museum, the wax statue of Mahatma Gandhi, Abdul Kalam, Bhagat Singh, Sardar Patel, Subhash Chandra Bose and Prime Minister Modi have been placed.
- Apart from Sachin Tendulkar, Kapil Dev, Milkha Singh, Mary Kom, footballer Cristiano Ronaldo, Messi, David Beckham and Athlete Usain Bolt have been given the place.
- The others from Bollywood and Hollywood include Amitabh Bachchan, Raj Kapoor, Ranbir Kapoor, Katrina, Salman Khan, Anil Kapoor, Madhuri Dixit, Sonu Nigam, Jennifer Lopez, Justin Bieber, Tom Cruise, Titanic Fame Leonardo Dicaprio, Michel Jackson.



**Reference:**

<http://www.thehindu.com/news/national/indias-first-madam-tussauds-opens-in-delhi/article21253864.ece>

## Kacheguda Railway Station

**Question: Which of the following stations was recently given the status of first energy-efficient 'A1 Category' railway station in the country?**

(a) Howrah Railway Station (b) Kacheguda Railway Station (c) Patna Railway Station (d) Agra Fort Railway Station

**Answer: (b)**

**Related Facts:**





- On December 8th, 2017, Kacheguda railway station, located in Hyderabad, Andhra Pradesh, became the energy efficient 'A1 category' railway station.
- This railway station comes under South Central Railway Zone.
- Station has achieved 100 per cent energy efficiency by replacing 1,312 conventional lights with light-emitting diode (LED) lighting.
- Over 370 ceiling fans with Brushless DC Electrical (BLDC) motors energy-efficient fans and 12 air conditioners with energy efficient inverter type ACs are being operated.
- Kacheguda railway station is a historic building 100 years old.
- This imposing structure was built in 1916 by the Nizam's Guaranteed State Railway during the reign of the seventh Nizam Mir Osman Ali Khan.
- It is known that this is India's first railway station having the status of energy efficient 'A1 category'.

**Reference:**

<http://indiatoday.intoday.in/story/kacheguda-becomes-indias-first-energy-efficient-railway-stn/1/1105969.html>

### Eastern India's first CNG stations

**Question: Where was the first CNG station of eastern India inaugurated?**

(a) Imphal (b) Guwahati (c) Bhubaneswar (d) Agartala

**Answer: (c)**

**Related Facts**

- December 16, 2017, Oil Minister Dharmendra Pradhan inaugurated eastern India's first Compressed Natural Gas (CNG) stations..
- Two CNG stations for scooters and three-wheelers were inaugurated at Chandrasekharpur and Patia by him.
- The minister also launched CNG-run scooters.



**Reference:**

<http://www.ptinews.com/news/9327444-Pradhan-inaugurates-Eastern-India-s-first-CNG-stations>

### Jerusalem recognized as Israel's capital

**Question- Which country amongst the following recently recognized Jerusalem as Israel's capital?**

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

**Answer: (c)**

**Related Facts:**

- On December 6th, 2017, US President Donald Trump recognized Jerusalem as Israel's capital.
- He also ordered the Ministry of External Affairs to start the process of transferring of the US Embassy from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem.
- It is notable that since 1948, there is a dispute between Palestine and Israel over Jerusalem.





- At the same time, from the United Nations to the most countries of the whole world do not recognize Israel's claims on the whole of Jerusalem.

**Reference:**

<http://www.bbc.com/news/world-middle-east-42246564>

## Venezuela

**Question: Recently, Venezuelan President Nicolas Maduro announced the creation of virtual currency in the country. What is the name of this virtual currency?**

(a) Furte (b) Setro (c) Petro (d) Olio

**Answer: (c)**

**Related Facts:**

- On December 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2017 Venezuelan President Nicolas Maduro has announced the creation of new virtual currency called 'Petro'.
- This currency is being introduced to reduce the economic crisis in the country.
- This virtual currency will be supported by Venezuela's oil, gas, gold, and diamond wealth.
- It is the official currency of Venezuela that Bolivar Furte.
- Venezuela is a country located in the continent of South America.
- Its capital is Caracas.
- Venezuela is facing a period of economic blockade due to the decline in crude prices for the past few years.
- This country's economy is basically based on oil exports.



**Reference:**

<http://www.bbc.com/news/world-latin-america-42217798>

## India's First Mega Coastal Economic Zone

**Question: In which state will India's first Mega Coastal Economic Zone be established?**

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

**Ans: (a)**

**Related facts:-**

- In November 2017, the Central Government approved the establishment of India's first mega coastal economic zone in the Jawaharlal Nehru port of Maharashtra.
- With the creation of this economic zone, opportunities will be created to increase economic activity in the country and to generate more employment.
- About 45 companies of telecom, auto and IT sectors will soon bid for 200 hectares of land for setting up of manufacturing units in this area.
- For the first phase of this scheme, total investment of Rs.15, 000 crores and target of creation of more than 1.5 lakh jobs has been set.
- Its aim is to attract big companies interested in providing services to export companies because they will also bring in technology, capital, good management and global market connectivity.



- With the development of this sector, it will help in creating an ecosystem for the development of small and mid-capitalization companies.
- Last year, the Union Cabinet had approved the setting up of 14 mega coastal economic zones under the Sagarmala project.

**Related Links:-**

<http://indiatoday.intoday.in/education/story/first-mega-cez-india/1/1091759.html>

## Newly constructed bridge was inaugurated

**Question: A newly constructed RCC bridge near the Chinese border in Nepal was inaugurated H.E. Ambassador of India, Shri Manjeev Singh Puri. On which of the following rivers this bridge has been built-**

(a) Arun (b) Kosi (c) Bagmati (d) Kaligandaki

**Answer: (d)**

**Related Facts:**

- On November 05, 2017, H.E. Ambassador of India, Shri Manjeev Singh Puri inaugurated the RCC Bridge over Kaligandaki River at Jomsom in Mustang District.
- The Government of India has extended a total of NRs (Nepalese Rupee) 4.45 Crores (430, 626 dollars) as financial assistance for construction of this project under its Small Development Programme Scheme as a part of India–Nepal Economic Cooperation Programme.
- Before construction of the RCC Bridge, the suspension bridge built on the river Kaligandaki could not be used for motor transport.
- People had to alight from the vehicle and took another vehicle from across the river to reach their destination.
- The newly constructed RCC Bridge would not only provide direct motorable connectivity to the local people of Mustang but also benefit thousands of tourists and pilgrims visiting Muktinath temple and other parts of upper Mustang for trekking.



**Reference:**

<https://www.indianembassy.org.np/index2.php?option=hJ2VNlCdZwr-tZyUVBPCr07ClAGIY4-kHvO0PSHiSdU&id=rTc3vSUocMvgi13LiP0ewifMPk6cQQ0WxS24Cdqorgl>

## Canada: 'Destination of the Year' 2017

**Question: Which year is the 150th anniversary of Canada?**

(a) 2019 (b) 2017 (c) 2018 (d) None of the above

**Answer: (b)**

**Related Facts:**

- On November 15, 2017, the United States Tourism Magazine 'Travel + Leisure' has declared Canada as 'Destination of the Year' for the 2017.
- It is worth mentioning that the magazine had declared Portugal and Cuba as the 'Destination of the Year for 2016 and 2015 respectively.
- It is worth mentioning that 2017 is the 150th anniversary of Canada.



- 'Destination of the Year' of the magazine displays the place attracting the attention of tourists and journalists of the magazine in the past 12 months.

**Reference:**

<http://www.travelandleisure.com/destination-of-the-year>

## AWARDS & HONORS

### Ballon d'Or

**Question: On December 7, 2017, who was awarded the Ballon d'Or, the prestigious award of Football?**

(a) Neymar (b) Cristiano Ronaldo (c) Manuel Neuer (d) Lionel Messi

**Answer: (b)**

**Related Facts:**

- The annual award 'Ballon d'Or, 2017' given by the French weekly magazine 'France Football' won by Cristiano Ronaldo of Portugal won for the fifth time. (December 7, 2017)
- These include three Ballon d'Or and 2 FIFA Ballon d'Or Awards.
- Ronaldo was given the award in Paris.
- Ronaldo scored a total of 946 points, leaving behind Lionel Messi (670 points) of Argentina.
- Ronaldo now equals Messi's record of winning this award five times.
- Ronaldo won this award in the year 2008, 2013, 2014, 2016 and 2017.
- On the other hand Messi has won this award in the year 2009, 2010, 2011, 2012 and 2015.
- Football journalists around the world vote for this award.
- Ronaldo plays for "Real Madrid" the Spanish football club.
- Although between 2010 and 2015, an agreement was made with FIFA and the award was temporarily merged with the FIFA World Player of the Year, and known as the FIFA Ballon d'Or, but in 2016 the award been reversed back to Ballon d'Or while FIFA also renamed its traditional award.
- Ballon d'Or Award of the year 2016 was too won by Cristiano Ronaldo.



**Reference:**

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ballon\\_d%27Or\\_2017](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ballon_d%27Or_2017)

### European Golden Shoe Award

**Question: Which player amongst the given won the European Golden Shoe award in 2016-17 session?**

(a) Cristiano Ronaldo (b) Louis Suarez (c) Lionel Messi  
(d) Andres Iniesta

**Answer: (c)**

**Related Facts:**



- On November 24<sup>th</sup>, 2017, Lionel Messi won the European Golden Shoe Award for the fourth time.
- This award received Messi from fellow team player Luis Suarez.
- Messi scored 37 goals in the European League in 2016-17.
- By getting this fourth award Messi equals Cristiano Ronaldo.
- Earlier Messi had won this award in the year in 2010, 2012 and 2013.
- Messi is associated with FC Barcelona team in the European league.
- It is the fact that this award was won by Luis Suarez in the 2015-16 session.
- This award is given to the player who scored the most goals in the last league of Europe in the last season.

**Reference:**

<http://www.firstpost.com/sports/barcelonas-lionel-messi-equals-real-madrids-cristiano-ronaldo-with-fourth-european-golden-shoe-award-4226751.html>

### Smita Patil Memorial Award-2007

**Question: Which famous Bollywood actress was recently conferred Smita Patil Memorial Award?**

(a) Shabana Azmi (b) Rekha (c) Hema Malini (d) Sridevi

**Answer: (b)**

**Related Facts:**

- December 16<sup>th</sup>, 2017, the famous Bollywood actress and Rajya Sabha MP Rekha, Smita Patil first Memorial Award '.
- This award has been given to his special contribution in the field of cinema.



**Reference:**

<http://www.thehindu.com/entertainment/movies/smita-patil-a-far-better-actor-than-me-rekha/article21826858.ece>

### Shrilal Shukla Smriti IFFCO Sahitya Samman

**Question: Which famous litterateur amongst the following was recently selected for the Shrilal Shukla Smriti IFFCO Sahitya samman for the year 2017?**

(a) Shekhar Joshi (b) Ramdev Dhurandhar  
(c) Dr. Vishwanath Prasad Tripathi (d) Mamta Kalia

**Answer: (b)**

**Related facts:**

- On December 15, 2017, Mauritius's famous litterateur Ramdev Dhurandhar was elected for the Shrilal Shukla Smriti IFFCO Sahitya Samman for the year 2017.
- He will be given this award on January 31, 2018 at a ceremony held in New Delhi.
- It is known that this award was started in 2011 in memory of Shrilal Shukla by IFFCO.
- Under this award, the selected litterateur is given to a logo, citation and an amount of Rs. 11 lakhs.
- This honor is given to a Hindi writer every year, whose works depict live descriptions of problems related to rural and agricultural life, aspirations and struggles.



- So far, Vidya Sagar Nautiyal (year 2011), Shekhar Joshi (2012), Sanjeev (year 2013), Mithileswar (year 2014), Ashtabhuja Shukla (year 2015) and Kamalakant Tripathi (year 2016) have received this honor.
- It is noteworthy that 'Ramdev Dhurandhar's famous novel' Pathreela Sona 'is published in six volumes.
- In this epic novel, he has portrayed the struggling life-journey of his ancestors who came to Mauritius from India as farmers and laborers.

**Reference:**

<http://zeenews.india.com/india/ramdev-dhurandhar-receives-shrilal-shukla-smriti-iffco-sahitya-samman-2066660.html>

### 31st Moortidevi Award -2017

**Question: Who amongst the following has recently been conferred the 31st Moortidevi Award-2017 by the Jnanpith?**

- (a) Shankh Ghosh (b) JOI GOSWAMI (c) M.P. Virendra Kumar  
(d) Prof. Kolakaluri Enoch

**Answer: (b)**

**Related Facts:**

- On December 15th, 2017, Announcement of the 31th Moortidevi Award for the year 2017 was given by the Indian Jnanpith to the famous Bengali poet Joy Goswami.
- This award will be given to his poetic collection 'Du Dondo Phowara Matro'.
- The Moortidevi award selection board under the chairmanship of Satyavrat Shastri unanimously confers the award to him.
- India is the prestigious literature awarded annually to the Moortidevi Award which is given for books published in Indian languages and English.
- These books are selected for the award, from which human values of Indian philosophy and culture are displayed.
- The Moortidevi Award carries a shawl, Saraswati Statue, Citation and a cheque of four lakh rupees.



**Reference:**

[http://jnanpith.net/sites/default/files/31st\\_MoortideviAwardtoPoetJoyGoswami.](http://jnanpith.net/sites/default/files/31st_MoortideviAwardtoPoetJoyGoswami.)

### Mister India -2017

**Question: Who amongst the following recently bagged Peter England's Mister India -2017 title in his favour?**

- (a) Deepak Kumar (b) Jitesh Singh Dev (c) Aakash Bhatia  
(d) Dipesh Singh Dev

**Answer: (b)**

**Related facts:**

- On the 14th December, 2017, the PETER England Mister India -2017 event was held in Mumbai.





- Jitesh Singh Dev from Lucknow bagged the title of Mr India-2017.
- He will now represent India at Mr World 2020.

**Reference:**

[http://www.ptinews.com/news/9322862\\_Jitesh-Singh-Deo-bags-Mr-India-title.html](http://www.ptinews.com/news/9322862_Jitesh-Singh-Deo-bags-Mr-India-title.html)

## Mother Teresa Memorial award for social justice

**Question: Who amongst the following was recently awarded the Mother Teresa Memorial Award-2017 for Social Justice?**

- (a) Vidya Balan (b) Priyanka Chopra (c) Deepika Padukone  
(d) Deja Mirza

**Answer: (b)**

**Related facts:**

- On December 12<sup>th</sup>, 2017, famous Bollywood actress Priyanka Chopra was awarded the Mother Teresa Memorial Award-2017 for Social Justice.
- She has been given this award for their support in social work.
- It is worth mentioning that this award is given to those who work towards social justice.
- She recently visited Syria where he met the refugee children and talked to them.
- She is also a goodwill ambassador of UNICEF and is known for his support in various philanthropic works.
- Her mother, Madhu Chopra, accepted the award on her behalf.



**Reference:**

<https://www.deccanchronicle.com/entertainment/bollywood/121217/priyanka-chopra-receives-mother-teresa-memorial-award-for-social-justice.html>

## Announcement of the Awards / Samman of the year 2016 by Uttar Pradesh Hindi Sansthan

**Question: Who has recently been selected for the best Bharat-Bharti Samman by Uttar Pradesh Hindi Sansthan?**

- (a) Asghar Wajahat (b) Mamta Kalia  
(c) Dr. Anand Prakash Dikshit (d) Dr. Vidya Point Singh

**Answer: (c)**

**Related Facts:**

- On December 11<sup>th</sup>, 2017 Awards / honors of the year 2016 by the Uttar Pradesh Hindi Sansthan were announced.
- Anand Prakash Dikshit from Bikaner was selected for the best Bharat-Bharti award of the Sansthan.
- Under this award, 5 lakh rupees, citation and memento is given.
- Lohia Sahitya Samman (4 lakh rupees) – Anand Mishra ‘Abhay’
- Hindi Gaurav Samman (Rs. 4 lakhs) – Dr. Vidya Bindu Singh
- Mahatma Gandhi Sahitya Samman (Rs. 4 lakhs) – Dr. Nand Kishore Acharya
- Pandit Deendayal Upadhyay Sahitya Samman (Rs. 4 lakhs) – Mahesh Chandra Sharma.
- Avantibai Sahitya Samman (Rs 4 lakhs) -Pro. Netrapal Singh





- Rajarshi Purushottamdas Tandon Samman (Rs. 4 lakhs) Literature Competition Committee, Madras
- Sahitya Bhushan Samman (Rs 2 lakhs)
  1. Dr. Ramsharan Gaur
  2. Prof. Jay Prakash
  3. Ganesh Narayan Charge
  4. Ved Prakash Amitabh
  5. Madhukar Asthana
  6. Vijay Ranjan
  7. Shriram Parihar
  8. Surendra Dubey
  9. Prem Shahar Tripathi
  10. Baldev Bhai Sharma
- In addition to the above awards, Lok Bhushan, Art Bhushan, Vidya Bhushan, Science Bhushan, Journalism Bhushan, Pravasi Bharatiya Hindi Bhushan, Children's Literature, Madhuliyane Sahitya Samman, Pt. Narayan Chaturvedi Sahitya Samman, Law Bhushan Soharahad Samman, (Rs. 2 lakhs) awards were announced to various literary people on the occasion.
- Hindi Videh Prasara Samman (one lakh rupees) – Sushas Kumar
- University level honors (50 thousand rupees) – Paramesum Sharma and Pranav Sharma Shastri.

**Reference:**

<http://uphindisansthan.in/Information%20Centre/Puraskar%202017/Web/Page%201.htm>

## Power of One award

**Question: Which Indian woman was recently awarded the 'Power of One' award at the United Nations headquarters in New York?**

- (a) Asha Khemka (b) Sujata Kumari (c) Lakshmi Puri  
(d) Dr. Asha Khetrapal

**Reply- (c)**

**Related facts:**

- On December 11, 2017, six top diplomats, including an Indian woman, were awarded first 'Diwali-Power of One award' at the United Nations headquarters in New York.
- Those who received the award included United Nations Assistant General Secretary and Deputy Managing Director of UN Women, Lakshmi Puri of India, British Ambassador to the UN, Matthew Rycroft; Lebanese Ambassador to the UN, Nawaf Salam; former Permanent Representative of Egypt to the UN, Maged Abdelaziz; former Permanent Representative of Moldova to the UN, Ion Botnaru; and former Permanent Representative of Ukraine to the United Nations, Yuriy Sergeyev.
- This award has been given to all of them in view of their contribution in making the world more ideal, peaceful and safe.
- This award is given by Diwali Foundation USA.
- The United Nations General Assembly recognized the significance of Diwali in 2014.
- The US Postal Service had issued a ticket in the last year's Diwali celebrations.
- These awards were given on the occasion of the first anniversary of this.



**Reference:**

<http://www.unwomen.org/en/news/stories/2017/12/announcement-ded-puri-receives-power-of-one-award>

## Global Peace Award

**Question: Who amongst the following has been awarded the Global Peace Award by the All India Council of Human Rights Liberties and Social Justice (AIHLS)?**

- (a) Dr. S. S. Chatterjee (b) Swami Chidanand Saraswati Maharaj  
(c) Sadguru Jaggi Vasudev Maharaj (d) M. Veerappa Moily

**Answer:- (b)**

**Related Facts:**

- On December 10, 2017, Swami Chinanand Saraswati Maharaj, supreme leader of Parmarash Niketan has been awarded Global Peace award by the All India Council of Human Rights Liberties and Social Justice (AIHLS).
- He got this honor to spread the message of peace in the world.



