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Current Affairs

INDEX :

Day to Day



(A) Chronological Order
(B) Current Affairs Sections



Ministry of
Water Resources,
River Development &
Ganga Rejuvenation
Government of India
सत्यमेव जयते

Ministry of
Statistics and Programme
Implementation
Government of India

Ministry of New and
Renewable Energy
Government of India
सत्यमेव जयते

**Year End
Review
2015**

Ministry of Steel
Government of India

Ministry of Finance
Department of
Economic Affairs
Government of India
Ministry of
Corporate Affairs
Government of India

Ministry of Labour and Employment
Government of India
सत्यमेव जयते



Questions and Related Facts
1 December, 2015 to 31 December, 2015

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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Prime Minister's Visit to Russia, Afghanistan and Pakistan

Question: 16th India-Russia Annual Summit was held at-

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

Ans (b)

Related facts:

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi on 25 December 2015 returned to New Delhi after conclusion of his official visit to Russia, Afghanistan and Pakistan.
- At the invitation of Russian President Vladimir Putin Prime Minister of India Mr. Narendra Modi was on his first official bilateral visit to Moscow from 23-24 December 2015 for the 16th India-Russia Annual Summit.
- He along with Vladimir Putin, President of Russia, participated in the 16th India-Russia Annual Summit.
- The two Leaders held extensive and substantive discussions to review progress in bilateral relations since the last Annual Summit and their meeting on the margins of the BRICS Summit in Ufa in July 2015.
- After that Joint Statement between the Russian Federation and the Republic of India: Shared Trust, New Horizons was released.
- After successful completion of the dialogue both the countries signed 16 Agreements/MoUs covering critical areas like energy, education, security, research and development, these are:
- Protocol amending the agreement, which was signed on 21 December 2010, between India and Russia on simplification of requirements for mutual travels of certain categories of citizens of the two countries was passed.
- Protocol amending agreement between the Government of the Republic of India and the Government of the Russian Federation on mutual travel regime for holders of Diplomatic & Official Passports of 3 December 2004 was presented.
- Agreement between the Government of the Republic of India and the Government of the Russian Federation on Cooperation in the field of Helicopter Engineering
- Plan for Cooperation between the Federal Customs Service of the Central Board of Excise and Customs, Department of Revenue, Ministry of Finance, Republic of India and the Russian Federation for combating Customs violations in 2015 – 2017 was laid.
- Programme of Action Agreed Between The Department of Atomic Energy of India And The Russian State Atomic Energy Corporation "Rosatom" for Localization of Manufacturing in India for Russian-Designed Nuclear Reactor Units.
- Memorandum of Understanding between the Ministry of Railways of the Republic of India and the Joint Stock company "Russian Railways "on technical cooperation in railway sector.
- MoU between Solar Energy Corporation of India and Russian Energy Agency regarding construction of solar energy plants in the Republic of India
- MoU for cooperation between HEC & CNIITMASH for development of Centre of Excellence for heavy engineering design at HEC was signed.
- Memorandum of Understanding between Prasar Bharati and Digital Television Russia on Cooperation in the field of Broadcasting.



- Tripartite Memorandum of Understanding between Centre for Development of Advance Computing (C-DAC), Indian Institute of Science Bangalore (IISc) and Lomonosov Moscow State University (MSU).
- Tripartite Memorandum of Understanding between Centre for Development of Advance Computing (C-DAC), OJSC "GLONASS" and GLONASS Union.
- MoU in the field of investment cooperation in the Russian Far East between the Tata Power Company Limited and Ministry for Development of the Russian Far East.
- MoU for Cooperation for geologic survey, exploration and production of hydrocarbons onshore and on the continental shelf of the Russian Federation.
- Confirmation of successful completion of the first stage pre-completion actions in relation to the creation of a Joint Venture in JSC Vankor Neft.
- MoU for Cooperation for geologic survey, exploration and production of hydrocarbons onshore the Russian Federation between Rosneft oil company, Oil India Limited and Indian Oil Corporation Limited.
- Narendra Modi during his visit to Russia participated in the program "Friends of India" on December 24, 2015 in Moscow.
- Moreover, the Prime Minister visited National Disaster Management Centre in Moscow.
- After the visit of Russia, Prime Minister was on one-day official visit to Afghanistan on December 25, 2015.
- The Prime Minister held detailed discussions with the President of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan H.E. Mohammad Ashraf Ghani and Chief Executive H.E. Dr. Abdullah, and met the former President Hamid Karzai in Kabul.
- President Ghani and Prime Minister Modi jointly dedicated to the Afghan nation the National Assembly Building constructed under India-Afghanistan development cooperation.
- A block of National Assembly Building (Shora) is named after the former Prime Minister of India Mr. Atal Behari Vajpayee.
- Narendra Modi while returning to Delhi from Kabul on December 25, 2015 made an undeclared visit to Pakistan.
- Previously in 2004, Atal Bihari Vajpayee visited Pakistan.
- During he met Prime Minister of Pakistan in Lahore at his residence and wished him on his birthday.

Reference:

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<http://www.mea.gov.in/outgoing-visit-detail.htm?26247/Joint+Statement+between+India+and+Afghanistan+December+25+2015>
<http://www.mea.gov.in/outgoing-visit-info.htm?2/839/Visit+of+Prime+Minister+to+Pakistan+December+25+2015>

Year End Review: Ministry of Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation

Question: Name the Integrated Ganga Conservation Programme approved by the Cabinet ?

- (a) Namami Gange
- (b) Jai Gange
- (c) Nirmal Ganga
- (d) Ganga Raksha



Ans (a)

Related facts:

- On 22 December 2015, Ministry of Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation has released Year End Review-2015.
- Major initiatives and programs of the Ministry of Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation during the last one year:

For Reduction in water pollution:

- “Namami Gange” – Integrated Ganga Conservation Programme has been approved by the Cabinet at the cost of Rs. 20,000 crore.
- It will be implemented by 2020.
- 4 battalions of Ganga Task Force under Territorial Army with Ex-Servicemen have been approved in principle by Ministry of Defence.
- Government of Germany has committed assistance of € 3 million for Ganga Rejuvenation during Indo-German Annual Negotiations 2014.'
- 93 Projects has been approved at the cost of Rs.7350.38 crores for creating treatment capacity of 858 MLD and Sewer network of 3623.10 Kms.
- Ministry has identified Inter-linking of Rivers as a priority. ‘Ken-Betwa Link Project’ declared as National Project. Work on Forest; Wild life and Environment clearance for the project is under process.
- Intra - State link Projects: DPR of Burhi Gandak – Noon – Baya -Ganga Link Project (Bihar) and Kosi - Mechi Link Project (Bihar) completed.
- Rs. 3680 crore approved by EFC for River Development and Water Information Management.

Water Resources:

- Polavaram Project being implemented as a National Project on river Godavari.
- This done to create an annual irrigation potential of 4.36 lakh ha in East Godavari, Vishakhapatnam, West Godavari and Krishna districts in Andhra Pradesh and Rs 250 crore released.
- Dam Rehabilitation and Improvement Project (DRIP) taken up with World Bank assistance at an estimated cost of Rs. 2100 crore.
- Total 233 dams in five states identified for rehabilitation.
- National Aquifer Management (NAQUIM) project undertaken for optimal utilisation of groundwater with community participation.
- Regional office of Ganga Flood Control Commission opened at Lucknow in March, 2015, for greater focus on North Western region of Ganga Basin.
- Grant of Rs. 2610 crore released to 26 Major & Medium Irrigation Projects under AIBP - Creation of irrigation potential 5 lakh hectares.
- Rs. 200 crore released for 50 projects under CADWM for creation of irrigation potential of 1.5 lakh hectare.
- PMKSY scheme launched. It will cover Command Area Development & Water Management(CAD&WM), Repair, Renovation & Restoration(RRR), Minor Irrigation Schemes and Ground Water.
- By the use of treated effluent from sewage treatment plant for Irrigation and any other scheme proposed for providing 'HarKhetKoPani' will be implemented from PMKSY.
- A web based Water Resources Information System on GIS platform has been set up by Central Water Commission in association with Indian Space Research Organisation.
- Modernization and expansion of Flood Forecasting Network of Central Water Commission.
- Setting up of North East Brahmaputra River Rejuvenation Authority by restructuring Brahmaputra Board.

Reference:

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=133708>

Year End Review-2015, Department of Revenue, Ministry of Finance

Question: During April-October 2015, indirect tax collections increased by what percentage over the collections made during the same period last year?

- (a) 35.9%
- (b) 25.5%
- (c) 30.2%
- (d) 20.8%

Ans (a)

Related facts:

- On 17 December 2015, Department of Revenue of Ministry of finance published Year End Review of the year 2015.

Indirect Tax Collections:

- In October 2015, indirect tax revenue (provisional) collections increased by 36.8% compared with collections made in October 2014.
- During April-October 2015, indirect tax collections increased by 35.9% over the collections made during the same period last year.
- Overall, in monetary terms, the indirect tax revenue (provisional) collections were Rs 3, 82,860 crore during April-October 2015.
- Collections on account of Central Excise increased to Rs.1, 47,685 crore in April-October 2015 with an increase of 68.6 %.
- Collections on account of Customs increased to Rs. 1, 22,448 crore in April-October 2015 with an increase of 16.8 %.
- Customs duty on certain inputs was reduced to address the problem of duty inversion.
- The Special Additional Duty of 4% which is levied on imported goods to counter balance the local taxes levied by States (other than excise duty) was reduced / exempted.
- Basic customs duty was increased on metallurgical coke from 2.5% to 5% and on commercial vehicles from 10% to 20%.
- Basic customs duty on specified steel goods was increased to 10% / 12.5%

In order to protect the interests of domestic farmers, the following measures were taken:

- Basic customs duty was increased on sugar from 15% to 25% which was later increased to 40%.
- Excise duty was exempted on ethanol produced from molasses generated from cane crushed in the sugar season 2015-16 i.e. 1st October, 2015 onwards.
- Basic customs duty was increased on crude edible oils (of vegetable origin) from 7.5% to 12.5% and refined edible oils (of vegetable origin) from 15% to 20%.
- Basic customs duty was increased on ghee, butter and butter oil from 30% to 40% for a period up to and inclusive of the 31st day of March, 2016.

The objective of improving the quality of life and public health through Swachh Bharat initiatives was achieved by the following measures:

- Clean Energy Cess levied on coal, lignite and peat was increased from Rs.100 per tonne to Rs.200 per tonne.
- Concessional customs and excise duty rates on specified parts of Electrically Operated Vehicles and Hybrid Vehicles was extended upto 31.03.2016.
- Excise duty on sacks and bags of polymers of ethylene other than for industrial use was increased from 12% to 15%.
- In order to allocate additional resources to infrastructure, the effective rates of Additional Duty of Customs / Excise levied on Petrol and High Speed Diesel Oil commonly known as Road Cess have increased from Rs.2 per litre to Rs.6 per litre.



- In keeping with the declaration of 21 June as the International Day of Yoga by UN General Assembly, charitable activities relating to advancement of Yoga have been exempted from Service tax.

Enforcement:

- The DRI has been awarded for the second year running the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)' Asia Environmental Enforcement Award (AEEA).
- The DRI, for the first time ever launched an International Operation - "Operation Sesha" in the Asia-Pacific Region (named after Seshachalam Hills in Andhra Pradesh where Red Sanders grows) to combat smuggling of all species of timber including Red Sanders.

Taxpayer Services:

- The CBEC has declared 2015 as the Year of Taxpayer Services.
- CBEC has set up a new Directorate of Tax Payer Services with headquarters at New Delhi.

Legislative steps:

- The levy of Wealth-tax has been abolished with effect from 2016-17 (Assessment Year) for reducing the compliance burden on the tax payers.
- Clarity in taxation of indirect transfer has been brought through Finance Act, 2015
- Income arising to foreign portfolio investors from transactions in securities to be treated as capital gains.
- "Roll Back" provision has been introduced in the Advance Pricing Agreement (APA) regime
- The threshold limit for applicability of transfer pricing regulations to specified domestic transactions has been increased from Rs. 5 crore to Rs. 20 crore.
- Eligible date for borrowing in foreign currency has been extended from 30.06.2015 to 30.06.2017 for concessional tax rate of 5 percent on interest payments.
- Rate of tax on royalty and fees for technical services has been reduced (25% to 10%)
- 'Yoga' has been included as a specific category of activity in definition of 'charitable purpose'
- Personal Income Tax exemption limit was raised to Rs. 2.5 lakhs in the case of individual taxpayers below 60 years of age. Exemption limit raised to Rs. 3 lakhs in the case of senior citizens that is individuals in the age bracket of 60 years to 80 years.
- Investment limit under section 80C of the Income-tax act has been raised from 1 lakh to 1.5 lakh.
- Limit of deduction under section 80CCD of the Income-tax act on account of contribution by the employee to National Pension Scheme (NPS) has been increased from Rs. 1 lakh to 1.50 lakh.
- The limit of deduction under section 80D of the Income-tax act has been increased from Rs. 15,000 to Rs. 25,000 on health insurance premium.

Measures to curb black money:

- The Benami Transactions (Prohibition) Amendment Bill, 2015 has been introduced in Lok Sabha to amend the Benami Transactions (Prohibition) Act (BTPA) 1988.

- India and United states signed Inter governmental Agreement (IGA) to implement the Foreign Account Tax Compliance Act (FATCA) to promote transparency on Tax matters.
- It has been decided that quoting of PAN will be required for transactions of an amount exceeding Rs.2 lakh regardless of the mode of payment.

E- Governance activities:

- The progressive number of PANs allotted till 31st March, 2015 is 22,32,47,190.
- The number of registered users of the e filing portal as on 31st Oct 2015 is about 4.86 crore.
- The Income Tax Department has initiated 'Project Insight' for improving compliance and effective utilization of information in all areas of tax administration.
- Income Tax Business Application (ITBA) is the flagship project of the Department for automating all the processes of the Department in the foreseeable future.
- OLTAS project integrates online tax payments made by tax payers with the running ledger accounts of tax payers maintained by the income tax department for tax credit.
- The Centralized Processing Cell for Tax Deduction at source (CPC-TDS) is a technology driven initiative of the Income Tax Department.
- To facilitate the taxpayers and to provide end-to-end e-enabled services, a system of electronic verification of return of income has been launched by CBDT.
- "E-Sahyog" pilot project was launched as an online mechanism to resolve mismatches in income-tax return through end to end e-service obviating the need to visit income-tax office by the taxpayer.

Minimum Government Maximum Governance:

- A committee under Justice (Retd.) R.V. Easwar has been constituted to recommend measures for simplification of the Income-tax Act, 1961.
- The Government has accepted the report of Justice A.P. Shah Committee that Minimum Alternate Tax (MAT).
- Simplification of procedures was made for submission of Form No 15G and Form No 15H.
- Notification made of Income Computation and Disclosures Standards (ICDS) under section 145(2) of the Income Tax Act.

Reference:

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=133422>

Year End Review: Ministry of New and Renewable Energy

Ques : Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi was launched an International Solar Alliance (ISA) on -

- (a) 20th November
- (b) 25th November
- (c) 30th November
- (d) 1st December

Ans (c)

Related facts :

- On December 15, 2015 the Year End Review had been released by Ministry of New and Renewable Energy.
- India is running the largest renewable capacity expansion programme in the world
- It's aiming to increase share of clean energy through massive thrust in renewables.
- The target of 20,000 Mw of solar power proposed to be installed in the country has been reset by the NDA government to achieve five time more at one lakh mw of solar power by 2022.
- As on October 31, 2015 cumulative capacity of about 38 GW of grid-interactive renewable energy capacity has been installed in the country.
- India will achieve 40% cumulative Electric power capacity from non-fossil fuel based energy resources by 2030.
- The Government has up-scaled the target of renewable energy capacity to **175 GW by the year 2022** which includes 100 GW from solar, 60 GW from wind, 10 GW from bio-power and 5 GW from small hydro-power.

Green Power Capacity Increased

- A total of 2,311.88 MW of grid-connected power generation capacity from renewable energy sources like solar and wind has been added so far this fiscal in the country.
- The country's total grid-connected power generation capacity from all the above mentioned renewable sources was 3,8096.49 MW at the end of October.

Reinvest 2015

- **First Renewable Energy Global Investment Promotion Meet & Expo (RE - INVEST)** was organised with the intent of providing a platform to the global investment community to connect with stakeholders in India.
- The Central Theme of REINVEST 2015 is to increase growth of renewable energy and energy efficiency in the country.
- The Ministry received total of 2,73,000 MW green commitments including 62,000 MW of renewable manufacturing in the event.

International Solar Alliance

- Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi launched an International Solar Alliance (ISA) at the CoP21 Climate Conference in Paris on 30th November as a special platform for mutual cooperation among 121 solar resource rich countries lying fully or partially between Tropic of Cancer and Tropic of Capricorn.
- The Centre will provide land and \$30 million to form a secretariat for the Alliance, and also support it for five years.

Lower Solar Tariffs

- In an e-reverse auction conducted by NTPC on November 3, 2015 for 500 MW (10 projects of 50 MW each) to be set up at Ghani Solar Park in Andhra Pradesh under National Solar Mission, Phase-II, Batch-II, Tranche-I of Ministry of New & Renewable Energy, Govt. of India.
- NTPC received the lowest tariff of Rs. 4.63 per unit of electricity.



Government of India
Ministry of New and Renewable Energy

Renewable Energy is Green, Clean and Sustainable

Intra State Transmission System

- In July 2015, the Cabinet has approved the creation of an intra state transmission system in the States of Andhra Pradesh, Gujarat, Himachal Pradesh, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra and Rajasthan at an estimated cost of Rs 8548.68 crore.
- Government of India contribution from National Clean Energy Fund (NCEF) of Rs 3419.47 crore (40 percent of the total estimated cost of project).
- The activities envisaged under the project includes establishment of 48 new Grid sub-stations of different voltage levels with total transformation capacity around 17100 MVA (Mega Volt Ampere) by installing over 7800 ckt-kms (Circuit Kilometers) of transmission lines in these seven states.
- The project is proposed to be completed within a period of three to five years.

Solar Cities

- The Government has also approved a Scheme for setting up of 25 Solar Parks, each with the capacity of 500 MW and above and Ultra Mega Solar Power Projects to be developed in next 5 years in various States and will require Central Government financial support of Rs 4050 crore.
- These parks will be able to accommodate over 20,000 MW of solar power projects. As on date, 27 parks with capacity of about 18000 MW in 21 states have been sanctioned.

Solar Projects Under National Solar Mission

- The Union Cabinet gave its approval for the implementation of the scheme for setting up of **15,000 MW of Grid-connected Solar PV Power projects under the National Solar Mission through NTPC/ NTPC Vidyut Vyapar Nigam Limited (NVVN)** in three tranches.
- The government has implemented a scheme to install one lakh solar pumps for irrigation and drinking water through State Nodal Agencies and NABARD.
- MNRE provides 30% capital subsidy to farmers for installation of solar pumps for irrigation purpose through state nodal agencies.
- The ministry has issued supplementary guidelines for 1,00,000 solar pumps during 2014-15 and Rs 353.50 crore was released to various agencies.

Unnat Chulha Abhiyaan

- The programme aims at providing improved cook stoves for clean cooking thus saving lives of thousands of people in the country. 3.5 lakh cook stoves have been sanction under the scheme last year.

Reference

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=133220>

UNESCO designated two Indian cities as members of Creative Cities Network

Question: Name the two Indian cities which have been designated as members of Creative City Network of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)?

- (a) Varanasi and Jaipur
- (b) Varanasi and Agra
- (c) Jaipur and Ajmer
- (d) Hyderabad and Mumbai

Ans (a)

Related facts:



- The UNESCO Creative Cities Network (UCCN) was created in 2004.
- By joining the Network, cities commit to sharing their best practices and developing partnerships involving the public and private sectors as well as civil society in order to strengthen the creation, production, distribution and dissemination of cultural activities, goods and services.
- The Creative Cities Network is currently formed by 116 Members from 65 countries covering seven creative fields: Crafts & Folk Art, Design, Film, Gastronomy, Literature, Music and Media Arts.
- **Varanasi and Jaipur made it to the network in the categories, City of Music and City of Crafts and Folk Art respectively.**
- The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development adopted by the international community in September 2015 highlights culture and creativity as key levers for sustainable urban development.

UNESCO Creative Cities Network aims to:

- Strengthen the creation, production, distribution and dissemination of cultural activities, goods and services.
- Develop hubs of creativity and innovation and broaden opportunities for creators and professionals in the cultural sector.
- Improve access to and participation in cultural life, in particular for marginalized or vulnerable groups and individuals.
- Fully integrate culture and creativity into sustainable development plans.

Reference:

<http://en.unesco.org/creative-cities/events/47-cities-join-unesco-creative-cities-network>

<http://en.unesco.org/creative-cities/home>

Year End Review 2015: Ministry of Corporate Affairs

Question: A High Level Committee was constituted to suggest measures for monitoring the progress in implementation of Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) policies by companies at their level and by the Government, it was headed by-

- (a) Anil Baijal
- (b) Pradeep Mathur
- (c) A.K Seth
- (d) Ashwani kumar

Ans (a)



Related facts:

- On 18 December 2015, Ministry of Corporate Affairs issued the Year End Review.
- The Companies (Amendment) Act, 2015 addresses the practical difficulties faced by the companies/stakeholders as brought out by Industry Chambers and other agencies in complying with certain provisions of the Companies Act, 2013.
- It is aimed at facilitating 'ease of doing business'
- Barring sections 13 and 14 of the Amendment Act. All the sections of the Amendment Act have been brought into force w.e.f. 29th May, 2015.
- The Ministry has, on 5th June, 2015, constituted a Companies Law Committee for the following purposes-
 1. To make recommendations to the Government on issues arising from the implementation of the Companies Act, 2013
 2. To examine the recommendations received from the Bankruptcy Law Reforms Committee, the High Level Committee on CSR, the Law Commission and other agencies.
- The Committee is headed by Secretary of Ministry of Corporate Affairs.
- The Ministry, on 5th June, 2015 issued the final notifications under Section 462 of the Companies Act, 2013 (Act), which provide for exemptions under various provisions of the Act to (i) Private Companies; (ii) Government Companies; (iii) Section 8 Companies and (iv) Nidhis.
- A High Level Committee was constituted under Chairmanship of Shri Anil Baijal, former Union Secretary, to suggest measures for monitoring the progress in implementation of Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) policies by companies at their level and by the Government.
- The Committee submitted its report on 22nd September, 2015.