**Reference:**

<https://www.jagran.com/uttarakhand/dehradun-city-saint-chidanand-saraswati-awarded-by-globe-peace-award-17182533.html>

## 27th Vyas Samman

**Question: Recently who has been selected for 27th Vyas Samman-2017?**

- (a) Dr. Sunita Jain (b) Krishna Sobti (c) Mamta Kalia (d) Surendra Verma

**Answer: (c)**

**Related Facts:**

- On December 8th, 2017, Eminent Hindi writer Mamta Kalia has been announce to be honoured with literary award Vyas Samman for year 2017.
- A selection committee headed by Sahitya Akademi director and author Vishwanath Prasad Tiwari has decided to bestow the award upon Kalia for her novel "Dukkhham Sukkham" published in 2009.
- He has also been honored with the Yash Pal Katha Award, Sahitya Bhushan Samman and Ram Manohar Lohia Award by the Uttar Pradesh Hindi Institute.
- In addition to these awards she has also been awarded with "Vanmali Katha Samman" and "Vagdevi Sahitya Samman".
- Kalia is known for her works in Hindi and English including "Beghar", "Janch Abhi Jaari Hai", "Nirmohi", and "Bolne Wali Aurat".
- It is remember able that Hindi writer Surinder Verma had been chosen for "Vyas Samman" for 2016, for his novel "Kaatna shami ka vriksha padma-pankhuri ki dhar se".
- The award was instituted by the K.K. Birla Foundation in 1991.
- It is awarded annually for an exceptional contribution made by Hindi writers towards the language and his work published in past 10 years.
- The award carries monetary award of 3.5 lakh rupees, a citation and a plaque.



- First Vyas Samman, Dr. Ramvilas Sharma was given his novel 'India's Ancient Language Family and Hindi' (published in three volumes).

**Reference:**

[http://www.ptinews.com/news/9304058\\_Hindi-writer-Mamta-Kalia-to-get-the-27th-Vyas-Samman.html](http://www.ptinews.com/news/9304058_Hindi-writer-Mamta-Kalia-to-get-the-27th-Vyas-Samman.html)

## Pt. Ramnarayan Sharma National Ayurved Award

**Question: Who amongst the following has been awarded Pandit Ramnarayan Sharma National Ayurveda Award for the year 2008-2014 by President of India at Rashtrapati Bhawan?**

- (a) Prof. Banwari Lal Gaur (b) Prof. Dinanath Sharma  
(c) Prof. Banwari Lal Sharma (d) Prof. Deepak Mishra

**Answer: (a)**

**Related Facts:**

- On December 4<sup>th</sup>, 2017, President Ramnath Kovind presented Pandit Ramnarayan Sharma National Ayurveda Award for the year 2008-2014 to Jodhpur's former Vice Chancellor Prof. Banwari Lal Gaur.
- Pt Ramnarayan Sharma National Award was instituted by the Ramnarayan Vaidya Ayurved Research Trust in 1982.
- It honours an eminent Ayurvedic scholar every year.
- The Award consists of a cash prize of Rs 2 lakh, a silver idol of Lord Dhanwantari and a citation.



**Reference:**

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=174071>

## Miguel de Cervantes Award-2017

**Question: Who has been elected for the Miguel de Cervantes Award 2017?**

- (a) Eduardo Mendoza (b) Sergio Ramirez (c) Elena Ponitovska (d) Francisco Embral

**Answer: (b)**

**Related Facts:**

- On November 16<sup>th</sup>, 2017, former Nicaraguan politician, journalist and writer Sergio Ramirez was elected for the 'Miguel de Servants Award 2017'.
- Miguel de Cervantes Award is the Spanish-speaking world's highest literary award.
- This award is provided on 23 April every year by the Spanish Ministry of Culture on the occasion of the anniversary of the writer of the novel 'Don Quixote' Miguel de Cervantes.
- One medal and 1.25 billion Euros are given in this award.



**Reference:**

<http://www.mecd.gob.es/prensa-mecd/en/actualidad/2017/11/20171116-pcervantes.html>

## 21st Asia Insurance Industry Award

**Question: Which of the following companies was selected for award of 'General Insurance Company of the Year' in category of Asia Insurance Industry Award 2017?**

- (a) Apollo Munich Health Insurance Company
- (b) Bajaj Allianz (c) Aditya Birla Health Insurance
- (d) Bharti AXA Life Insurance

**Answer: (a)**

**Related Facts:**

- On November 1, 2017, Apollo Munich Health Insurance Company was honored in the 21st Asia Insurance Industry Award-2017 held in Singapore.
- The company has received award in the category of 'General Insurance Company of the Year'.
- Apollo Munich Health Insurance Company is the first award-winning company of the Asia Pacific region.
- Apollo Munich Health Insurance Company is a joint venture between integrated healthcare provider, Apollo Hospitals Group, and the Munich Re Group.

**Reference:**

[http://www3.asiainsurancereview.com/Portals/1318/pdf/AIIA%202017\\_WinnersBklet.pdf?ver=2017-11-01-232456-607](http://www3.asiainsurancereview.com/Portals/1318/pdf/AIIA%202017_WinnersBklet.pdf?ver=2017-11-01-232456-607)



## UN MEDAL TO INDIAN PEACEKEEPERS

**Question: On October 13, 2017, United Nations honored Indian peacekeepers with the United Nations Medal for dedicated services and sacrifice in which of the following countries?**

- (a) Lebanon (b) Southern Sudan (c) North Sudan (d) Yemen

**Answer: (b)**

**Related Facts:**

- On October 13<sup>th</sup>, 2017, the United Nations honored Indian peacekeepers with the UN Medal for their dedicated services and sacrifice in Southern Sudan.
- These Indian peacekeepers have been awarded for their professionalism and service in protecting civilians and building durable peace in the conflict-ridden country.
- Fifty Indian peacekeepers serving with the United Nations Mission in South Sudan have been awarded the UN Medal.
- The Indian Ambassador to South Sudan, Srikumar Menon, attended the medal ceremony and thanked the peacekeepers for their commitment and service.

**Reference:**

<https://unmiss.unmissions.org/unmiss-force-commander-awards-un-medal-indian-peacekeepers-bor>



## OPERATIONS & CAMPAIGN

### Four Tributaries Included Ganga Sanitation Campaign

**Question:** Recently, the Central Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Conservation Ministry included four tributaries of Ganga in Ganga Sanitation Campaign. Which of these rivers is not included?

(a) Hindan (b) Black (c) Gomti (d) Saryu

**Answer:** (d)

**Related Facts:**

- On December 26th, 2017, the Central Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Conservation Ministry initiated the initiative to make the Ganges River pure and uninterrupted, for the first time, its four tributaries; Hinden, Kali, Ramganga and Gomti were included in the 'Ganga Sanitation Campaign'.
- It is notable that in the first phase, these four tributaries of Ganga were included.
- In the next phase some other tributaries will be included.
- On the banks of these included rivers Ganga Hygiene Campaign, the water purification plant (STP) will be installed under the Namami Ganga Mission.
- It is noteworthy that through the tributaries of Ganga, industrial pollution and waste from the cities located on the banks of these rivers are considered to be very responsible for pollution in the river.
- Kali and Ramganga rivers have been identified as such a river, on which there is a plurality of leather, paper, pulp and sugar industries.
- The waste of these industries is being shed in these rivers.
- Due to this, the level of pollution is rising in the river.



**Reference:**

<http://zeenews.india.com/hindi/india/ganga-swachata-abhiyan-assistant-rivers-hinden-kali-ram-ganga-and-gomti-included/360463>

### Lalima Rath (Chariot)

**Question:** Lalima Rath (Chariot) is concerned with which of the following disease?

(a) Leprosy (b) Cancer (c) Anemia (d) Malaria

**Answer:** (c)

**Related Facts:**

- On 5 December, 2017 Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chauhan flagged Lalima Rath (chariot).
- This Rath (chariot) will spread awareness among the rural population of villages with Anemia abundance with the spread of 'Lalima Abhiyan'.
- Lalima Rath will travel in villages with Anemia abundance of each division.
- Lalima Scheme has been started by the women and child development of Madhya Pradesh.
- It is known that 'Lalima Abhiyan' is implemented on November 1<sup>st</sup>, 2017 with an aim to make Madhya Pradesh anaemia-free.





- Under the campaign, free iron folic acid tablets will be provided in aanganwadis', academic institutions and hospitals.

**Reference:**

<http://www.dprmp.org/NewsDetail.aspx?newsid=488211&disid=46>

## IMBAX-2017

**Question: During 20-25 November, 2017 between India and which of the following countries IMBAX-2017; bilateral military exercise concluded in Meghalaya?**

(a) Thailand (b) Myanmar (c) Sri Lanka (d) Bhutan

**Answer: (b)**

**Related Facts:**

- During November 20-25, 2017, the first Indo-Myanmar Bilateral Military Exercise 'IMBAX' -2017 was conducted at Umroi, 30km away from Meghalaya capital's Shillong.
- This was the first bilateral military exercise between the two countries under the United Nations Peacekeeping Operations (UNPKO).
- The exercise aimed to train the Myanmar delegation for participation in the United Nations Peacekeeping Operations under the United Nations Flag.
- Significantly, the Indian Army has a lot of experience in participating in UN peacekeeping operations.
- This military exercise was organized under the initiative of the Red Horns Division of the Army.



**Reference:**

<http://indiatoday.intoday.in/story/india-myanmar-bilateral-army-exercise-begins-in-meghalaya/1/1093596.html>

## Anaemia-free Haryana

**Question: Recently, the Haryana government announced the name of brand ambassador for Anemia-Free Haryana campaign in the state. She is-**

(a) Gita Phogat (b) Manushi Chhillar (c) Kiran Kher (d) Ritu Phogat

**Answer: (b)**

**Related Facts:**

- On November 30, 2017, Haryana Chief Minister Manohar Lal Khattar announced that anaemia-free Haryana campaign will be run in the state.
- Miss World Manushi Chhillar will be the campaign's brand ambassador.
- Free sanitary napkins will also be supplied to girls in Haryana schools.
- In this state, 61% of women and girls are suffering from anemia.
- The main cause of this disease is deficiency of 'iron'.
- It is notable that Manushi Chhillar is currently working on a project named 'Shakti', which is related to the menstrual cycle of women.





**Reference:**

<https://twitter.com/ManushiChhillar/status/936233548549275648>

## COMMISSION & COMMITTEE

### Committee for giving minority status to Hindus

**Question: Recently Under whose chairmanship, the National Commission for Minorities constituted a three-member committee in the eight states to give minority status to Hindus?**

- (a) Manjeet Singh Rai (b) George Kourien (c) Ajay Kumar  
(d) Sulekha Kambre

**Answer: (b)**

**Related facts:**

- On December 6, 2017, the National Commission for Minorities constituted a three-member committee to give minority status to Hindus in eight states.
- The Deputy Chairman of the National Commission for Minorities George Kourien will be chairman of the committee.
- Other members of the Committee are from the Commission itself; include Sulekha Kambre and Manjeet Singh Rai.
- The Additional Secretary of the Commission Ajay Kumar will be the Secretary of the Committee.
- This committee will study issues related to the number, status and other aspects of Hindus in eight states viz: Jammu, Kashmir, Punjab, Arunachal Pradesh, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland and Lakshadweep.
- Apart from this, the committee will consider the practical and constitutional possibilities of giving minority status.
- The committee will submit its report in three months.



**Reference:**

<https://www.aninews.in/news/national/general-news/minorities-commission-to-study-minority-status-to-hindus-in-eight-states201712062319060002/>

### Committee for the study of Deemed University

**Question- Who amongst the following is the chairman of a three-member committee constituted by union Ministry of Human Resource Development (HRD) to examine the working of deemed universities and the regulatory mechanism?**

- (a) Anil Kakodkar (b) Justice L. Narasimhan Reddy  
(c) Sukhbir Singh Sandhu (d) Justice Shiv Kirti Singh

**Answer: (b)**

**Related Facts:**

- On December 5, 2017, The Union Ministry of Human Resource Development (HRD) set up a three-member committee to examine the working of deemed universities and also to suggest an “oversight” and “regulatory mechanism”.



- The committee is headed by a former Chief Justice of Patna High Court L. Narasimha Reddy.
- The two other members are Sukhbir Singh Sandhu, Additional Secretary in HRD Ministry and Anil Sahasrabudhe, chairman of All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE).
- The committee will also consider whether 'more institutions are running programs without approval'.
- The committee will submit its report for these Institutions within four months.

**Reference:**

<http://www.thehindu.com/todays-paper/tp-in-school/hrd-deemed-university-panel/article21269850.ece>

## Village Climate Prostrate Agricultural Management Committee

**Question: By How much money, the Maharashtra government in November, 2017 decided to set up 'Village Climate Resilient Agricultural Management Committee' (VCRMCs)?**

(a) 4000 crores (b) 3000 crores (c) 2000 crores (d) 5000 crores

**Ans: (a)**

**Related facts:-**

- On November 7, 2017, under 'Nanaji Deshmukh Krishi Sanjeevani Project, the decision was taken by the Maharashtra government to set up 'Village Climate Resilient Agricultural Management Committee.
- The committees will be set up with a sum of Rs. 4000 crore.
- The project will be funded by the World Bank.
- Under the project the most vulnerable 4210 villages of the state prone to climate change have been selected.
- Apart from this, 932 villages of the state, which are facing changes in the salinity of water, have also been included in the project.
- A 13-member committee will be constituted for all the selected villages to adopt new agricultural practices, rational use of water, and soil inspection.



**Related Links:-**

<http://indiatoday.intoday.in/story/maha-govt-to-set-up-village-climate-resilient-committees/1/1084938.html>

## **PLANNING & PROJECT**

### Ujala Mitra Scheme

**Question: In which of the following state 'Ujala Mitra Scheme' has started recently?**

(a) Chhattisgarh (b) Jharkhand (c) Uttarakhand (d) Bihar

**Answer: (c)**

**Related Facts:**

- On December 14<sup>th</sup>, 2017 Uttarakhand Chief Minister Trivendra Singh Rawat launched 'Ujala Mitra' scheme in Dehradun on Energy Conservation Day.
- The objective of this scheme is to make women self-help groups in partnership for LED bulb distribution in the state.



- E.S.L. has signed the MOU with the members of the women self-help groups from different districts of the state In order to cooperate with the women self-help groups working in rural and urban areas for the distribution of 10 million L.E.D. bulbs Under the Ujala program.
- Distribution of LED bulbs and energy efficient devices will be done by women self-help groups working in urban and rural areas in the state.
- These groups will get, on the sale of LED bulbs Rs 10/bulb, for the sale of LED lights Rs.15/ light and on energy efficient fans, will get the rate of 56 rupees per fan.
- This will enable women self-help groups to earn income from the sale of equipment.
- In addition to giving margin money to these groups, women self-help groups who have completed their goals in time will also be rewarded as Ujala Mitra.

**Reference:**

<http://www.pmawasojana.co.in/ujala-mitra-uttarakhand/>

## Guru-Shishya Programme

**Question: Which of the following state governments has recently announced the introduction of a communication program between Teachers and students named ‘Guru Shishya Programme’?**

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

**Answer: (d)**

**Related Facts:**

- On December 6<sup>th</sup>, 2017, a communication program named ‘Guru-Shishya Programme’ was announced by the Government of Rajasthan.
- This program will be operated by the state’s Higher Education Ministry.
- Under this program the students will communicate with teachers on issues related to their institution and issues.
- This program has been started to solve the educational problems of students in the nodal colleges of all the districts of the state.
- Students selected on merit and elected members of students union would participate in this programme.



**Reference:**

[http://www.business-standard.com/article/pti-stories/rajasthan-government-to-start-guru-shishya-programme-117120600773\\_1.html](http://www.business-standard.com/article/pti-stories/rajasthan-government-to-start-guru-shishya-programme-117120600773_1.html)

## Soil Health Card (SHC) Mobile App

**Question- At which of the following places did the Minister of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare Radha Mohan Singh launched the Soil Health Card (SHC) Mobile App?**

(a) Suratgarh (b) Jhajjar (c) New Delhi (d) Ambala

**Answer: (b)**

**Related Facts:**

- On December 5<sup>th</sup>, 2017, on the occasion of World Soil Day, Union Agriculture and Farmers Welfare Minister Shri Radha



Mohan Singh launched the Soil Health Card (SHC) Mobile App.

- He started this app at the Agricultural Science Center, Jhajjar, Haryana.
- This app works like other Geotagging apps developed for the Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana.
- The app contains farmers' details including name, Aadhaar card number, mobile number, gender, address, crop details, etc.
- It is note worthy that in India, Soil Health Card scheme was launched in February 2015 in Rajasthan.
- The Minister said that Soil Health Card mobile App has been launched today to help the farmers.
- The app will benefit field-level workers as it will automatically capture GIS coordinates while registering sample details at the time of sample collection in the field and indicate the location from where the sample has been collected.
- The Minister informed that in the first phase (2015-17) 100 million SHCs have been distributed so far.
- The aim of the Ministry is to provide SHC to all 120 million farm holdings by December, 2017. The second phase began on May 1, 2017, and will continue for the year 2017 to 2019.
- Soil Health Card is prepared in 14 local languages and distributed to the farmers.

**Reference:**

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintHindiRelease.aspx?relid=69555>

## ‘Saubhagya’ scheme launched by the Jammu & Kashmir Government

**Question: A target has been fixed to provide electricity connections by December 2018 to how many households under ‘Saubhagya’ (Sahaj Bijli Har Ghar Yojna) scheme?**

(a) 3 crores (b) 3.5 crores (c) 4 crores (d) 4.5 crores

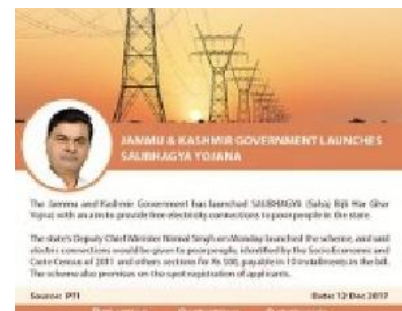
**Answer: (c)**

**Related Facts:**

- On 11th December, 2017, the Government of Jammu and Kashmir launched ‘Saubhagya’ (Sahaj Bijli Har Ghar Yojna) scheme with the aim of providing free electricity connections to the poor families in the state.
- It was inaugurated by Deputy Chief Minister Nirmal Singh.
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi’s ambitious plan has set a target to provide electricity to 4 crore households in the country by December 2018.
- Under this scheme, electricity connections will be provided to the poor people, marked at 500 rupees on the basis of social, economic and caste census.
- The connection fee will be payable in 10 equal installments with the electricity bill.
- Under the scheme, arrangement for registration of applications on the spot is also made.

**Reference:**

<http://www.thehindu.com/news/national/jammu-and-kashmir-govt-launches-saubhagya->



## Dunav Hydro Power Project

**Question: On which of the following Rivers Dunav Hydro Power Project is built?**

(a) Dharma River (b) Pindar River (c) Nayar River (d) Pushpavati River

**Answer: (c)**

### Related Facts

- On December 10th, 2017, Uttarakhand Chief Minister, Trivendra Singh Rawat visited Pauri Garhwal to Launch the Dunav Hydro Power Project in Beerokhal block of Pauri Garhwal district and dedicated this project to the people of the state.
- This hydropower project, built by Uttarakhand Jal Vidyut Nigam, has a power generation capacity of 1500 KW.
- This project is built on the Nayar River.
- This project will benefit 56 villages, including Simli, Kanda, Pali and Beerokhal and would generate employment opportunities for local youth.
- On this occasion, the Chief Minister directed the officials to prepare the proposal for Lakwar Vyas hydro power project.



### Reference:

<http://www.tribuneindia.com/news/uttarakhand/cm-inaugurates-1500-kw-dunav-hydro-power-project/511226.html>

## Insurance to Hindu Pilgrims by Bengal Government

**Question: West Bengal government announced a life insurance cover of which amount for pilgrims attending Gangasagar fair?**

(a) 6 lacs (b) 5 lacs (c) 4 lacs (d) 3 lacs

**Answer: (b)**

### Related Facts:

- On December 8, 2017, the West Bengal government announced a life insurance cover of Rs 5 lakh for pilgrims coming to Gangasagar fair.
- In this regard the premium will be fully borne by the State Government.
- About five to six lakh pilgrims arrives in the Gangasagar fair.
- The Gangasagar fair is organized on the occasion of Makar Sankranti at the confluence of the Ganges in Sagra Islands, South 24 Parganas district.
- A number of deaths occur here every year due to the stampede, sinking of boats and accidents like cold and fire.
- Recently a compensation of Rs 10 lakh was announced for the deceased Haj pilgrims by the West Bengal Government.
- After the formation of the present West Bengal Government in 2011, tourism tax was removed.



### Reference:

<http://www.hindustantimes.com/kolkata/facing-minority-appeasement-charge-bengal-govt->



## World's Largest Solar Power Plant

**Question: Where was the foundation stone of the world's largest solar power plant laid recently?**

(a) Rewa (b) Nagpur (c) Jaisalmer (d) Bhuj

**Answer: (a)**

**Related Facts:**

- On December 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2017, Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chauhan laid the foundation stone of the world's largest solar power plant in Ghudd Tehsil of Rewa district.
- The plant will produce 750 MW electricity.
- This plant will produce electricity at a cost of Rs 2.97 per unit which is the lowest in the world.
- Apart from this, the Chief Minister also launched 'Pradhan Mantri Saubhagya Yojna' in the state under which every house in the state will have electricity facility by 2018.

**Reference:**

<http://www.dprmp.org/NewsDetail.aspx?newsid=491952&disid=33>



## 'NYAYA GRAM' PROJECT

**Question: Recently President Ramnath Kovind has laid the foundation stone of the 'NYAYA GRAM' PROJECT of which of the following High Courts?**

(a) Madras High Court (b) Allahabad High Court  
(c) Delhi High Court (d) Guwahati High Court

**Answer(b)**

**Related Facts:**

- On December 16<sup>th</sup>, 2017, President Ramnath Kovind laid the foundation stone of the 'NYAYA GRAM' PROJECT of High Courts Allahabad.
- Under this project, a judicial academy will be set up in the Nyaya Gram campus..
- The Nyaya Gram project would prove to be a milestone in fulfilling the requirements of the Allahabad High Court.
- This academy will make significant contribution to the capacity development of the lower courts of Uttar Pradesh.
- Apart from the academy in these premises, auditorium and housing will also be made.

**Reference:**

<http://presidentofindia.nic.in/press-release-detail.htm?1174>



## Establishment of Vermi Compost Production Unit

**Question- Recently cabinet of which of the following states decided to set-up/operate the Vermi Compost Unit installation scheme in the interest of the farmers of the state?**

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

**Answer: (a)**

**Related Facts:**





- On December 13, 2017, the Uttar Pradesh Cabinet in the interest of the farmers of the state, decided to operate the vermi compost unit installation scheme.
- According to the scheme, keeping in mind the fertility of the land with a view to get maximum productivity and to avoid the adverse effects of chemical fertilizers, to increase the amount of carbon, nitrogen in the land and to bring changes in the economic condition of the farmers, every revenue villages in the state have been sanctioned for establishment of one unit per annum.
- Under the scheme, the beneficiaries of the reserved category in the villages reserved for scheduled castes / tribes and women will be selected on the basis of first come-first-serve.
- Farmer will supply Vermi Compost Pitt seven feet long, three feet wide and one feet deep-sized unit from his own resources. After the establishment of the unit, the government will send 75 percent subsidy directly to the farmers' accounts per unit.
- This scheme will be operated by the National Agriculture Development Scheme and the special grant from the Uttar Pradesh government.

**Reference:**

[http://information.up.nic.in/View\\_Hindinews.aspx?id=836](http://information.up.nic.in/View_Hindinews.aspx?id=836)

## SAUBHAGYA Scheme launched in Manipur

**Question: Recently, a Pradhan Mantri Sahaj Bijli Har Ghar Yojana (SAUBHAGYA) was launched in Manipur. Approximately how many households of Manipur are proposed to be included under the Scheme?**

(a) 1.85 lakh (b) 1.82 lakh (c) 1.75 lakh (d) 1.62 lakh

**Answer: (c)**

**Related Facts:**

- On November 28, 2017, the Pradhan Mantri Sahaj Bijli Har Ghar Yojana (SAUBHAGYA) was launched in Manipur, by Union Minister of State (IC) for Power and New & Renewable Energy, Shri R.K. Singh and Shri N. Biren Singh, Chief Minister of Manipur.
- A total of approximately 1.75 lakh households (1.62 lakh rural households and 0.13 lakh urban households) of Manipur are proposed to be included under the Scheme.
- Saubhagya is a scheme launched to achieve universal household electrification in all parts of the Country at a cost of Rs. 16,320 crore.
- A Gross Budgetary Support (GBS) of Rs. 12,320 crores from Government of India is also included in it.
- Rural Electrification Corporation Limited (REC), a Navaratna CPSE under the Ministry of Power has been appointed as the nodal agency for coordinating the implementation of the scheme.
- The prospective beneficiary households for free electricity connections under the scheme will be identified using Socio Economic and Caste Census (SECC), 2011 data.
- All States and Union Territories of the country are required to complete household electrification in their respective jurisdiction by 31st March, 2019.



**Reference:**

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=173922>

## Fish Pond Yojana

**Question: Which of the following states government has launched 'Fish Pond Yojana' recently?**

(a) Andhra Pradesh (b) Tamil Nadu (c) Odisha (d) Maharashtra

**Answer: (c)**

**Related Facts:**

- On November 28<sup>th</sup>, 2017, the Government of Odisha launched a new scheme CALLED "Fish Pond Yojana".
- Under the scheme, the state government will make additional water bodies for freshwater aquaculture in 2,200 hectares of land.
- Apart from this, the government has made a budgetary provision of Rs 96 crore for this scheme.
- Under the scheme, a farmer with requisite land can get bank loan of Rs 8.5 lakh per hectare for excavation of new pond.
- State Government can provide a maximum of 50% (4.25 lakh rupees per hectare) of total cost as subsidy.
- If someone spends more than Rs 8.5 lakh per hectare, then the state government will not provide more than the maximum limit of subsidy.

**Reference:**

<https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/bhubaneswar/odisha-introduces-fish-pond-yojana-to-promote-fish-farming/articleshow/61823614.cms>



## Rural Livelihood scheme for Northeast

**Question: Answer East Rural Livelihood Project will be started in 4 North Eastern States. Which state is not included in the question?**

(a) Mizoram (b) Assam (c) Nagaland (d) Tripura

**Answer: (b)**

**Related Facts:**

- On November 23, 2017, Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Development of North-Eastern Region (DoNER), MoS PMO, Personnel, Public Grievances, Pensions, Atomic Energy and Space, Dr Jitendra Singh declared to start an exclusive "Rural Livelihood" scheme for the Northeast.
- The unique scheme is titled as "North East Rural Livelihood Project".
- Scheme is being supported by the World Bank and will primarily benefit the tribals and the lower socioeconomic groups, including women, in the North-Eastern Region (NER).
- To begin with, four states, – Mizoram, Nagaland, Sikkim and Tripura, will be taken up for helping the tribal and even the non-tribal lower groups living in remote areas.
- The project is aimed at assisting over 10,000 Self Help Groups (SHGs) and benefit about three lakh poor households.
- The purpose of this project is to improve the livelihood of the rural livelihood, especially women, unemployed youths and the highest non-profit in North-Eastern states.

**Reference:**

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=173791>



## Nabakrushna Choudhury Secha Unnayan Yojana

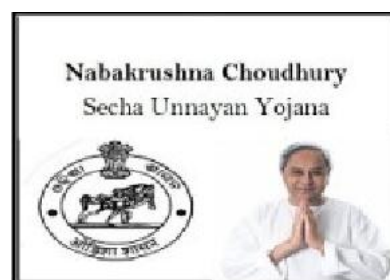
**Question: Recently, which state government decided to start the Nabakrushna Choudhury Secha Unnayan Yojana to provide irrigation facility to about 55,000 hectares of agricultural land in the state?**

(a) Gujarat (b) Odisha (c) West Bengal (d) Madhya Pradesh

**Answer: (b)**

**Related Facts:**

- On November 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2017, Odisha cabinet approved a proposal to launch a scheme named after former Odisha chief minister, social reformer and freedom fighter Nabakrushna Choudhury to provide irrigation to 55,000 hectares of land.
- The Cabinet meeting chaired by Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik on the same day approved the proposal made by law minister Pratap Jena to the laws referred to in this plan.
- 635 crores will be outlay for this plan over a period of 3 years.
- Under the scheme 46,296 hectares of command area of 14 major and medium irrigation projects and 284 minor irrigation projects will be revived.
- This plan is fully funded by the state government.



**Reference:**

<https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/topic/Nabakrushna-Choudhury-Secha-Unnayan-Yojana>

## First LPG bottling facility (plant)

**Question: Recently, Centre has sanctioned Rs 75 crore to which one of the following northeast states for setting up a Liquefied Petroleum Gas (LPG) bottling plant?**

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

**Answer: (b)**

**Related facts**

- On December 9, 2017, a MoU was signed between the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas and the Government of Meghalaya in Shillong.
- Accordingly, the central government sanctioned 75 crores for Meghalaya.
- This sanctioned is for that the first LPG bottling (Kupharian) plant can be set up in Meghalaya.
- This step will help increase the clean fuel's penetration, especially in the rural areas of the state.
- The bottling plant will have annual capacity of 13,000 metric tonnes.
- It is noteworthy that the LPG penetration in Meghalaya is the lowest in the North East region.
- For the said reason Centre has decided to implement the Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana (PMUY) in the state in full swing.



- Only 27 per cent of the households in the state are linked with LPG connectivity which is much below the national average.
- At present there are only 49 LPG distributors in the state.

**Reference:**

[http://www.ptinews.com/news/9307753\\_Meghalaya-to-get-its-first-LPG-bottling-facility.html](http://www.ptinews.com/news/9307753_Meghalaya-to-get-its-first-LPG-bottling-facility.html)

## Narmada-Parvati link project

**Question: Which one of the following state recently approved the Narmada-Parvati link project?**

- (a) Rajasthan (b) Madhya Pradesh (c) Jharkhand  
(d) Maharashtra

**Answer: (b)**

**Related facts:**

- On December 12th, 2017, Narmada-Parvati link project costing Rs 7,546 crore was approved in the meeting of Narmada Control Board, chaired by Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chauhan.
- This is the fourth ambitious project after the Narmada-Kshipra link project, Narmada-Gambhir Link Project and Narmada-Kali Sindh project for the Malwa region.
- With this, irrigation facility will be available in 2 lakh hectare area.
- It was informed in the meeting that the Narmada-Shipra Link Project has been completed.
- This has provided stable solution for the drinking water crisis in Dewas and Ujjain.
- The construction of Narmada-Gambhir Link Project of 50,000 hectare irrigation capacity is in progress.
- The construction of Narmada-Parvati will be completed in four phases.
- At least 50,000 hectare irrigation capacity will be created in each phase.
- This project will benefit farmers of 369 villages of Sehore and Shajapur districts.
- For this project, nearly 1.08 million acre feet water will be lifted from Indira Sagar Reservoir.
- Water for irrigation for the project will be supplied through underground pipelines.
- Water will be available for each farmer with nearly 20 metre pressure up to 2.5 hectare.



**Reference:**

<http://mpinfo.org/News/TodaysNews.aspx?newsid=20171212N21&LocID=1&PDt=12/12/2017>

## Food Safety on Wheels- Mobile Laboratory

**Question: In which of the following state country's first 'Food Safety on Wheels' mobile laboratory was unveiled?**

- (a) Chhattisgarh (b) Goa (c) Jharkhand (d) Assam

**Answer: (b)**

**Related facts:**

- On December 10th, 2017, Goa Chief Minister Manohar Parrikar launched the country's first 'Food Safety on Wheels' mobile lab scheme in Goa.
- It is fully financed by the center.



- The Central Government will also bear the maintenance and cost of this vehicle for 5 years.
- These mobile units would also be used for awareness building around food safety, hygiene and promoting healthy eating habits in citizens at large and for conducting training and certification programme for food handlers and supervisors in food businesses, particularly petty food businesses.
- In addition, these mobile units would help the field functionaries in the States to enhance their outreach and conduct surveillance activities even in far-flung areas.
- Food and fluids can be tested within 15 minutes from this mobile workshop equipped with state-of-the-art equipment.

**Reference:**

<http://www.fssai.gov.in/home/food-testing/Food-Safety-on-Wheels.html>

### High quality city bus services

**Question: In how many cities of the state will the low floor and mini bus service (based on P.P.P. model) being started in the state by the Uttar Pradesh government to provide high-level city bus service to the common citizens?**

(a) 5 (b) 6 (c) 7 (d) 12

**Answer: (c)**

**Related facts:**

- Uttar Pradesh government from the coming financial year is going to start Low-floor and mini bus services based on the PPP model 7 cities of the state for providing high quality city Bus Service to the common citizens.
- These seven cities include Lucknow, Allahabad, Mathura, Agra, Kanpur, Varanasi and Meerut.
- Chief Secretary Rajiv Kumar directed to provide free Wi-Fi facility in city bus services.
- To provide public transport facility to the common citizens in the late night, the buses are operated from 6 am to 10 pm, at night, also at night, it would be mandatory to provide service available at least one hour interval at main locations including airport, bus station and railway stations.



**Reference:**

<http://upnews360.in/newsdetail/97255/hi>

### NIC CERT

**Question: NIC-CERT is related to which ministry?**

- (a) Ministry of Commerce & Industry
- (b) Ministry of Information & Broadcasting
- (c) Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology
- (d) Ministry of Science and Technology

**Answer: (c)**

**Related facts:**

- On December 11, 2017, the “NIC-CERT” a setup of National Informatics Centre, Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology was inaugurated by Ravi Shankar Prasad.
- It will increase the requirement to upscale the existing security infrastructure of (NIC).





- It is noteworthy that NIC has been doing remarkable job of securing the Government cyberspace for a long time and by setting up this centre they have taken their experience and expertise to the next level.

**Reference:**

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=174241>

## Vivekananda Youth Award Scheme

**Question: Recently, in which of the following states the scheme of Vivekananda Youth Award has been re-operate?**

- (a) Madhya Pradesh (b) Uttar Pradesh (c) West Bengal  
(d) Assam

**Answer: (b)**

**Related Facts:**

- On 4th December, 2017, the Uttar Pradesh government was directed to re-operate the Vivekananda Youth Award scheme under the Provincial Rakshak Dal / Vikas Dal and Youth Welfare Department.
- In order to re-operate the Vivekanand Youth Award scheme State Government has allocated a sum of 3 lakh 75 thousand rupees for the purpose of awarding units who will get first position at the district level in the financial year 2017-18.
- Under the scheme, Rs 5000 per district has been allocated for awarding first place recipient unit at the district level among Yuva Mangal Dal and Mahila Mangal Dal.
- Assessing the quantization of the activities / achievements of Yuva Mangal Dal and Mahila Mangal Dal on the instructions of the state government, the 10 points prescribed in the past have been reduced further and made more practical as per the requirement.
- The two old points have been made more practical by reducing and increasing as per requirement.
- Social tree plantation and family welfare have been simplified.
- In addition to keeping old points of sports and small savings schemes, new points related to the establishment of blood donation, discharge, water conservation, establishment of library / reading room, establishment of organic farming, solar power plants have been replaced in the old place.



**Reference:**

<http://upnews360.in/newsdetail/96796/hi>

## Financial Assistance for Projects under Coastal Berth Scheme

**Question: The projects under Coastal Berth Scheme of the flagship Sagarmala Programme are distributed over eight states. To which state highest number of project has been allocated?**

- (a) Maharashtra (b) Andhra Pradesh (c) Goa (d) Gujarat

**Answer: (a)**

**Related facts:**

- On November 3, 2017, the Ministry of Shipping has taken up projects worth Rs 2,302 crore for financial assistance



under the Coastal Berth Scheme of the flagship Sagarmala Programme.

- After due appraisal in consultation with NITI Aayog and Department of Expenditure, has extended the period of the scheme for three years, upto 31st March, 2020.
- Ministry also expanded its scope to cover capital dredging at Major Ports and preparation of DPR for coastal berth project, in Oct 2017.
- The projects under Coastal Berth Scheme of the flagship Sagarmala Programme are distributed over eight states.
- This distribution is with the highest number of projects in Maharashtra (12 projects), Andhra Pradesh & Goa (10 projects), Karnataka (6 projects), Kerala and Tamil Nadu (3 projects), Gujarat (2 projects) and West Bengal (1 project).
- Out of the 47 projects, 23 projects worth Rs 1075.61 crore have been sanctioned for total financial assistance of Rs 390.42 crore and Rs 230.01 crore has been released to Major Ports, State Maritime Boards and State Governments.
- The remaining 24 projects are under various stages of development and process of approval.
- The most recent beneficiaries of the scheme were Jawahar Lal Nehru Port Trust (JNPT) and Karnataka Government respectively for developing coastal infrastructure at Jawahar Lal Nehru Port, Karwar Port and Old Mangalore Port.
- Rs 25 crore were sanctioned for construction of coastal berth (270m x 30m) at JNPT.
- The Coastal Berth Scheme aims to provide financial support to ports or state governments for creation of infrastructure for movement of cargo and passenger by sea or national waterways.

**Reference:**

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=173210>

## Online Registry System Launched

**Question: Chief Minister of which of the following states recently launched the online registry system?**

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

**Answer: (a)**

**Related Facts:**

- On December 5<sup>th</sup>, 2017, Chief Minister of Uttar Pradesh Yogi Adityanath launched the online registry system.
- Introduction of this system will facilitate the registration of properties along with transparency.
- Under this arrangement, facilities will be provided to the people of the state for the registration of commercial, residential, agricultural and non-agricultural plots, housing and farms.
- With the introduction of the online registry facility, there will be ease to both, the seller and the buyer.
- The latest version of the 'Prenana' software, 'Prenana-3' for developing the registry and other related processes online has been developed by NIC.
- The online registry system starts from the date of launch.



**Reference:**

[http://information.up.nic.in/View\\_Hindinews.aspx?id=820](http://information.up.nic.in/View_Hindinews.aspx?id=820)

## Panch Parmeshwar portal and Panch Parmeshwar App

**Question: Which of the following states recently launched Panch Parmeshwar portal and Panch Parmeshwar App?**

(a) Chhattisgarh (b) Madhya Pradesh (c) Uttar Pradesh (d) Haryana

**Answer: (b)**

**Related facts:**

- On November 27<sup>th</sup>, 2017, Madhya Pradesh government launched Panch Parmeshwar portal and Panch Parmeshwar App.
- The app was inaugurated by Panchayat and Rural Development Minister Shri Gopal Bhargav.
- With starts of this initiative Madhya Pradesh became the first state in the country to adopt this system.
- In this app system all acts and dealings of the gram panchayats will be displayed on public domain.
- Gram panchayats and each and every detail of their bill-wise expenses will be available on the portal and app.
- Photograph of the actual status of all work undertaken by the gram panchayats will be available on the portal and app alongwith the GPS location.
- All financial records of the gram panchayats will be automatically available online through this payment system.
- Unique initiative has been made through this portal and app by using of this latest information and technology technique to make the working system of gram panchayats more easy, transparent, reliable and responsible.



**Reference:**

<http://mpinfo.org/News/TodaysNews.aspx?newsid=20171127N24&LocID=1&PDt=11/27/2017>

## Pattabhi Sitaramayya-Self Business Group (PS-SBG) Scheme

**Question: Which of the following States Government has recently launched a loan scheme (Pattabhi Sitaramaiya Self-Business Group Scheme) for state's rural women, willing to start their own businesses?**

(a) Andhra Pradesh (b) Tamilnadu (c) Karnataka (d) Bihar

**Answer: (a)**

**Related Facts:**

- On 21<sup>st</sup> November, 2017, Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu launched Pattabhi Sitaramaiya Self-Business Group Scheme (PS-SBG).
- This is a loan scheme (PS-SBG) for state's rural women, willing to start their own businesses.
- Under this scheme a loan upto Rs. 25 lakhs will be sanctioned to the individual or group on working capital basis by Andhra Bank.
- This scheme will be available in 7 districts of Andhra Pradesh and 2 districts of Telangana.



- The scheme was launched in commemoration of 138th birth anniversary of Dr. Bhogaraju Pattabhi Sitaramayya and the silver jubilee celebrations of SHG bank linkage programme in the country.
- It is noteworthy that Andhra Pradesh is the only state government that offers Rs. 10,000 to every woman in the DWCRA and SHG groups.

**Reference:**

<http://www.thehindu.com/todays-paper/tp-national/tp-andhrapradesh/cm-to-launch-andhra-banks-sbg-scheme-today/article20608842.ece>

## Country's first Swarna Rajdhani train

**Question: On November 29, 2017 from which of the following railway stations, railway ministry introduced the country's first Swarna Rajdhani train (New Delhi – Sealdah Rajdhani Express)?**

(a) Howrah (b) New Delhi (c) Sealdah (d) Kanpur

**Answer: (b)**

**Related Facts:**

- On November 29, 2017, the Ministry of Railways introduced the country's first gold Rajdhani train (Train no 12313 New Delhi – Sealdah Rajdhani Express) with improved passenger amenities, aesthetics and hygiene standards, from New Delhi Railway Station.
- It is notable that the Ministry of Railways has decided to upgrade the major Rajdhani and Shatabdi trains under 'Project Swarna' to improve the travel experience.
- 14 Rajdhani trains & 15 Shatabdi trains have been selected for the first phase of this Project.
- The first revamped rake of Rajdhani under the project was rake of Sealdah Rajdhani (12314 New Delhi-Sealdah) which was launched today from New Delhi.
- It is worth mentioning that under the project Swarna the New Delhi Kathgodam Shatabdi Express has already been started.