Reference:

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=133553>

Year end review-2015: Ministry of Steel

Ques: Which one of the following is correct for the production of crude steel in the world to India-

- (a) 3rd Position
- (b) 2nd Position
- (c) 1st position
- (d) 4th Position

Ans: (a)

Related facts:



- December 16, 2015 Year end review-2015 has been released by Ministry of Steel.
- Expansion of Rourkela Steel Plant of SAIL on April 1, 2015. The expansion of Rourkela Steel plant has resulted in addition of about 2.5 million tonnes of crude steel capacity.
- Steel Research and Technology Mission of India (SRTMI) being established to spearhead R&D activities of national importance in collaboration with steel industry with an initial corpus of Rs.200 crore. Memorandum of Agreement (MoA) has been signed on 06th April, 2015.
- India is currently the 3rd largest producer of crude steel in the world.
- India continues to maintain its lead position as the world's largest producer of Direct Reduced Iron (DRI) or Sponge Iron.
- The steel sector contributes nearly 2% of the country's GDP and employs over 6 lakh people.
- The per capita consumption of total finished steel in the country has risen from 54.9 kg in 2010-11 to 60.8 kg in 2014-15.
- Capacity for crude steel production expanded from 80.36 million tonnes per annum (mtpa) in 2010-11 to 109.85 mtpa in 2014-15.
- Crude steel production grew at 6.2% annually (CAGR) from 70.67 mtpa in 2010-11 to 88.98 mtpa in 2014-15.
- Production for sale of total finished steel (alloy + non-alloy) stood at 92.16 million tonnes during 2014-15, as against 68.62 million tonnes in 2010-11, an average annual (CAGR) growth of 8.7%.
- Real consumption of total finished steel (alloy + non-alloy) has grown at a CAGR of 5.3% during the last five years.
- Domestic real consumption of total finished steel (alloy + non-alloy) was at 76.99 million tonnes in 2014-15 and increased by 3.9% on a year-on-year basis (i.e. over 2013-14).
- Export of total finished steel (alloy + non-alloy) during 2014-15 stood at 5.59 million tonnes while import of total finished steel (alloy + non-alloy) during the same year stood at 9.32 million tonnes.

Reference:

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=133420>

Ques: The 46th Indian Labour Conference (ILC) was held at -

- (a) New Delhi
- (b) Mumbai
- (c) Chennai
- (d) Kolkata

Ans: (a)

Related facts:

- December 17, 2015 Year end review-2015 has been released by Ministry of Labour & Employment.

46th Indian Labour Conference

- The 46th Indian Labour Conference (ILC) was held on July 20, 2015 at Vigyan Bhawan, New Delhi.
- The Prime Minister Narendra Modi was launched National Career Service (NCS) Portal and ESIC 2.0: Reform Initiatives of ESIC on the occasion.

Labour Reforms

- After the launch of the Shram Suvidha Portal Scheme 1,35,698 inspections have been assigned as on December 4, 2015 of which 1,26,893 have already been uploaded on Shram Suvidha Portal.
- Since the launch of the Online Annual Return on April 24, 2015, 444 online returns have been filed on the Shram Suvidha Portal as on December 4, 2015.

Legislative Reforms

- According to report issued by the second National Commission on Labour, the ministry has drafting Small Factories Bill regulating the working and service conditions of workers in small manufacturing units employing less than 40 workers.
- The design of portal for Common Registration under 5 Labour Acts has been developed in association with Department of Industrial Policy & Promotion.
- **The acts covered for common registration include:**
 - (1) The Employees Provident Fund & Miscellaneous Provisions Act, 1952,
 - (2) The Employees State Insurance Act, 1948,
 - (3) The Building & Other Construction Workers (Regulation of Employment and Conditions of Service) Act, 1996,
 - (4) The Contract Labour (Regulation & Abolition) Act, 1970, and
 - (5) The Inter-State Migrant Workmen (Regulation of Employment and Conditions of Service) Act
- Amount of Assistance for ITI education has been enhanced from Rs.2000/- to Rs.10,000/-.
- A national e-portal for online application and disbursement of scholarships has started for all students starting from class I to professional degree from September 1, 2015.
- Cash assistance under housing and scholarship schemes is now being transferred in electronic mode to the beneficiary account. The initiative started in 2013 has reached full scale from April 1, 2015.
- The Ministry of L&E is implementing the National Career Service (NCS) Project as a Mission Mode Project for transformation of the National Employment Service to provide a variety of employment related services like career counseling, vocational guidance, information on skill development courses, apprenticeship, internships, etc.
- A Conference was held on 6th December, 2015 in light of the pioneer work done by Dr. B.R. Ambedkar, in the area of Labour Welfare.
- A booklet "Dr B R Ambedkar – Labour Welfare & Empowerment : Initiatives to make his vision a reality" was also released on this occasion.

Reference:

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=133497>



National Air Quality Index (AQI)

Question: How many cities of India were included in the report on National Air Quality Index (NAQI) released by Green Peace India?

- (a) 17
- (b) 16
- (c) 15
- (d) 18

Ans (a)

Related facts:



- Green Peace India on 14 December 2015 released a report on National Air Quality Index (NAQI) of 17 cities.
- As many as fifteen of the 17 Indian cities with NAQI stations showed levels of air pollution that far exceed the prescribed Indian standards.
- For the index Air pollution data were collected from April 2015 and November 2015.
- Out of all 17 cities air pollution is highest in Delhi.
- Pollution levels in many Indian cities, including Delhi, Ahmedabad, Varanasi, Patna, Agra and Kanpur, exceed the famously toxic levels in Beijing and other Chinese cities, over the period covered by the NAQI data (April-November 2015).
- It is said in the report that “The concentrations of PM_{2.5} in several other cities like Lucknow, Ahmedabad, Muzzafarpur and Faridabad, amongst others is a ‘Red Alert’”.
- Comparing the situation in China and India, Delhi's PM_{2.5} levels in July-November were almost twice as high as the levels in Beijing in April-November 2015.
- PM₁₀ levels in Delhi in the same period were more than three times as high as in Beijing.
- The cities-Lucknow, Faridabad, Ahmedabad, Kanpur and Varanasi had average levels at least 10 times as high as the WHO annual guideline.

Reference:

<http://www.greenpeace.org/india/en/Press/Delhi-just-the-tip-of-the-air-pollution-iceberg-Greenpeace-analyses-NAQI-data-across-Indian-cities/>

<http://www.greenpeace.org/india/Global/india/2015/docs/India-NAQI-PRESS.pdf>

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=110654>

Injectable polio vaccine launched

Ques: How many countries of the world have been started Inactivated Polio Vaccine (IPV) including India?

- (a) 120
- (b) 125
- (c) 130
- (d) 126

Ans: (d)

Related facts:

- November 30, 2015 Shri J P Nadda, Union Minister for Health and Family Welfare launched the injectable Inactivated Polio Vaccine (IPV) in India as part of its commitment to the “**Global Polio Endgame Strategy**”.
- IPV and OPV together will further strengthen children's immune system and provide double protection against polio.
- IPV injection will be given to children below one year of age along with the third dose of the Oral Polio Vaccine (OPV) at the routine immunization sessions free of cost.
- The first phase this vaccine will be introduced in six states, viz Assam, Gujarat, Punjab, Bihar, Madhya Pradesh, and Uttar Pradesh.
- Introduction of IPV in routine immunization is as per recommendation made in World Health Assembly in May, 2015 and endorsed by Global Polio Endgame Strategy.
- IPV will roll-out to 126 countries which are only using OPV in the National program.
- It will be the largest and fastest globally-coordinated vaccine introduction project in history.

Reference:

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=132021>

<http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/life-style/health-fitness/health-news/New-injectible-inactivated-polio-vaccine-launched-in-India/articleshow/49994567.cms>

<http://www.thehindubusinessline.com/news/national/injectable-polio-vaccine-launched/article7933374.ece>



The India State of Forest Report 2015

Ques: According to India State of Forest Report 2015, which one of the following state has increased its forest area?

- (a) Kerala
- (b) Madhya Pradesh
- (c) Tamil Nadu
- (d) Chhattisgarh

Ans: (c)

Related facts:

- On December 4, 2015 14th edition of the India State of Forest Report released by Union Minister of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Shri Prakash Javadekar.
- According to report India's forest and tree cover has increased by 5,081 sq km.
- **The key facts of the report are as follows:**
- Forest cover of the country as per this assessment is **701,673 sq. km** which is 21.34 percent of the geographical area of the country. The tree cover of the country is estimated to be **92,572 sq. km** which is 2.82 percent of the geographical area.
- The total forest and tree cover of the country as per this assessment is **794,245 sq. km** which is 24.16 percent of the geographical area of the country.
- There is an increase of 3,775 sq. km in the forest cover of the country as compare to 2013 assessment.
- In hill and tribal districts of the country, there is net increase of forest cover of 1,680 sq. km and 438 sq. km respectively as compare to the previous assessment.
- The North Eastern states of India account for one fourth of the country's forest cover. There is net decline of 628 sq. km in forest cover as compare to the previous assessment.
- Mangroves cover has increase by **112 sq. km** as compare to the previous assessment.
- The total carbon stock in the country's forest is estimated to be 7,044 million tones, an increase of 103 million tonnes, which is an increase of 1.48 in percentage terms over the previous assessments.
- The maximum increase in forest cover has been observed in Tamil Nadu – 2,501 sq km, followed by Kerala – 1,317 sq km and Jammu & Kashmir – 450 sq km.
- Madhya Pradesh has the largest forest cover of 77,462 sq km in the country, followed by Arunachal Pradesh, with a forest cover of 67,248 sq km and Chhattisgarh – 55,586 sq km. Mizoram, with 88.93 percentage of forest cover has the highest forest cover in percentage terms, followed by Lakshadweep with 84.56 per cent.
- Out of these, 7 States/Union Territories – Mizoram, Lakshadweep, Andaman & Nicobar Island, Arunachal Pradesh, Nagaland, Meghalaya and Manipur have more than 75 per cent forest cover.
- Tripura, Goa, Sikkim, Kerala, Uttarakhand, Dadra & Nagar Haveli, Chhattisgarh and Assam have forest cover is between 33 percent to 75 percent.

Reference:

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/erelease.aspx>
<http://fsi.nic.in/isfr-2015/isfr-2015-executive-summary.pdf>
<http://fsi.nic.in/isfr-2015/isfr-2015-forest-cover.pdf>
http://fsi.nic.in/details.php?pgID=sb_62



Atomic Energy (Amendment) Bill, 2015

Ques: The Atomic Energy (Amendment) Bill, 2015 was introduced in Lok Sabha on December 7, 2015. Which of the following legislative have been brought to amend the bill?

- (a) Atomic Energy Act, 1962
- (b) Atomic Energy (Amendment) Act, 1987
- (c) Atomic Energy (Amendment) Act, 1986
- (d) Nuclear power generation Act, 1972

Ans: (a)

Related facts:

- The Atomic Energy (Amendment) Bill, 2015 was introduced in Lok Sabha on December 7, 2015.
- The Bill proposes to amend the Atomic Energy Act, 1962.
- **The key facts of the bill are as follows :**
- Under the Act, a government company is one in which at least 51% of the paid-up share capital is held by the central government.
- Paid-up share capital is the capital received by a company from the issue of shares.
- Under the Act, a license is required for acquisition, production, use, export and import of any plant designed for the production and development of atomic energy or research.
- The Bill makes consequential amendments to state that such license will only be granted to entities such as a government company or a department of central government.
- The Bill further provides for cancellation of license in case the licensee ceases to be a government company.

Reference:

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=132664>

<http://www.prsindia.org/billtrack/the-atomic-energy-amendment-bill-2015-4086/>

http://articles.economictimes.indiatimes.com/2015-12-07/news/68836032_1_atomic-energy-act-nuclear-power-projects-npcil



Real Estate (Regulation and Development) Bill, 2015

Question: 'Housing for All' is ambitious project of-

- (a) Maharashtra government
- (b) Madhya Pradesh government
- (c) Central Government
- (d) Tamil Nadu government

Ans (c)



Related facts:

- On 9 December 2015, The Union Cabinet chaired by the Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi has approved the Real Estate (Regulation and Development) Bill, 2015.
- It will help in achieving the objective of Government of India to provide 'Housing for All' by enhanced private participation.
- The Bill aims at restoring confidence of consumers in the real estate sector; by institutionalizing transparency and accountability in real estate and housing transactions which will further enable the sector to access capital and financial markets.
- **The salient features of the Bill are as under:**
- Applicable both for commercial and residential real estate projects.
- Establishment of 'Real Estate Regulatory Authority' in States/UTs to regulate real estate transactions.
- Registration of real estate projects and real estate agents with the Authority.
- Mandatory disclosure of all registered projects, including details of the promoter, project, layout plan, land status, approvals, agreements along with details of real estate agents, contractors, architect, structural engineer etc.
- Deposit of specified amount in a separate bank account to cover the construction cost of the project for timely completion of the project.
- Establishment of fast track dispute resolution mechanisms for settlement of disputes through adjudicating officers and Appellate Tribunal.
- Civil courts jurisdiction prohibited from taking up matters defined in Bill, however, consumer court allowed to hear real estate matters.
- Promoters barred from changing plans and design without consent of consumers.
- Provision of Appropriate Government to make rules for the matters specified in the Bill, and the Regulatory Authority to make necessary regulations.

Reference:

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=132902>

Approval to amend The National Waterways Bill, 2015

Question: National Waterway-1 starts from-

- (a) Allahabad
- (b) Kanpur
- (c) Varanasi
- (d) Bhagalpur

Ans (a)

Related facts:



- On 9 December 2015, The Union Cabinet chaired by the Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi has given its approval to carry out official amendments in "The National Waterways Bill, 2015.
- The amendments are based on the recommendations of the Department related Parliamentary Standing Committee on Transport, Tourism and Culture and comments of State Governments.
- **Some key points of the amendments are:**
 - The number of waterways to be declared as new National Waterways is now proposed as 106.
 - Adding the existing NWs, the total number of National Waterways in the bill goes up to 111.
 - The declaration of these National Waterways would enable Inland Waterways Authority of India (IWAI) to develop the feasible stretches for Shipping and Navigation.
 - IWAI will develop the feasible stretch of National Waterways for shipping and navigation purpose through mobilization of financial resources.
 - Financial approval of the competent authority for each waterway would, however, be taken based on the outcome of the techno-economic feasibility studies etc. that are being undertaken by the Inland Waterways Authority of India (IWAI) currently
 - The expeditious declaration of National Waterways and its subsequent development will enhance the industrial growth and tourism potential of the hinterland along the waterway.

Reference:

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=132900>

http://india-wris.nrsc.gov.in/wrpinfo/index.php?title=National_Waterways-1

RBI signs MoU on “Supervisory Cooperation and Exchange of Supervisory Information” with Prudential Regulation Authority and Financial Conduct Authority, UK

Question: With how many countries Reserve Bank of India has entered into Memorandum of Understanding/Letter for Supervisory Co-operation and Statement of Co-operation?

- (a) 35
- (b) 40
- (c) 33
- (d) 30

Ans (c)

Related facts:

- On 2 December 2015, The Reserve Bank of India signed separate Memoranda of Understanding (MoUs) on “Supervisory Cooperation and Exchange of Supervisory Information” with Prudential Regulation Authority (PRA) and Financial Conduct Authority (FCA), United Kingdom.
- The MoU with PRA was signed by Mr. Andrew Bailey, Chief Executive Officer of the Prudential Regulation Authority and Deputy Governor, Prudential Regulation, Bank of England on behalf of PRA and Shri S. S. Mundra, Deputy Governor on behalf of the Reserve Bank of India.
- The MoU with FCA was signed by Mr. John Griffith Jones, Chairman on behalf of FCA and Shri S. S. Mundra, Deputy Governor on behalf of the Reserve Bank of India.
- The Reserve Bank of India had entered into a MoU for Supervisory Co-operation with the Financial Services Authority (FSA) of the UK in July 2012.
- Subsequently, as part of comprehensive reforms implemented in UK financial services regulation, the functions exercised by FSA were transferred to PRA, FCA and Bank of England.
- The transfer of functions from FSA to PRA and FCA necessitated signing of separate MoUs for Supervisory Co-operation between the Reserve Bank and the PRA and FCA.
- With this, the Reserve Bank has entered into Memorandum of Understanding/Letter for Supervisory Co-operation and Statement of Co-operation with supervisors of 33 countries to promote greater co-operation and share supervisory information.

Reference:

https://www.rbi.org.in/Scripts/BS_PressReleaseDisplay.aspx?prid=35607

<http://www.outlookindia.com/news/article/rbi-inks-info-exchange-pact-with-uk-financial-body/922465>

http://www.business-standard.com/article/pti-stories/rbi-inks-info-exchange-pact-with-uk-financial-body-115120200431_1.html



International

India ranks 4th in black money outflows per annum

Question: According to a report released in December 2015 by Global Financial Integrity's (GFI's) who tops the list for the outflow of illicit finances per annum?

- (a) China
- (b) India
- (c) Russia
- (d) Mexico

Ans (a)

Related facts:

- In December 2015 the US research and advisory institute Global Financial Integrity's (GFI's) published illicit Financial Flows from Developing Countries: 2004-2013 Report.
- China tops the list with \$139 billion average outflow of illicit finances per annum.
- China was followed by Russia (104 billion dollars per annum) and Mexico (52.8 billion dollars per annum).
- India has been placed at fourth position in black money outflows among the developing and emerging economies.
- In case of India, 51 billion dollars black money out flowed per annum between the decade long period from 2004 to 2013.
- The study shows that illicit financial flows first surpassed \$1 trillion in 2011 and have grown to \$1.1 trillion in 2013, marking a dramatic increase from 2004, when illicit outflows totaled just \$465.3 billion.
- During this decade-long period of 2004-2013, GFI estimates that more than half a trillion (\$510 billion) went out of India and in the case of China the figure was \$1.39 trillion and Russia \$1 trillion.

Reference:

<http://www.gfintegrity.org/report/illicit-financial-flows-from-developing-countries-2004-2013/>
http://www.gfintegrity.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/12/IFF-Update_2015-Final.pdf



Fortune 500 India

Question: Which company topped in terms of annual revenue as per an annual list of 2015 Fortune 500 companies in India?

- (a) Indian Oil Corporation (IOC)
- (b) Tata Motors
- (c) State Bank of India (SBI)
- (d) Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC)



Ans (a)

Related facts:

- State-run Indian Oil Corporation (IOC) has emerged as the country's biggest company in terms of annual revenue as per an annual list of 2015 Fortune 500 companies in India.
- IOC topped the list for consecutive sixth year with annual revenue of Rs. 4,51,911 crore. IOC was followed by Mukesh Ambani-led private sector Reliance Industries at the second place with a revenue of Rs. 3,82,565 crore.
- **Top ten companies are:**
- Indian Oil Corp (IOC): 4,51,911 crore annual revenue.
- Reliance Industries: Rs 3,82,565 crore annual revenue.
- Tata Motors: Rs 2,67,025 crore annual revenue. It has jumped to third slot from fifth place in 2014.
- State Bank of India (SBI): Rs 2,57,289 crore annual revenue. It was ranked sixth in 2014.
- Bharat Petroleum (BPCL): Rs 2,40,367 crore annual revenue. In 2014, it was placed at the third spot.
- Hindustan Petroleum: Rs 2,13,380 crore annual revenue.
- Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC): Rs 1,65,161 crore annual revenue.
- Tata Steel: Rs 1,41,669 crore annual revenue.
- Hindalco Industries: Rs 1,06,897 crore annual revenue.
- Tata Consultancy Services (TCS): Rs 98,368 crore annual revenue.
- This year's list of the country's 500 largest corporations was compiled by the global business magazine Fortune's Indian edition.

Reference:

<http://www.thehindu.com/news/cities/mumbai/business/fortune-500-india-ioc-ril-top-list-for-6th-straight-year/article8028082.ece>

http://articles.economictimes.indiatimes.com/2015-12-24/news/69282509_1_godrej-consumer-products-aegis-logistics-fortune-india

<http://profit.ndtv.com/news/corporates/article-indian-oil-tops-fortune-500-list-for-sixth-straight-year-1258697>

International Monetary Fund (IMF) included Chinese currency Renminbi (RMB) in the Special Drawing Rights (SDR) basket

Question: International Monetary Fund (IMF) on 30 November 2015 included China's Yuan (Renminbi) into its elite reserve currency basket. Yuan's entry into the basket takes effect from –

- (a) 1 October 2016
- (b) 15 November 2017
- (c) 2 July 2018
- (d) 4 August 2017

Ans (a)

Related facts:

- International Monetary Fund (IMF) on 30 November 2015 included China's Yuan into its elite reserve currency basket.
- Yuan's entry into the basket takes effect from 1 October 2016.
- Yuan also known as the Chinese Renminbi (RMB) was included in the basket after it met the existing criteria for its inclusion.
- The action was taken after the executive board at IMF completed the regular five-yearly review of the basket of currencies that make up the Special Drawing Right (SDR).
- The value of the SDR will be based on a weighted average of the values of the basket of currencies comprising the U.S. dollar, euro, the Chinese Renminbi, Japanese yen, and British pound.
- The inclusion of the RMB will enhance the attractiveness of the SDR by diversifying the basket and making it more representative of the world's major currencies.
- The Special Drawing Right (SDR) is an international reserve asset, created by the IMF in 1969 to supplement its member countries' official reserves.

Reference:

<http://www.imf.org/external/mmedia/view.aspx?vid=4637927003001>

<http://www.imf.org/external/np/exr/faq/sdrfaq.htm#one>

http://english.gov.cn/state_council/ministries/2015/12/01/content_281475245692450.htm

<http://finchannel.com/index.php/business/item/52363-imf-s-executive-board-completes-review-of-sdr-basket-includes-chinese-renminbi>



RBI releases Report of the Committee on Medium-term Path on Financial Inclusion

Ques : Recently Reserve bank of India released Report of the Committee on Medium-term Path on Financial Inclusion. Committee was constituted under the chairmanship of -

- (a) Subir Gokarn
- (b) Dr. Raghuram Rajan
- (c) Deepak Mohanty
- (d) Sindhushree Khullar

Ans (c)

Related facts :



- On December 28, 2015 Reserve bank of India released Report of the Committee on Medium-term Path on Financial Inclusion.
- Committee was constituted with the objective of working out a medium-term (five year) measurable action plan for financial inclusion.
- It is notable that the committee constituted in the Chairmanship of Executive Director Shri Deepak Mohanty.

Salient recommendations of the committee are as follows :

- Banks have to make special efforts to step up account opening for females.
- In addition, the Government may consider a deposit scheme for the girl child 'Sukanya Shiksha' as a welfare measure.
- A unique biometric identifier such as Aadhaar should be linked to each individual credit account and the information shared with credit information companies to enhance the stability of the credit system and improve access.
- Levying a surcharge on credit card transactions by merchant establishments should not be allowed.
- A geographical information system (GIS) to map all banking access points.
- To improve 'last mile' service delivery and to translate financial access into enhanced convenience and usage, a low-cost solution should be developed by utilisation of the mobile banking facility for maximum possible G2P payments.
- More ATMs in rural and semi-urban centres, interoperability of micro ATMs and use of application-based mobiles as point of sale (PoS) for creating more touch points for customers.

Reference:

https://www.rbi.org.in/Scripts/BS_PressReleaseDisplay.aspx?prid=35826

PM's visit to Malaysia and India-ASEAN Summit

Question: Recently the Thirteenth ASEAN-India Summit was held at-

- (a) Nay Pyi Taw
- (b) Kuala Lumpur
- (c) Singapore
- (d) Dhaka

Ans (b)

Related facts:

- From November 21 to 23, 2015, Prime Minister was on a bilateral visit to Malaysia.
- India and Malaysia have close and friendly relations and India established diplomatic relations with the Malaysia in 1957.
- Nearly 30 million people live in Malaysia. Malaysia has one of the largest communities of Persons of Indian Origin in the world, numbering close of 2 million (about 7 to 8% of Malaysia's population).
- Malaysia is ranks second after United States of America in which such a large population of Indians lives.
- The bilateral trade between India and Malaysia in 2014 was US\$ 13.84 billion.
- The investment of Malaysia in India as high as US\$ 7 billion.
- Malaysian FDI in India is primarily focused on Roads and Highways, Telecommunications, Oil & Gas, Power plants, Tourism and Human Resources.
- India is also having important to investment in Malaysia, which is around US \$ 2.3 billion.
- Among the major companies operating in Malaysia are Ircon India, Reliance, Kirloskar, Bajaj, TCS, Mahendra, L & T and Wipro etc.
- During the visit MOU was signed between the two countries on cyber security, to achieve the English language teacher in India, culture, sports, performance management etc.
- During this visit PM Modi attended 13th ASEAN-India Summit in Kuala Lumpur on 21 November 2015 and also attended 10th East Asia Summit in Kuala Lumpur on 22 November 2015.

27th ASEAN Summit

- The 27th Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) Summit was held on 21 November 2015 at Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.
- The theme for the 2015 summit was **Our People, Our Community, Our Vision.**
- Malaysian Prime Minister Najib Tun Razak was the Chairperson of the summit.



- The Summit was attended by the leaders of the 10-member Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) that are Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, Brunei Darussalam, Viet Nam, Lao PDR, Myanmar and Cambodia.
- 10th East Asia Summit was held on 22 November 2015 in capital city Kuala Lumpur under the chairmanship of Malaysian Prime Minister Najib Tun Razak.
- Apart from the 10 ASEAN Member states, it was attended by Heads of State/Government East Asia Summit Members which includes India, China, Japan, Republic of Korea, Australia, New Zealand, United States and Russia.
- India is a founding member of the East Asia Summit.
- In 10th East-Asia Summit topic like irregular emigration, terrorism, the South China Sea, the Korean Peninsula, the situation in the Middle-East, etc. were discussed.
- The 13th ASEAN-India Summit was held successfully on 21 November 2015 in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.
- The meeting was chaired by the Prime Minister of Malaysia Najib Tun Razak as Malaysia holds the chair for the year 2015.
- The summit was participated by the Heads of ASEAN Member States and Prime Minister of India Narendra Modi. The Secretary General of ASEAN was also a participant of the summit.
- On the occasion of the 13th India-ASEAN Summit, the 21 points chairman's statement was issued.
- The 14th ASEAN-India Summit to be held Lao PDR in 2016.
- ASEAN is India's fourth largest trading partner. India is, in turn, the sixth largest trade partner for ASEAN.
- Trade between India and ASEAN stood at US\$ 76.52 billion in 2014-15.
- India's exports to ASEAN were US\$ 31.81 billion and India's imports from ASEAN were US\$ 44.71 billion.

Reference:

<http://www.asean.org/asean/asean-structure/item/27th-asean-summit-kuala-lumpur-malaysia-18-22-november-2015>
<http://www.asean.org/images/2015/November/27th-summit/statement/Final-Chairmans%20Statement%20of%2027th%20ASEAN%20Summit-25%20November%202015.pdf>
<http://www.asean.org/asean/external-relations/east-asia-summit-eas>
<http://www.asean.org/images/2015/November/27th-summit/statement/Final-Chairmans%20Statement%20of%2013th%20ASEAN%20INDIA%20Summit.pdf>
<http://mea.gov.in/outgoing-visit-info.htm?2/829/Visit+of+Prime+Minister+to+Malaysia+November+21+23+2015>
http://www.mea.gov.in/Portal/ForeignRelation/Malaysia_2015_07_20.pdf

Union Government links LPG subsidy to income

Question: Government of India (GOI) announced that the LPG subsidy will not be available to LPG consumers if the consumer or his/her spouse has taxable income of more than-

- a) 10 Lakhs
- b) 15 Lakhs
- c) 20 Lakhs
- d) 5 Lakhs

Ans (a)

Related facts:

- On December 28, 2015, the GOI announced that the benefit of the LPG subsidy will not be available for LPG consumers if the consumer or his/her spouse had taxable income of more than Rupees ten lakh during the previous financial year computed as per the Income Tax Act, 1961.
- This decision will be given effect to initially on self-declaration basis of LPG consumers while booking cylinders January 2016.
- This decision will likely affect at least 60 lakh people and It would save the government Rs. 113 crore.
- The move is intended to stop subsidy for high income consumers who can afford LPG at unsubsidised prices, while the relatively poor consumers would continue to get direct subsidy in their accounts
- At present, all households are entitled to 12 cylinders of 14.2 kg at the subsidised rate of Rs. 419.26. The market price is Rs. 608 a cylinder.
- There are 16.35 crore LPG consumers in the country, according to the government, of whom 14.78 crore receive the subsidy directly in their bank accounts.
- Earlier On March 27, 2015, the government had asked to voluntarily give up using subsidised LPG and instead buy cooking fuel at market price.
- It is estimated that out of 14.78 crore LPG consumers in the country, over 52 lakh are reported to have given up access to subsidised fuel voluntarily.



Reference:

<http://www.thehindu.com/news/national/tax-payers-earning-over-rs10-lakh-annually-not-to-get-subsidised-lpg/article8037393.ece>

<http://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/economy/finance/no-lpg-subsidy-for-consumers-with-taxable-income-of-more-than-rs-10-lakh-from-january-1/articleshow/50355634.cms>

<http://www.icra.in/Files/Articles/LPG%20Subsidy%20Dec%2029%202015.pdf><http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/india/No-LPG-subsidy-for-consumers-with-taxable-income-of-more-than-Rs-10-lakh/articleshow/50354795.cms>

Fortune 500 India

Question: Which company topped in terms of annual revenue as per an annual list of 2015 Fortune 500 companies in India?

- (e) Indian Oil Corporation (IOC)
- (f) Tata Motors
- (g) State Bank of India (SBI)
- (h) Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC)

Ans (a)

Related facts:

- State-run Indian Oil Corporation (IOC) has emerged as the country's biggest company in terms of annual revenue as per an annual list of 2015 Fortune 500 companies in India.
- IOC topped the list for consecutive sixth year with annual revenue of Rs. 4,51,911 crore. IOC was followed by Mukesh Ambani-led private sector Reliance Industries at the second place with a revenue of Rs. 3,82,565 crore.
- **Top ten companies are:**
- Indian Oil Corp (IOC): 4,51,911 crore annual revenue.
- Reliance Industries: Rs 3,82,565 crore annual revenue.
- Tata Motors: Rs 2,67,025 crore annual revenue. It has jumped to third slot from fifth place in 2014.
- State Bank of India (SBI): Rs 2,57,289 crore annual revenue. It was ranked sixth in 2014.
- Bharat Petroleum (BPCL): Rs 2,40,367 crore annual revenue. In 2014, it was placed at the third spot.
- Hindustan Petroleum: Rs 2,13,380 crore annual revenue.
- Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC): Rs 1,65,161 crore annual revenue.
- Tata Steel: Rs 1,41,669 crore annual revenue.
- Hindalco Industries: Rs 1,06,897 crore annual revenue.
- Tata Consultancy Services (TCS): Rs 98,368 crore annual revenue.
- This year's list of the country's 500 largest corporations was compiled by the global business magazine Fortune's Indian edition.



Reference:

<http://www.thehindu.com/news/cities/mumbai/business/fortune-500-india-ioc-ril-top-list-for-6th-straight-year/article8028082.ece>

http://articles.economictimes.indiatimes.com/2015-12-24/news/69282509_1_godrej-consumer-products-aegis-logistics-fortune-india

<http://profit.ndtv.com/news/corporates/article-indian-oil-tops-fortune-500-list-for-sixth-straight-year-1258697>

Estimates of Gross Domestic Product for the Second Quarter (July-September) of 2015-16

Ques: On November 30, 2015 estimates of Gross Domestic Product (GDP) for the second quarter (July-September) Q2 of 2015-16 has been released by the Central Statistics Office (CSO). Consider the following statements:

- (1) GDP at constant (2011-12) prices in Q2 of 2015-16 is estimated at 27.57 lakh crore.
- (2) GDP at constant (2011-12) prices in Q2 of 2015-16 is showing a growth rate of 25.66 lakh crore.
- (3) Quarterly GVA at Basic Price at constant (2011-12) prices for Q2 of 2015-16 is estimated at `25.80.
- (4) GDP at current prices in Q2 of 2015-16 is estimated at 32.66 lakh crore.

Which among the above statements is / are correct?

- (a) 1, 2, 3 & 4
- (b) 2, 3 & 4
- (c) 1, 3 & 4
- (d) 1, 2 & 3

Ans: (a)

Related facts:

- November 30, 2015 The Central Statistics Office (CSO), Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation has released the estimates of Gross Domestic Product (GDP) for the second quarter (July-September) Q2 of 2015-16.
- It is important to know that figures has released on the basis of constant (2011-12) and current prices.
- GDP at constant (2011-12) prices in Q2 of 2015-16 is estimated at 27.57 lakh crore, as against 25.66 lakh crore in Q2 of 2014-15, showing a growth rate of 7.4 percent.
- Quarterly GVA at Basic Price at constant (2011-12) prices for Q2 of 2015-16 is estimated at `25.80 lakh crore, as against `24.02 lakh crore in Q2 of 2014-15, showing a growth rate of 7.4 per cent over the corresponding quarter of previous year.
- GDP at current prices in Q2 of 2015-16 is estimated at 32.66 lakh crore, as against `30.80 lakh crore in Q2 of 2014-15, showing a growth rate of 6.0 percent.



- GVA at basic price at current prices in Q2 of 2015-16, is estimated at `30.26 lakh crore, as against `28.76 lakh crore in Q2, 2014-15, showing an increase of 5.2 per cent.
- Quarterly GVA at Basic Price at constant prices for Second Quarter (July-September) of 2015-16 from agriculture, forestry and fishing sector grew by 2.2 percent, mining and quarrying sector grew by 3.2 percent, manufacturing sector grew by 9.3 percent, Electricity, Gas, water supply and other utility services sector grew by 6.7 percent, Trade, hotels and Transport & communication and services related to broadcasting sector grew by 10.6 percent, Financial, insurance, real estate and professional services sector grew by 9.7 percent, Public administration and defence and other services sector grew by 4.7 percent.
- Quarterly GVA at Basic Price at current prices for Second Quarter of 2015-16 from agriculture, forestry and fishing sector grew by 2.6 percent, mining and quarrying sector grew by -1.5 percent, manufacturing sector grew by 7.4 percent, Electricity, Gas, water supply and other utility services sector grew by 12.9 percent, construction sector grew by -2.0, Trade, hotels and Transport & communication and services related to broadcasting sector grew by 5.7 percent, Financial, insurance, real estate and professional services sector grew by 5.4 percent, Public administration and defence and other services sector grew by 7.8 percent..
- Gross Fixed Capital Formation (GFCF) at current prices is estimated at `9.24 lakh crore in Q2 of 2015-16 as against `8.89 lakh crore in Q2 of 2014-15.
- At constant (2011-2012) prices, the GFCF is estimated at `8.31 lakh crore in Q2 of 2015-16 as against `7.78 lakh crore in Q2 of 2014- 15.
- In terms of GDP, the rates of GFCF at current and constant (2011-2012) prices during Q2 of 2015-16 are estimated at 28.3 per cent and 30.1 per cent, respectively.

Reference:

http://mospi.nic.in/Mospi_New/upload/nad_PR_30nov15.pdf

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=132078>

Fifth Bi-monthly Monetary Policy, 2015-16

Ques: Which one of the following options is correct regarding to growth rate, during the Fifth Bi-monthly Monetary Policy statement, 2015-16, on December 1, 2015 has been estimated by Dr. Raghuram G. Rajan, Governor of Reserve bank of India?

- (a) 7.6 percent
- (b) 7.4 percent
- (c) 7.8 percent
- (d) 8.1 percent

Ans: (b)

Related facts:



- On December 1, 2015 Fifth Bi-monthly Monetary Policy statement, 2015-16, has been released by Dr. Raghuram G. Rajan, Governor of Reserve bank of India.
- It is notable that cash reserve ratio (CRR), demand and time liability (NDTL) have been kept unchanged by Reserve bank of India in Fifth Bi-monthly Monetary Policy .
- It is important to be know that during the fourth Bi-monthly Monetary Policy statement, 2015-16, Reserve bank of India was announced a cut of 50 basis point in repo rate from 7.25 percent to 6.75 percent.
- Continue to provide liquidity under overnight repos at 0.25 per cent of bank-wise NDTL at the LAF repo rate and liquidity under 14-day term repos as well as longer term repos of up to 0.75 per cent of NDTL of the banking system through auctions.
- Continue with daily variable rate repos and reverse repos to smooth liquidity.
- Consequently, the reverse repo rate under the LAF will remain unchanged at 5.75 per cent, and the marginal standing facility (MSF) rate and the Bank Rate at 7.75 per cent.
- It is notable that during the Fifth Bi-monthly Monetary Policy statement, 2015-16, 7.4 percent growth rate has been estimated by Reserve bank of India.

Reference:

https://www.rbi.org.in/Scripts/BS_PressReleaseDisplay.aspx?prid=35595

<http://www.thehindu.com/business/Economy/fifth-bimonthly-monetary-policy-statement-reserve-bank-sees-growth-recovery-but-retains-gdp-projection/article7936673.ece>

http://articles.economictimes.indiatimes.com/2015-12-01/news/68688275_1_interest-rate-rate-cut-rbi-governor-raghuram-rajn

India launches six Singapore satellites onboard PSLV-C29

Question: Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) successfully launched 6 satellites of Singapore into Space on-

- (a) 16 December 2015
- (b) 14 December 2015
- (c) 15 December 2015
- (d) 17 December 2015

Ans (a)

Related facts:

- Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) on 16 December 2015 successfully launched 6 satellites of Singapore into Space.
- The satellites were launched using **the Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle (PSLV) C29** from the first launch pad of the Satish Dhawan Space Centre (SDSC) at Sriharikota in Andhra Pradesh.
- The six satellites carried by PSLV-C29 together weighed about 624 kg at lift-off
- The Singaporean satellites will be used for gathering information on disaster monitoring and urban planning.
- PSLV-C29 launched all the six payloads into an orbit of 549 km height inclined at an angle of 15 degree to the equator.
- These six satellites were launched as part of the agreement between ST Electronics (Satcom & Sensor Systems), Singapore and Antrix Corporation Limited, the commercial arm of the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO).
- This was the 32nd flight for the Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle (PSLV) and its 31st consecutive success.
- This is the eleventh flight of PSLV in 'core-alone' configuration (without the use of solid strap-on motors).
- PSLV has successfully launched 57 satellites for customers from abroad including the six Singapore satellites launched.
- The six satellites are TeLEOS-1, Kent Ridge-1, VELOX-C1, VELOX-II, Galassia and Athenoxat-1.
- Among this TeLEOS-1 is the primary satellite weighing 400 kg.
- In July 2015, ISRO has launched Britain's satellite through PSLV-C28.
- In September 2015 four satellites of United States of America and one satellite of Canada and Indonesia each were launched by PSLV-C-30.
- The maiden launch from Sriharikota was on August 10, 1979 when the first experimental launch of Satellite Launch Vehicle SLV-3 with Rohini Technology Payload ended in failure.

Reference:

<http://www.isro.gov.in/update/16-dec-2015/pslv-successfully-launches-six-satellites-singapore>

<http://isro.gov.in/pslv-c29-teleos-1-mission>

<http://www.thehindu.com/sci-tech/science/isro-to-launch-six-singapore-satellites-on-wednesday/article7991698.ece>

<http://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/science/india-launches-six-singapore-satellites-onboard-pslv-c29/articleshow/50206376.cms>



INS Godavari decommissioned

Question: Name warship which has been decommissioned recently by Indian navy?

- (a) INS Ayudh
- (b) INS Chakra
- (c) INS Godavari
- (d) INS Cauvery

Ans (c)

Related facts:

- India's first indigenously designed and built warship Indian Navy Service (INS) Godavari was on 23 December 2015 decommissioned in Naval Dockyard Mumbai.
- It was commissioned into the Navy on 10 December 1983.
- In three decades of glorious and action packed service to the nation INS Godavari had also participated in numerous operations with 'Operation Cactus' thwarting a coup d'état in Maldives in 1988 being a prominent one.

Reference:

<http://indiannavy.nic.in/content/first-indigenously-designed-and-built-frigate-ins-godavari-decommissioned>

<http://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/defence/indias-first-indigenously-designed-built-frigate-ins-godavari-to-be-decommissioned/articleshow/50268267.cms>

<http://www.ndtv.com/mumbai-news/ins-godavari-first-indigenously-designed-warship-decommissioned-in-mumbai-1258393>



First Dengue Fever Vaccine

Question: According to World Health Organization what percentage of the world population is likely to be affected from Dengue?

- (a) 20%
- (b) 30%
- (c) 40%
- (d) 50%

Ans (c)



Related facts:

- On 9 December 2015 a dengue fever vaccine “Dengvaxia” developed by the French pharmaceutical giant “Sanofi” has been approved for use by Mexico.
- This is first-ever vaccine against dengue fever has been cleared for use by any country.
- The vaccine is 60.5 percent effective against dengue normal and 93.2 percent effective against severe dengue symptoms.
- The vaccine has been approved after the clinical trial of two years over 40,000 patients in the world, including residents of Mexico.
- According to the World Health Organization, about 40 percent of the world population (3.9 billion people) is likely to be having dengue.
- The World Health Organization says dengue has become the fastest-growing mosquito-borne disease, with as many as 40 crores people infected every year in 128 countries.

Reference:

<http://www.sanofipasteur.com/en/articles/dengvaxia-world-s-first-dengue-vaccine-approved-in-mexico.aspx>
http://www.nytimes.com/2015/12/10/business/first-dengue-fever-vaccine-approved-by-mexico.html?_r=0
<http://www.bbc.com/news/world-latin-america-35056139>

Long Range Surface-to-Air Missile (LRSAM) successfully tested

Question: Recently successfully tested LRSAM missile is co developed by-

- (a) India and Russia
- (b) India and Israel
- (c) India and America
- (d) India and Japan

Ans (b)

Related facts:

- Long Range Surface-to-Air Missile (LRSAM) was on 27 November 2015 successfully flight-tested for the first time from an Israeli Naval Platform.
- The missile is being jointly developed by the Defence Research & Development Organisation (DRDO) India, Israel Aerospace Industries (IAI) Israel.
- LRSAM is also called **Barak 8 missile** in Israel which in Hebrew language means Lightning.
- The trial test was undertaken by Israel Aerospace Industries (IAI) in the presence of Defence Research Development Organisation (DRDO) scientists. During the test the missile achieved the desired goal by hitting the incoming target.
- It is capable to counter a wide variety of air-borne threats such as anti-ship missiles, aircraft, Unmanned Aerial Vehicles (UAVs) and drones as well as supersonic cruise missiles.
- The LRSAM programme consists of Missiles, MFSTAR (Radar), Weapon Control System, Vertical Launcher unit and Two- way data link.
- For the LRSAM, DRDO has developed dual pulse propulsion system along with other safety arm mechanisms for Solid Propulsion system.
- Israel made MF-STAR radar system, which is capable of simultaneously tracking hundreds of airborne targets to a range of more than 250 km.
- LRSAM will be inducted into Indian Naval Ships (P-15A) INS Kolkata.

Reference:

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

<http://www.ibtimes.co.in/israel-successfully-tests-barak-8-which-it-has-co-developed-india-657044>

<http://indianexpress.com/article/world/world-news/israel-tests-barak-8-missile-co-developed-with-india/>



Sports Tennis

International Premier Tennis League-2015

Ques: Which one of the following team, won the title of International Premier Tennis League-2015?

- (a) Singapore Slammers
- (b) Indian Aces
- (c) Philippine Mavericks
- (d) UAE Royals

Ans: (a)

Related facts:

- Second edition of International Tennis Premier League (IPTL) sponsored by Coca-Cola held at following five cities Kobe, Manila, New Delhi, Dubai and Singapore respectively from December 2, 2015 to until December 20, 2015.
- On December 20, 2015 Singapore Slammers defeated Micromax Indian Aces in the final by 26:21, held at Singapore Indoor Stadium, Singapore.
- **Ivan Dodig (Indian Aces team)** awarded with most valuable player (MVP) of the tournament.
- Singapore Slammers (Winner) and Indian Aces (Runner) awarded with \$10 million and \$5 million prize money respectively.
- It is important to know that Mahesh Bhupathi is the founder of the tournament.



Reference:

<http://www.iptlworld.com/news/1046-oue-singapore-slammers-are-coca-cola-iptl-2015-champions>

Davis Cup-2015

Ques: Who won the Davis Cup-2015 title?

- (a) Britain
- (b) Australia
- (c) Belgium
- (d) France

Ans: (a)

Related facts:

- 104th edition of most prestigious tennis competition **Davis Cup** held from 27-29 November, 2015 at **Ghent, Belgium**.
- **Britain** clinches the title by defeating Belgium in the tournament final by **3-1**.
- British captain was **Leon Smith** and the captain of the Belgian was **Johan Van Herck**.

Reference:

<http://www.daviscup.com/en/news/219771.aspx>

<http://www.bbc.com/sport/tennis/34957711>

<http://www.andymurray.com/feature/andys-world-tour-finals-column/>



YONEX Brasil Open 2015

Ques: Who won the title of YONEX Brasil Open 2015?