**Reference:**

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=173960>

## **TREATY & AGREEMENTS**

### Agreement for Bhamashah Health Insurance Scheme

**Question: Bhamashah Health Insurance Scheme has been launched in Rajasthan on-**

(a) August 10, 2015 (b) December 13, 2015 (c) From April 12, 2016 (d) December 13, 2016

**Answer: (b)**

**Related Facts:**

- On December 6, 2017; the Memorandum of Understanding for Bhamashah Health Insurance Scheme was signed between the Medical and Health Department, Rajasthan and New India Insurance Company.
- The duration of this MoU is 2 years.



- The MoU was signed by Chief Health Officer State Health Assurance Agency Naveen Jain and Sanjay Agarwal (Regional Manager of New India Assurance Company).
- 311 new treatment packages have been added under this scheme.
- According to the Memorandum of Understanding, the premium of the amount of Rs. 1263 per family will be paid annually.
- At present, about 1 crore households are benefiting from Bhamashah Health Insurance Scheme in the state.
- On this scheme, the state government will pay an amount of Rs. 1263 crore in the form of premium every year.
- The amount, including taxation, will be around Rs. 1500 crores.
- It is known that from December 13, 2015, the Bhamashah Health Insurance Scheme is operated in the state.
- Under this scheme, facilities for angioplasty, heart bypass, heart surgery, brain surgery, applying surgery and plastic surgery are also being provided for people with severe diseases.

**Reference:**

[https://www.indiaonline.com/article/news-top-story/new-india-assurance-bags-rajasthan-health-insurance-project-117121100014\\_1.html](https://www.indiaonline.com/article/news-top-story/new-india-assurance-bags-rajasthan-health-insurance-project-117121100014_1.html)

## Agreement between Uttarakhand government and HP

**Question:** Recently under, an agreement between Uttarakhand government and IT company HP (Hewlett Packard Enterprises India Pvt Ltd) at how many health centers in the state H.P Company will provide tele-medicine services?

(a) 3 (b) 4 (c) 10 (d) 15

**Answer:** (b)

**Related Facts:**

- On December 6, 2017, a Memorandum of Understanding was signed between the Uttarakhand Government and I.T. Company, HP (Hewlett Packard Enterprises India Pvt Ltd).
- This Memorandum of Understanding has been signed to introduce e-Health Center to deliver specialist medical treatment in remote mountain areas of the state through tele-medicine.
- Uttarakhand is the 17th state in the country to adopt tele medicine through this MOU.
- According to agreement, Company will provide tele-medicine services at 4 community health centers in Uttarakhand.
- At these four community health centers, the company has facilities of about 65 types of medical tests and major and necessary pathology equipment and IT services and provided equipment will also install one each studio.
- The company will deploy specialists doctors in the studio.
- The doctors and paramedical staff posted on the selected community health centers will be trained by the company, to ensure the maintenance of electronic medical records and the operation of related equipment.
- The company will further expand it on the basis of the success of the services provided on these four community centers





- It is known that this initiative has been initiated for the communication of specialized medical treatment services through Telemedicine in Uttarakhand under Corporate Social Responsibility.

**Reference:**

[http://www.ptinews.com/news/9298462 Govt-signs-MoU-with-HP-to-provide-tele-medicine-facilities-in-remote-areas](http://www.ptinews.com/news/9298462_Govt-signs-MoU-with-HP-to-provide-tele-medicine-facilities-in-remote-areas)

## Agreement between Health Ministry and Rotary India

**Question: In what context was the Memorandum of Understanding signed between the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare and Rotary International India recently?**

- (a) To train health workers
- (b) To meet the goal of vaccination
- (c) To promote health services in rural areas
- (d) For the management of health services

**Answer: (b)**

**Related Facts:**

MoU inked between Health Ministry, Rotary India to boost immunisation

- On December 6<sup>th</sup>, 2017, a MoU was signed to meet the target of immunization between the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare and Rotary International India.
- The agreement was signed by Joint Secretary (RCH) Bandana Gurnani and Rotary International India President Deepak Kapoor.
- Rotary India will provide support to regular vaccination under the Mission Rainbow and intensive Rainbow missions.
- The main topics of cooperation are:-
- Uniting the beneficiaries, especially in urban settlements and backward areas where there is no one to provide awareness.
- Cooperate and encourage NCC, NYK and NSS members so that they actively participate in awareness programs.
- Involving private professionals and local leaders in programs like Polio-free programs, regular vaccination and Mission Rainbow.
- In India, Rotary International India, National Polio plus Committee and Health Ministry will jointly assist states and districts to spread awareness about programs.

**Reference:**

[http://www.business-standard.com/article/news-ians/mou-inked-between-health-ministry-rotary-india-to-boost-immunisation-117120601400\\_1.html](http://www.business-standard.com/article/news-ians/mou-inked-between-health-ministry-rotary-india-to-boost-immunisation-117120601400_1.html)

## MoU between India and Colombia

**Question: Recently Union Cabinet chaired by Prime Minister has approved the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between India and Colombia in which of the following the field?**

- (a) Agro- product
- (b) Agriculture and Fisheries
- (c) Health
- (d) Double Taxation

**Answer- (b)**

**Related Facts:**



- On December 15<sup>th</sup>, 2017, Union Cabinet chaired by Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi has approved the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between India and Colombia in the field of agriculture and fisheries.
- The MoU provides for cooperation in the following fields of agriculture and Fisheries:
- Innovative agricultural practices/approaches,
- New agricultural mechanizations,
- Successful models of agricultural marketing,
- To develop projects in association with agricultural companies for production of seed,
- Innovative production models and value generation processes in horticulture (vegetables, fruits and flowers),
- Exchange of information/exchange visits of SPS experts,
- Jatropha and Karaya,
- Cooperation in research in oil seeds and oil palm,
- Marine Industrial Fishing, Aqua-culture and Research & Training in the field of Fisheries,
- Small and large ruminants (cattle, sheep, goat) and pigs productivity, diseases and diagnostics and
- Pork processing and value addition.
- Under the MoU, a Joint-Working Group (JWG) will be constituted to prepare/finalize Work Plan for the next two years while specifying task/ activities to be undertaken during that period.
- The MoU will be initially valid for a period of five years and shall be automatically extended for a subsequent periods of five years unless either party expresses its desire/intention to terminate it.

**Reference:**

<http://pib.nic.in/PressReleaseDetail.aspx?PRID=1512804>

### Agreement between India and World Bank

**Question: Recently, how much amount has India signed the IBRD loan agreement for the acquisition of skills and awareness (resolution) for knowledge for the promotion of livelihood with the World Bank?**

- (a) 200 million USD (b) 250 million USD (c) 300 million USD  
(d) 350 million USD

**Answer: (b)**

**Related Facts:**

- On December 13, 2017, India signed a loan agreement with the World Bank for USD 250 million IBRD to acquire skills for earning livelihood and project for the San Kalp-Skills Acquisition and Knowledge Awareness for Livelihood Promotion.
- The agreement was signed by Joint Secretary in the Department of Economic Affairs Sameer Kumar Khare and Junaid Kamal Ahmed (Country Director of the World Bank).
- The purpose of this project is to develop organized mechanisms for skill development and increase accessibility for quality and market friendly training for workforce.
- In the main area of the project, institutional strengthening involves monitoring the plans, distribution and high quality market-friendly training at the national and state level.



- Besides, better access to skills development programs and market relevance, skill training of women trainees and other required groups, better reach and completion and expanding skill training through private public partnership (PPP) is included.
- Completion date of this project is 31 March, 2023.

**Reference:**

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=174300>

### MoU between DCI and NHAI

**Question: Recently, for facilitating the supply of which of the following a MoU was signed between Dredging Corporation of India (DCI) and National Highways Authority of India (NHAI)?**

(a) Cement (b) Ballast (c) Sand (d) Concrete

**Answer: (c)**

**Related Facts:**

- On December 12, 2017, a MoU was signed yesterday between Dredging Corporation of India (DCI) and National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) for facilitating the supply of sand for highways construction work.
- Concessionaires working on highways projects have been facing a shortage of sand at many sites.
- The MoU aims to fill this gap by facilitating the availability of sand for these concessionaires.
- As per the MoU, business intermediaries will ship and store this sand at various ports in India and market it in India.
- DCI intends to do dredging operations at locations in South East Asia, generating large volumes of sand. This dredging will be done for the purpose of obtaining sand.
- NHAI will facilitate the process by displaying the availability of sand at various stockyards at the ports.



**Reference:**

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=174288>

### India and Italy sign MoU

**Question: To increase cooperation in which of the following fields a MoU was signed recently between India and Italy?**

(a) Agriculture (b) Health (c) Double taxation (d) Information Technology

**Answer: (b)**

**Related Facts:**

- On November 29, 2017, India and Italy signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) for enhanced cooperation in the health sector.
- Shri J P Nadda, Union Minister of Health & Family Welfare and Ms. Beatrice Lorenzin, Health Minister of Italy signed the MoU in the presence of senior officers from the Health Ministry and a high level delegation from Italy.



- The MoU recognizes the potential for exchanges in the health sector between the two countries and the need to tap the capabilities and opportunities in a focused and comprehensive manner.
- The objective of this MoU is to establish comprehensive inter-ministerial and inter-institutional cooperation between the two countries in the field of health by pooling technical, scientific, financial and human resources with the ultimate goal of upgrading the quality and reach of human, material and infrastructural resources involved in health care, medical education & training, and research in both countries.
- The main areas of cooperation include:
  1. Exchange & training of medical doctors, officials, other health professionals and experts;
  2. Assistance in development of human resources and setting up of health care facilities;
  3. Short term training of human resources in health;
  4. Regulation of pharmaceuticals, medical devices and cosmetics and exchange of information thereon;
  5. Promotion of business development opportunities in pharmaceuticals;
  6. Procurement of generic and essential drugs and assistance in sourcing of drug supplies;
  7. Procurement of health equipment and pharmaceutical products;
  8. Collaboration in the prevention of NCDs of mutual interest, such as neurocardiovascular diseases, cancer, COPDs, mental health and dementia, with an emphasis on SDG3 and related factors;
  9. Collaboration in the field of climate change impact on communicable diseases and vector borne diseases;
  10. Nutritional aspects of food intake, including malnutrition (over-nutrition and under-nutrition) in the light of the SDG2 and organization of nutritional services;
  11. Safety of production, transformation, distribution and food delivery;
  12. Research and training of food industry operators;
  13. Information and communication to citizens on hygiene and food safety and healthy eating habits; and
  14. Any other area of cooperation as may be mutually decided upon.

**Reference:**

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=173967>

## Agreement between Rajasthan Government and Indian Army

**Question: Under the recent agreement between the Rajasthan government and the Indian Army, which Indian army will be able to use the airstrip for a period of 10 years and will be able to construct temporary as per requirement?**

- (a) Lalgarh-Jatan Airstrip (b) Kishangarh-Jatan Airstrip  
(c) Madhavgarh-Jatan Airstrip (d) Jaisalmer-Jatan Airstrip

**Answer: (a)**

**Related Facts:**

- On November 29, 2017, a Memorandum of Understanding was signed between the Government of Rajasthan and the Indian Army.
- The MoU was signed between the State Civil Aviation Department and the Army.
- In view of the state's security, the Government has taken this positive step in view of the increase in infrastructure by the Army on the state border.



- Lalgarh-Jatan Airstrip is located near Pakistan border in Rajasthan's Ganganagar district which is very important in terms of safety.
- For this, the state government has sanctioned Rs 4 crore.
- India Army will be able to use this airstrip for a period of 10 years under the MoU and it will be able to make temporary construction as required.

**Reference:**

<http://www.firstpost.com/india/indian-army-rajasthan-government-sign-mou-to-improve-defence-infrastructure-close-to-pakistan-border-4235415.html>

## Agreement between India and Afghanistan

**Question: Under an agreement signed recently how much money will the Indian government provide to Afghan government for strengthen the public transport system in Kabul, Afghanistan?**

- (a) 2.5 million dollars (b) 28.7 million dollars  
(c) 30 million dollars (d) 35 million dollars

**Answer: (b)**

**Related Facts:**

- On November 28<sup>th</sup>, 2017, an agreement was signed in Kabul between India and Afghanistan to strengthen the public transport system.
- Memorandum of Understanding was signed between the Acting Afghan Minister of Transport, Mohammad Hameed Tahmasi and Indian Ambassador to Afghanistan Manpreet Vohra.
- Under this agreement, the Government of India will provide assistance of \$ 28.7 million to the Afghan government for strengthening the public transport system in Kabul, Afghanistan.



**Reference:**

<http://ddnews.gov.in/national/india-agrees-provide-287-million-usd-financial-assistance-afghanistans-transport-network>

## Twin City Agreement

**Question- Delhi government recently signed the twin city agreement with which of the following government?**

- (a) Paris Metropolitan Government  
(b) Seoul Metropolitan Government  
(c) Bonn metropolitan Government  
(d) São Paulo metropolitan government

**Answer: (b)**

**Related Facts**

- On November 8, 2017, Delhi Government signed a Twin City Agreement with the Seoul Metropolitan Government to strengthen cooperation in e-governance, transport, climate change and smart city areas.
- The proposed agreement envisages cooperation in the field of environment, culture and tourism, education, wastewater, solid waste management, public health and youth exchange among other areas of cooperation.





- The agreement now needs the Union government approval to come into effect.

**Reference:**

<http://indiatoday.intoday.in/story/delhi-govt-signs-twin-city-agreement-seoul/1/1085454.html>

### Adani Power BPDB Pact

**Question: Which country's power company has signed the power purchase agreement with Adani Power recently?**

- (a) K-Electric, Pakistan (b) Nepal Electricity Authority, Nepal  
(c) Bangladesh Power Development Board, Bangladesh  
(d) Ceylon Electricity Board, Sri Lanka

**Answer: (c)**

**Related Facts:**

- According to an announcement issued on 8<sup>th</sup> November 2017, Adani Power leading Power Company (subsidiary wholly-owned of the Adani Power, Jharkhand Limited) has entered into an agreement with the Bangladesh Power Development Board (BPDB) to supply power to the neighboring country.
- This is a long-term (25 years) agreement.
- According to the agreement, 1600 MW power will be supplied to BPDB from the plant.
- This plant will be set up in Godda, Jharkhand.
- The proposed 1600 MW plant (2×800 MW) will be an ultra-supercritical, coal-based power plant.



**Reference:**

<http://www.thehindubusinessline.com/companies/adani-power-inks-power-purchase-agreement-with-bangladesh-power-development-board/article9949195.ece>

### MoU between India and Italy

**Question On cooperation in which of the following field, the Union Cabinet has recently given ex-post-facto approval for a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between India and Italy?**

- (a) Air Transport (b) Tax evasion  
(c) Health and Medical Sciences (d) Information Technology

**Answer: (c)**

**Related Facts:**

- On December 20<sup>th</sup>, 2017, the Union Cabinet has given its ex-post-facto approval for a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between India and Italy on cooperation in the field of Health and Medical Sciences.
- The MoU was signed on 29<sup>th</sup> November, 2017 in New Delhi.
- The MoU covers the following areas of cooperation:-
  1. Exchange & training of medical doctors, officials, other health professionals and experts;
  2. Assistance in development of human resources and setting up of health care facilities;
  3. Short term training of human resources in health;



4. Regulation of pharmaceuticals, medical devices and cosmetics and exchange of information thereon;
  5. Promotion of business development opportunities in pharmaceuticals;
  6. Procurement of generic and essential drugs and assistance in sourcing of drug supplies;
  7. Procurement of health equipment and pharmaceutical products;
  8. Collaboration in the prevention of NCDs of mutual interest, such as neurocardiovascular diseases, cancer, COPDs, mental health and dementia, with an emphasis on SDG3 and related factors;
  9. Collaboration in the field of climate change impact on communicable diseases and vector borne diseases;
  10. Nutritional aspects of food intake, including malnutrition (over nutrition and undernutrition) in the light of the SDG2 and organization of nutritional services;
  11. Safety of production, transformation, distribution and food delivery;
  12. Research and training of food industry operators;
  13. Information and communication to citizens on hygiene and food safety and healthy eating habits; and
  14. Any other area of cooperation as may be mutually decided upon.
- A Joint Working Group (JWG) will be set up to further elaborate the details of cooperation and to oversee the implementation of this Memorandum of Understanding (MoU).

**Reference:**

<http://pib.nic.in/PressReleaseDetail.aspx?PRID=1513476>

## Agreement between India and Brazil

**Question: An approval for signing and ratification of a Treaty between India and Brazil has been given by cabinet recently? This treaty is concerned with:**

- (a) Vocational Education and Training
- (b) Investment Cooperation and Facility Treaty
- (c) Dual taxation avoidance and fiscal evasion
- (d) Mutual cooperation and technical support



**Answer: (b)**

**Related facts:**

- On November 30<sup>th</sup>, 2017 The Union Cabinet chaired by the Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi has given its approval for signing and ratification of the Investment Cooperation and Facilitation Treaty (ICFT) between India and Brazil.
- The Treaty will result in increase of investment flows between the two countries.
- The ICFT between India and Brazil will provide appropriate facilitation to Brazilian investors in India and Indian investors in the Brazil.
- It would help project India as a preferred Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) destination to all Brazilian investors.

**Reference:**

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/mbErel.aspx?relid=174003>

## India and Russia

**Question: recently, India and Russia agreed on a programme during the Rajnath Singh's three-day visit to Russia. The agreed programme is concerned-**

- (a) for mutual assistance in the field of health (b) for the exchange of defense technology  
(c) to deal with disaster and other emergencies (d) for direct and foreign investment

**Answer: (c)**

**Related Fact:**

- On November 27<sup>th</sup>, 2017 India and Russia agreed on a programme of training of specialists and sharing of each other's experiences as well as best practices in the field of Disaster Management.
- The two leaders later signed a Joint Implementation Plan for the years 2018-19 for cooperation in Disaster Management.
- This agreement made during the Rajnath Singh's three-day visit to Russia.
- Both the sides agreed that EMERCOM of Russia would cooperate with India in the establishment of the National Crisis Management Centre (NCMC) in India.



**Reference:**

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=173910>

## Agreement between Mahindra & Mahindra and Uber

**Question: Recently, India's leading automobile maker Mahindra & Mahindra (M & M) announced a partnership with which of the following company providing app based cab service?**

- (a) Uber (b) Ola (c) Both Uber and Ola (d) None of the above

**Answer: (a)**

**Related Facts:**

- On November 24<sup>th</sup>, 2017, Mahindra & Mahindra, India's leading automaker, announced a partnership with Uber, a company providing app based cab service.
- The goal of the partnership is to create a sustainable solution for the next generation in the field of shared mobility.
- Under the partnership, Mahindra and Mahindra Company's electric vehicles will be deployed in different cities of India on Uber platform.
- In the first phase, operation will be starts in Delhi and Hyderabad under a pilot program.
- Also, Mahindra's electric vehicles will be deployed in other cities of India.
- Mahindra, in partnership with Uber, will launch its models e2o plus hatchback and eVerito sedan as taxis.



**Reference:**

<http://www.thehindu.com/business/uber-charge-for-mahindra-evs/article20792006.ece>

## Agreement between Uttar Pradesh Government and Samsung India

**Question: Recently a Memorandum of Understanding was signed between the Uttar Pradesh Government and Samsung India. Under this MoU, how many new Samsung Smart Health Care Centers will be set up in the state by Samsung India Company?**

(a) 15 (b) 20 (c) 30 (d) 35

**Answer: (b)**

**Related Facts:**

- On November 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2017, a Memorandum of Understanding was signed between the Government of Uttar Pradesh and Samsung India.
- Under this MoU, Samsung India will establish 20 new Smart Health Centers in the state.
- Under the Samsung Smart Healthcare program, Samsung and India will provide advanced and innovative healthcare equipment, such as the company's ultrasound and digital radiology (X-ray) machine, in selected hospitals of the state.
- Apart from this, Samsung will also provide LED.TV, Samsung Air Conditioner and Refrigerator to these hospitals.
- These health centers will provide affordable and quality health services to the people of economically and socially vulnerable sections of the society.
- Samsung has collaborated with 18 government hospitals across the country through the Samsung Smart Healthcare Program since 2015.



**Reference:**

<http://www.thehindubusinessline.com/companies/samsung-partners-with-uttar-pradesh-government-to-set-up-20-smart-healthcare-centres/article9969673.ece>

## Indo-German Agreement

**Question: A loan agreement of which amount was signed between India and Germany for financial support for 'Environment friendly urban mobility III project'?**

(a) 125 million euro (b) 175 million euro (c) 200 million euro  
(d) 150 million euro

**Answer: (c)**

**Related Facts:**

- On December 4<sup>th</sup>, 2017, an agreement under the Indo-German Development Cooperation was signed between Government of India and the Government of the Federal Republic of Germany to formalize an amount up to Euro 200 million for the Financial Cooperation in form of loan for the project 'Climate Friendly Urban Mobility III' and Euro 11 million Accompanying measures in form of grant for four projects.
- It was a Government to Government Umbrella Agreement concerning Financial Cooperation in 2016 (II) under the Indo-German Development Cooperation.



- The Agreement was signed by H.E. Dr. Martin Ney, Ambassador on behalf of the Federal Republic of Germany. Shri S. Selvakumar, Joint Secretary, Department of Economic Affairs, Ministry of Finance signed the Agreement on behalf of the Government of India.
- The Part I of the Agreement had already been signed in May, 2017.
- In addition to the above, the following Loan Agreements were signed between Department of Economic Affairs with KfW, Germany under the Indo-German Bilateral Development Cooperation :-
- Loan Agreement for the project “Community based sustainable Forest Management – Component I Manipur” was signed with KfW, Germany for a loan of Euro 15 million. The broad objectives of the Project are restoration of degraded forests in upper watersheds, reclamation of abandoned shifting cultivation areas, biodiversity conservation, water resources conservation and livelihood improvement of forest dependent rural tribal people in the project area.
- Loan Agreement for the project “Madhya Pradesh Urban Sanitation and Environment Programme” for Euro 50 million Reduced Interest Loan and Euro 2.5 million grant. The broad objective of the Project is to improve facilities for water supply, sanitation and sewerage treatment plant in selected towns of Madhya Pradesh, improve solid and liquid waste management and disposal systems, improvement of surface drainage systems for flood mitigation in selected towns of Madhya Pradesh.
- Loan Agreement for the project “Sustainable Urban Infrastructure Development Odisha – Phase II for EUR 55 Million Reduced Interest Loan with EUR 2 Million as Grant. The basic objective of the project is to improve Urban Infrastructure by linking them with Government priority. The broad objective of the Project is to improve the urban infrastructure of Odisha and to provide better quality of life to the people.
- Loan Agreement for the project “Green Energy Corridor – Intra-State Transmission System in Maharashtra” for EUR 12 million Reduced Interest loan. The broad objective of this project is to put in place a transmission system for evacuating renewable energy.

**Reference:**

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=174074>

## Agreement between India and Greece

**Question: On which date Union Cabinet has given its approval the signing of Air Services Agreement (ASA) between India and Greece.**

- (a) January, 2017 (b) February, 2017 (c) March 2017  
(d) April 2017

**Answer: (b)**

**Related Facts:**

- From 25-28 November 2017, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Greece, H.E. Mr. Nikos Kotzias, was on visit to India.
- The visit of the Greek Foreign Minister is a part of the regular high-level exchanges between the two countries.
- FM Kotzias had a meeting with External Affairs Minister, Smt Sushma Swaraj, in New Delhi on 27 November.
- On November 27, 2017, an agreement was signed between India and Greece to start direct air services between the two countries.





- The two Ministers held discussions on various aspects of bilateral ties as well as important regional and multilateral issues of mutual interest.
- The discussions between the two Ministers focused on building closer cooperation in the areas of trade & investment, trade fairs, agriculture, maritime sector, culture and tourism.
- During the visit, the two Ministers also signed the Memorandum of Understanding on Co-operation in the field of New and Renewable Energy.
- Greece also gave full support to India's bid for a permanent membership of the United Nations Security Council
- Under the Air Services Agreement, Indian Airlines will be allowed to operate the airline in Athens, Thessaloniki, Heraklion.
- Greek Airlines will also start flying services in major Indian cities.
- It is noteworthy that On February 22, 2017, Union Cabinet has given its approval the signing of Air Services Agreement (ASA) between India and Greece.

**Reference:**

<http://www.mea.gov.in/incoming-visit-detail.htm?29138/Visit+of+Minister+of+Foreign+Affairs+of+Greece+to+India+November+2528+2017>

## Agreement between India and Britain

**Question: An agreement will be signed between India and Britain shortly for cooperation in which of the following fields?**

- (a) Air transport (b) Urban transportation (c) Double taxation  
(d) Space

**Answer :(b)**

**Related Facts:**

- On November 28, 2017; It was announced by the Government of India that an agreement will be signed for cooperation in policy planning, technology transfer and institutional organization in the urban transport sector between India and the UK..
- On November 27, 2017, Union Road Transport and Highways, Shipping and Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Protection Minister Nitin Gadkari met UK Transport Secretary Chris Grilling in London.
- During the meeting, the two sides discussed the draft of this agreement letter.
- In the draft of the agreement, mutual cooperation between the two countries in the transport sector is to facilitate transport facilitation through exchange of expertise and technology.
- This agreement will facilitate the digital transactions and the use of more efficient diesel and electric vehicles in the country.
- During the London visit, Nitin Gadkari will also address a session of the International Marine Organization.



**Reference:**

[http://www.business-standard.com/article/news-ians/india-uk-to-sign-agreement-on-urban-transport-117112800931\\_1.html](http://www.business-standard.com/article/news-ians/india-uk-to-sign-agreement-on-urban-transport-117112800931_1.html)

## CONFERENCE

### 25th National Children's Science Congress

**Question:** from 27<sup>th</sup> to 31<sup>st</sup> December, 2017, at which of the following places 25th National Children Science Congress (NCSC) is being organized?

(a) Jaipur (b) Bhubaneswar (c) Gandhinagar (d) Lucknow

**Answer:** (c)

**Related Facts:**

- '25th National Children's Science Congress-2017' is being organized in Gandhinagar, Gujarat (27<sup>th</sup> to 31<sup>st</sup> December, 2017).
- On December 27<sup>th</sup>, 2017, Gujarat's Chief Minister Vijay Rupani inaugurated this Congress.
- The theme of NCSC-2017 is 'Science Technology & Innovation for Sustainable Development with Special Emphasis on Accessibility for Person with Disability'.

**Reference:**

<https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/ahmedabad/gujarat-cm-inaugurates-25th-national-childrens-science-congress/articleshow/62273805.cms>



### 7th international coffee fest

**Question:** Where will the seventh edition of India International Coffee Festival be organized during 16<sup>th</sup> to 19<sup>th</sup> January, 2018?

(a) Jaipur (b) Hyderabad (c) Bangalore (d) Ahmedabad

**Answer:** (c)

**Related Facts:**

- From 16<sup>th</sup>-19<sup>th</sup> January, 2018 seventh edition of 'India International Coffee Festival' will be organized at Lalit Ashok, Bengaluru after 4 years.
- The theme of this festival will be 'Express Yourself with Coffee'.
- In this festival, policy makers, industry owners, exporters and producers and other veterans from national and international coffee industry will participate.
- India International Coffee Festival provides a platform to global coffee traders in which ideas and information are integrated and exchanged.
- This festival will be organized by the India Coffee Trust and the State-run Coffee Board to promote Indian coffee on a global scale.
- It is known that in the year 2020, the World Coffee Conference will be organized in Bangalore, Karnataka.
- It will be organized by the International Coffee Organization.

**Reference:**

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



## Tribal Festival (Adivasi Mahotsav)-2017

**Question:** Recently, Chief Minister Dr. Raman Singh and Union Tribal Affairs Minister launched two-day tribal festival at Science College Ground in Raipur. This festival is being celebrated on the martyrdom day of which of the following freedom fighter?

- (a) Kunwar Narayan Singh (b) Veernarayan Singh (c) Lal Pradyumna Singh  
(d) Baldev Singh Dev

**Answer: (b)**

**Related Facts:**

- On 10-11 December, 2017, Adivasi Mahotsav, 2017, a two-day tribal festival was organized at Science College Ground in Raipur.
- This festival was inaugurated by Chief Minister Raman Singh of Chhattisgarh.
- This festival was organized on the occasion of on the martyrdom day of freedom fighter and great revolutionary from Chhattisgarh, Shahid Veernarayan Singh.
- It was organized by the Tribal and Scheduled Castes Department of Chhattisgarh Government.
- On this occasion, the Chief Minister also released the development booklet based on the schemes of the State Government's Undersecretary Cooperative Development Corporation in the area of tribal development.
- The Chief Minister announced the construction of all the 633 buildings of hostels and ashram schools of the state.
- The assistance will be taken for construction of 409 of these from the World Bank and from National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) for 78 hostels.
- 146 hostels will be constructed from the amount of District Mineral Trust Fund.
- Construction cost of these buildings will be around 2.5 thousand crore rupees.
- Union Tribal Affairs Minister Jual Oram also attended the function.



**Reference:**

<http://www.ind24.tv/do-divsiy-aadiwasi-mahotsav-ka-shubharabh-raipur>

[http://tribal.cg.gov.in/Documents/TRI/Tender\\_Catering.pdf](http://tribal.cg.gov.in/Documents/TRI/Tender_Catering.pdf)

## Bodhi Parva-BIMSTEC Festival of Buddhist Heritage

**Question:** At which of the following place “Bodhi Parva: BIMSTEC Festival of Buddhist Heritage” was organized?

- (a) Sarnath (b) Lumbini (c) New Delhi (d) Kushinagar

**Answer: (c)**

**Related Facts:**

- From December 8th-10th, 2017, “Bodhi Parva: BIMSTEC Festival of Buddhist Heritage” was organized at the India Gandhi National Centre for Arts (IGNCA), New Delhi.
- The Festival was inaugurated by Hon'ble Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Culture Dr. Mahesh Sharma.
- Festival was organized as the part of 20th anniversary of BIMSTEC.



- The Festival had a diverse components including an exhibition of international and Indian Buddhist art and architecture, discourses by eminent scholars and practitioners of Buddhism, guided meditation and chanting by Buddhist monks and choir, screening of film on Buddhism, dance and music performances quiz show based on Buddhism and BIMSTEC and a food trail.

**Reference:**

[http://mea.gov.in/press-releases.htm?dtl/29162/Bodhi\\_ParvaBIMSTEC\\_Festival\\_of\\_Buddhist\\_Heritage](http://mea.gov.in/press-releases.htm?dtl/29162/Bodhi_ParvaBIMSTEC_Festival_of_Buddhist_Heritage)

## 17th Indian Science Communication Congress

**Question: Where was the 17th India Science Communication Congress was organized on December 21-22, 2017?**

(a) Mumbai (b) New Delhi (c) Jaipur (d) Haridwar

**Answer: (b)**

**Related Facts:**

- On December 21-22, 2017, 17th Indian Science Communications Congress was held in Indian Institute of Mass Communication (IIMC), New Delhi.
- The main theme of this two-day conference was “Communicating India’s Scientific Wisdom: Changing Paradigms”.

**Reference:**

<http://www.niscair.res.in/Downloadables/ISCC2017-1Dec17.pdf>



## India-New Zealand Cyber Dialogue

**Question: Where did the first India-New Zealand Cyber Dialogue was held?**

(a) Wellington (b) Auckland (c) New Delhi (d) Hyderabad

**Answer: (c)**

**Related Facts:**

- On November 27, 2017, the first India-New Zealand Cyber Dialogue was held in New Delhi.
- The Indian Delegation was led by Mr. Sanjay Kumar Verma, Additional Secretary, Ministry of External Affairs.
- New Zealand delegation was led by Mr. Paul Ash, Director of the National Cyber Policy Office, Department of Prime Minister.
- India and New Zealand reaffirmed their commitment to an open, free, secure, stable, peaceful and accessible cyberspace, enabling economic growth and innovation. Both sides recognised the multi stakeholder approach as a core element in their cyber policy.



- Both sides reaffirmed that the existing principles of international law are applicable in cyberspace and that there was a need to continue and deepen deliberations on the applicability of International Law to cyberspace and set norms of responsible behaviour of states.
- They also emphasised the significance of various regional, international and multilateral initiatives, particularly UN facilitated initiatives, to continue the debate on these issues as well as on cyber capacity building.
- The two countries also agreed that the bilateral cyber dialogue provided a strong foundation for existing and future cooperation.
- Areas of discussion included domestic cyber policy landscape, cyber threats and mitigation, new technologies, mechanism on bilateral cooperation and possible cooperation at various international fora and regional fora.
- Both sides shared the view that they will deepen the dialogues at various levels.
- Both sides agreed to hold the next India-New Zealand Cyber dialogue in New Zealand in 2018.

**Reference:**

<http://www.mea.gov.in/press-releases.htm?dtl/29140/IndiaNew+Zealand+Cyber+Dialogue+New+Delhi+November+27+2018>

## [46th Congress of the International Hockey Federation](#)

**Question: Where will the 46th Congress of the International Hockey Federation be organized during October 30 to November 3, 2018?**

(a) Patiala (b) Mumbai (c) New Delhi (d) Scotland

**Answer: (c)**

**Related Facts:**

- During October 30 and November 3, 2018, the 46th Congress of the International Hockey Federation (FIH) will be held in New Delhi.
- This is the first FIH Congress under the leadership of World Hockey Federation President Narinder Batra.
- It is worth mentioning that former Hockey India president Narinder Batra was elected as the non-European FIH president last year.
- This biennial event will last for four days and will include meetings, social events, networking opportunities and presentations.
- The Congress, represented by National Associations, will also decide the roadmap of the future, including the 10-year strategy to operate the status of hockey as a global scheme of FIH.
- It is known that India will host the men's Hockey World Cup to be held in Bhubaneswar, Odisha from 28 November to 16 December next year.





- The International Hockey Federation was founded in 1924 and its headquarter is located in Scotland.

**Reference:**

<http://indiatoday.intoday.in/story/46th-fih-congress-to-be-held-in-new-delhi-from-oct-30-to-nov-3/1/1105026.html>

### National Handloom Expo -2017

**Question: In which of the following district of Uttar Pradesh the National Handloom Expo -2017 is being organized during December 21, 2017 to January 10, 2018?**

(a) Lucknow (b) NOIDA (c) Kanpur (d) Agra

**Answer: (c)**

**Related Facts:**

- On December 21<sup>st</sup>, 2017, Uttar Pradesh's Handloom and Textile Industry, the Silk Industry, Khadi Village Industries, Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises and Export Promotion Minister, Satyadev Pachauri inaugurated the 'National Handloom Expo -2017', a huge exhibition of Indian handloom garments in Kanpur.
- The 'National Handloom Expo -2017' is being sponsored by development commissioner Handloom, Textile Ministry, Government of India and is being organized by the weavers' trust fund (commissioner and director, handloom and textile industry).
- It has been organized at Brijendra Swaroop Park in Kanpur district.
- It will concluded on January 10, 2018.



**Reference:**

<http://upnews360.in/newsdetail/98607/hi>

### First India-U.S. Counter-Terrorism Designation Dialogue

**Question: Where was the first Indo-US Dialogue (India-US Counter-Terrorism Designation Dialogue) was held from December 18-19, 2017, to discuss bilateral cooperation on the purposes related to terrorism?**

(a) New York (b) Mumbai (c) Washington (d) New Delhi

**Answer: (d)**

**Related Facts:**

- On December 18-19, 2017, the first Indo-US Dialogue (India-US Counter-Terrorism Designation Dialogue) was held in New Delhi to discuss bilateral cooperation on purposes related terrorism.
- The establishment of this mechanism reflects shared Indian and U.S. commitments to strengthen cooperation against terrorist threats.
- The Indian and U.S. delegations exchanged information on procedures for pursuing designations against terrorist groups and individuals, through domestic and international mechanisms.
- They also discussed best practices for effective implementation of the designations.
- The United States will host the second India-U.S. Designations Dialogue in 2018.



**Reference:**

<http://www.mea.gov.in/press-releases.htm?dtl/29183/IndiaUS+CounterTerrorism+Designations+Dialogue>

### India-Japan Act East Forum

**Question: On which date the Memorandum of Cooperation to establish the India-Japan Act East Forum was signed between the two countries?**

(a) February 2017 (b) April 2017 (c) August, 2017 (d) September, 2017

**Answer: (d)**

**Related Facts:**

- On December 5th, 2017, India-Japan Act East Forum was launched.
- Memorandum of Cooperation to establish the India-Japan Act East Forum was signed on 14th September 2017 during the visit of Prime Minister Abe to India.
- The meeting was co-chaired by Foreign Secretary Dr. S. Jaishankar and the Japanese Ambassador to India Mr. Kenji Hiramatsu.
- The Act East Forum aims to provide a platform for India-Japan collaboration under the rubric of India's "Act East Policy" and Japan's "Free and Open Indo-Pacific Strategy".
- The Forum will identify specific projects for economic modernization of India's North-East region.
- It will include those pertaining to connectivity, developmental infrastructure, industrial linkages as well as people-to-people contacts through tourism, culture and sports-related activities.
- In this meeting participants included representatives from Ministry of Development of North Eastern Region (DONER), Department of Economic Affairs in the Ministry of Finance, Ministry of Road Transport and Highways, Ministry of Home Affairs and the States of North-East region from the Indian side, and Japan International Cooperation Agency, Japan External Trade Organization, Japan Foundation and Japan National Tourism Organization from the Japanese side.



**Reference:**

[http://www.mea.gov.in/press-releases.htm?dtl/29154/Launch\\_of\\_IndiaJapan\\_Act\\_East\\_Forum](http://www.mea.gov.in/press-releases.htm?dtl/29154/Launch_of_IndiaJapan_Act_East_Forum)

### Second Serendipity Art Festival

**Question: Where is the second Serendipity Art Festival organized during December 15-22, 2017?**

(a) Panaji (b) Mumbai (c) Kochi (d) Hyderabad

**Answer: (a)**

**Related facts:**

- During December 15-22, 2017, the second Serendipity Art Festival is being organized in Goa's capital Panaji.
- Chief Minister Manohar Parrikar inaugurated the festival.
- Contemporary issues such as pollution, GST, Demonetization etc. have been raised while satiating an art lover's imagination.



- The uniqueness of this festival is that it is not only based on an art form but it is a combination of different art forms.
- It is celebrating the best forms of craft, music, theater, cooking, visual arts and photography.
- The festival will be hosted across 11 venues which are a mix of indoor and outdoor locations.

**Reference:**

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

## Global Partnership Summit (GPS)

**Question: Where was the 'Global Partnership Summit (GPS)' organized during December 11-14, 2017?**

(a) Bangalore (b) Gandhi Nagar (c) Jaipur (d) New Delhi

**Answer: (d)**

**Related Facts:**

- From 11-14 December, 2017 'Global Partnership Summit' – 2017 Partnership Summit was organized in Aerocity, New Delhi.
- This is the first time that this summit was held in India.
- GPS has evolved from the initiative of India-Japan Global Partnership (IJGP).
- It is a platform for integrating people, processes, projects, initiatives, ideas, ideologies and policies.



**Reference:**

<http://globalpartnershipsummit.org/>

## 49th Annual Conference of Indian Nuclear Medicine Association

**Question: Where was the 49th Annual Conference of Indian Nuclear Medicine Association being organized during December 14th-17th, 2017?**

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

**Answer: (a)**

**Related facts:**

- During 14-17 December, 2017, the 49th Annual Conference of the Indian Nuclear Medicine Association was organized in New Delhi.
- Union Minister of State for Defense Subhash Bhamre inaugurated this conference.



**Reference:**

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=174334>

## Lucknow Conference

**Question- Lucknow conference which was held recently, is related to with which one of the following?**

(a) The road (b) Accommodation (c) Agriculture (d) Health

**Answer- (a)**

**Related facts:**



- During 8-9 December, 2017, Lucknow Conference was organized in Bharat Ratna Atal Bihari Auditorium of Dr. Bhimrao Ambedkar University.
- The main theme – ‘New Technology in Road Construction’.
- In the Lucknow conference, linguistic scientists from India and abroad have deliberated discussions in connection with partnership and new technology for road construction.