- (a) Dan Lin
- (b) Lee Chong Wei
- (c) Chen Long
- (d) Wang Shixian

Ans: (a)

Related facts:

- Brasil Open Badminton tournament of BWF Grand Prix category held from **24-29 November, 2015** at **Rio de Janeiro** (Brazil).
- **The results of the tournament are as follows:**
- **Men Singles**

Winner- Dan Lin (China)

Runner- Pablo Abian (Spain)

- **Women Singles**

Winner- Yaying Shen (China)

Runner- Yun Li (China)

Reference:

<http://bwf.tournamentsoftware.com/sport/winners.aspx?id=46509959-0C51-4D97-8874-E86A12EEB2F5>

http://bwfbadminton.org/tournamentcalendar_event.aspx?id=25369



Champions Tennis League-2015

Question: Who has won the title of 2015 Champions Tennis League (CTL)?



- (a) Punjab Marshalls
- (b) Hyderabad Aces
- (c) Mumbai Tennis Masters
- (d) Raipur Rangers

Ans (a)

Related facts:

- In 2015, CTL featured six city (Mumbai, Chennai, Hyderabad, Nagpur, Raipur and Chandigarh) based teams across India and saw 13 matches played over a 2-week period between November 23 and December 6, 2015.
- On 6 December 2015, In the final match played at the Lal Bahadur Stadium, Hyderabad Punjab Marshalls won the title by defeating Hyderabad Aces.
- In this competition Martina Hingis of Hyderabad Aces team got Robert Amritraj award for the most valuable player.
- While Saketh Myneni of Punjab Marshalls got Margaret Amritraj Award for the best Indian Player.

Reference:

<http://championstennisleague.in/content/ctl-2015-final-punjab-marshalls-beat-hyderabad-aces>

<http://championstennisleague.in/>

Cricket

Vijay Hazare Trophy, 2015-16

Question: Who won the title of Vijay Hazare Trophy, 2015-16?



- (a) Gujarat
- (b) Tamilnadu
- (c) Delhi
- (d) Uttar Pradesh

Ans (a)

Related facts:

- List- A domestic one-day cricket competition Vijay Hazare Trophy (sponsors Paytm) was held from 10-28 December 2015 in various cities of India.
- On 28 December 2015 in the final match played at M. Chinnaswamy Stadium, Bengaluru Gujarat defeated Delhi by 139 runs.
- Gautam Gambhir was the captain of Delhi and Gujarat was led by Parthiv Patel.
- In the final match of the tournament the Paytm man of the match award was shared by Captain Parthiv Patel and RP Singh.

Reference:

<http://www.bcci.tv/vijay-hazare-trophy-2015-16/news/2015/domestic-updates/12391/gujarat-thump-delhi-to-lift-vijay-hazare-trophy>

South Africa-India Test Series -2015

Question: Who has been awarded as the Man of the Series in recently played South Africa- India Test Series?

- (a) A.B De Villiers
- (b) Ravichandran Ashwin
- (c) Hasim Amala
- (d) Ravindra Jadeja

Ans (b)

Related facts:

- “Paytm Freedom Trophy” cricket series held between South Africa and India from 2 October to 7 December 2015.
- This consist of four Tests, five one-day internationals and three Twenty20 games, starting with a T20 game in Dharamsala on October 2.
- In a four matches test series which was played between 5 November and 7 December 2015 in final match of the series India beat South Africa by 337 runs and winning the 'Paytm Freedom Trophy' title by a margin of 3-0.
- In the fourth and last match played between 3-7 December, Ajinkya Rahane(India) was declared as Man of the match.
- In 7 innings of the four-match Test series India's Ravichandran Ashwin got Man of the Series' for taking highest 31 wickets.
- While the Africa's highest wicket taker was Imran Tahir (14 wickets).
- The victory of Indian team on Feroz Shah Kotla Stadium in Delhi by the margin of 337 runs was the biggest win ever on this ground as well as for Indian team against South Africa.
- Ajinkya Rahane(India) the only player to score century in this test series scored two centuries in the two inning of the fourth match (127 runs in the first innings, second innings 100 runs not out) and made 266 runs in 6 innings of the three matches. While South African player AB De Villiers made 258 runs in 7 innings of 4 Matches
- Ajinkya Rahane(India) become the fifth player after Vijay Hazare and Sunil Gavaskar, Rahul Dravid after Virat Kohli, who made centuries in both the innings of any test matches.
- In this series Indian and South African team was led by Virat Kohli and Hashim Amla respectively.
- In the last innings of the fourth match team South Africa scored 143 runs in 143.1 overs at the strike rate of 0.99, which is the second slowest inning in the history. Earlier, New Zealand in 1955 scored 26 runs in 27 overs at the strike rate of 0.96 is slowest.
- In the Series South African duo Hashim Amla and AB de Villiers played 175 or more balls at a strike rate of 0.78 and made the record for the slowest partnership in Test cricket.
- This is to be noted that including this all bilateral series that will be played between India and South Africa in future will be known as 'Nelson Mandela, Mahatma Gandhi Series'.



Reference:

<http://www.bcci.tv/india-v-south-africa-2015/results>

<http://www.bcci.tv/india-v-south-africa-2015/news/2015/features-and-interviews/12206/virat-kohli-unplugged>

<http://www.bcci.tv/india-v-south-africa-2015/stats/most-runs>

<http://www.espncriinfo.com/india-v-south-africa-2015-16/content/series/903573.html>

Hockey

Dabang Mumbai - 50th All India Bombay Gold Cup Hockey Tournament 2015

Question: Who has won the title of 50th All India Bombay Gold Cup Hockey Tournament 2015?

- (a) Western Railway
- (b) Air India
- (c) Hockey Bhopal
- (d) Bharat Petroleum Corporation limited

Ans (d)

Related facts:

- From December 7 to 16, 2015, Dabang Mumbai - 50th All India Bombay Gold Cup Hockey Tournament 2015 was held at Mumbai.
- On 16 December 2015 in a final match played at Mahindra Hockey Stadium Mumbai, Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited (BPCL) defeated Comptroller & Audit General (CAG) buy 6-1 in the final of the Dabang Mumbai
- The winner team BPCL got Bombay Gold Cup and a cheque of Rs 3 lakh.

Reference:

<http://www.mumbaihockey.org/events.aspx>

<http://www.mid-day.com/articles/bpcl-thump-cag-6-1-to-clinch-bombay-gold-cup/16780167>



Hockey World League Final-2015

Ques: Who won the title of Hockey World League Final-2015?

- (a) India
- (b) Belgium
- (c) Australia
- (d) Netherlands

Ans: (c)

Related facts:

- Hockey World League Final (sponsor-hero) 2015 of International Hockey Federation (FIH) held from 27-6 December, 2015 Raipur, India.
- December 6, 2015 Australia won against Belgium in the tournament final by **2-1** in Sardar Vallabh Bhai Patel International Hockey Stadium.
- India won bronze medal in a penalty shootout against Netherlands.
- Jeremy Hayward (Australia) awarded with 'Hero Man of the Match' prize in the finals.
- The details of other prizes distributed in competition are given below :

Hero Best Player: Jamie Dwyer (Australia)

NMDC Best Junior award: Arthur van Doren (Belgium)

SECL Best Goalkeeper award: Jaap Stockmann (Netherlands)

Hero Top Scorer: Gonzalo Peillat (Argentina), 8 goal

NTPC Fans Choice award: P. R. Sreejesh (Indian goalkeeper)

Final classification of all the team in tournament are respectively as follows:

- 1: Australia (Winner)
- 2: Belgium (Runner)
- 3: India (bronze medal winner and organizer)
- 4: Netherlands
- 5: Argentina
- 6: Great Britain
- 7: Germany
- 8: Canada

Reference:

<http://www.fih.ch/events/hockey-world-league/hockey-world-league-final-raipur-2015-m/>

<http://www.fih.ch/events/hockey-world-league/hockey-world-league-final-raipur-2015-m/news/australia-crowned-hero-hockey-world-league-champions/>

<http://hockeyindia.org/news/australia-crowned-hero-hockey-world-league-final-2015-champions.html>



Football

Indian Super League-2015

Question: Which of the following teams has won 2015 Indian Super League Football tournament?

- (a) Goa FC
- (b) Kerala Blasters Football Club
- (c) Chennaiyin Football Club
- (d) Mumbai City Football Club

Ans (c)

Related facts:

- The second edition of Indian Super League (ISL) sponsored by Hero Motocorp Ltd. Was organized from October 3 to 20 December 2015 in different cities of India.
- During this total 61 matches were played among 8 teams in which 182 goals were scored.
- Chennaiyin FC has won the second edition of Indian Super League (ISL) Football tournament.
- In the final played at the Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium in Goa, they defeated hosts Goa FC by 3-2 goals score.
- **Awards of 2015 ISL**
- **Golden boot Award:** John Stiven Mendoza Valencia (Chennaiyin FC) is the tournament's highest scorer of 13 goals.
- **Golden Glove Award:** Apoula Edima Edel Bete (Chennaiyin FC).
- **Muthoot Group Fair Play Award:** Mumbai FC.
- **Hero of the League award:** John Stiven Mendoza Valencia (Chennaiyin FC).
- **Emerging player award:** Jeje Lalpekhluva (Chennaiyin FC).
- **Amul Fittest Player of the Match:** Dhanachandra Singh (Atletico De Kolkata).

Reference:

<http://www.indiansuperleague.com/isl-2015/awards>

<http://www.indiansuperleague.com/news/3495-chennai-beat-go-in-a-3-2-thriller-to-become-hero-isl-2015-champions>

<http://www.thehindu.com/sport/football/indian-super-league-2015-isl-2015-fc-go-versus-chennaiyin-fc-final-match-chennaiyin-fc-is-the-new-champion/article8011070.ece>



FIFA Club World Cup-2015

Question: Who has won the title of FIFA Club world Cup-2015?

- (a) FC Barcelona
- (b) River Plate
- (c) Real Madrid
- (d) San Lorenzo FC



Related facts:

- The 12th edition of the FIFA Club World Cup by FIFA was held from 10 to 20 December 2015, in Japan.
- FC Barcelona on 20 December 2015 won the 2015 FIFA Club World Cup. To win the title, Barcelona defeated Argentina's River Plate by 3-0.
- The final match was held at the International Stadium in Yokohama, Japan.
- At the end of the annual event, Luis Suarez (Uruguay) collected the Player-of-the-Tournament and Golden Boot awards.
- While Lionel Messi of Barcelona Football Club (Argentina) and Andres Iniesta(Spain) won "Silver Hair" and "Bronze Ball award respectively.
- FIFA Fair Play Award was given to "Barcelona Football Club".
- In this competition total 8 matches were played among 7 teams and 21 goals scored.
- Luis SUAREZ scored 5 goals maximum by any player.

Reference:

<http://www.fifa.com/clubworldcup/>

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

<http://www.bbc.com/sport/0/football/35141742>

<http://www.uefa.com/uefachampionsleague/news/newsid=2320193.html>

Chess

London Classic Chess -2015

Question: Who won the London Classic Chess Tournament -2015?

- (a) Viswanathan Anand
- (b) Anish Giri
- (c) Magnus Carlsen
- (d) Michael Adams

Ans(c)

Related facts:

- From 4 to 13 December 2015 the 7th London Classic Chess Tournament was held at Olympia Conference Centre, Kensington (London).
- Magnus Carlsen of Norway won the tournament while Anish Giri (Netherlands) secured the second position.
- Indian Grandmaster Viswanathan Anand secured 9th place in the tournament.

Reference:

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

<http://grandchesstour.com/tour-standings>



1st FIDE World Online Women Blitz Championship 2015

Question: Who won the title of 1st FIDE world women blitz championship?

- (a) Dronavalli Harika
- (b) Adriana Nikolova
- (c) Padmin Rout
- (d) Tania Sachdev

Ans (a)

Related facts:

- The 1st FIDE World Online Women Blitz Championship Final took place in Rome on November 26th 2015.
- The winner of the championship is Indian Chess player Harika Dronavalli.
- Whereas Nana Dzagnidze (Georgia) and Kosteniuk Alexandra (Russia) holds second and third place.
- Out of total prize fund of 9000 US Dollars the first, second and third winner was awarded with 3000, 2000 and 1000 US dollars prize money respectively.

Reference:

<https://arena.myfide.net/calendar/world-online-women-blitz-championship-2015>

<http://www.chessdom.com/harika-dronavalli-winner-of-the-1st-fide-world-online-women-blitz-championship/>



53rd National Premier Chess Championship -2015

Question: Where did 53rd National Premier Chess Championship -2015 was organized?

- (a) Maharashtra
- (b) Karnataka
- (c) Kerala
- (d) Tamil Nadu

Ans (d)

Related facts:

- From 15 to 28 November 2015, ONGC 53th National Premier Chess Championship was held in Tamil Nadu (India).
- The 16-year-old grandmaster Karthikeyan Murali of Tamil Nadu won title of championship.
- While the second and third place are held by Indian grandmaster Vidit Gujrathi and S.P Sethuraman respectively.

Reference:

<http://aicf.in/blog/2015/11/28/karthikeyan-murali-is-the-new-national-champion/>

<http://ratings.fide.com/card.phtml?event=5074452>

<http://tamilchess.com/karthikeyan-murali-is-the-new-national-champion/>



Badminton

Mexico City Grand Prix-2015

Ques: Who won the Mexico City Grand Prix-2015 men's title?

- (a) Dong Keun Lee
- (b) Rajiv Ouseph
- (c) Lee Hyun-il
- (c) Kento Momota



MEXICO CITY GRAND PRIX 2015 A BWF GRAND PRIX TOURNAMENT

Ans : (a)

Related facts:

- Mexico City Grand Prix 2015 held at Mexico from December 15, 2015 to until December 20, 2015.

Event	Champion	Runner-Up	Semi-finals	Quarter-finals	Last 16
MS	USD \$3750	USD \$1,900	USD \$725	USD \$300	USD \$175
WS	USD \$3750	USD \$1,900	USD \$725	USD \$300	USD \$175
MD	USD \$3950	USD \$1,900	USD \$700	USD \$362.50	USD \$187.50
WD	USD \$3950	USD \$1,900	USD \$700	USD \$362.50	USD \$187.50
XD	USD \$3950	USD \$1,900	USD \$700	USD \$362.50	USD \$187.50

- **Men Singles**

Winner : Dong Keun Lee (South Korea)

Runner : Pannawit Thongnuam (Thailand)

- **Women Singles**

Winner : Sayaka Sato (Japan)

Runner : Yeon Ju Bae (South Korea)

- **Men Doubles**

Winner : Manu Attri and Sumeeth Reddy B. (Both from India)

Runner : Bodin Issara and Nipitphon Puangpuapech (Both from Thailand)

- **Women Doubles**

Winner : Shizuka Matsuo and Mami Naito (Both from Japan)

Runner : Puttita Supajirakul and Sapsiree Taerattanachai (Both from Thailand)

- **Mixed Doubles**

Winner : Peng Soon Chan and Liu Ying Goh (Both from Malaysia)

Runner : Solgyu Choi and Hye Won Eom (Both from South Korea)

Reference:

<http://federacionmexicanadebadminton.org.mx/>

<http://bwf.tournamentsoftware.com/sport/winners.aspx?id=80F09D84-19CE-473D-985A-282E323A8288>

Dubai World Superseries Finals-2015

Question: Who won the title of Dubai World Superseries Finals-2015 men singles?

- (a) Kento Momota
- (b) Chen Long
- (c) Viktor Axelsen
- (d) Jan O Jorgensen

Ans (a)

Related facts:

- BWF Dubai World Superseries Finals was held from December 9 to 13, 2015 in the Dubai, UAE.
- **Winners are as follows:**
- **Men Singles:**
 - Winner: Kento Momota (Japan)
 - Runner: Viktor Axelsen (Denmark)
- **Men Doubles:**
 - Winner: Mohammad Ahsan (Indonesia) & Hendra Setiawan (Indonesia)
 - Runner: ChaiBiao (China) & HongWei (China)
- **Women Singles:**
 - Winner: Nozomi Okuhara (Japan)
 - Runner: Wang Yihan (China)
- **Women Doubles:**
 - Winner: Luo Ying (China) & Luo Yu (China)
 - Runner: Christinna Pedersen (Denmark) & Kamilla Rytter Juhl (Denmark)
- **Mixed Doubles:**
 - Winner: Chris Adcock (England) & Gabrielle Adcock (England)
 - Runner: KoSung Hyun (South Korea) & KimHa Na (South Korea)

Reference:

http://www.bwfbadminton.org/tournamentcalendar_event.aspx?id=25801

<http://www.dubaisuperseriesfinals.ae/>

<http://bwf.tournamentsoftware.com/sport/winners.aspx?id=CA160B94-64E2-4C8A-8E18-9E269E9A46EB>



9 - 13 December 2015
Hamdan Sports Complex, Dubai

Question: Who won the title of K & D Graphics / Yonex badminton men singles Grand Prix 2015?

- (a) Lee Hyun Il
- (b) Vladimir Ivanov
- (c) Rajiv Ouseph
- (d) Ivan Sozonov

Ans (a)

Related facts:

- BWF K & D Graphics / Yonex badminton Grand Prix was held from December 7 to 12, 2015 in the Central California, USA.
- Winners are as follows:
- **Men Singles:**
 - Winner: LeeHyun Il (South Korea)
 - Runner: Rajiv Ouseph(England)
- **Men Doubles:**
 - Winner: Goh V Shem (Malaysia)&Wee Kiong Tan(Malaysia)
 - Runner: Vladimir Ivanov(Russia) &Ivan Sozonov(Russia)
- **Women Singles:**
 - Winner: PaiYu Po (Chinese Taipei)
 - Runner: Kirsty Gilmour(Scotland)
- **Women Doubles:**
 - Winner: JungKyung Eun(South Korea)& ShinSeung Chan(South Korea)
 - Runner: ChangYe Na (South Korea) &LeeSo Hee(South Korea)
- **Mixed Doubles:**
 - Winner: ChoiSolgyu (South Korea) &EomHye Won (South Korea)
 - Runner: Michael Fuchs(Germany) &Birgit Michels (Germany)

Reference:

http://bwfbadminton.org/tournamentcalendar_event.aspx?id=23008

<http://bwf.tournamentsoftware.com/sport/winners.aspx?id=0C6484EF-3EC1-492F-9F90-2677857F3996>



Macau Open

Ques: Who won the Macau Open women singles title?

- (a) Minatsu
- (b) Jwala Gutta
- (c) Rituparna Das
- (d) P.V. Sindhu

Ans: (d)

Related facts:

- Macau Open Badminton



tournament of BWF Grand Prix Gold category held from 24-29 November, 2015 at Macau.

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

- **Men Singles**

Winner- Jeon Hyeok Jin (Korea)

Runner- Tian Houwei (China)

- **Women Singles**

Winner- P.V. Sindhu (India)

Runner- Minatsu Mitani (Japan)

- **Men Doubles**

Winner- Ko Sung Hyun and Shin Baek Cheol (Both from a Korea)

Runner- Berry Angriawan and Ryan Agung Saputra (Both from a Indonesia)

- **Women Singles**

Winner- Jung Kyung Eun and Shin Seung Chan (Both from a Korea)

Runner- Poon Lok Yan and Tse Ying Suet (Both from a Hong Kong)

- **Mixed Doubles**

Winner- Shin Baek Cheol and Yoo Jung Chae (Both from a Korea)

Runner- Solgyu Choi and Eom Hye Won (Both from a Korea)

Reference:

<http://tournamentsoftware.com/sport/matches.aspx?id=C20101E3-6AD4-46EA-AF21-0F154A195D34&d=20151129>

<http://tournamentsoftware.com/sport/draw.aspx?id=C20101E3-6AD4-46EA-AF21-0F154A195D34&draw=12>

<http://tournamentsoftware.com/sport/draw.aspx?id=C20101E3-6AD4-46EA-AF21-0F154A195D34&draw=4>

Yonex Sunrise Indonesian Masters 2015

Question: To which category does Yonex Sunrise Indonesia Masters-2015 tournament belongs?

- (a) Grand Prix
- (b) Grand Prix Gold
- (c) International Challenge
- (d) International Series

Ans (b)

Related facts:

- BWF Grand Prix Gold category 2015 Yonex Sunrise Indonesian Masters badminton tournament was held between 1-6 December 2015, at Malang, East Java in Indonesia.
- Results of the tournament are as follows:
 - **Men singles:**
 - Winner- Tommy Sugiarto(Indonesia)
 - Runner-K.Srikanth(India)
 - **Women Singles:**
 - Winner- Bingjiao He(China)
 - Runner- Yufei Chen(china)
 - **Men Doubles:**
 - Winner- Berry Angriawan and Ryan Agung Saputra(Both are of Indonesia)
 - Runnner- Biao Chai and Wei Hong(Both are of China)
 - **Mixed doubles:**
 - Winner- Tontowi Ahmad and Liliyana Natsir(Both are of Indonesia)
 - Runner- Praveen Jordan and Debby Susanto(Both are of Indonesia)



Reference:

<http://bwf.tournamentsoftware.com/sport/winners.aspx?id=4A8A3A43-948B-46F8-8C90-C1B980DE6179>

YONEX SUNRISE Hong Kong Open Super Series - 2015

Ques: Who won the title of YONEX SUNRISE Hong Kong Open Super Series 2015 in men's singles category?

- (a) Chong Wei Lee
- (b) Chen Long
- (c) Houwei Tian
- (d) Wang Zhengming

Ans: a

Related facts:

- From 17 to 22 November, 2015 YONEX SUNRISE Hong Kong Open Super Series 2015 championship held at Kowloon, Hong Kong.
- The results of the tournament are as follows:
 - Men's Singles
 - Winner- Chong Wei Lee (Malaysia)
 - Runner- Houwei Tian (China)
 - Women's Singles
 - Winner- Carolina Marin (Spain)
 - Runner- Nozomi Okuhara (Japan)

Reference:

http://www.bwfbadminton.org/tournamentcalendar_event.aspx?id=21386

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

<http://www.tournamentsoftware.com/sport/winners.aspx?id=4CA13689-EE4F-470E-99E6-6217CD896239>



Scottish Open Grand Prix - 2015

Ques: Who won the title of Scottish Open Grand Prix 2015 in men's singles category?

- (a) Hans-Kristian Vittinghus
- (b) Chen Long
- (c) Rajiv Ouseph
- (d) Wang Zhengming

Ans: a

Related facts:

- From 18 to 22 November, 2015 Scottish Open Grand Prix 2015 championship held at Glasgow, Scotland.
- The results of the tournament are as follows:
 - Men's Singles
 - Winner- Hans-Kristian Vittinghus (Denmark)
 - Runner- Rajiv Ouseph (England)
 - Women's singles
 - Winner- Line Kjaersfeldt (Denmark)
 - Runner- Kirsty Gilmour (Scotland)

Reference:

http://www.bwfbadminton.org/tournamentcalendar_event.aspx?id=21389

<http://www.badmintonscotland.org.uk/index.php/2015-scottish-open/information>

<http://www.tournamentsoftware.com/sport/winners.aspx?id=A021D6E8-C8D4-458D-8791-201B81EF7BCE>



Billiards, Snooker & Squash

IBSF World Snooker Championship-2015

Question: Who among the following is the winner of the IBSF World Snooker Championship 2015 in men category?