**Reference:**

<http://upnews360.in/newsdetail/97168/hi>

## SAICON 2017

**Question: Recently, at which of the following places the International Conference on Sports Medicine & Sports Sciences (SAICON2017) was organised?**

(a) Patiala (b) New Delhi (c) Chandigarh (d) Hyderabad

**Answer: (b)**

**Related Facts:**

- On December 7th, 2017, the First International Conference on Sports Medicine and Sports Sciences SAICON 2017 was inaugurated by the Minister of State (I/C) Youth Affairs and Sports Col. Rajyavardhan Rathore in New Delhi.
- The theme of this conference, running from 7-9 December, was ‘Scoring Goals in Sports with Science & Technology’.
- Under the Khelo India national school games would be organised from January 31 to February 8 next year for the under 17 age group.
- These school games will act as a springboard.
- For the first time a sports broadcaster will broadcast live the national school games.
- The top 1,000 athletes from this event will be entitled to Rs 5 lakh scholarships for eight years.
- Every year, his Ministry will keep adding 1,000 more athletes for creating a pool of young talent. He said School Games will be followed by College Games for under the age group of 21 years.



**Reference:**

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=174170>

## National Conference on Reforms in Public Distribution System

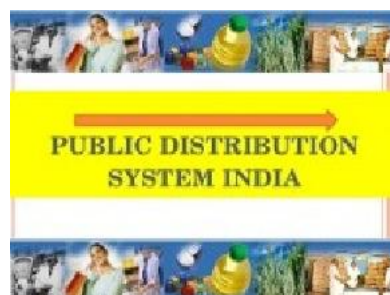
**Question: Where was the National Conference on Reforms in Public Distribution System recently organized?**

(a) New Delhi (b) Vijayawada (c) Hyderabad (d) Gurugram

**Answer: (b)**

**Related facts:**

- On 4th -5th December, 2017, a two-day National Conference on PDS Reforms was held in Vijayawada, Andhra Pradesh.
- The conference was attended by the representatives from 20 States along with those from NIC, WFP and GIZ.



- Important aspects of PDS reforms which came up for discussion in the workshop included, seamless working of the online systems, strategy for grievance redressal, enhancing the outreach of the system to the deprived segments of the society, effective safeguards for non-denial of entitled foodgrains to the beneficiaries and viability of Fair Price shops.
- The participating States shared their experiences and initiatives in these areas.
- During this, the participants also got a chance to see the recent initiative of Village Mall Scheme aimed at improving the viability of Fair Price shops.
- To set up Village Malls in the FP Shops, the State Government of AP has tied up with Reliance Group for ten (10) districts and with Future Group for other three (3) districts.

**Reference:**

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=174159>

## Organizing State Level Handicrafts Week

**Question: The state-level handicrafts week is being organized in Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh during December-**

(a) 6-11 (b) 7-14 (c) 8-15 (d) 10-16

**Answer: (c)**

**Related Facts:**

- From December 8<sup>th</sup>-15<sup>th</sup>, 2017; State-level handicrafts week is being organized in Export House, Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh.
- In the event, the stalls have been allotted to the participants free of cost on the basis of 'first come get first'.
- The participating units in this event will get the benefits of the M.D.A scheme as per the rules.



**Reference:**

<http://upnews360.in/newsdetail/96794/hi>

## Eighth Global Entrepreneurship Conference

**Where is the 'Eighth Global Entrepreneurship Conference' organized during November 28-30, 2017?**

(a) Mumbai (b) Bangalore (c) Hyderabad (d) Ahmedabad

**Ans: (c)**

**Related facts:-**

- During November 28-30, 2017; the '8th Global Entrepreneurship Summit: GES' is being organized in Hyderabad, Telangana.
- On November 28, 2017, Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated this conference.
- This conference is being jointly organized by India and America.
- The theme of this three-day conference is 'Women First, Prosperity for All'. American President Donald Trump's daughter and advisor Ivanka Trump is leading the American delegation to this conference.
- This is the first time that this conference is going on in South Asia.





- The world's entrepreneurs, investors, government officials and business representatives are participating in this conference.
- It is important that the US has declared 'National Entrepreneurship Day' on November 21 and November as 'National Entrepreneurship Month'.

**Related Links:-**

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=173932>

## Second meeting of Higher Education Funding Agency (HEFA)

**Question: Higher Education Funding Agency (HEFA) approves projects for Rs. 2,066.73 Cr for providing additional funds for research and related infrastructure to how many higher education institutions?**

- (a) 1573.85 crores (b) 1875.38 crores (c) 2066.73 crores  
(d) 2166.74 crores

**Answer: (c)**

**Related Facts:**

- On November 29, 2017 the second meeting of the HEFA- Higher Education Financing Agency was held.
- In this meeting, Higher Education Funding Agency (HEFA) approved projects for Rs. 2,066.73 Cr to six higher education institutions.
- These institutes include NIT located in Surathkal, in addition to the IIT Institute located in Mumbai, Delhi, Madras, Kharagpur and Kanpur.
- Fund has been sanctioned by HEFA in addition to the grants previously given to these institutions by the government.
- These funds would be used to improve the research infrastructure in these institutions to further improve their standing at the global level.
- As per the scheme, HEFA would mobilise Rs. 20,000 Cr through market borrowing and would release the same to the Government institution as interest- free loans.
- It is noteworthy that on the initiative of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, the Higher Education Funding Agency (Haifa) was formed in September 2016 with the aim of providing additional financial support to promote research work in higher educational institutions.
- This institution provides financial assistance separately from budgetary provisions to promote research.



**Reference:**

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=173962>

## First Military Literature Festival

**Question: Where will the first Military Literature Festival be organized during December 7-9, 2017?**

- (a) Kapurthala (b) Chandigarh (c) Amritsar (d) Jodhpur

**Ans: (b)**

**Related facts:-**



- On November 10, 2017, the local Bodies and Tourism and Culture minister of Punjab Navjot Singh Siddhu unveiled the logo of the Military Literary Festival.
- The first Military Literary Festival will be organized in Chandigarh by the Punjab Government between December 7-9, 2017.
- This festival will be organized jointly by the Punjab Government and the Chandigarh Administration.
- This program will be organized to pay homage to the Armed Forces and to spread awareness about the public literature among the public.

**Related Links:-**

<http://indiatoday.intoday.in/story/military-literature-festival-india-first-chandigarh-december-lifest/1/1087382.html>

## Hornbill Festival-2017

**Question: President Ramnath Kovind inaugurated the famous Hornbill Festival of which of the following state recently?**

(a) Assam (b) Tripura (c) Manipur (d) Nagaland

**Answer: (d)**

**Related Facts:**

- On December 1, 2017 President Ramnath Kovind inaugurated the famous Hornbill Festival of Nagaland and State formation Day.
- Hornbill Festival is a remarkable demonstration of the rich culture and traditions of the Naga adopted over the years as music, dance and food.
- The festival is being organized from December 1-10, 2017.



**Reference:**

<http://hornbillfestival.co.in/>

## Arogya-2017

**Question: Where is the first international exhibition and conference 'Arogya-2017' being organized on AYUSH and Health sector during December 4, 2017?**

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

**Ans: (c)**

**Related facts:-**

- On December 4-7, 2017; the '1st International Exhibition & Conference on Ayush & Wellness, AROGYA-2017' on health sector is being organized at Vigyan Bhawan, New Delhi.
- It is being organized by Ministry of AYUSH in collaboration with Commerce Department of Ministry of Commerce and Industry, Pharmexil and FICCI.
- More than 1500 delegates from more than 60 countries are participating in this conference.
- The purpose of this conference is to show the power and scientific recognition of Indian medicine in the global context and to promote awareness and interest in people about AYUSH.



- In addition to promoting the advancement and recognition of Ayurveda, Yoga, Naturopathy, Greek, Siddha, Sowa-Rigpa and Homeopathy at international level.

**Related Links:-**

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=174078>

## International Gita Mahotsava-2017

**Question: At which of the following places International Gita Festival-2017 was organized from November 27 to December 7, 2017?**

(a) Jalandhar (b) Kurukshetra (c) Mathura (d) Dwarka

**Answer: (b)**

**Related Facts:**

- 'International Gita Mahotsav-2017' was organized from 17th November to December 3, 2017, in Kurukshetra, Haryana.
- On November 25, 2017, President Ramnath Kovind inaugurated the 'International Gita Mahotsav'.
- On this occasion, he laid the foundation stone of the Gita Research Centre at the Gita Gyan Sansthanam in Kurukshetra.



**Reference:**

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=173852>

<https://www.facebook.com/InternationalGitaMahotsav2017/>

<http://internationalgitamahotsav.in/>

<http://indianexpress.com/article/india/president-ram-nath-kovind-to-inaugurate-international-gita-mahotsav-in-haryana-4895893/>

## **ASSOCIATIONS & ORGANIZATIONS**

### Kuwait Football Association

**Question: When Kuwait Football Association was suspended by FIFA?**

(a) April 2014, (b) September, 2015 (c) October, 2015 (d) October, 2016

**Answer: (c)**

**Related Facts:**

- On December 6<sup>th</sup>, 2017, FIFA lifted the suspension that was imposed on the Kuwait Football Association (KFA) in October 2015.
- This suspension was imposed for its failure to comply with its obligations stipulated in articles 14 and 19 of the FIFA Statutes.
- It is important to note that the Kuwait Parliament has adopted a new Sports Law of Kuwait, and has been amended in order to be fully compliant with the FIFA Statutes and requirements.



**Reference:**

<http://www.fifa.com/governance/news/y=2017/m=12/news=suspension-of-the-kuwait-football-association-lifted-2922929.html>

## Anti-jihad Forces

**Question: What is G5?**

- (a) Group of developed countries
- (b) Group of developing countries
- (c) New Anti-jihad force
- (d) New group formed by UAE and Saudi Arabia

**Answer: (c)**

**Related Facts:**

- On December 9th, 2017, the United Nations Security Council unanimously approved the proposal of new Anti-Jihad Force (G-5) for the help and assistance for equipment and campaign to United Nations peacekeepers campaign in Mali.
- G-5 Sahel, the UN mission in Mali will facilitate medical clearance, fuel, water, ration and engineering units.
- This mission has about 10,000 peace envoys.
- G-5 force started its first operation in Sahel last month.

**Reference:**

<https://www.unodc.org/westandcentralafrica/en/2017-12-08-g5-sahel-joint-force-bko.html>



## ELMS Foundation

**Question: Who was recently appointed advisor to ELMS Foundation?**

- (a) Vita Dani
- (b) Abhinav Bindra
- (c) Jalaj Dani
- (d) Gopichand

**Answer: (c)**

**Related facts:**

- On December 19th, 2017 Abhinav Bindra (Olympic gold medalist) and Pullela Gopichand (former All-England Open Champion) launched the ELMS Foundation in New Delhi in the presence of Sports Minister Rajyavardhan Singh Rathore.
- Its purpose is to create a modern ecosystem for the promotion of sports.
- ELMS (Excellence in Learning and Mastering of Sports and Physical Literacy) are a non-profit organization founded by Chennai FC co-owners Vita Dani, Arjun Puraskar Kamlesh Mehta and Monalisa Mehta.
- Its aim is to work together with physical education experts, coaches and sports administrators to create such trained professionals, who can provide modern training to talented athletes in the country at all levels.
- Abhinav Bindra and Gopichand were appointed the mentor (coach or guru) of this foundation.
- IIM, Chairman of the Board of Governors of Trichy J Jalaj Dani will be the advisor to this foundation.



**Reference:**

<https://www.thequint.com/news/hot-news/bindra-gopichand-launch-elms-foundation>

### Wassenaar Arrangement

**Question- India recently got membership in the Wassenaar arrangement. The purpose of the Wassenaar arrangement is to:**

- (a) To promote non-conventional energy.
- (b) Control of the production of atomic weapons
- (c) Control the export of conventional weapons and double-use items and technology.
- (d) Controlling chemical weapons.

**Answer- (c)**

**Related facts:**

- On December 7th, 2017, India became a member of the multilateral arms export control group 'Wassenaar Arrangement' (WA).
- Process for India's membership will be completed by the group soon.
- It is notable that the twenty-third WA Plenary meeting, chaired by Ambassador Jean-Louis Falconi of France, was held in Vienna on 6th-7th December 2017.
- Its aim is to control the export of conventional weapons and dual-use items and technology.
- This led to increase in India's commitment to nuclear non-proliferation.
- With this decision, India's claim in nuclear supplier group and Australia group became stronger.
- Significantly, India is already a member of the Missile Technology Control Regime (M.T.C.R.).



**Reference:**

<http://www.wassenaar.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/12/WA-Plenary-2017-Chairs-Statement.pdf>

### India re-elected as Member of International Maritime Council

**Question: Recently, India has been re-elected to the Council of the International Maritime Organization [IMO] under Category "B". The headquarter of IMO is located in-**

- (a) London (b) New York (c) Paris (d) Austria

**Answer: (a)**

**Related Facts:**

- On December 1<sup>st</sup>, 2017 India has been re-elected to the Council of the International Maritime Organization [IMO] under Category "B".
- The selection was made at the 30th session of the Assembly of the IMO held in London.
- Germany got the highest vote (146) in the elections and with 144 votes India remained at second place.
- In Categories "A" and "B" there are 10 members each and in Category "C" 20 members, who are elected by the IMO Assembly.





- *Category (B) 10 States with the largest interest in international seaborne trade are Australia, Brazil, Canada, France, Germany, India, Netherlands, Spain, Sweden, United Arab Emirates.*
- *Category C consist those 20 States who have not elected under (a) or (b) above, which have special interests in maritime transport or navigation.*
- *It's headquarter is in London.*

**Reference:**

<http://www.imo.org/en/MediaCentre/PressBriefings/Pages/35-Council-Elections-A30.aspx>

## New Sherpa of India in G-20

**Question: Who has recently been appointed as new Sherpa of India in G-20?**

(a) Arvind Pangariya (b) Empowering Das (c) Dr. Raghuram Rajan (d) Dr. K. V. Kamath

**Ans: (b)**

**Related facts:-**

- On November 27, 2017, the Central Government appointed former, Secretary of the Department of Economic Affairs, Ministry of Finance Shaktikant Das, as the new Sherpa of India in the G-20.
- He will replace Arvind Pangariya, former Deputy Chairman of the Commission.
- His tenure will be on this post till December 31, 2018.
- It is notable that Sherpa is a private representative of any state or government at any international summit, especially at the annual G-20 summit.



**Related Links:-**

<http://www.thehindubusinessline.com/economy/shaktikanta-das-is-indias-g20-sherpa/article9974030.ece>

## LAW & JUSTICE

### MoU between India and Cuba

**Question- To promote cooperation in which of the following fields a MoU was signed recently between India and Cuba?**

(a) Agriculture (b) Health (c) Information Technology (d) Energy

**Answer- (b)**

**Related Facts:**

- On December 6<sup>th</sup>, 2017, India and Cuba signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) for enhanced cooperation in the health sector.
- Shri J P Nadda, Union Minister of Health & Family Welfare and Dr Roberto Tomas Morales Ojeda, Public Health Minister of Cuba signed the MoU in the presence of senior officers from the Health Ministry and a high level delegation from Cuba.



- The objective of this MoU is to establish comprehensive inter-ministerial and inter-institutional cooperation between the two countries in the field of health by pooling technical, scientific, financial and human resources with the ultimate goal of upgrading the quality and reach of human, material and infrastructural resources involved in health care, medical education & training, and research in both countries.
- The main areas of cooperation include:
  - Exchange & training of medical doctors, officials, other health professionals and experts
  - Assistance in development of human resources, health services and setting up of health care facilities
  - Short term training of human resources in health
  - Regulation of pharmaceuticals, medical devices and exchange of information;
  - Promotion of business development opportunities in pharmaceuticals and others identified by parties
  - Procurement of generic and essential drugs and assistance in sourcing of drug supplies;
  - Procurement of health equipment and pharmaceutical products;
  - Any other area of cooperation as may be mutually decided upon.
  - Procurement of health equipment and pharmaceutical products;
  - Collaboration in the prevention of NCDs of mutual interest, such as neurocardiovascular diseases, cancer, COPDs, mental health and dementia, with an emphasis on SDG3 and related factors;
  - Collaboration in the field of climate change impact on communicable diseases and vector borne diseases;
  - Nutritional aspects of food intake, including malnutrition (over-nutrition and under-nutrition) in the light of the SDG2 and organization of nutritional services;
  - Safety of production, transformation, distribution and food delivery;
  - Research and training of food industry operators;
  - Information and communication to citizens on hygiene and food safety and healthy eating habits; and
  - Any other area of cooperation as may be mutually decided upon.

**Reference:**

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=174145>

## Amendment in Rajasthan Bovine Animal (Prohibition of Slaughter and Regulation of Temporary Migration or Export) Act, 1995

**Question: Which statement is not correct in the regards to amendment in the Rajasthan Bovine Animal (Prohibition of Slaughter and Regulation of Temporary Migration or Export) Act, 1995?**

- The format related to this Act was approved by Rajasthan Cabinet on December 5, 2017.
- This Amendment Bill will be sent to the President before being placed in the state.
- Export outside the states will be allowed only in those states where there is a complete ban on slaughtering of bovine animal.
- Permission will initially be obtained in the context of calves of Nagauri Bullocks species.



**Answer: (a)**

**Related Facts:**

- On December 12<sup>th</sup>, 2017, the Rajasthan Cabinet approved the format related to the amendment in the *Rajasthan Bovine Animal (Prohibition of Slaughter and Regulation of Temporary Migration or Export) Act, 1995*.
- This Amendment Bill will be sent to the President for permission before being placed in the state.
- After the amendment, the owner and the buyers outside the state will be allowed to export the male cattle to the age of 2 years and above for agricultural and reproduction purposes.
- This permission will initially be obtained in the context of calves of Nagauri Bullocks
- Previously only calves older than 3 years of age were allowed to be taken out of the state.
- After this amendment permission to export outside the states will be allowed only in those states where there is a complete ban on slaughtering of bovine animal.

**Reference:**

<http://di.pr.rajasthan.gov.in/content/di.pr/en/news-detail.56565.html>

### Amended in the Rajasthan's 'MISA and DIR Prisoners Pension Rules 2008'

**Question: Recently cabinet of Rajasthan has decided to amend the Rajasthan's 'MISA and DIR Prisoners Pension Rules 2008'. What will be the new name of act after the amendment?**

- (a) Rajasthan Misa and Patriot Award Fund Rules, 2008
- (b) Rajasthan Misa and Democracy Keeper Reservation Fund Rules, 2008
- (c) Rajasthan Democracy Keeper Reservation Fund Rules, 2008
- (d) Rajasthan Misa and the Defender prisoners Rule, 2008

**Answer: (c)**

**Related Facts:**

- On December 12<sup>th</sup>, 2017 in the meeting of the Rajasthan Cabinet, it was decided to amend the Rajasthan's 'MISA and DIR Prisoners Pension Rules 2008'.
- After this amendment this act will be known as Rajasthan Democracy Keeper Reservation Fund Rules, 2008.
- Under this, the natives detained in the state Jail for the political and social reasons during the Emergency will be known as the Misa Detainers Democracy Keeper Fighters.
- Now the native residents of Rajasthan, who are detained in prisons outside the state during the Emergency, will also be given pension and allowances under the rules.
- Earlier, only Misa detainers residing originally in the State were entitled to pension and allowances.
- Provision has also been made after amendment that in case of non-availability of records in the jail and police stations, the application for pension of Misa detainers can be made on the basis of affidavit and certificate of two affiliates certified by present or former legislator or MP of the concerned district.



- Earlier, only those prisoners or detainees were entitled to get pension who was adult.