- (a) Zhao Xintong
- (b) Pankaj Advani
- (c) Ben Jones
- (d) Gary Thomson

Ans (b)

Related facts:

- From 9 to 21 November 2015 IBSF World Snooker Championship held at Sunrise Crystal Bay resort in Hurghada, Egypt.
- Medal winners of Men, Women and Masters category are as follows:
- **Men Category:**
- Gold- Pankaj Advani(India)
- Silver- Zhao Xintong(China)
- Bronze- Ben Jones(Wales) and Lukas Kleckers(Germany)[Combined]
- **Women Category:**
- Gold- Wendy Jans(Belgium)
- Silver- Anastasia Nechaeva(Russia)
- Bronze- Ameer Kamani(India) and Waratthanun Sukritthanes(Thailand)[Combined]
- **Masters Category-**
- Gold- Phisit Chandsri(Thailand)
- Silver- Jason Peplow(Wales)
- Bronze- Alen Matic (Ireland) and Mohammed Al Joaker(UAE)[Combined]
- Famous with name Bangalore's "golden boy" Pankaj Advani had won this title also in year 2003 and 2005.
- This was 5th World title and 4th in a row for Wendy Jans(Belgium)

Reference:

http://www.ibsf.info/index.php?option=com_k2&view=item&id=469:pankaj-crowned-with-world-snooker-title&Itemid=180

http://www.ibsf.info/index.php?option=com_k2&view=item&id=468%3Awendy-successfully-defends-her-world-women-snooker-title&Itemid=180

http://www.ibsf.info/index.php?option=com_k2&view=item&id=467:phisit-defends-his-masters-title&Itemid=180

http://www.ibsf.info/turniej/2015/ms/en/msk_2015_knockout.php

http://www.ibsf.info/turniej/2015/ms/en/msm_2015_knockout.php



Table Tennis

Avadh 20th Commonwealth Table Tennis Championships

Ques: Who won the Avadh 20th Commonwealth Table Tennis Championships men's title?

- (a) India
- (b) England
- (c) Singapore
- (d) Wales

Ans: (a)

Related facts:

- 20th Avadh Commonwealth Table Tennis Championship held at Surat, India from 16 December, 2015 to until 21 December, 2015.
- Indian men's team defeated England men's team in the final by 3-1 in December 18, 2015 in the tournament held at Pandit Deendayal Upadhyay Indoor Stadium, Surat and won the title second time (2015, 2004).
- Singapore defeated Northern Ireland by 3-0 and won bronze medal in men's category.
- Singapore defeated India by 3-1 and won gold medal in women's category.
- England defeated Wales by 3-1 and won bronze medal.
- The Indian women's team for the fourth time (1975, 1983, 1991, and 2015) won the silver medal in Championship.

The results of the tournament are given below:

- **Men's Singles**

Winner- Chen Feng (Singapore)

Runner- Anthony Amalraj (India)

- **Women's Singles**

Winner- Zhou Yihan (Singapore)

Runner- Mouma Das (India)

- **Men's Doubles**

Winner- Soumyajit Ghosh and Harmeet Desai (Both from India)

Runner- G. Sathiyam and Devesh Karia (Both from India)

- **Women's Doubles**

Winner- Lin Ye and Zhou Yihan (Both from Singapore)

Runner- Manika Batra and Ankita Das (Both from India)

- **Mixed Doubles**

Winner- Soumyajit Ghosh and Mouma Das (Both from India)

Runner- Zhou Yihan and LI Hu (Both from Singapore)

Reference:

<http://www.ttfi.org/events/show/218>

<http://www.ttfi.org/events/newsdetail/377/Indian%20men%20strike%20gold,%20women%20silver>

http://www.ttfi.org/app/webroot/eventqualimage/zvs_mxd.pdf

<http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/sports/more-sports/others/Indian-men-down-England-to-strike-gold-in-Commonwealth-TT/articleshow/50235411.cms>



Golf

Hero World Challenge golf tournament -2015

Question: Who has won the Hero World challenge golf tournament-2015?

- (a) Anirban Lahiri
- (b) Patrick Reed
- (c) Bubba Watson
- (d) Hideki Matsuyama

Ans (c)

Related facts:



- Hero World Challenge golf tournament held between 3 -6 September 2015, at Bahamas.
- American Golfer Bubba Watson won the title of the contest while Patrick Reed (USA) got second position.
- Indian golfer Anirban Lahiri and Hideki Matsuyama (Japan) jointly got 17th position.

Reference:

<http://www.tigerwoodsfoundation.org/events/world-challenge/home>

<http://www.pgatour.com/tournaments/hero-world-challenge/leaderboard.html>

Formulae One

Abu Dhabi Grand Prix - 2015

Ques: Who won the title of Abu Dhabi Grand Prix 2015?

- (a) Nico Rosberg
- (b) Sebastian Vettel
- (c) Lewis Hamilton
- (d) Felipe Massa

Ans: a

Related facts:

- The beginning of 2015 Formula One season from the Australian Grand Prix on March 15, 2015 and concluded at the Abu Dhabi Grand Prix (19th and final race of 2015 season) on November 29, 2015.
- Mercedes driver Nico Rosberg from Germany has won the 2015 Abu Dhabi Grand Prix title of Formula One (F1) by finishing the race in 1 hour, 38 minutes, 30.175 seconds.
- While the Mercedes driver Lewis Hamilton (Britain) and the Ferrari driver Kimi Raikkonen (Finland) holds the second and third place respectively.
- It is important to know that October 25, 2015, in Texas, the US Grand Prix winner Lewis Hamilton is already clinched the title of World Driver Championship -2015 (WDC-2015).
- It was Rosberg's overall 14th championship title of Formula one in his career and the 6th win in the 2015 season Formula one grand Prix title.



Reference:

https://www.formula1.com/content/fom-website/en/championship/races/2015/Abu_Dhabi.html
<https://www.formula1.com/content/fom-website/en/championship/results/2015-race-results/2015-abu-dhabi-results/race.html>
<http://www.bbc.com/sport/formula1/34958463>
<http://www.bbc.com/sport/formula1/2015/results>

Sports Miscellaneous

Coal India Limited (CIL), the new title sponsor of the Hockey India League (HIL)

Question: Who is the new title sponsor of the Hockey India League (HIL)?

- (a) Hero motors
- (b) Coal India Limited
- (c) Life Insurance Corporation
- (d) PepsiCo

Ans (b)

Related facts:

- In December 2015, Coal India Limited (CIL), the state owned coal mining company stepped into a new role as the Title Sponsor of the fourth edition of 'Hockey India League' for 2016 season.
- The title sponsor of last three editions (2013, 2014, 2015) was 'Hero Moto Corp' and 'Coal India Limited' will be the title sponsor of next three editions (2016, 2017, 2018) of Hockey India League.
- The announcement was made after CIL paid Rs 14.73 crore as sponsorship payment for the coming Hockey India League-2016.
- The 'Coal India-Hockey India League' will commence on January 18, 2016, and end on February 21.
- A total of 34 matches are to be played across six cities of the country involving six franchises.



Reference:

<http://hockeyindia.org/news/coal-india-title-sponsor-of-the-hockey-india-league.html>

<https://www.coalindia.in/cil-hil.aspx>

<http://www.thehindu.com/sport/hockey/hockey-india-league-its-now-coal-indiahil/article7997394.ece>

<http://indiatoday.intoday.in/story/coal-india-new-title-sponsor-of-hil-replacing-hero/1/548714.html>

http://www.business-standard.com/article/pti-stories/coal-india-new-title-sponsor-of-hil-replacing-hero-115121600907_1.html

LOGO and MASCOT of 12th South Asian Games, 2016 Launched

Question: Recently, the 12th South Asian Games-2016 mascot was unveiled, what is its name?

- (a) Tikhor
- (b) Nila
- (c) Chamorro
- (d) Ammu

Ans (a)

Related facts:

- The Organising Committee of the 12th South Asian Games, 2016 (OC-SAG) on 13 December 2015 unveiled the logo and mascot of the Games in a ceremony held at the ITA Cultural Center Machkhowa, Guwahati, Assam.
- Beautiful North Eastern cities of Guwahati and Shillong would jointly host the Games from February 6-16, 2016 and about 4500 sport persons and officials from 8 countries are expected to participate in 23 events of 12th South Asian Games.
- Earlier in July 2015, the OC-SAG held an open design contest to invite logo and mascot designs for the 12th edition of south Asian games.
- The Logo and the Mascot of the Games were selected from around 450 entries each. Kolhapur's Anant Khasbardar and Abhijeet Krishna of NIFT Patna won the mascot and logo designing contests respectively.
- The logo has eight petals representing the countries participating in the 12th South Asian Games. The petals are seen to be moving in a clockwise direction showing the positive spirit of the games.
- The look also resembles a head gear that was given to the winners of games during the ancient times in Europe.
- The name of the Mascot for the Games is TIKHOR, who is the Brand Ambassador of the 12th South Asian Games, 2016
- TIKHOR is someone who is sharp, naughty, sporty and modern. He is all-rounder, active, energetic and popular among kids. With traditional and sporty costumes, he is playing all games and welcoming every new idea in sports. He is motivator, friend and familiar to sports lovers of the region.



Reference:

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/mbErel.aspx?relid=133132>

<http://indianexpress.com/article/sports/sport-others/tikhor-the-rhino-announced-as-mascot-for-12th-south-asian-games/>

Question: Recently, with which company ICC has announced its global partnership?

- (a) PAPO
- (b) OPOO
- (c) OPPO
- (d) PPOO

Ans (c)

Related facts:

- On 10 December 2015, The International Cricket Council (ICC) has announced an exciting new global partnership with OPPO, a leading mobile telephone device companies, on a four-year deal which runs from 2016 until 2020.
- Launched in China in 2004, OPPO is a young and dynamic company and has already established itself as one of the world's leading electronic and technology service providers.
- It has a strong presence in more than 20 countries and a significant number of regions worldwide, including Australia, China, USA and right across Africa, Europe, the Middle East, South Asia and Southeast Asia.



Reference:

<http://www.icc-cricket.com/news/2015/media-releases/91055/icc-announces-oppo-as-global-partner>

WADA suspended Russian Anti-Doping Agency

Question: Name the Anti-Doping agency which has been recently suspended by WADA.

- (a) Russian Anti-Doping Agency
- (b) Japanese Anti-Doping Agency
- (c) China Anti-Doping Agency
- (d) South Korea Anti-Doping Agency

Ans (a)

Related facts:

- World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA) on 18 November 2015 suspended the Russian Anti-Doping Agency (RUSADA) with immediate effect.
- A WADA-commissioned report released recommended firm action against RUSADA which was followed by a WADA decision to withdraw accreditation from the Moscow Anti-Doping laboratory.
- The suspension has also created doubts over participation of Russia in 2016 Summer Olympics to be held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil.



**WORLD
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AGENCY**
play true

Reference:

<https://www.wada-ama.org/en/media/news/2015-11/foundation-board-media-release-wada-strengthens-anti-doping-worldwide>

<http://www.dw.com/en/wada-suspends-russian-anti-doping-agency-for-non-compliance/a-18861226>

http://zeenews.india.com/sports/others/wada-suspend-non-compliant-russian-anti-doping-agency_1823578.html

Sports Personalities

Manoj Prabhakar

Question: Recently who has been named as the bowling coach Afghanistan team?

- (a) Inzamam-ul-Haq
- (b) Akbar Khan
- (c) Manoj Prabhakar
- (d) Abdullah Khan

Ans (c)

Related facts:

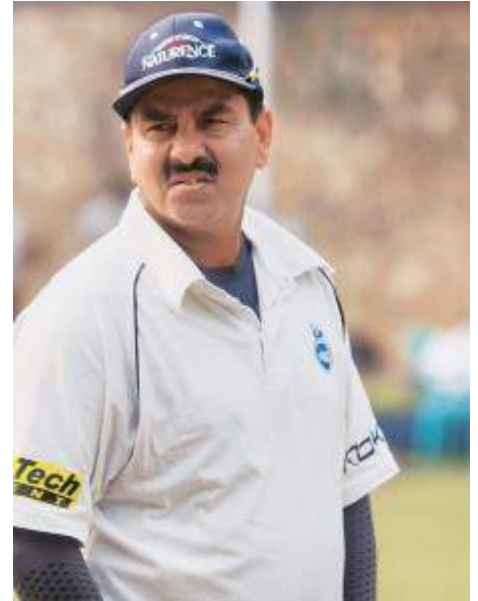
- On 18 December 2015, Former India all-rounder Manoj Prabhakar has been named Afghanistan's bowling coach.
- He will remain so until the end of the World T20 in India next year.
- Inzamam-ul-Haq is the head coach of the Afghanistan cricket team.

Reference:

<http://www.thehindu.com/sport/cricket/prabhakar-is-now-afghanistans-bowling-coach/article7997464.ece>

<http://www.espncriinfo.com/afghanistan/content/story/953031.html>

<http://abpnews.abplive.in/sports/manoj-prabhakar-new-coach-of-afghanistan-cricket-team-301348/>



Rory McIlroy

Question: Recently who has been named as 2015 European Tour Golfer of the year?

- (a) Shubham Jaglan
- (b) Russell Knox
- (c) Rory McIlroy
- (d) Ross Fisher

Ans (c)

Related facts:

- Rory McIlroy on 15 December 2015 was named the European Tour Golfer of the Year.
- He received the award for the third time in four years.
- Previously, McIlroy was named the European Tour Golfer of the Year in 2014 and 2012.
- McIlroy bagged the European Tour Golfer of the Year award after a panel consisting of members of the golfing media unanimously voted for him as the 2015 winner.
- Born on 4 May 1989, 26 years old Rory McIlroy is a Northern Irish professional golfer from Holywood in County Down who is a member of both the European and PGA Tours.

Reference:

<http://www.pga.com/news/european-tour/rory-mcilroy-wins-european-tour-player-year-award-third-time>

<http://www.europeantour.com/europeantour/news/newsid=281098.html#t0PRTzqJQRj4kpWy.97>

<http://www.pgatour.com/news/2015/12/15/rory-mcilroy-european-tour-player-of-the-year.html>

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



Personalities

Amitabh Kant

Question: Recently who has been given additional charge as Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of National Institution for Transforming India (NITI) Aayog?

- (a) Amitabh Kant
- (b) Sindhushree Khullar
- (c) Manoj Joshi
- (d) Neeraj kumar Gupta

Ans (a)

Related facts:

- The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet, presided by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, on 29 December 2015 gave Amitabh Kant the additional responsibility of being Chief Executive Officer of NITI Aayog, effective 31 December 2015.
- Kant will replace the incumbent NITI Aayog CEO Sindhushree Khullar whose extended tenure will end on 31 December 2015.
- The IAS officer of 1980 Batch of Kerala Cadre, Kant is currently serving as Secretary, Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion (DIPP).

Reference:

<http://www.thehindu.com/news/national/amitabh-kant-made-niti-aayog-ceo/article8037976.ece>

<http://www.persmin.nic.in/ersheet/MultipleERS.asp?HiddenStr=01KL013100>

<http://www.dnaindia.com/money/report-prime-minister-led-cabinet-appoints-amitabh-kant-as-ceo-of-niti-aayog-2160463>



Pankaj Singh

Question: Recently Poet and journalist Pankaj Singh has passed away, Name his major poetry collection?

- (a) Jaise Pawan-Paani
- (b) Mitti-Aag
- (c) Jal-Jameen
- (d) Din-Raat

Ans (a)

Related facts:

- On 26 December 2015 the well-known poet and journalist of Hindi literature Pankaj Singh died in Noida.
- He was born on 22 December 1948, in Muzaffarpur district of Bihar and he had studied at Jawaharlal Nehru University.
- His major poetry collections were "Aahten Aas paas" and "Jaise Pawan-Paani".
- In 2008-09, Sahitya Akademi has announced to give the "Sahitya Akademi Award" but he refused to collect the award.
- In 2007, he was awarded with the "Shamsher Samman".

Reference:

<http://www.haribhoomi.com/news/literature/well-known-hindi-poet-and-journalist-pankaj-singh-dead/35003.html>

<http://hindi.catchnews.com/culture/hindi-poet-or-ex-bbc-hindi-journalist-pankaj-singh-death-1451124712.html>



Question: Recently passed away Sadhana Shivdasani was a renowned -

- (a) Actress
- (b) Singer
- (c) Writer
- (d) None of these

Ans (a)

Related facts:

- Veteran Indian actress Sadhana Shivdasani died on 25 December 2015 in Mumbai, Maharashtra after a brief illness. She was 74 years old.
- One of the top actors of the 1960s and 1970s, Sadhana is remembered for her powerful performances in hits like **Hum Dono**, **Love in Simla**, **Mera Saaya** and **Waqt**.
- Sadhana Shivdasani was born on September 2, 1941 in Karachi (now in Pakistan) in the British India.
- She was highest paid actress in Hindi cinema from 1962-65 with Vyjanthimal and the third highest paid with Nanda from 1970-1973.
- Her debut in Bollywood was with the film Shree 420 as Chorus girl. She has worked in films like Love in Simla, Parakh, Hum Dono, Waqt, Woh Kaun Thi.
- She was awarded the Lifetime Achievement Award by IIFA in 2002.

Reference:

<http://indianexpress.com/article/entertainment/bollywood/yesteryears-bollywood-star-sadhana-dies-at-72/>
<http://www.ibnlive.com/news/movies/veteran-bollywood-actress-sadhana-passes-away-at-74-1181534.html>
<http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/entertainment/hindi/bollywood/news/Actress-Sadhana-Shivdasani-passes-away/articleshow/50321623.cms>



Question: Recently who has been appointed as Chief Information Commissioner (CIC)?

- (a) R.K. Mathur
- (b) Vijay Sharma
- (c) Vivek Mathur
- (d) Pradeep Thakur

Ans (a)

Related facts:



- On 18 December 2015, R.K. Mathur has been appointed as Chief Information Commissioner (CIC)
- Conventionally, the senior-most Information Commissioner is chosen as CIC. However, Mr Mathur appointment was made away from the convention of appointing senior-most serving Information Commissioner as CIC.
- He succeeded Vijai Sharma, who completed his tenure on 1 December 2015.
- He will have tenure of about three years (2017) till he attain the age of 65.
- He was made Defence Secretary for a fixed two-year term on 28 May 2013.
- The Chief Information Commissioner is appointed by the President of India on the recommendation of a selection committee comprising of Prime Minister.
- The selection committee included Prime Minister Narendra Modi (Chairman), Leader of the Largest Opposition Party in Lok Sabha, Mallikarjun Kharge and Union Finance Minister Arun Jaitley.

Reference:

<http://www.thehindu.com/news/national/rk-mathur-appointed-as-cic/article8004907.ece>

<http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/india/Former-defence-secretary-RK-Mathur-appointed-new-CIC/articleshow/50240558.cms>

Pravin Gordhan appointed Finance Minister of South Africa

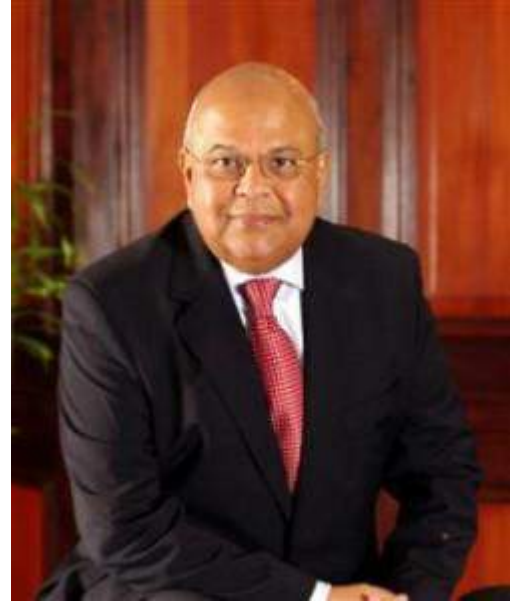
Ques: Which one of the following Indian origin politician, has been appointed as the Finance Minister of South Africa?

- (a) Ibrahim Patel
- (b) Fatima Meer
- (c) Mac Maharaj
- (d) Pravin Gordhan

Ans: (d)

Related facts:

- Pravin Gordhan, Indian origin politician, has been appointed as the South Africa's new Finance Minister by President Jacob Zuma on December 14, 2015.
- Pravin Gordhan was born in Durban, South Africa on 12 April 1949. In his student life he was also involved in the South African Communist Party (SACP) and African National Congress (ANC).
- He was appointed as the Minister of Finance of the Republic of South Africa from 11 May 2009 to 23 May 2014.
- He was served as the Minister of Corporative Governance and Traditional Affairs from 23 May 2014 to 13 December 2015.
- He has been re-appointed as the Finance Minister on December 14, 2015.
- President Jacob Zuma who fired two of his predecessors within a week amid a raging economic turmoil in Africa's second-largest economy.
- Gordhan is the third finance minister of South Africa within a week, who has been appointed in place of N. Nene and N. Nene was appointed in place of David van Rooyen.



Reference:

<http://www.treasury.gov.za/ministry/minister.aspx>

<https://www.nelsonmandela.org/omalley/index.php/site/q/03lv02424/04lv02426/05lv02500.htm>

http://www.business-standard.com/article/pti-stories/indian-origin-politician-becomes-s-africa-s-finance-minister-115121400295_1.html

Akhilesh Mishra appointed new Indian High Commissioner to Maldives

Ques: Which one of the following has been appointed as the new High Commissioner of India to the Republic of Maldives?

- (a) Amod Kanth
- (b) Akhilesh Mishra
- (c) Abhay Singh
- (d) Subhash Gupta

Ans: (b)

Related facts:

- December 15, 2015 Akhilesh Mishra has been appointed as the new High Commissioner of India to the Republic of Maldives.
- Akhilesh Mishra is a 1989 batch Indian Foreign Service (IFS) officer.
- He has been appointed in place of Rajeev Shahare, who has been appointed as the ambassador of India to Denmark.
- Akhilesh Mishra is a Consul General of India, Toronto.