**Reference:**

<http://dipr.rajasthan.gov.in/content/di/pr/en/news-detail.56565.html>

## Approval to New Consumer Protection Bill

**Question: Recently, the Union Cabinet approved the new Consumer Protection Bill, 2017.**

**Bill aims to-**

- (a) For the protection of consumer rights. (b) to dealt with misleading advertisements.  
(c) to regulation of the sale of online goods. (d) both (a) and (b)

**Answer- (d)**

**Related Facts:**

- On December 20<sup>th</sup>, 2017, Union Cabinet approved a new Consumer Protection Bill, 2017.
- This new bill also provides for the creation of Central Consumer Protection Authority (CCPA).
- Set up of CCPA is to implement the protection of consumer rights.
- There is also provision for ban on misleading advertising by celebrities.
- Bill also provides for production liability proceedings.
- As an alternative dispute settlement system, there will also be provision for arbitration after the registration of the Mukrma in the Bill.



**Reference:**

<http://indianexpress.com/article/india/cabinet-nod-to-consumer-protection-bill-to-curb-misleading-advertisements-4992205/>

## Proposal of death penalty for perpetrators of rape

**Question: Recently Madhya Pradesh government cleared a proposal to enact a law for awarding death sentence to those guilty of raping girls. Under this law the age of victims should be upto-**

- (a) 15 years (b) 12 years (c) 14 years (d) 16 years

**Answer: (b)**

**Related Facts:**

- On November 26<sup>th</sup>, 2017, the Madhya Pradesh government on Sunday cleared a proposal to enact a law for awarding death sentence to those guilty of raping girls aged 12 or below in the state.
- Discussion on 'Penal Law Amendment Bill 2017' was also in the meeting.
- Apart from this, a proposal was also passed by the Cabinet to give death sentence to the culprits in the gang rape cases.
- The state government also approved the proposal for amendment in the Penal Code for fines and penalties for rape convicts and punishment.
- Once cleared by the assembly, the bill will be sent to the Centre which will send it to the President for his approval.



- The National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB) data for 2015, released in August last year, showed that Madhya Pradesh reported highest number of rape cases (4,391) in the country.
- According to the NCRB data for 2014, the state reported 5,076 rape cases, which was 14 per cent of the total rape incidents reported in the country
- In 2013, 4,335 rape cases were reported in the state as against 3,425 in 2012.

**Reference:**

[http://ptinews.com/news/9269593\\_MP-to-enact-law-for-death-sentence-for-rape-of-girls-below-12](http://ptinews.com/news/9269593_MP-to-enact-law-for-death-sentence-for-rape-of-girls-below-12)

## YEAR, DAY & WEEK

### Armed Forces Flag Day

**Question: Armed Forces Flag Day is celebrated on which date?**

(a) 6<sup>th</sup> December (b) 4<sup>th</sup> December (c) 7<sup>th</sup> December (d) 9<sup>th</sup> December

**Answer: (c)**

**Related Facts:**

- Armed Forces Flag Day is celebrated on 7<sup>th</sup> December every year across the country.
- On 7<sup>th</sup> December, 2017 this day was celebrated
- It is notable that it is being celebrated every year since December 7<sup>th</sup>, 1949 to commemorate the sacrifice of brave soldiers who protect the borders of the country.
- This day is celebrated for the welfare of the families of the soldiers martyred during serving country.
- On this day, the money collected from the purchase of the flag is spent in the welfare of the martyrs' dependents.



**Reference:**

<http://ksb.gov.in/armed-forces-flag-day-fund.htm>

### International Civil Aviation Day

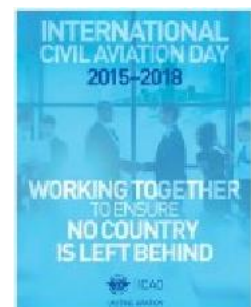
**Question: When 'International Civil Aviation Day' is celebrated?**

(a) 8<sup>th</sup> December (b) 7<sup>th</sup> December (c) 4<sup>th</sup> December (d) 5<sup>th</sup> December

**Answer: (d)**

**Related Fact:**

- On December 7<sup>th</sup>, 2017, 'International Civil Aviation Day' was celebrated worldwide.
- In the year 2017, the theme of this day is – "Working Together to Ensure No Country is Left Behind".
- The purpose of this day is to make people aware about aviation and to understand the role of economic development of this region.
- It is remarkable that the United Nations General Assembly announced the anniversary of this day on December 7, 1996, through a resolution in 1996.





- It is significant that this day was established by the International Aviation Organization (ICAO) in the year 1994.
- This day was established on the occasion of the anniversary of the establishment of ICAO, 50 years.
- Significantly, ICAO is an agency of the United Nations, which regulates the principles and techniques of international air-operation and the development plans of the international air traffic.
- The main goal of this work is to help ensure that SARP implementation is better harmonized globally so that all States have access to the significant socio-economic benefits of safe and reliable air transport and can address safety, security and emissions-related issues.
- It was founded on April 4th, 1947.
- Its headquarters is in Montreal, Canada

**Reference:**

<http://www.un.org/en/events/civilaviationday/index.shtml>

## Universal Health Coverage Day

**Question- When 'Universal health coverage day' is celebrated?**

- (a) November 13 (b) November 12 (c) November 10  
(d) November 14

**Answer: (b)**

**Related Facts:**

- On November 12th 2017, 'Universal Health Coverage Day' was celebrated across the world.
- The purpose of celebrating this day is to attract attention to providing affordable, quality health care to everybody anywhere in the world.
- The United Nations Sustainable Development Goals that all UN Member States have agreed to try to achieve Universal Health Coverage by 2030.

**Reference:**

<http://www.who.int/life-course/news/events/2017-uhc-day/en/>

<http://universalhealthcoverageday.org/>



## Human Rights Day

**Question: On 10th December, 2017 'Human Rights Day' was celebrated. Who amongst the following is the Chairman of the National Human Rights Commission in present?**

- (a) Justice R.M. Lodha (b) Justice H.L. Dattu (c) Justice T. S. Thakur (d) Justice Manoj Mishra

**Answer: (b)**

**Related facts:**

- On December 10, 2017, 'Human Rights Day' was celebrated across the world.
- In the year 2017, the slogan of this day was "Let's Standup for Equality, Justice and Human dignity".



- It is notable that in the year 1950, the UN General Assembly announced for celebrating this day annually on December 10.
- It is significant that on December 10, 1948, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights was accepted by the United Nations General Assembly.
- National Human Rights Commission has been constituted under the Human Rights Act, 1993 to protect human rights in India.
- At present, Justice H.L. Dattu is the Chairman of the National Human Rights Commission.
- This year the UN General Assembly announced a one-year campaign to celebrate the 70th Anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. This campaign will run from December 10, 2017, to the upcoming 70th Anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights till December 10<sup>th</sup>, 2018.

**Reference:**

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

## International Anti Corruption Day

**Question- When is 'International Anti Corruption Day' celebrated?**

(a) December 12 (b) December 9 (c) December 4 (d) December 8

**Answer: (b)**

**Related facts:**

- On December 9<sup>th</sup>, 2017, International Anti-Corruption Day was celebrated across the world.
- In the year 2017, the main theme of this day was "United against corruption for development, peace and security".
- It is to be noted that on October 31<sup>st</sup>, 2003, the UN General Assembly had announced to celebrate this day on 9th December every year.
- It is aimed at spreading awareness about corruption and its eradication worldwide.



**Reference:**

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

## International Day of Persons with Disabilities

**Question: On which date International Day of person with disability is celebrated?**

(a) 2<sup>nd</sup> December (b) 6<sup>th</sup> December (c) 1<sup>st</sup> December  
(d) 3<sup>rd</sup> December

**Answer: (d)**

**Related Facts**

- On December 3<sup>rd</sup>, every year 'International Day of Persons with Disabilities' is celebrated across the world.
- § The main theme of this day for year 2017 is "Transformation towards sustainable and resilient society for all".
- The purpose of this day is to work for the rights of Divyang's people to understand and empower them.



- According to the United Nations, today, the world population is over 7 billion people and more than one billion people, or approximately 15 per cent of the world's population, live with some form of disability.
- Out of these, 80 per cent live in developing countries.
- The annual observance of the International Day of Disabled Persons was proclaimed in 1992, by the United Nations General Assembly resolution 47/3.

**Reference:**

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

## World AIDS Day

**Question: December 1, 2017, 'World AIDS Day' was celebrated all over the world. What is the main theme of this day in 2017?**

- (a) AIDS Shagao (b) My Health, My Rights (c) Stop AIDS  
(d) AIDS Free Generation

**Answer: (b)**

**Related Facts:**

- On December 1, 2017, World Aids Day was celebrated all over the world.
- The theme of this day for 2017 is 'My health is my right'.
- It is remarkable that the first World AIDS Day was celebrated on December 1, 1988.
- It is known that AIDS: Acquired Immuno Deficiency Syndrom is a Syndrome that is caused by HIV viral infection.
- As a result of this infection, the natural resistance to the person's disease is defeated, and man suffers from various diseases.
- According to World Health Organization in 2016, 36.7 million people worldwide were infected with HIV.
- At present about 21 lakh people are infected with HIV AIDS in India.
- HIV AIDS is a global health challenge, targeted to end by 2030.



**Reference:**

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

## World Soil Day

**Question: When 'World's Soil Day' is celebrated?**

- (a) December 4 (b) December 1 (c) December 6  
(d) December 5

**Answer: (d)**

**Related Facts:**

- World Soil Day is celebrated on December 5, every year across the world.
- In the year 2017, its theme is: 'Caring for the Planet Starts from the Ground'.
- On this occasion, the Prime Minister of India, Narendra Modi, called for 'regular health', 'green field' for regular testing of soil from farmers.
- 33% of the entire world's soil has already been Infertile or degraded.
- Notable that 95 percent of our food comes from the soil.
- At present, food of 815 million people is unsafe and 2 billion people are naturally insecure, but we can reduce it through soil.



- The objective of this day is to increase awareness among the people towards soil health and the contribution of soil in life.
- The FAO Conference, in June 2013, unanimously endorsed World Soil Day and requested official adoption at the 68th UN General Assembly.
- In December 2013, the 68th UN General Assembly declared 5th of December as the World Soil Day.
- Since 2012, the FAO-GSP has been organizing celebration events of this important day.

**Reference:**

<http://www.un.org/en/events/soilday/index.shtml>

## International Volunteer Day

**Question: When 'International (Volunteer) Swayamsevak Day' is celebrated?**

(a) December 4 (b) December 3 (c) December 5 (d)

December 8

**Answer- (c)**

**Related facts:**

- International Volunteer Day (IVD) mandated by the UN General Assembly, is held each year on 5 December.
- International Volunteer Day (IVD) 2017's theme is #VolunteersActFirst. Here. Everywhere.
- The International Volunteer Day for Economic and Social Development was adopted by the United Nations General Assembly on 17 December 1985.
- It is notable that this day is a global celebration of respect for people's involvement in making changes in local, national and international levels.



**Reference:**

<http://www.un.org/en/events/volunteerday/index.shtml>

## World Computer Literacy Day

**Question: 'World Computer Literacy Day' is celebrated on which date?**

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

**Answer: (d)**

**Related Facts:**

- World Computer Literacy Day is celebrated on December 2, 2017 across the world.
- The Day aims to increase awareness of this 'divide' and increase access to information technology for disadvantaged communities.
- It is noteworthy that first observance of World Computer Literacy Day was held in the year 2001.



**Reference:**

<https://happydays-365.com/computer-literacy-day/world-computer-literacy-day-december-2/>

## Indian Navy Day

**Question: 'Indian Navy Day' is celebrated on December-**

(a) 4 (b) 2 (c) 3 (d) 6

**Ans: (a)**

**Related facts:-**

- On 4th December, 2017, 'Indian Navy Day' was celebrated across the country.
- This day is celebrated in memory of the victory of the Indian Navy upon Pakistani Navy in the 1971 war.
- It is known that on December 4, 1971, the Indian Navy completely destroyed the Karachi Harbor under the 'Operation Trident'.
- In the operation, the Indian Navy first time used the anti-ship missile.
- Operation Python 'was launched immediately after this operation.
- In which the Pakistan Navy suffered a great loss.
- A day before Navy Day this year, Navy had organized 'Beating Retreat' in front of the 'Gateway of India' in Mumbai.



**Related Links:-**

<http://www.thehindu.com/news/national/navy-day-heres-a-quick-look-at-the-indian-navy-today/article21260246.ece>

## International Day for the Abolition of Slavery

**Question: 'International Day for the Abolition of Slavery' is celebrated on-**

(a) December 4 (b) December 2 (c) December 3

(d) November 29

**Ans: (b)**

**Related facts:-**

- On December 2, 2017, 'International Day for the Abolition of Slavery' was observed all over the world.
- It is notable that on December 2, 1949, the United Nations General Assembly accepted the United Nations Convention to end the exploitation of trafficking and prostitution of individuals.
- It is to be known that the first 'International Slavery Elimination Day' was celebrated on December 2, 1986.
- The aim of celebrating this day is to eradicate the forced recruitment of children for the use of enslaved forms of slavery like trafficking of persons, sexual exploitation, worst practices of child labor, forced marriage, brotherhood sanitation, and armed struggle.
- It is worth mentioning that more than 150 million children worldwide are related to child labor. 1 child in every 10 children worldwide is child labor.
- Approximately 40.3 million people are afflicted with modern slavery, in which 24.9 million people are suffering from forced labor and 15.4 million from forced marriages.
- 5.4 out of every 1000 people in the world are suffering from modern slavery.
- Out of the 4 victims of modern slavery includes one child.





- In November 2016, the International Labor Organization (ILO) had implemented a new protocol to empower global efforts to end the bonded labor.

**Related Links:-**

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

## Constitution Day

**Question: On which date 'Constitution Day' is celebrated?**

(a) November 23 (b) November 26 (c) November 20 (d) November 22

**Answer: (b)**

**Related Facts:**

- On November 26, 'Constitution Day' is celebrated.
- It is notable that on November 23, 2015, the central government had announced the celebration of the Constitution Day on November 26, every year.
- It is noteworthy that the Constitution of India was adopted by the Constituent Assembly on the same day in year 1949.



**Reference:**

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=131806>

## MISCELLANEOUS FRIENDS OF M.P. CONVENTION

**Question: Where will the Friends of MP Conference be organized during January 3<sup>rd</sup>-4<sup>th</sup>, 2018?**

(a) Bhopal (b) Indore (c) Gwalior (d) Jabalpur

**Answer: (b)**

**Related Facts:**

- Between 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> January, 2018, 'Friends of M.P. Convention' will be held at Indore, Madhya Pradesh.
- This conference will also be honored by migrants from the state who are attached to Madhya Pradesh.
- An incubation center will be build by the Smart City Company in Indore with corroboration of University of Tandon School of Engineering, New York.
- Tandon School of Engineering will also be assisted in the operation of 10 Inqubasson Centers already operated in the state.



**Reference:**

<https://shivrajsinghchouhan.org/newsdetail.aspx?id=1646>

## Land Exploration Satellite

**Question: Which of the following countries recently launched a Land Exploration Satellite?**

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

**Answer: (a)**

**Related Facts:**

- On December 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2017, a land exploration satellite was launched by China.
- This satellite was launched from the JiQQan satellite launch center located in Gobi Desert.
- This satellite will be used primarily for remote sensing exploration of land resources.

**Reference:**

[http://news.xinhuanet.com/english/2017-12/03/c\\_136796994.htm](http://news.xinhuanet.com/english/2017-12/03/c_136796994.htm)



## India-Myanmar-Thailand Motor Rally

**Question: Where did the first phase of the Second India-Myanmar-Thailand Friendship Motor Rally (IMT-2) concluded?**

(a) Guwahati (b) Bangkok (c) Mandalay  
(d) Yangon The rally was flagged off

**Answer: (b)**

**Related Facts:**

- On December 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2017 the second India-Myanmar-Thailand Friendship Motor Rally–IMT 2 successfully completed its first leg from Guwahati to Bangkok.
- from Guwahati on 25<sup>th</sup> November, 2017.
- Total 50 participants including five women, in 20 SUV vehicles participated in the Rally.
- It made night halts in Kohima and Imphal before being flagged off by Mr. Tharadol Thongruang, Minister Counsellor (Commercial) of Thailand, for the border town of Moreh.
- After a hassle free and smooth facilitation at the Land Border Crossing on the Indian side of the Moreh Tamu border, the rally proceeded towards Myanmar.
- In Myanmar the rally passed through Kalay, Bagan, Mandalay, Yangon and Mawlamyine.
- The rally then crossed over to Thailand at the Mae Sot Border on 2<sup>nd</sup> December and reached Bangkok on 3<sup>rd</sup> December, via the old capital Sukhothai.
- The IMT-2 motor rally has been organised by Kalinga Motor Sports Club in collaboration with the team Mahindra Adventure.

**Reference:**

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=174272>



## Agreement between India and Armenia

**Question: On cooperation and mutual assistance in which of the following sectors an Agreement between India and Armenia was signed on November 1<sup>st</sup>, 2017?**

(a) Information Technology (b) Agriculture (c) Customs

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



(d) Air connectivity

**Answer: (c)**

**Related Facts:**

- On November 1<sup>st</sup>, 2017, the Union Cabinet chaired by the Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi has given its approval for signing and ratifying an Agreement between India and Armenia on cooperation and mutual assistance in customs matters.
- The Agreement was signed on behalf of the two countries after it is approved by the respective Governments.
- This Agreement shall enter into force on the first day of the second month after the Contracting Parties notify each other in through diplomatic channels, that the necessary national legal requirements for entry into force of this Agreement have been fulfilled.
- The Agreement will help in the availability of relevant information for the prevention and investigation of Customs offences.
- It is also expected to facilitate trade and ensure efficient clearance of goods traded between the countries.

**Reference:**

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=173130>

## Removal of ban on movie theaters

**Question: Which country has recently announced the removal of the ban from movie theaters?**

(a) United Arab Emirates (b) Qatar (c) Saudi Arabia (d) Egypt

**Answer: (c)**

**Related Facts:**

- On December 11, 2017, the government of Saudi Arabia announced the removal of ban from movie theaters.
- Movie theaters will open to the general people in this country after 35 years.
- According to Saudi Arabia's Culture and Information Minister, the theaters will be licensed to run the film in the next 90 days.
- Cinema Houses should take care of the Sharia laws and the moral values of the country in film production.
- It is known that Saudi Arabia is undergoing an economic overhaul under Vision 2030 and is taking some key steps to bring Saudi Arabia as a liberal economy in front of the world and to reduce its reliance on oil over the next decade.
- Women were also given the right to drive for the first time in this line.



**Reference:**

<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2017/dec/11/saudi-arabia-to-lift-35-year-ban-on-cinemas>

## Diego Maradona unveils statue

**Question: Where did Argentine legend footballer Diego Maradona unveil his statue?**

(a) La Plata (b) Salta (c) Kolkata (d) Kochi

**Answer: (c)**

**Related Facts:**



- On December 10th, 2017, Argentina's legendary soccer player Diego Maradona came to India
- He unveiled his statue in Kolkata.
- During this visit, Maradona also played cricket match with Cricket icon Saurav Ganguly in Baroda's 'Diego Vs. Dada' exhibition match.

**Reference:**

<http://www.firstpost.com/sports/diego-maradona-unveils-12-feet-statue-of-himself-in-kolkata-says-hes-not-god-of-football-4254093.html>

## Tax Cut and Reform Bill passed in US Senate

**Question: A recent proposal to tax reduction was passed in the US Senate. How many votes passed in this Senate bill?**

(a) 49 (b) 51 (c) 52 (d) 54

**Answer: (b)**

**Related Facts:**

- 2 December, 2017 Important proposals related to tax deduction were passed in the US Senate.
- Senate passed this bill with 51 votes compared to 49.
- This proposal has reduced the corporate tax rate from 35 percent to 20 percent.
- It is the fact that since 1980, the proposal has been introduced for the first time to change this tax. To implement new tax rates, it will have to make a bill by applying proposals passed from the Senate and House of Representatives. After this, it will have to be passed again by both houses, then it will become law.



**Reference:**

<http://www.bbc.com/news/world-us-canada-42421821>

<http://www.thehindu.com/news/international/us-senate-passes-donald-trumps-tax-reform-bill/article22023339.ece>

## Direction for Road Safety

**Question: Instructions regarding road safety to all states and Union Territories were issued by the bench of SC headed by which of the following Justice?**

(a) Ranjan Gogoi (b) MB Lokur (c) Kurian Joseph (d) N.B. Raman

**Answer: (b)**

**Related Facts:**

- On November 30<sup>th</sup>, 2017, the Supreme Court issued instructions to all states and union territories regarding road safety.
- This Instruction was issued by Justice MB Lokur on the petition of Coimbatore's surgeon S. Rajasekhara while.
- This bench directed the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways to ensure implementation of motor vehicle driver Regulations 2017 implemented on June 23 this year.