Reference:

[http://mea.gov.in/press-](http://mea.gov.in/press-releases.htm?dtl/26185/Akhilesh+Mishra+appointed+as+the+next+High+Commissioner+of+India+to+the+Republic+of+Maldives)

[releases.htm?dtl/26185/Akhilesh+Mishra+appointed+as+the+next+High+Commissioner+of+India+to+the+Republic+of+Maldiv](http://mea.gov.in/press-releases.htm?dtl/26185/Akhilesh+Mishra+appointed+as+the+next+High+Commissioner+of+India+to+the+Republic+of+Maldives)

[es](http://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/politics-and-nation/akhilesh-mishra-is-next-high-commissioner-to-maldives/articleshow/50188048.cms)
[http://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/politics-and-nation/akhilesh-mishra-is-next-high-commissioner-to-](http://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/politics-and-nation/akhilesh-mishra-is-next-high-commissioner-to-maldives/articleshow/50188048.cms)

[maldives/articleshow/50188048.cms](http://www.newindianexpress.com/nation/Akhilesh-Mishra-is-Next-High-Commissioner-to-Maldives/2015/12/15/article3179164.ece)
[http://www.newindianexpress.com/nation/Akhilesh-Mishra-is-Next-High-Commissioner-to-](http://www.newindianexpress.com/nation/Akhilesh-Mishra-is-Next-High-Commissioner-to-Maldives/2015/12/15/article3179164.ece)



A.K. Jain appointed new Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT) chief

Ques: Which one of the following has appointed as the new Chairman of the Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT)?

- (a) A K Jain
- (b) Akhilesh Mishra
- (c) Nripendra Jha
- (d) B. K. Saraswat

Ans: (a)

Related facts:

- December 15, 2015 **A K Jain** has been appointed as the new **Chairman** of the Central Board of Direct Taxes (**CBDT**).
- A.K. Jain is an Indian Revenue Service officer of **1978 batch**.
- He has been appointed in place of **Anita Kapur**, who retired on November 30, 2015.
- A. K. Jain will be retired on January, 2016.

Reference:

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

<http://www.indiatvnews.com/business/india/a-k-jain-appointed-new-chairman-of-cbd-20693.html>

<http://www.thehindu.com/news/national/ak-jain-appointed-new-cbd-chie/article7992304.ece>



Ques: Recently, Shailendra Kumar Bhattacharya passed away. He was related to which of the following sport -

- (a) Swimming
- (b) Boxing
- (c) Weightlifting
- (d) Football

Ans: (d)

Related facts:

- December 8, 2015 former International Football Federation Association (FIFA) referee Shailendra Kumar Bhattacharya passed away in Chandanpur, West Bengal. He was 87.
- It is notable that Bhattacharya also supervised the finals of all top tournaments in the country, including Durand Cup, DCM trophy and IAF Shield.
- It is important to know that Asia Cup 1972 finals held in Tehran under the supervision of Bhattacharya.



Reference:

<http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/sports/football/top-stories/Former-FIFA-referee-Bhattacharya-passes-away/articleshow/50093842.cms>

<http://www.ibnlive.com/footballnext/news/former-fifa-referee-sk-bhattacharya-passes-away-1174463.html>

First state in the country to start Rotavirus vaccination project

Question: Which is the first state in the country to start Rotavirus vaccination project?

- (a) Rajasthan
- (b) Himachal Pradesh
- (c) Kerala
- (d) Karnataka

Ans (b)

Related facts:

- Himachal Pradesh on 3 December 2015 became the first state of India to launch Rotavirus vaccination project.
- The project was launched by Chief Minister Virbhadra Singh from Dharamsala in district Kangra.
- The vaccine will help in controlling the child mortality rate (under five years of age) due to diarrhea.
- It will control the worst water borne disease (Diarrhea) which is responsible for about 13 percent deaths of under-five age. The Rotavirus infection amount to 30,000 deaths in India annually.



Reference:

<http://himachalpr.gov.in/OnePressRelease.aspx?Language=1&ID=2712>

Ustad Sabri Khan

Question: Recently eminent Sarangi player, Ustad Sabri Khan passed away. He belongs to-

- (a) Banaras Gharana
- (b) Delhi Gharana
- (c) Patiala Gharana
- (d) Sainia Gharana

Ans (d)

Related facts:

- Renowned Sarangi player Ustad Sabri Khan died on 1 December 2015 in New Delhi due to breathing problems. He was 88.
- He was born on 21 May 1927 in Moradabad, Uttar Pradesh, Khan belonged to the **Sainia Gharana**, which traces the tradition of its music back to Tansen.
- Ustad Sabri Khan was an eminent Sarangi player, who popularized the instrument across the globe.
- For his significant contributions to music in 1990 he was awarded the Sangeet Natak Akademi Award by the U.P state government.
- The Government of India also honoured him with the prestigious **Padma Shree Award** in 1992 and **Padma Bhushan Award** in 2006.

Reference:

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

<http://www.hindustantimes.com/music/sarangi-maestro-ustad-sabri-khan-dead/story-kVmDPgP7NOKdWZPIVOFRRO.html>

<http://zeenews.india.com/entertainment/music/ustad-sabri-khan-no->

[more_1828937.htmlhttp://www.dnaindia.com/entertainment/report-sarangi-maestro-ustad-sabri-khan-passes-away-](http://www.dnaindia.com/entertainment/report-sarangi-maestro-ustad-sabri-khan-passes-away-)

[2151433](#)



Question: Ramnath Goenka Excellence Award is related to which field?

- (a) Arts
- (b) Science
- (c) Journalism
- (d) Literature

Ans (c)

Related facts:

- Kuldip Nayar, a veteran journalist, columnist and author was honoured with Ramnath Goenka Lifetime Achievement Award on 23 November 2015. He was awarded for his contribution to journalism.
- He was conferred with the award at the eighth edition of the prestigious Ramnath Goenka Excellence awards ceremony held in Delhi.
- The award for the years 2013 and 2014 was handed over by Information and Broadcasting minister Arun Jaitley.
- Several awards in different categories to over 56 journalists for their exceptional reportage in print as well as broadcast media were awarded.
- Kuldip Nayar is notable senior Indian journalist and author who associated with " The Indian Express " and the Government of India Press Information Bureau.
- He is also the author of books like "Between the lines", "Wall at Wagah – India Pakistan Relationship" and "India after Nehru" which holds an important place in Indian contemporary chronology.
- Ramnath Goenka Excellence Award is instituted by the Ramnath Goenka Foundation to celebrate the legacy of the iconic founder of The Indian Express Group, recognize and honour **excellence in journalism** and showcase **outstanding contributions** and individuals every year.



Reference:

<http://indianexpress.com/article/india/india-news-india/kuldip-nayar-gets-ramnath-goenka-lifetime-achievement-award/>

<http://indiatoday.intoday.in/story/kuldip-nayar-gets-ramnath-goenka-lifetime-achievement-award/1/529959.html>

Places

Philippines

Question: Which of the following is the first Asian country to approve world's first-ever dengue vaccine?

- (a) Malaysia
- (b) Japan
- (c) Korea
- (d) Philippines

Ans (d)

Related facts:

- On 22 December 2015, the dengue vaccine “Dengvaxia” approved by the Philippines.
- With this Philippines became the first Asian country to approve the sale of the world's first ever dengue vaccine Dengvaxia in the country.
- The Dengvaxia vaccine has been manufactured by French pharmaceutical manufacturer Sanofi Pasteur.
- It has been designed to protect people in the 9-45 age groups.
- Earlier it secured its first regulatory approval in Mexico a fortnight ago and is currently being reviewed by around 20 countries in Asia and Latin America.
- Dengue fever burden in Asia continues to be the highest, with an estimated 67 million people being sickened by the disease annually.



Reference:

<http://www.sanofipasteur.com/en/articles/sanofi-pasteur-dengue-vaccine-approved-in-the-philippines.aspx>

<http://www.financialexpress.com/article/pharma/latest-updates/philippines-approves-sanofi-pasteurs-dengue-vaccine/183067/>

http://www.business-standard.com/article/pti-stories/sanofi-gets-philippines-approval-to-market-dengue-vaccine-115122300697_1.html

Brunei

Ques : Which one of the following country was banned on Christmas celebrations for Muslims?

- (a) Dubai
- (b) UAE
- (c) Syria
- (d) Brunei

Ans (d)

Related facts

- On December 21, 2015 the sultan of Brunei Hassanal Bolkiah was banned on Christmas celebrations in the Muslim-majority country.
- Christmas greetings is punishable under new laws and offenders can be fined 20,000 Brunei dollars or serve a jail term of up to five years.
- According to Brunei's Religious Affairs Ministry, If Muslims offer wishes of Merry Christmas, it means they give recognition to that religion and consider it to be acceptable by Allah.



Reference

<http://www.smh.com.au/world/brunei-bans-christmas-celebrations-in-public-including-wearing-santa-hats-20151221-glsw3x.html>

World Health Organization (WHO) officially declared Guinea Ebola-free

Question: When did the World Health Organization (WHO) officially declared Guinea Ebola-free?

- (a) 25 December 2015
- (b) 24 December 2015
- (c) 29 December 2015
- (d) 20 December 2015

Ans (c)

Related facts:

- The World Health Organization (WHO) on 29 December 2015 declared the end of Ebola virus transmission in the Republic of Guinea.
- The organization took the decision after observing that 42 days have passed since the last person confirmed to have Ebola virus disease and tested negative now.
- This is for the first time that all three South African countries Guinea, Liberia and Sierra Leone have stopped the original chains of transmission that were responsible for starting this devastating outbreak.



Reference:

<http://www.afro.who.int/en/media-centre/pressreleases/item/8252-end-of-ebola-transmission-in-guinea.html>

Basohli

Ques : Newly inaugurated cable-stayed bridge was constructed on -

- (a) Indus River
- (b) Ravi River
- (c) Jhelum River
- (d) Chenab River

Ans (b)

Related facts

- On December 24, 2015 Defence



- Minister Manohar Parrikar has dedicated the first cable-stayed bridge of north India in BASOHLI (Kathua district), J & K.
- The 592 metre span bridge is being constructed by Border Roads Organization (BRO) at the cost of Rs 145 crore.
- It will provide close connectivity between the three states of Jammu and Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh and Punjab.
- The Basohli Bridge is fourth of its kind in India. The other three cable-stayed bridges are Hooghly Bridge at Kolkata, Naini Bridge in Allahabad and Rajiv Gandhi Sea Link in Mumbai.
- It is a joint venture of IRCON a Railway Company and SP Singla Construction group.
- The bridge named as 'Atal Setu' on Ravi River at Basholi.

Reference

http://www.ptinews.com/news/6897581_Parrikar-inaugurates-first-cable-stayed-bridge-in-J-and-K-

Gambia

Question: On 12 December 2015 which of the following countries declared itself as 'Islamic Republic'?

- (a) Gambia
- (b) Ethiopia
- (c) Brundia
- (d) Somalia

Ans (a)

Related facts:

- On 12 December 2015, Gambia's President has declared the tiny West African country an Islamic republic.
- About 90 per cent of Gambia's 1.8 million people are Muslim.
- Mr Yahya Jammeh has been president of the tiny West African country for 21 years.
- The capital of Gambia is Banjul.
- The country gained independence from Britain in 1965.

Related facts:

http://www.statehouse.gm/2015-dialogue-tour_0930112015/tour-updates-day19-brufut-mtg_10122015.htm

<http://www.thehindu.com/news/international/world/gambias-president-declares-country-islamic-republic/article7981674.ece>



Saudi Arabia

Question: Which country recently granted women the right to vote for the first time?

- (a) Oman
- (b) Iran
- (c) Turkey
- (d) Saudi Arabia

Ans (d)

Related facts:

- In a progressive move, the King of Saudi Arabia Salman allowed women to vote and contest in municipal elections scheduled to be held in December 2015
- This is the first time in Saudi Arabia, women granted the right to participate in elections.
- Before 2011 Municipal elections Saudi women had sought the right to participate in the election campaign.
- Shortly before the 2011 elections, Saudi Arabia's King Abdullah bin Abdul Aziz announced that in the municipality elections of 2015 women will be granted the right to vote and the right to participate as candidates.
- The present Saudi king Salman in view of the announcement made by his brother and former King Abdul Aziz in 2011 gave women the right to participate in the municipal elections of 2015.
- Voter registration for elections began on August 22, 2015 and candidate registration on August 30, 2015 for the election which is held in December 2015.
- 70 women had registered for contesting the municipal elections going to be held in December 2015.
- In the Municipal elections of 2015, two-thirds of the seats in the municipal council will be filled by vote and the remaining one-third seats will be filled through the appointed by Saudi King.
- Presently, women have only the right to participate in municipal elections.
- Presently, women make up one fourth of the country's Shura Council which is an unelected body appointed by the king to propose laws for government but cannot pass them.



Reference:

https://www.washingtonpost.com/world/middle_east/saudi-women-are-voting-and-running-for-office-for-the-first-time-ever/2015/12/09/2d420044-9e49-11e5-a3c5-c77f2cc5a43c_story.html

<http://www.bbc.com/news/world-middle-east-34947039>

<http://www.aljazeera.com/news/2015/11/saudi-women-campaigning-polls-time-151129160214419.html>

Awards & Honor

Jnanpith award-2015

Question: Recently who has been selected for the 51st Jnanpith award for his contribution to the Indian literature?

- (a) Ramdarash Mishra
- (b) Bhalchandra Nemade
- (c) Rashiq Shah
- (d) Raghuveer Chaudhary

Ans (d)

Related facts:

- Eminent Gujarati litterateur RaghuveerChaudhary was on 29 December 2015 selected for the 51st Jnanpith award for his contribution to the Indian literature.
- The decision was taken in a meeting of the Jnanpith Selection Board chaired by noted scholar Namwar Singh.
- Other members of the selection board are Shamim Hanfi, Harish Trivedi, Suranjan Das, Ramakant Rath, Chandrakant Patil, Alok Rai, Dinesh Misra and Leeladhar Mandloi.
- Chaudhary is the fourth Gujarati litterateur to bag this prestigious award after Uma Shankar Joshi (1967), Pannalal Patel (1985) and Rajendra Shah (2001).
- Born in 1938 in Gujarat, Raghuveer Chaudhary is a novelist, poet, critic, a prominent figure on contemporary Gujarati literary scene and a Gandhian.
- He was a teacher at the Gujarat University until his retirement in 1998.
- He authored more than 80 books and some of his notable novels include Amrita, Venu Vatsala, Purvarang and Laagni Samjyaa Vinaa Chuuta Padvanu.
- He also had worked as a columnist for numerous newspapers such as Sandesh, Janmabhumi, Nirikshaka and DivyaBhaskar.
- He has received numerous awards including SahityaAkademi Award for his novel Trilogy "Uparvas" in 1977.
- He also received Sauhard Samman from Uttar Pradesh Hindi Sansthaan for contribution to Hindi literature in 1990.
- In 2014 the 50th Jnanpith award was awarded to the Marathi literature writer Bhalchandra Nemade.
- Jnanpith award was instituted in 1961 and is presented annually by Bharatiya Jnanpith trust founded by the Sahu Shanti Prasad Jain family that owns the Times of India newspaper group.
- It is bestowed upon any Indian citizen who writes in any 22 official languages of India mentioned in VIII Schedule of Constitution of India.
- It includes cash prize of 11 lakh rupees, a citation plaque and a bronze replica of goddess Saraswati.
- First Jnanpith award was given to litterateur G. SankaraKurup of Malyalam literature in 1965.

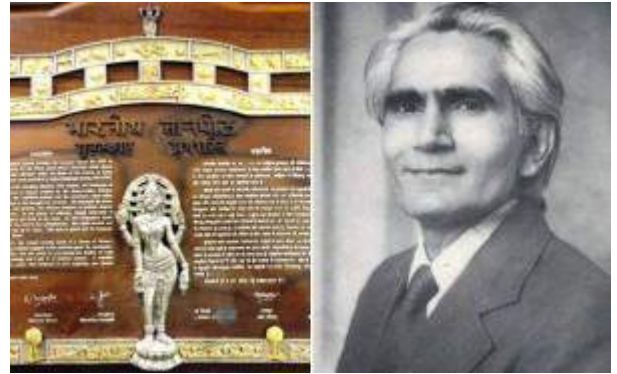
Reference:

<http://jnanpith.net/sites/default/files//tmp/51stJnanpithAwardDeclared.pdf>

<http://www.jnanpith.net/awards/jnanpith-award>

<http://www.gujaratisahityaparishad.com/prakashan/photo-gallery/sahitya-sarjako/Raghuvir-Chaudhary.html>

<http://www.thehindu.com/books/gujarati-writer-raghuveer-chaudhary-chosen-for-jnanpith-award/article8045501.ece>



BBC Sports Personality of the Year-2015

Ques: Who was awarded as the 'BBC Sports Personality of the Year-2015'?

- (a) Lewis Hamilton
- (b) Leon Smith
- (c) Andy Murray
- (d) Michael O'Neill

Ans : (c)

Related facts:

- On December 20, 2015 BBC Sports Personality of the Year award ceremony held at Belfast, Northern Ireland.
- Andy Murray awarded as the British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC) Sports Personality of the Year-2015.

Other BBC Sports Personality Awards are:

- **Overseas Sports Personality of the Year**-Daniel William "Dan" Carter, **Coach of the year**-Michael O'Neill , **Young Sports Personality of the Year**-Ellie Downey, **Lifetime Achievement Award**-AP McCoy, **Sports BBC Unsung Hero Award**-Damien Lindsay and **Helen Rollason Award**-Bailey Mathews.

Reference:

<http://www.bbc.com/sport/sports-personality/35147290>



AIFF Player of the Year-2015

Question: Who has been awarded as the '2015 Player of the Year' by All India Football Federations (AIFF)?

- a) Sunil Chhetri
- b) Pritam Kotal
- c) Sandesh Jhingan
- d) Eugenson Lyngdoh

Ans (d)

Related facts:

- In December 2015 the All India Football Federation (AIFF) has announced its annual awards.

AIFF AWARDS AT A GLANCE:

- 2015 AIFF Player of the Year: Eugenson Lyngdoh.
- 2015 AIFF Woman Footballer of the Year: Bala Devi.
- 2015 AIFF Emerging Player of the Year: Pritam Kotal.
- 2015 AIFF Emerging Woman Footballer of the Year: Pyari Xaxa.
- 2015 AIFF Award for Best Grassroots Development Programme: Football Association of Odisha.
- 2015 AIFF Award for long time contribution to Indian Football: Coca Cola.
- 2015 AIFF Award for Best Referee: CR Srikrishna.
- 2015 AIFF Award for Best Assistant Referee: Sapam Kennedy.

Reference:

<https://www.the-aiff.com/news-center-details.htm?id=6879>



LG ICC Awards-2015

Ques : Who has been awarded with Sir Garfield Sobers Trophy for 'ICC Cricketer of the Year-2015'?

- (a) AB de Villiers
- (b) Khurram Khan
- (c) Steven Smith
- (d) Stafanie Taylor

Ans: (c)

Related facts:

- In December 23, 2015 International Cricket Council has announced its annual awards.
- **Captain Steven Smith (Australia)** was awarded with Sir Garfield Sobers Trophy for ICC Cricketer of the Year-2015.



LG ICC AWARDS AT A GLANCE

- ICC Test Cricketer of the Year-Steven Smith (Australia)
- ICC ODI (One Day International) Cricketer of the Year-AB de Villiers (South Africa)
- ICC Women's ODI Cricketer of the Year-Meg Lanning (Australia)
- ICC Emerging Cricketer of the Year-Josh Hazlewood (Australia)
- ICC Associate and Affiliate Cricketer of the Year-Khurram Khan (UAE)
- ICC Twenty20 International Performance of the Year-Faf du Plessis (South Africa)
- ICC Women's T20I Cricketer of the Year-Stafanie Taylor (West Indies)
- David Shepherd Trophy for ICC Umpire of the Year-Richard Kettleborough
- ICC Spirit of Cricket Award-Brendon McCullum (New Zealand)
- **LG People's Choice Award-Bhuvneshwar Kumar (India)**
- South Africa's AB de Villiers has been selected as the first ICC ODI Cricketer of the Year (Fourth time as a member of team).
- Alastair Cook (England) has been announced as the captain of ICC Test Team of the Year 2015.
- **Ravichandran Ashwin, Mohammad Shami** (Both from India) have been selected for the ICC Test Team and ICC ODI Team respectively.

Reference:

<http://www.icc-cricket.com/icc-awards/nominees>

<http://www.icc-cricket.com/icc-awards/news/2015/media-releases/91181/steve-smith-wins-the-sir-garfield-sobers-trophy-for-icc-cricketer-of-the-year-2015>

<http://www.icc-cricket.com/news/2014/media-releases/82827/bhuvneshwar-kumar-wins-lg-peoples-choice-award>

Miss Universe 2015

Question: Who is the winner of the Miss Universe-2015 contest held on 20 December 2015 in Las Vegas?

- (a) Urvashi Rautela
- (b) Olivia Jordan
- (c) Paulina Vega
- (d) Pia Alonzo Wurtzbach

Ans (d)

Related facts:

- Miss Universe 2015, the 64th Miss Universe pageant, was held on 20 December 2015 at the AXIS Theater, Las Vegas, Nevada, USA.
- Paulina Vega of Colombia crowned her successor Pia Alonzo Wurtzbach of the Philippines.
- 80 contestants competed in this year.
- 26 years old Pia Alonzo Wurtzbach is a Filipino-German actress, model, beauty writer and beauty pageant title holder born to German father and Filipino mother and he was also crowned as Miss Philippines.
- Ariadna Gutierrez-Arevalo of Columbia and the Olivia Jordan of US were ranked second and third respectively.
- Award for Best National Costume was given to Aniporn Chalermburanawong of Thailand.
- In the competition Urvashi Rautela represented the India but failed to secure position in top 20.

Reference:

<http://www.missuniverse.com/news/view/757#.VnmDfvl97IU>

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Miss_Universe_2015



Miss World 2015

Question: Who has been crowned as Miss World 2015 in the 65th edition at Beauty of Crown Theater in Sanya, China?

- (a) Mireia Lalaguna
- (b) Sofia Nikitchuk
- (c) Maria Harfanti
- (d) Tess Alexander

Ans (a)

Related facts:



- Miss Spain Mireia Lalaguna Royo on 19 December 2015 was crowned Miss World 2015 at the Beauty of Crown Theater in Sanya, China.
- Rolene Strauss of South Africa crowned Mireia Lalaguna as her successor at the end of the event.
- Miss Russia Sofia Nikitchuk was the runner-up, while Miss Indonesia Maria Harfanti stood third in the pageant.
- **It is the first time Spain has won the title of Miss World.**
- Maria Harfanti of Indonesia was awarded the prize of Beauty with the purpose.
- Yet the Indian beauty queen Aditi Arya, failed to make it to the final top 20 contestants.
- However Aditi able to make her positioned in top 5 in Multimedia and People's Choice Award category of the competition.
- The People's Choice Award for the 2015 edition was conducted through the mobile app of Miss World. Tran Ngọc Lan Khue from Vietnam was revealed to be the winner.