- Apart from this, the court also directed to set up Trauma Center in all the districts.

**Reference:**

<https://barandbench.com/road-safety-supreme-court/>

## Arpana Portal

**Question: Recently, for whose convenience the Odisha Government has launched the Arpana Portal?**

- (a) For the employees working in the State Government
- (b) For pensioners
- (c) For health care providers
- (d) Information related to the State Government's plans



**Answer: (b)**

**Related Facts:**

- On November 24, 2017, the Government of Odisha launched a new portal 'Arpana' for online processing of applications for pension revision in respect of pre-2016 pensioners.
- The word 'Arpana' means the application for a pension using the Aadhaar number authentication.
- Through this portal, all the pensioners of the state can apply for revision in pension.
- However, pensioners who opt not to use Aadhaar can apply online but they will have to submit the print copy of the application with their signatures to the pension distribution authority.

**Reference:**

<http://www.orissapost.com/arpana-launched-to-assist-govt-pensioners-online/>

## First diamond futures contract of world's first diamond derivatives exchange

**Question: Which amongst the following world's first diamond derivatives exchange has successfully completed its first diamond futures contracts settlement?**

- (a) National Commodity and Derivatives Exchange (NCDEX)
- (b) Indian Commodity Exchange Ltd. (ICEX)
- (c) Ace Derivatives and Commodity Exchange Ltd.
- (d) National Multi-Commodity Exchange (NMCEX)



**Answer: (b)**

**Related Facts:**

- On November 8<sup>th</sup>, 2017, first diamond futures contracts settlement has successfully completed.
- This was done by Indian Commodity Exchange (ICEX), the world's first diamond derivatives exchange.
- At present, around 40 carats of diamonds are lying in the exchange vaults and Total 1,440 clients participated in the delivery process and 26.27 carats of diamonds worth 83 lakh.



- ICEX had commenced operations on August 28 with the launch of three monthly diamond futures contracts — of November 2017, December 2017 and January 2018 expiry, respectively.
- In future Market expiry date is known as the date of settlement.
- Since the contract launch, the total business volume in November expiry is 5382.08 carat, which is worth 173.32 crores.
- During the expiry, a complete convergence of spot and futures price has been seen.
- Futures are settled in future by the traders on the promise of settling the deal.
- The fidada market has a turnover (trade) in derivatives or commodities Metals, Gold and Crude etc.
- The result of open interest of people about November expiry of the contract resulted in November delivery.
- Percentage of delivery against the total traded quantity (5,382.08 carats) has been 0.53 per cent.
- Open Interest means the number of contracts whose position has not been zero.

**Reference:**

<http://www.thehindubusinessline.com/markets/icex-completes-first-diamond-futures-contract-of-rs-17332-cr/article9948856.ece>

## Bharti Airtel and Airtel Payment Bank's e-KYC license suspended

**Question: Who amongst the following has recently suspended e-KYC license of Bharti Airtel and Airtel Payment Bank, as a strong action against it?**

(a) SEBI (b) RBI (c) UIDAI (d) IRDA

**Answer: (c)**

**Related facts**

- On December 16, 2017, the Indian Unique Identification Authority (UIDAI) suspended their e-KYC license temporarily, taking rigid action against Bharti Airtel and Airtel Payment Bank.
- UIDAI has taken this action due to allegations of alleged misuse of the base e-KYC based SIM verification process on Bharti Airtel.
- Airtel has alleged that it opened its bank accounts without proper consent of its customers, while they came to get their SIM based base KYC.
- At the same time, the Authority has also expressed serious objection to these allegations that the company was also affiliated to the payment bank accounts to get LPG LPG subsidy.



**Reference:**

<http://www.thehindu.com/business/Industry/uidai-suspends-airtel-airtel-payments-banks-ekyc-licence/article21822439.ece>

## Word of the Year (2017) declared by Oxford Dictionary

**Question: Which of the following words is recently published by the Oxford University Press as as the term**

158

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



**of 2017?**

(a) Youthquake (b) Post-Truth (c) Squeezed Middle (d) Selfie

**Answer: (a)**

**Related Facts:**

- On December 15th, 2017, the Oxford Dictionary declared the word 'Youthquake' as the word of the year 2017.
- This word was first coined in the 1960s by Vogue magazine editor Diana Vreeland.
- She used it to describe a sudden change in fashion, music and behavior.
- According to the Oxford Dictionary, a recent resurgence has been observed in the use of this word, which describes the formation of a carrier of political, cultural, and social change by the youth.
- During the year 2017, the term 'Youthquake' had increased five times in daily colloquial usage.
- UK (United Kingdom) during its general election, its use as a narrator of the impact of youth of the country prominently increased.
- 'Word of the Year' is selected from newspapers, books, blogs and transcripts of transcription English.
- Which has been remained a very interesting year throughout the year as an expression.
- Last year (2016) the term 'post truth' was chosen after the 'Brexit vote' and the US presidential election.

**Reference:**

<http://www.bbc.com/news/uk-42361859>

## [CHARAK App](#)

**Question: Which state amongst the following recently launched the Charak app for the purpose of providing health facilities like metros in villages?**

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

**Answer: (b)**

**Related facts:**

- On December 13, 2017, Uttar Pradesh's Medical and Health Minister Siddhartha Nath Singh launched Charak App.
- This app is powered by CLIR Net.
- Its purpose is to make health facilities like metros available in villages as well.
- Through this app, the physicians of remote areas will be able to share modern methods of treatment and other medical information.
- This app will be helpful in ensuring that every doctor knowledgeable in the public health system and follow the standard and treatment methods developed by the state government.
- This app will make them more effective by connecting institutions and experts with physicians and establishing a synergy with like-minded organizations for the common man.



**Reference:**

<http://upnews360.in/newsdetail/97846/hi>

## Decision to cancel the ban on Rajasthan Cricket Association

**Question: When did the Board of Control of Cricket of India (BCCI) banned the Rajasthan Cricket Association?**

(a) May, 2013 (b) April 2014 (c) May, 2014 (d) August, 2015

**Ans: (c)**

**Related facts:-**

- On December 11th, 2017, the decision to cancel the ban imposed on the Rajasthan Cricket Association (RCA) was taken by the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI).
- This decision was taken in the special general meeting of the Board concluded under the chairmanship of BCCI's acting president CK Khanna.
- It is known that in May 2014, the Rajasthan Cricket Association was suspended by the BCCI when former IPL Commissioner Lalit Modi was re-elected as the President of the Rajasthan Cricket Association.
- After the removal of ban, now in Rajasthan, IPL, national and international matches could be organized.



**Reference:**

<https://www.aninews.in/news/sports/cricket/bcci-revokes-ban-on-rajasthan-cricket-association201712111535320001/>

## Year of Sport

**Question: According to the announcement of Union Sports and Youth Affairs Minister Rajyavardhan Singh Rathore which of the following years is the “Year of Sport in India”?**

(a) 2017 (b) 2018 (c) 2019 (d) 2020

**Answer: (b)**

**Related facts:**

- On December 6th, 2017, Union Sports and Youth Affairs Minister Rajyavardhan Singh Rathore announced to celebrate the year 2018 as “Year of Sport in India”.
- A quiz will also be organized to awaken interest in sports among people under the ‘Khelo Bharat’ campaign this year.
- In the next 3 years 10 sports excellence centers will be set up in the country.
- At the same time, during the press conference on December 10, the Sports and Youth Minister also announced the full financial support to Hockey India for the upcoming three important events- Commonwealth Games, Asian Games and the World Cup.



**Reference:**

[https://twitter.com/Ra\\_THORe/status/938323175649173505](https://twitter.com/Ra_THORe/status/938323175649173505)

## Second phase of organic movement

**Question: In which state will the second phase of the organic movement be started soon?**

(a) Nagaland (b) Manipur (c) Sikkim (d) Chhattisgarh



**Answer: (c)**

**Related facts:**

- On November 4th, 2017, after making Sikkim a fully organic state, Sikkim Chief Minister Pawan Kumar Chamling announced the start of the second phase of the organic movement in the state shortly.
- Under the second phase of the organic movement, increasing the production of various products at a large scale and establishing a global supply chain will enhance the value of organic products and focus on strengthening the export system.
- It is known that Sikkim is the first state in the country to become a fully organic state in the year 2016.
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi announced the Sikkim as a fully organic state during the Sustainable Agricultural Conference held in Gangtok on January 18, 2016.

**Reference:**

<http://indiatoday.intoday.in/story/sikkim-to-launch-second-phase-of-organic-movement-chamling/1/1082422.html>

## Nobel Prize Series to be organized in February 2018

**Question: In which of the following states the Nobel Prize Series-India 2018 will be organized in month of February 2018?**

(a) Gujarat (b) Rajasthan (c) Goa (d) Karnataka

**Answer: (c)**

**Related facts:**

- On November 3rd, 2017, the Department of Biotechnology, Ministry of Science and Technology, Government of India and the Nobel Media (Sweden) signed a tripartite agreement to organize the Nobel Prize Series-India, 2018 to be held in February 2018.
- It will be held in Goa during 1st-28th February, 2018.
- Its main theme is 'Science Impacts life'.
- The objective of this event is to attract people towards pure science rather than technology.
- The Nobel Prize Series-India 2018 will also hold exhibitions, brought from the Nobel Museum, Sweden, for one month.
- The first edition of the Nobel Prize Series in India was held in January, 2017 in Gujarat.

**Reference:**

<http://www.thehindu.com/news/states/goa-to-hold-nobel-prize-series-india-2018/article19977453.ece>



## Energy Festival

**Question: Recently cabinet of which of the following states has decided to celebrate 'Urja Utsav on December 12, 2017?**

(a) Uttar Pradesh (b) Chhattisgarh (c) Madhya Pradesh (d) Rajasthan

**Answer- (b)**

**Related Facts:**



- On November 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2017; in the meeting of Chhattisgarh Council of Ministers, it was decided to celebrate 'Urja Utsav' in the state from on December 12, 2017.
- During this celebration, programs will be organized at District level and Development block level.
- In the presence of public representatives, 24 hour power supply quality, 33/11 kv electricity sub-stations, providing free of cost electricity connections under the 'Sowbhagya' project will also be observed.
- General category families will be provided with electricity connections at nominal installment of Rs 50 a month.
- Development blocks and villages who have collected cent per cent electricity bills will be rewarded.
- In the same meeting, it was also decided to celebrate 'Tendu Patta Bonus Tihar' from December 02<sup>nd</sup>-11<sup>th</sup>, 2017.
- Under this, a bonus of Rs. 270 crores will be distributed to 14 lakh Tendu Patta collectors of the state.

**Reference:**

<http://www.dailypioneer.com/state-editions/raipur/cm-to-launch-tendu-patta-bonus-tihar.html>

## Proposal to declare International Year of Millets

**Question:** Recently, Shri Radha Mohan Singh, the Union Minister for Agriculture & Farmers Welfare has sent a proposal to United Nations for declaring which of the following year as 'International Year of Millets'?

(a) 2021 (b) 2018 (c) 2019 (d) 2020

**Ans: (b)**

**Related facts:**

- On November 22, 2017, Shri Radha Mohan Singh, the Union Minister for Agriculture & Farmers Welfare has sent a proposal to United Nations for declaring the year 2018 as 'International Year of Millets'.
- It is noteworthy that Millet is a common term to categorize small-seeded grasses.
- It is often termed nutri-cereals or dryland-cereals, and includes sorghum, pearl millet, ragi, small millet, foxtail millet, proso millet, barnyard millet, kodo millet and other millets.
- An important staple cereal crop for millions of small holder dryland farmers across sub-saharan Africa and Asia, millets offer nutrition, resilience, income and livelihood for farmers even in difficult times.
- Millets can provide nutritional security and act as a shield against nutritional deficiency, especially among children and women.
- The anaemia (iron deficiency), B-complex vita min deficiency, pellagra (niacin deficiency) can be effectively tackled with intake of less expensive but nutritionally rich food grains like millets.
- The proposal, if agreed, will raise awareness about millets among consumers, policy makers, industry and R&D sector.



**Reference:**

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=173750>



## Biofuture Platform Declaration

**Question: Which of the following member country did not participated in 'Biofuture Platform Declaration' on November 16<sup>th</sup>, 2017.**

(a) United States (b) Netherlands (c) Denmark (d) Paraguay

**Answer: (a)**

**Related facts:**

- On November 16<sup>th</sup>, 2017, 19 members countries gathered together to state Biofuture Platform Declaration.
- United States (founding and current Member State) did not participate in the declaration.
- Declaration "Scaling up the low carbon bio economy: an urgent and vital challenge" accepted at the 'United Nations Climate Change Conference-CoP23' organized in BONN, Germany.
- Earlier, on 15<sup>th</sup> November 2017, this mandate was renewed for an additional year.
- It is noteworthy that on November 16<sup>th</sup>, 2016, 20 countries including India launched 'BIOFUTURE PLATFORM' for sustainable biofuels.
- The ultimate purpose of the Biofuture Platform is to help in the global fight against climate change, nurturing solutions in low carbon transport and the bio economy that can aid countries to reach their Nationally Determined Contribution targets (NDCs).
- Twenty countries are the founding and current Member States of the Biofuture Platform: Argentina, Brazil, Canada, China, Denmark, Egypt, Finland, France, India, Indonesia, Italy, Morocco, Mozambique, the Netherlands, Paraguay, the Philippines, Sweden, United Kingdom, United States and Uruguay.
- These countries represent 37% of the global economy and half of the global population.



**Reference:**

<http://biofutureplatform.org/major-countries-agree-scale-low-carbon-bioeconomy-develop-sustainable-biofuels-targets/>

## Approval for procurement of naval communication sets

**Question: The Ministry of Defense has recently approved the procurement of how many Naval communication sets of worth Rs 490 crore?**

(a) 150 (b) 200 (c) 250 (d) 260

**Answer- (d)**

**Related Facts:**

- On November 29<sup>th</sup>, 2017, the Ministry of Defense approved the procurement of 260 Naval communication sets of worth Rs 490 crore.
- This decision was taken in the meeting of Defense acquisition council presided over by Defense Minister Nirmala Sitharaman.
- Software Defined, designed and developed by indigenous technology, will be the first batch of radio sets.



- Connection of these gadgets will improve information sharing through secure voice communications and data transfer on board the naval ships.

**Reference:**

<https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/defence/defence-ministry-approves-procurement-of-260-naval-communication-sets/articleshow/61853301.cms>

## Mobile app-Umang

**Question: Mobile app 'Umang' is available in how many Indian languages?**

(a) 10 (b) 12 (c) 13 (d) 15

**Answer: (c)**

**Related Facts:**

- On November 23, 2017, Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched the UMANG App that aims to bring 162 government services on a single mobile app, with a larger goal to make the government accessible on the mobile phone of our citizens.
- This app is available in 13 Indian languages.
- On this app, many other facilities including Aadhaar, Digilocker and Bharat Bill Payment System will be available .
- This is Single mobile app to access 1200+ services of various government services from Centre, State and utility services.
- Through this app, people can use the services of the Employees Provident Fund Organization (EPFO).
- Permanent Account Number (PAN) and people looking for employment will also be able to register in the Prime Minister's Skill Development Plan.



**Reference:**

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=173780>

## Agreement between Myanmar and Bangladesh

**Question: Recently, Bangladesh and Myanmar signed 'Arrangement' on Return of displaced Myanmar persons sheltered in Bangladesh. Under the agreement, the process of return shall commence-**

(a) Within 1 month (b) Within 2 months (c) Within 3 months (d) Within 4 months

**Answer: (b)**

**Related Facts:**

- On November 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2017, Bangladesh and Myanmar signed 'Arrangement' on Return of displaced Myanmar persons sheltered in Bangladesh in Nay Pyi Taw, Myanmar.
- The 'Arrangement' stipulates that the return shall commence within two months.
- Foreign Minister A H Mahmood Ali MP signed the bilateral instrument and U Kyaw Tint Swe, Union Minister signed the instrument on behalf of the respective governments.
- After the violence in Myanmar's Rakhine Province, about 600,000 Rohingyas have fled to Myanmar since August 2017 and have gone to Bangladesh.



- It is note worthy that in August, 2017; the army started a campaign against Rohingyas Muslims.

**Reference:**

<http://www.mofa.gov.bd/media/bangladesh-and-myanmarconclude-%E2%80%98arrangement%E2%80%99-return-displaced-persons-rakhine-state-10>

## Foreign Media to Register As Foreign Agents

**Question: Recently, which country's President signed a new law related to the listing of Foreign Media as a Foreign Agent?**

(a) America (b) Russia (c) France (d) North Korea

**Answer: (b)**

**Related Facts:**

- On November 15<sup>th</sup>, 2017 Russian President Vladimir Putin signed a new law.
- The Foreign Agents Registration Act allows the government to list any foreign media institution operating in the country as a foreign agent.
- In response to an order dated Kremlin-supported broadcaster 'Russia Today' as a foreign agent in the US, the Russian Parliament approved this bill.
- This new law of Russia will affect foreign-registered media that are funded outside of Russia.
- Such media institutions are now subject to additional requirements and their activities can be suspended if there is violation in compliance.
- If they get registered, they must have to display themselves as a foreign agent in their broadcast and websites.



**Reference:**

<https://www.npr.org/2017/11/15/564272323/russia-to-require-foreign-media-to-register-as-foreign-agents>

## Central Training Establishment (CTE)

**Question: At which of the following places Air India commissioned brand new ATR 72-600-212 a Level 'D' Full Flight Simulator (FFS)?**

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

**Answer: (c)**

**Related Facts:**

- On November 28<sup>th</sup>, 2017, National carrier, Air India commissioned the brand new ATR 72-600-212 a Level 'D' Full Flight Simulator (FFS) at its Central Training Establishment (CTE) at Hyderabad.
- This Simulator will meet the pilot training requirements.
- So far these pilots were being to send Singapore, Bangkok or France for training.
- At these places, they were being trained by regional jet which was expensive.
- Earlier, an agreement was signed by the air India on May 9<sup>th</sup>, 2017, to procure ATR 72-600-212 Flight Simulator.



**Reference:**

<http://www.airindia.in/CTE.htm>

## Penalty of 52.24 on Board of Control for Cricket in India

**Question: Who imposed a penalty of INR 52.24 crore on BCCI for indulging into the anticompetitive conduct?**

(a) SEBI (b) CCI (c) Supreme Court (d) ICC

**Answer: (b)**

**Related Facts:**

- On November 29, 2017, the Competition Commission India (CCI) imposed a penalty of INR 52.24 crore on BCCI for indulging into the anticompetitive conduct.
- It is noteworthy that the BCCI had assured the broadcasters of the Indian Premier League (IPL) that they will not be able to organize, sanction, accredit or support any other professional domestic Indian T-20 competition like the IPL competition for 10 years.
- After a detailed investigation by the DG, CCI found that BCCI enjoys a dominant position in the market for organisation of professional domestic cricket leagues/ events in India.
- Based on the nature of activities performed, BCCI has been held as an enterprise and thus, would come under the purview of the Act.
- While recognising the role of sports federation in taking measures to serve the integrity or development of the sport, CCI held that the impugned restriction had no nexus to the legitimate interest of cricket in the country.
- **Apart from this, the CCI has given the following instructions:**
  - BCCI shall cease and desist from indulging into the conduct that is found to be in contravention of Section 4 of the Act;
  - BCCI shall not place blanket restriction on organisation of professional domestic cricket league/ events by non-members. Such changes shall entail norms that underpin principles of non-discrimination and shall be applied in a fair, transparent and equitable manner;
  - Having done the above, BCCI shall issue appropriate clarification regarding the rules applicable for organisation of professional domestic cricket leagues/ events in India, either by members of BCCI or by third parties, as well as the parameters based on which applications can be made and would be considered. Besides, BCCI shall take all possible measure(s) to ensure that competition is not impeded while preserving the objective of development of cricket in the country ; and
  - BCCI shall file a report to the Commission on the compliance of the aforesaid directions from (a) to (c) within a period of 60 days from the receipt of CCI's order.



**Reference:**

<https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/sports/cricket/news/competition-commission-slaps-rs-52-crore-penalty-on-bcci/articleshow/61850459.cms>