Reference:

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

<http://www.missworld.com/news/Miss-World-2015-is-Mireia-Lalaguna-Miss-Spain/>

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Miss_World_2015

South East Asia Write Award

Question: Name the Indian-origin Tamil writer who has been declared as the winner of the prestigious 2015 South East Asian Write Award?

- (a) J.M Sali
- (b) Haresh Sharma
- (c) Isa Kamari
- (d) P. Krishnan

Ans (a)

Related facts:

- Indian-origin Tamil writer Jamaludeen Mohamed Sali on 14 December 2015 was awarded the prestigious South East Asian Write Award-2015 for Singapore.
- Sali received the award for literary excellence at a ceremony in Bangkok.
- Since 1979, the Southeast Asian Write Awards (S.E.A. Write Awards) is presented annually to poets and writers of Southeast Asia.
- Jamaludeen Mohamed Sali (famously known as J M Sali) was born in Madras in 1939.
- At the age of 25 in 1964, he moved to Singapore and in 1990 he became a citizen of the Singapore.
- Till 1980-1981, he served as editor of a magazine called MayaYouth in Chennai.
- From 1983 to 2000 he served as a senior broadcast journalist in Singapore Broadcasting Corporation.
- He has been writing for over 5 decades and has written 57 books, 80 plays and more than 400 short stories.
- His short stories like Vellai Kodugal (White Lines), Alaigal Pesuginrana (the Sound Of The Waves) are being studied by Tamil Literature students in Singapore and Indian universities.
- He has won several literary awards to his credit including Singapore's prestigious Cultural Medallion.

Reference:

[http://bookcouncil.sg/images/uploads/awards/SEA_Write_Award_2015_Official_Press_Release - JM Sali.pdf](http://bookcouncil.sg/images/uploads/awards/SEA_Write_Award_2015_Official_Press_Release_-_JM_Sali.pdf)



Sahitya Akademi award-2015

Question: Sahitya Akademi award-2015 for the Hindi language will be awarded to-

- (a) Ramdarash Mishra
- (b) Brajendra Kumar Brahma
- (c) K.V. Tirumalesh
- (d) Ram Shankar Awasthi

Ans (a)

Related facts:



- On 17 December 2015, Sahitya Academy has announced the names of 23 poets and authors who will be conferred the prestigious 2015 Sahitya Akademi Award.
- This award has recognized premier works in 23 Indian languages that includes 6 books of short stories, 6 of poetry, 4 novels, 2 books each of essays, criticism and plays and 1 memoir.
- 23 Awardee are:
- Poetry: Brajendra Kumar Brahma (Bodo), Dhian Singh (Dogri), Ramdarash Mishra (Hindi), K.V. Tirumalesh (Kannada), Kshetri Rajan (Manipuri) and Ram Shankar Awasthi (Sanskrit).
- Short stories: Kula Saikia (Assamese), Man Mohan Jha (Maithili), Gupta Pradhan (Nepali), Bibhuti Pattanaik (Odia), Maya Rahi (Sindhi) and Volga (Telugu).
- Novels: Cyrus Mistry (English), Jaswinder Singh (Punjabi), K R Meera (Malayalam) and Madhu Acharya 'Ashawadi' (Rajasthani).
- Essays: Rasik Shah (Gujrati) and A. Madhavan (Tamil). Plays: Uday Bhembre (Konkani), Rabilal Tudu (Santali).
- Books on criticism: Bashir Bhadarwahi (Kashmiri) and Shamim Tariq (Urdu).
- Memoirs: Arun Khopkar (Marathi).
- The Sahitya Akademi award-2015 for Hindi is given to Ramdarash Mishra for his famous poetry collection named 'Aag Ki Hansi'.
- In Urdu language award is given to Shamim Tariq for his book on criticism named "Tasawwuf Aur Bhakti" (Tanqeedi Aur Taqabuli Mutalea).
- All 23 awardees were chosen by a distinguished jury representing 23 Indian languages. The final approval was given by the Executive Board of the Sahitya Akademi chaired by its President Dr. Vishwanath Prasad Tiwari.
- The award consists of a casket containing an engraved copper-plaque, a shawl and a cheque of 1 Lakh rupees.

Reference:

<http://sahitya-akademi.gov.in/sahitya-akademi/pdf/sahityaakademiawards2015-e.pdf>

<http://indianexpress.com/article/india/india-news-india/sahitya-akademi-lists-2015-winners/>

Ques: When was Sendai Framework on Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) released?

- (a) March, 2015
- (b) May, 2015
- (c) April, 2015
- (d) June, 2015

Ans: (a)

Related facts:

- November 17, 2015 Union Minister of State for Home Affairs, Shri Kiren Rijiju, has been designated as the Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) Champion for the Asia Region by the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNISDR).
- The honour was conferred by Ms. Margarete Wahlstrom, Special Representative of the United Nations Secretary General for Disaster Risk Reduction, during the inaugural session of the Asia Leaders' Meeting towards Implementation of the Sendai Framework for DRR in Asia.
- Shri Rijiju is the first regional champion for DRR after the Sendai Agreement.
- Shri Rijiju also happens to be first Indian to be conferred with this honour.
- The UN General Assembly adopted the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction in December 1999 and established UNISDR, the secretariat to ensure its implementation.
- UNISDR's mandate has been defined by United Nations General Assembly Resolutions (56/195).
- It was constituted for the coordination of disaster reduction and to ensure synergies among the disaster reduction activities of the United Nations system and regional organizations.

Reference:

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=130524>

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=130573>

<http://www.uniindia.com/un-confers-kiren-rijiju-with-disaster-risk-reduction-asia-champion-honour/india/news/274994.html>



Uttar Pradesh Ratna Award

Question: Recently Frank Islam has been selected for the prestigious 2015 Uttar Pradesh Ratna Award currently he is living in which country?

- (a) Britain
- (b) America
- (c) France
- (d) Russia

Ans (b)

Related facts:

- Indian-American entrepreneur and philanthropist Frank Islam (63) has been selected for the prestigious 2015 Uttar Pradesh Ratna Award.
- He has been chosen for this award in recognition of his achievements and outstanding contributions in a foreign country.
- He will be bestowed upon with award by UP Chief Minister Akhilesh Yadav at the inaugural UP Pravasi Diwas on January 4, 2016 in Agra.
- Frank Islam was born in Azamgarh, Uttar Pradesh and he has studied at the Aligarh Muslim University
- The award is conferred by the Uttar Pradesh Government on the NRI who hails from state. It is bestowed on NRI for making significant contribution to the field of science, technology, medicine, culture, education, public service and commerce in foreign countries.
- In 1994, he had founded an Information Technology (IT) firm the QSS with him as the sole employee.
- Later in 2007, he spent rest of his life in philanthropy, both in India and the US. Currently, he heads the FI Invest Group a firm that he established after selling his IT Company.
- Frank has donated USD two million to Aligarh Muslim University for the construction of a new school of management in the 140-year-old institution.



Reference:

<http://www.ndtv.com/indians-abroad/indian-american-entrepreneur-to-get-uttar-pradesh-ratna-award-1252309>
<http://www.news18.com/news/uttar-pradesh/lucknow/cm-akhilesh-to-confer-uttar-pradesh-ratna-awards-on-nris-672651.html>

Infosys Prize- 2015

Question: Who will give the award, Infosys Prize -2015?

- (a) Narendra Modi
- (b) Pranab Mukherjee
- (c) Arun Jaitley
- (d) N.R. Narayana Murthy

Ans (b)

Related facts:

- Infosys Science Foundation on 16



- November 2015 announced the names of the winners of Infosys Prize for the year 2015.
- The Infosys Prize 2015 was announced for six categories, namely, Engineering and Computer Science, Humanities, Life Sciences, Mathematical Sciences, Physical Sciences and Social Sciences.
 - The winners of the Infosys Prize 2015 were evaluated by a panel of jurors comprising of esteemed scientists and professors from around the world.
 - The jury chairs of the six categories are: Prof. Pradeep K. Khosla (University of California San Diego) for Engineering and Computer Science; Prof. Amartya Sen (Harvard University) for Humanities; Dr. Inder Verma (Salk Institute of Biological Sciences) for Life Sciences; Prof. Srinivasa S. R. Varadhan (New York University) for Mathematical Sciences; Prof. Shrinivas Kulkarni (California Institute of Technology) for Physical Sciences; and Prof. Kaushik Basu (The World Bank) for Social Sciences.
 - The prize for each category consists of money prize of Rs. 65 Lakhs, a 22 karat gold medallion and a citation certificate.
 - The winners will be awarded on 13 February 2016 in a ceremony at New Delhi by the President of India Pranab Mukherjee.

List of Winners:

- **Engineering and Computer Science:** Won by Prof. Umesh Waghmare of Theoretical Sciences Unit, of Jawaharlal Nehru Centre for Advanced Scientific Research (JNCASR), Bangalore.
- He was awarded for his innovative use of first-principles theories and modeling in insightful investigations of microscopic mechanisms responsible for specific properties of certain materials such as topological insulators, ferroelectrics, multiferroics and graphene.
- **Humanities:** Won by Prof. Jonardon Ganeri, Global Network Professor of Philosophy, New York University and Recurrent Visiting Professor, Department of Philosophy, King's College London, UK.

- He was awarded for his originality in interpreting and scrutinizing analytical Indian Philosophy and shedding light on dichotomy between Indian and Greek traditions of philosophical reasoning.
- **Life Sciences:** Won by Dr. Amit Sharma, Group Leader, Structural and Computational Biology Group, International Centre for Genetic Engineering and Biotechnology (ICGEB), New Delhi.
- He was awarded for his pioneering contributions towards deciphering the molecular structure, at the atomic level, of key proteins involved in the biology of pathogenesis of the deadly malaria parasite.
- **Mathematical Sciences:** Won by Prof. Mahan Mj, Professor of Mathematics, Tata Institute of Fundamental Research, Mumbai.
- He was awarded for establishing a central conjecture in the Thurston program to study hyperbolic 3-manifolds and introduced important new tools to study fundamental groups of complex manifolds.
- **Physical Sciences:** Won by Prof. G Ravindra Kumar, Professor in the Department of Nuclear and Atomic Physics (DNAP), Tata Institute of Fundamental Research (TIFR), Mumbai.
- He was awarded for his contributions to the physics of high intensity laser matter interactions.
- These results have significance to testing stellar and astrophysical scenarios.
- **Social Sciences:** Won by Dr. Srinath Raghavan, Senior Fellow, Centre for Policy Research, New Delhi.
- He was awarded for outstanding research that synthesizes military history, international politics, and strategic analysis into powerful and imaginative perspectives on India in global context.
- The Infosys Prize is awarded under the aegis of the Infosys Science Foundation, a not-for-profit trust instituted in February 2009.
- The Infosys Science Foundation is funded by a corpus which today stands at over INR 130 Crore (USD 20 million)
- The first time in 2008 only Infosys Prize of mathematics was awarded.
- After the establishment of Infosys Science Foundation four more categories were included.
- The Prize was originally given across five categories: Engineering and Computer Science, Life Sciences, Mathematical Sciences, Physical Sciences and Social Sciences but a sixth category – the Humanities – was added in 2012.

Reference:

<http://www.infosys-science-foundation.com/>

<http://www.infosys.com/newsroom/press-releases/Pages/ISF-announces-infosys-prize-2015.aspx>

Operations & Campaign

“Accessible India Campaign” (Sugamya Bharat Abhiyan)

Question: Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment has launched Accessible India Campaign to achieve universal accessibility for persons with disabilities, it was launched on-

- (a) 2 December
- (b) 3 September
- (c) 3 December
- (d) 30 November

Ans (c)

Related facts:



- On 3 December 2015 Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment has launched “Accessible India Campaign” (Sugamya Bharat Abhiyan) to achieve universal accessibility for persons with disabilities.
- It was launched by Union Minister of Finance, Shri Arun Jaitley along with Minister of Social Justice & Empowerment, Shri Thaawarchand Gehlot .
- Under the campaign, at least 50% of all the government buildings of National Capital and all the State capitals will be made fully accessible for persons with disabilities by July 2018.
- All the international airports in the country and railway stations of A1, A & B categories will be made fully accessible by July 2016.
- As per campaign drafted by Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment, at least 10% of government owned public transport carriers in the country will be converted into fully accessible carriers for these persons by March 2018.
- It will also be ensured that at least 50% of all public documents issued by the Central Government and the State Governments meet accessibility standards for persons with disabilities by March 2018.
- During this occasion the National Awards were conferred on 52 individuals/institutions under fourteen broad categories.
- The Government has also decided to set up a special University for persons with disabilities with the cost of Rs. 1700 crore. It will start functioning with next academic year.
- A web portal and mobile application for creating a crowd sourcing platform to get information about inaccessible was also launched on the occasion.

Reference:

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=132442>

Ques: Recently, where was South Asian Annual Disaster management Exercise 2015 held?

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

Ans: a

Related facts:

- November 26, 2015 South Asian Annual Disaster management Exercise (SAADMEX-2015) concluded in New Delhi.
- Regional cooperation on disaster response among SAARC member countries held from 23 to 26 November, 2015.
- The main focus of this exercise will be to test the inter-governmental coordination, create synergy and synchronize efforts to institutionalize regional cooperation on disaster response among the member countries of SAARC region.
- This will be the first-ever joint exercise to be conducted by the National Disaster Response Force (NDRF) of India.
- Through the exercise, the important aspects of responding to disasters by pooling of resources/expertise will be addressed and also the imperative of presenting a well coordinated response within the SAARC region will be emphasized.
- In the run-up to the exercise, the NDRF has held an Advance Coordination Conference during the first week of September, 2015 which was attended by delegates from all member countries of SAARC and officials of Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA), Ministry of External Affairs (MEA), National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA), other stake holders and representatives of NDRF.



Reference:

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=131816>
<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=130331>
<http://www.saadmex.com/>

Year end review-2015: Department of Economic Affairs, Ministry of Finance

Ques: In 2015, (April-October), Wholesale Price Index (WPI) inflation stood at :

- (a) -3.5 percent
- (b) 3.5 percent
- (c) 2.5 percent
- (d) 5.3 percent

Ans: (a)

Related facts:



- In December 16, 2015 Year end review has been released by Department of Economic Affairs, Ministry of Finance, Government of India.

INFLATION

- Wholesale Price Index (WPI) inflation stood at 2 percent in FY 2014-15.
- WPI inflation stood at -3.5 percent in 2015, (April-October).
- WPI stood at -3.8percent during October, 2015.
- WPI Food inflation stood at 1.7percent during October, 2015.
- Inflation in Fuel & power decreased to -16.3 percent in October 2015 as compared to -11.0 per cent in January 2015.
- Inflation for Manufactured products decreased to -1.7 per cent in October 2015 as compared to 1.0 per cent in January 2015.
- Consumer Price Index (CPI) inflation stood at 5.9 percent in 2014-15.
- CPI inflation stood below from 5.5 percent in January, 2015.
- Average CPI inflation stood at 4.7 percent in 2015, (April-October).
- Average CPI inflation stood at 5.0 percent in October 2015.
- Inflation in terms of Consumer Food Price Index (CFPI) stood at 5.2 per cent in October, 2015.
- Inflation based on CPI-Industrial Workers for September, 2015 stood at 5.1 percent as compared to 7.2 percent in January, 2015.
- Inflation based on CPI-Agricultural Labour and CPI-Rural Labour declined to 3.5 percent and 3.7 percent respectively in September, 2015 as compared to 6.2 percent and 6.5 percent in January, 2015.

Following measures has been taken by the government to control inflation -

- Advising states to allow free movement of fruits and vegetables by delisting them from the APMC Act.
- Banning of export of all pulses (except kabuli channa and organic pulses and lentils upto certain quantity).

- Zero import duty on pulses and onion.
- Empowering States/UTs to impose stock limits in respect of onion, pulses, edible oil, and edible oilseeds under the Essential Commodities Act.
- Modest increase in minimum support prices in last two years.
- Global oil and commodity prices have also contributed towards achieving low inflation.

MONETARY POLICY

- During 2015, policy (Repo) rate has been cut by 125 basis points.
- Taking into account the continuous decline in inflation and with a view to spur growth, the last cut in the policy rates by 50 basis points to 6.75 percent was undertaken by the RBI on September 29, 2015.
- Government of India and RBI have signed a Monetary Policy Framework agreement in February, 2015.
- The objective of this framework is to primarily maintain price stability, while keeping in mind the objective of growth.
- As per the agreement, RBI would set the policy interest rates and would aim to bring inflation below 6 percent by January 2016.

BANKING

- Permission has been accorded by RBI for setting up Payment Banks and Small Finance Banks to improve financial inclusion.
- RBI has accorded in principle approval to 11 entities to form Payment Banks in August, 2015.
- RBI has accorded in principle approval to 10 entities to form 'Small Finance Banks' in September, 2015.
- The minimum paid-up equity capital for Payments Banks shall be Rs. 100 crore, of which the promoter's contribution would be minimum 40 percent of paid-up equity capital for the first 5 years of commencement of the business.
- An amount of Rs.12,000 crore has already been provided in the Supplementary Demand passed by the Parliament, in addition to Rs.7,940 crores already provided in the budget of FY 2015-16.
- Government announced **Mission Indradhanush** in August, 2015, which attempts to revamp public sector banks and to address problems impacting their performance including governance, accountability and capitalization.

FINANCIAL SECTOR

- Approval accorded for setting up of the proposed Rs 20,000-crore National Investment and Infrastructure Fund (NIIF).
- Approval given for foreign investment in the Alternative Investment Funds (AIF).
- RBI has set out the medium term framework (MTF) for FPI limits in debt securities.
- Forward Market Commission (FMC) was merged with Securities Exchange Board of India (SEBI) on September 28, 2015 with a view to strengthen the regulation of commodity forward markets.

TAX-FREE BONDS

- Government of India has allowed the issuance of Tax-free bonds of Rs 40000 crore during the Financial Year 2015-16.
- These Bonds are issued for ten (10) or fifteen (15) or twenty (20) years.
- Central Public Sector Enterprise (CPSE) such as National Highways Authority of India (NHAI), Indian Railways Finance Corporation (IRFC), Housing and Urban Development Corporation (HUDCO), Indian Renewable Energy Development Agency (IREDA), Power Finance Corporation Limited (PFC), Rural Electrification Corporation Limited (REC), National Thermal Power Corporation Limited (NTPC).
- The 11th India- Saudi Arabia Joint Commission Meeting (JCM) was held during 26-28th May, 2015 at New Delhi.
- The Financial Stability and Development Council (FSDC) had held two meetings on May 15, 2015 and 5th November, 2015.
- New Development Bank has been established by BRICS countries in Shanghai, China.
- Mr. K.V. Kamath, has taken over as the first President of the Bank.
- The Governing Council Procedural Rules and Standing Committee Procedural Rules were approved by the Governing Council in its inaugural meeting held on September 4, 2015.
- The 7th Meeting of SAARC Finance Ministers and Finance Secretaries were held on 19th and 20th of August, 2015.
- Government of India has on 16th September, 2015 approved a scheme for providing a concessional financing scheme to support Indian companies bidding for strategically important infrastructure projects abroad.
- India along with other countries signed the Articles of Agreement of the Bank on June 29th, 2015.

Gold Monetization Scheme

- On November 5, 2015 Gold Monetization Scheme was launched by Prime Minister Narendra Modi.
- The scheme will benefit the manufacturers of gold jewellery who are largely small and medium scale enterprises, by making gold available to them.
- It will also benefit the common man by allowing him/her to earn interest on their holdings of gold.

Sovereign Gold Bond Scheme

- On November 5, 2015 Sovereign Gold Bond Scheme was launched by Prime Minister Narendra Modi.
- The scheme was announced in Budget 2015-16 with the view to provide a new financial instrument of investment to public at large and for reducing the demand for physical gold.

Indian Gold Coin

- On November 5, 2015 Indian Gold Coin was launched by Prime Minister Narendra Modi.
- The scheme was announced in Budget 2015-16 with the view to promote indigenously minted national gold coins.

Reference:

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=133324>

Textiles Minister launches ERP system of NHDC

Question: Where did The Union Textiles Minister Shri Santosh Kumar Gangwar launched the ERP system?

- (a) Varanasi
- (b) Allahabad
- (c) Delhi
- (d) Kolkata

Ans (a)

Related facts:



- On 20 December 2015, The Union Textiles Minister Shri Santosh Kumar Gangwar launched the ERP system in Varanasi.
- In line with the Digital India initiative of Government of India, National Handloom Development Corporation Ltd. (NHDC) has decided to implement Enterprise Resource Planning (ERP) system for its commercial activities for the benefit of handloom weavers.
- NHDC has thus become the first PSU under the Ministry of Textiles to have an ERP system.
- The ERP system will significantly benefit the weavers, who are the primary beneficiaries of the yarn supply scheme of Government of India; weavers will gain from quicker delivery of NHDC material.
- It will also result in higher transparency and accountability, making the corporation's activities visible for all stakeholders.
- All processes - such as indenting, purchase order generation and invoice generation - will be performed through the ERP system itself.
- The weavers will be able to access information anytime through the mobile app.
- They can view the stock of the material in yarn depots.
- They can place their indents.
- They can check the status of their indents.
- They can get the details of the dispatched material via SMS.
- The weavers would not have to visit NHDC office or send indent by post, saving time and money.
- Mills will also be integrated in the system, in order to ensure that indenting and order confirmations are the part of the online ERP system.
- ERP will be available in Hindi and local languages for the benefit of weavers.
- Weavers can access the status of the despatch of the material from the mills such as the name of the transporter, freight, LR No etc.

Reference:

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=133630>

“Global Initiative of Academic Networks” (GIAN)

Question: On 30 November 2015 Union Minister of Human Resource Development, Smt. Smriti Irani launched

“The Global Initiative of Academic Networks” (GIAN) programme is related to-

- (a) Higher Education
- (b) Secondary education
- (c) Primary Education
- (d) Girls education

Ans (a)

Related facts:

- “The Global Initiative of Academic Networks” (GIAN) programme was



formally launched by the Union Minister for Human Resource Development, Smt. Smriti Zubin Irani on 30 November 2015 at the IIT Gandhi Nagar.

- It is intended to enlarge and deepen the interface of India’s institutions of higher learning and globally recognised institutions of academic eminence.
- It is interconnected with the scheme ‘Make in India’ and ‘Imprint India’.

Reference:

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=132115>

<http://iiti.ac.in/GIAN/index.html>

Treaty & Agreement

Axis Bank to offer electronic signature facility to its customers

Question: Which bank recently partnered with the e-Mudhra to facilitate the electronic signature facility to its customers?

- (a) SBI Bank
- (b) Axis Bank
- (c) Dena Bank
- (d) UCO Bank

Ans (b)

Related facts:

- According to the release made by Axis Bank on 18 December 2015 it has partnered with a digital security company, e-Mudhra to facilitate digital signature facility to its customers.
- After this partnership Axis Bank become the first bank in the country to provide customers with digital signature facility to its customer.
- The new service will facilitate an Aadhaar holder to digitally sign a document within seconds.
- The government had launched "e-sign" services early this year as part of its digital India campaign.
- Axis Bank, taking its Digital Banking initiatives a step forward, has partnered with e-Mudhra Ltd., a leading digital security company, to introduce 'eSign'

Reference:

<http://www.axisbank.com/download/Axis-Bank-to-offer-electronic-signature-facility-to-its-customers.pdf>



Hindustan Unilever (HUL) signs an agreement with Mosons Group

Question: Recently Hindustan Unilever (HUL) signed an agreement with Mosons Group to acquire its flagship brand Indulekha. Indulekha brand deals in which category of consumer products?

- (a) Edible Oil
- (b) Hair Oil
- (c) Face Cream
- (d) Kajal

Ans (b)

Related facts:

- Hindustan Unilever (HUL) on 17 December 2015 announced that it signed an agreement with Mosons Group to acquire its flagship brand Indulekha for 330 crore rupees.
- The proposed acquisition is in line with HUL's strategic intent to strengthen its leadership position in Personal Care.
- The deal includes the acquisition of the trademarks Indulekha and Vayodha, intellectual property, design and knowhow.
- HUL will pay Mosons Group 300 crore rupees upon closing of the transaction and a deferred consideration of 10 percent on the domestic turnover of the brands each year, payable annually for a five-year period commencing Fiscal Year 2018.
- Indulekha was first launched in 2009 as premium Ayurvedic hair oil.
- The brand has a strong presence across Kerala, Tamil Nadu and Karnataka.
- It is recently launched into Maharashtra.
- It had a turnover of Rs.100 crores in years 2014-15.

Related facts:

<https://www.hul.co.in/news/press-releases/2015/15-12-17-HUL-signs-an-agreement-with-Mosons-Group-for-acquisition-of-its-flagship-Indulekha-brand.html>

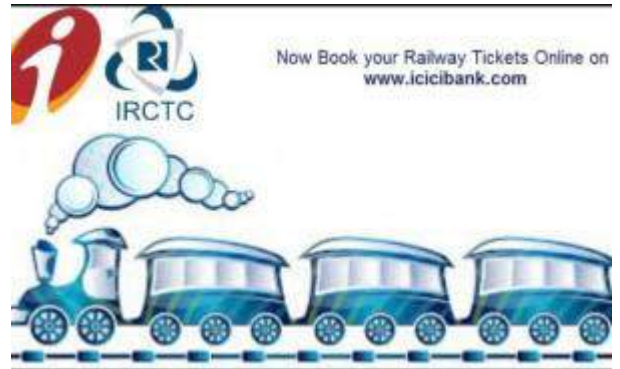
<http://www.thehindubusinessline.com/companies/announcements/others/hul-signs-an-agreement-with-mosons-group-for-acquisition-of-its-flagship-indulekha-brand/article8000325.ece>



ICICI Banktie-up with Indian Railway Catering & Tourism Corporation Ltd (IRCTC)

Question: Name the Bank which has tie-up with Indian Railway Catering & Tourism Corporation Ltd (IRCTC) that allows users to book online rail tickets on its website?

- (a) Dena Bank
- (b) Axis Bank
- (c) ICICI Bank
- (d) State Bank Of India



Ans (c)

Related facts:

- On 23 December 2015 ICICI Bank has announced its tie-up with Indian Railway Catering& Tourism Corporation Ltd (IRCTC)that allows users to book online rail tickets on its website icicibank.com.
- ICICI Bank is the first bank in the country to offer such a facility on its website.
- Customers of any bank can use this Indian Railways online ticket booking service to book online rail tickets on the bank's website itself, without visiting any other site.
- Users can pay for the rail tickets using their internet banking account, debit or credit card of any bank.
- To avail this service, users have to do a one-time registration on the ICICI Bank's website with their mobile number and user ID registered with IRCTC.
- This service will soon be also available on the bank's mobile banking app, iMobile as well as on its digital bank on mobile phone, Pockets.

Reference:

<http://www.icicibank.com/Personal-Banking/insta-banking/internet-banking/irctc-ticket-booking/index.page?>
<http://www.railnews.co.in/icici-bank-launches-indian-railways-online-ticket-booking-on-its-website/>
<http://www.financialexpress.com/article/industry/banking-finance/indian-railways-online-ticket-booking-icici-bank-launches-rail-facility-on-website-check-irctc-co-in/183009/>
<http://www.thehindubusinessline.com/money-and-banking/icici-bank-rolls-out-rail-ticket-booking-on-its-website/article8034319.ece>

Union Cabinet approved signing and ratification of Protocol with Japan for amending DTAC

Question: Name the country with which Union Cabinet approved signing and ratification of Protocol for amending DTAC?

- (a) Japan
- (b) South Korea
- (c) Vietnam
- (d) Brazil

Ans (a)

Related facts:



- On 2 December 2015 The Union Cabinet under the Chairmanship of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi has approved signing and ratification of Protocol between India and Japan for amending the Double Taxation Avoidance Convention (DTAC).
- It was signed between the two countries in 1989 for avoidance of double taxation and for prevention of fiscal evasion, through a protocol.
- The Protocol will facilitate exchange of information, as per accepted international standards, on tax matters including bank information and information without domestic tax interest.

Reference:

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=132363>

Conference

2nd World Internet Conference

Question: Which of the following countries hosted the 2nd World Internet Conference (WIC)?

- (a) India
- (b) China
- (c) United States of America
- (d) United Kingdom



Ans (b)

Related facts:

- The three-day long (16-18 December) 2nd World Internet Conference was concluded on 18 December 2015 at Wuzhen in China. Wuzhen is located in Zhejiang Province in eastern China.
- The conference was held with theme “An Interconnected World Shared and Governed by All—Building a Cyberspace Community of Shared Destiny.”
- The conference focused on facilitating strategic-level discussions on global Internet governance, cyber security, the Internet industry as the engine of economic growth and social development, technological innovation and philosophy of the Internet.
- The Conference provides a platform for building a cyberspace community of shared destiny, advocating worldwide respect to diversity, focusing on mutual development, forging consensus and confronting risks jointly.

Reference:

<http://www.wicwuzhen.cn/system/2015/07/17/020744492.shtml>

<http://www.wicwuzhen.cn/english/>

Question: India's energy and electricity consumption is what percentage of the world's consumption.

- (a) 10%
- (b) 5%
- (c) 15%
- (d) 2%

Ans (b)

Related facts:

- On 11 December 2015 the President of India, Shri Pranab Mukherjee inaugurated 'Umang-2015', a Festival of Energy at the Dr. Rajendra Prasad Sarvodaya Vidyalaya School in President's Estate.
- The Festival of Energy 'Umang 2015' has the theme - "Nayi Zindagi ki Umang, Swachh Urja ke Sang"
- He declared the Dr. Rajendra Prasad Sarvodaya Vidyalaya School a solar powered green school and also launched Sajag - a Smartphone App on energy education.
- The President said India supports around 17% of the world's population, but its energy and electricity consumption is just around 5% of the world consumption.
- He said, "We as a country, have a huge responsibility and challenge to meet our developmental requirements. We must at the same time, ensure that we remain committed to clean energy".
- The President said he would like to see in future many more government schools going 'green through solar power' and contributing to the clean energy movements in the country.

Reference:

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=133025>
<http://presidentofindia.nic.in/press-release-detail.htm?1944>



Ques: In which one of the following country the 24th CHOGM (Common wealth heads of Government Meeting) summit was held –

- (a) Mauritius
- (b) Italy
- (c) Malta
- (d) Vanuatu



Ans: (c)

Related facts:

- Summit of Commonwealth's 53 members occurring every two years, 24th summit held from 27-29 November, 2015 at island state of Malta which is located in the Mediterranean Sea.
- The theme of the 2015 summit was 'The Commonwealth – Adding Global Value'.
- Commonwealth leaders met in Malta to address global issues such as climate change, building resilience in small states, trade and sustainable development, the empowerment of youth, gender equality and human rights.
- External Affairs Minister of India Smt. Sushma Swaraj represented India in CHOGM summit.
- Commonwealth leaders have agreed to set up a climate change hub to facilitate access to funds for the small and poor countries.
- Member countries agreed to encouragement of soundness of democracy and construction of the rule of law, rise of small nations, the creation of economic opportunities, create effective youth leadership, promote inclusive growth, the realization of human rights for all and to improve public services.
- **Patricia Scotland** of Dominica was selected new **Secretary General** the first woman to hold the post.
- Baroness Scotland, former UK Attorney General, will take office on 1 April 2016 as the sixth Secretary-General since the Commonwealth Secretariat was established in 1965. She will replace Kamalesh Sharma of India, whose eight-year tenure comes to an end in March next year.
- The next CHOGM summit is proposed in London.
- The members have a combined population of 2.2 billion people, Queen Elizabeth II who serves as the Head of the Commonwealth.

Reference:

<https://chogm2015.mt/>

<https://chogm2015.mt/about#commonwealth-theme>

<https://chogm2015.mt/media-centre/press-releases>

First international film festival for the persons with disabilities (IFFPD)

Ques: Recently First international film festival for the persons with disabilities (IFFPD) was held at -

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

Ans: a

Related facts:

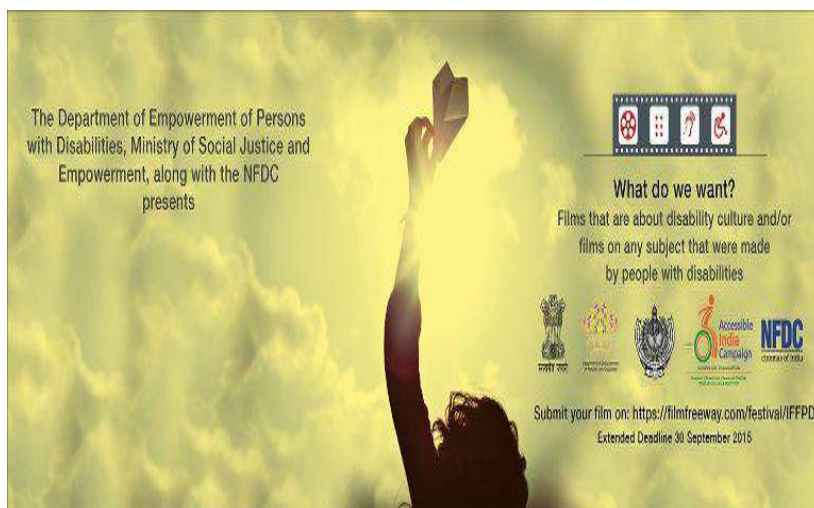
- First International film Festival For Persons with Disabilities held at Siri Fort Auditorium (New Delhi) from 1st to 3rd December 2015.
- Marathi film 'Yellow' was launched with the screening of the film festival and 'Margarita with a Straw' was the closing film of the festival.
- On this occasion, Union Minister of Finance, Shri Arun Jaitley along with Minister of Social Justice & Empowerment, Shri Thaawarchand Gehlot launched “Accessible India Campaign”(Sugamya Bharat Abhiyan) for Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities.
- Important awards was given at festival In the following categories:
 - Best Film (Feature) - Chotoder Chobi
 - Best Documentary (Feature) - Algorithms
 - Best (Documentary) - Goonga Pehelwan
 - Best short film - *Fingertip*
 - Best Director for Documentary Film - Amrita Dasgupta (The new Girl in Class)
 - Best Director for Short Film - Julia Koloenakova (Predators of Transylvania). This was the only film at the festival which is directed by a differently abled filmmaker.
 - Director of Yellow, Mahesh Limaye won Special Jury Mention award at IFFPD.

Reference:

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/mbErel.aspx?relid=130137>

<https://filmfreeway.com/festival/IFFPD>

<http://www.jamuura.com/blog/chotoder-chobi-algorithms-yellow-win-at-iffpd/>



Second Forum on China-Africa Cooperation (FOCAC) Summit

Ques: Second Forum on China-Africa Cooperation (FOCAC) Summit was held at -

- (a) Pretoria
- (b) Johannesburg
- (c) Cape Town
- (d) Durban

Ans: b

Related facts:

- 4-5 December, 2015 Second Forum on China-Africa Cooperation (FOCAC) Summit held at Johannesburg (South Africa).
- Xi Jinping and President Jacob Zuma of South Africa co-chaired the plenary session of the Summit.
- The theme of the summit was '**Africa-China Progressing together: win-win cooperation for common development**'.
- The Summit will review the implementation of various agreements signed since 2006, and outline the course of action for development of China-Africa relations over the next few years.
- First Forum on China-Africa Cooperation (FOCAC) Summit held at Beijing (China) in 2006.

Reference:

<http://www.focac.org/eng/zxxx/t1323035.htm>

<http://www.focac.org/eng/zxxx/t1323023.htm>

<http://www.bna.bh/portal/en/news/699555>



First BRICS media summit

Question: First BRICS media summit held at-

- (a) Beijing, China
- (b) New Delhi, India
- (c) Durban, South Africa
- (d) Rio de Janeiro, Brazil

Ans (a)

Related facts:

- China hosted the first Brazil-Russia-India-China-South Africa (BRICS) media summit in Beijing from 30 November to 1 December 2015.
- The theme of the summit was "Innovation, Development, Cooperation and Trust".
- BRICS media summit aims to promote cooperation between the media of BRICS countries and increase the role the media to enhance international partnership.
- A total of 25 media organizations participated from BRICS nation.
- China's Xinhua news agency has been the initiator of the project in collaboration with The Hindu group of publications, the Brazil Communication Company, Russia Today International News Agency, and South Africa's Independent Media.

Reference:

<http://www.xinhuanet.com/english/cnleaders/BRICS/>

http://news.xinhuanet.com/english/2015-12/01/c_134873941_2.htm

<http://www.thehindu.com/news/international/china-hosts-first-brics-media-summit/article7933793.ece>



Question: 76th Annual Session of Indian Roads Congress is scheduled at-

- (a) Patna
- (b) Gandhi Nagar
- (c) Indore
- (d) New Delhi



Ans (c)

Related facts:

- According to the press release by department of Public relation of Madhya Pradesh, Indian Roads Congress(IRC) has scheduled to have its 76th Annual Session of Indian Roads Congress at Indore, Madhya Pradesh between 18th -22nd of December 2015.
- This annual session will be a platform to share the knowledge and experience of experts coming from all over India and around the world in various fields of Highway engineering.
- In this Session of the Indian Roads Congress there will be a meeting of the technical committee.
- The Indian Roads Congress (IRC) is the Apex Body of Highway Engineers in the country. The IRC was set up in December, 1934 on the recommendations of the Indian Road Development Committee best known as Jayakar Committee set up by the Govt. of India with the objective of Road Development in India.

Reference:

<http://www.irc76indore.in/>

<http://www.irc.nic.in/>

Uttar Pradesh Government launches first International Birds festival

Question: Which city hosted the first-ever international bird festival?

- (a) Agra
- (b) Lucknow
- (c) Varanasi
- (d) Mathura

Ans (a)

Related facts:

- On 4 December 2015, Uttar Pradesh Government has launched International festival on Birds in a bid to promote state as an international bird-watching destination.
- The first-of-its-kind festival was inaugurated by Chief Minister Akhilesh Yadav at the National Chambal Sanctuary (NCS) in Agra.
- The three-day international festival started on December 4 and ended on December 6, 2015.
- The festival is celebrated between the ravines of Chambal and Yamuna.
- This festival was jointly organized by Uttar Pradesh Forest Department and the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI).
- As many as 25 top international bird experts and over 80 Indian ornithologists attended the first-of-its-kind festival.
- UP is home to over 500 bird species, 13 of which are globally marked as threatened.
- Migrating birds from Europe, Tibet, Siberia and China come here during the winter.

About National Chambal Sanctuary:

- The National Chambal Sanctuary was set up in 1979 as a riverine sanctuary along an approximately 425 km length of the Chambal River and its ravines stretching over 2-6 km wide along the river.
- The Project is managed by the Wildlife wing of the Uttar Pradesh Forest Department and is head-quartered at Agra.
- National Chambal Sanctuary is the main area for the species reintroduction programme of the crocodilian species *Gavialis gangeticus* (Gharial).

Reference:

<http://www.thehindu.com/todays-paper/tp-in-school/agra-to-host-first-ever-international-bird-fete/article7946131.ece>
<http://www.news18.com/news/uttar-pradesh/photos-akhilesh-yadav-inaugurates-ups-first-international-bird-festival-in-agra-846687.html>
<http://www.aninews.in/videogallery2/46298-up-cm-akhilesh-inaugurates-first-international-bird-festival-in-agra.html>
<http://nationalchambalsanctuary.in/>



46th International Film Festival of India

Question: Who has been awarded with life time achievement award at 46th International Film Festival of India?

- (a) Kaushik Ganguly
- (b) Peter Greenaway
- (c) Nikita Mikhalkov
- (d) Shekhar Kapur

Ans(c)

Related facts:

- 45th International Film Festival of India (IFFI) was held in capital city of Goa, Panji from 20 November to 30 November 2015.
- On 20 November 2015 festival was inaugurated by chief guest Anil Kapoor and internationally acclaimed Music composer Ilayaraja by lightening of lamp.

Following are the key highlights of the 10 day long festival:

- UNESCO Fellini Medal for the first time awarded in India at IFFI 2015.
- The UNESCO Fellini Award was given to Kaushik Ganguly's Bengali film 'Cinemawala'.
- The Kingdom of Spain was the focus country of IFFI 2015.
- Total No of Delegate Registered-7000.
- International Jury headed by the chairperson, Shekhar Kapur along with UK based director, Micheal Radford, Palestinian based Israel director, Ms. Suha Arraf, German Actress, Julia Jentsch and South Korean filmmaker Jeon Kyu-Hwan.
- The 13-member Feature Jury was headed by Chairperson, Aribam Syam Sharma while the 7-member Non-Feature jury was led by Chairperson, Rajendra Janglay.
- Total no. of premiers (World, International, Asia and India) during the festival – 120.
- This year the festival hosted more than 820 film delegates including 540 national and 280 international directors, actors, producers, technicians including Oscar Academy members and Hollywood experts.
- Total numbers of films received as entries was unprecedented 790 films.
- Final selection of films - 182 (Foreign Cinema).
- Countries representing – 90.
- Opening Film- The Man who knew Infinity, Mid Fest Film-The Danish Girl was widely appreciated by media and audience.



- Closing Film- El Clan was selected to be screened in the main competition section of the 72nd Venice International Film Festival where director Pablo Trapero won the Silver Lion. The film was selected as the Argentine entry for the Best Foreign Language Film at the 88th Academy Awards.
- 26 Official Oscar Entries besides several big films from Cannes, Berlin, Toronto and Locarno film Festival.
- 47 films in Indian Panorama section (Feature and Non-feature).
- New Horizons from North-East- A special retrospective on ace filmmaker Aribam Shyam Sharma and special section on new generation filmmakers from the North-East.
- Colombian film 'Embrace of The Serpent' has been adjudged as the best film of the 46th International Film Festival of India (IFFI).
- Director Ciro Guerra of Embrace of The Serpent was bestowed with the Golden Peacock award and the cash prize of 40 lakh rupees.
- Lifetime Achievement Award was given to Oscar winning Russian filmmaker, actor and head of Russian Cinematographer's Union, Nikita Mikhalkov for his contributions to world cinema at the 46th International Film Festival of India.
- The Best male actor award: Vincent Lindon for the France film 'The Measure of a Man'.
- The Best Director award (Silver Peacock): Peter Greenway for the Netherlands film 'Eisenstein in Guanajuato'.
- The Best Female actor award: five Female actresses for their roles in the Turkey Film 'Mustang'.
- Special Jury Award: Julia Vargas for his film 'Sealed Cargo'.
- Centenary Film Personality Award conferred upon internationally acclaimed Music composer Ilayaraja during the Opening Ceremony.
- Special Retrospective on Shashi Kapoor offered glimpses of the work of the legendary actor Shashi Kapoor and screened his 8 films at IFFI 2015.

Reference:

<http://www.iffi.nic.in/>
<http://iffigoa.org/>
<http://www.iffi.nic.in/IFFI2015/IFFI%20Regulations%202015.pdf>
<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/efeatures.aspx?relid=13177>
<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=132010>

Associations & Organizations

Islamic military alliance to fight terrorism

Question: Saudi Arabia has launched Islamic Military Coalition, a new military alliance of how many nation nations to fight terrorism?

- (a) 34
- (b) 32
- (c) 33
- (d) 30

Ans (a)



Related facts:

- Saudi Arabia on 15 December 2015 announced the launch of Islamic Military Coalition to counter terrorism.
- The coalition will be led by Saudi Arabia and see the participation of 34 nations.
- A joint operations center shall be established in the city of Riyadh to coordinate and support military operations to fight terrorism and to develop the necessary programs and mechanisms for supporting these efforts.
- The countries participating in the alliance along with the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia are: Jordan, United Arab Emirates, Pakistan, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Benin, Turkey, Chad, Togo, Tunisia, Djibouti, Senegal, Sudan, Sierra Leone, Somalia, Gabon, Guinea, Palestine, Comoros, Qatar, Cote d'Ivoire, Kuwait, Lebanon, Libya, Maldives, Mali, Malaysia, Egypt, Morocco, Mauritania, Niger, Nigeria, Yemen.
- Shia dominated Iran, Iraq, Syria are not part of the military alliance.
- Alliance will take action against terrorist groups, including the Islamic State.

Reference:

<http://www.mofa.gov.sa/sites/mofaen/ServicesAndInformation/news/GovernmentNews/Pages/ArticleID201512159481880.aspx>
<https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/worldviews/wp/2015/12/17/saudi-arabias-islamic-military-alliance-against-terrorism-makes-no-sense/>

Goa Government launches National Food Security Act, 2013

Question: For the implementation of the National Food Security Act, 2013 by Goa government Union government provided a subsidy of –

- (a) 70 Crores
- (b) 60 Crores
- (c) 65 Crores
- (d) 80 Crores

Ans (c)

Related facts:

- On 2 December 2011, Goa Government has launched the National Food Security Act (NFSA), 2013.
- It will benefit more than one third of the state's population.
- Around 5 lakh, 11 thousand people in the targeted Public Distribution System (PDS) in Goa.
- As per the scheme, rice will be given at the subsidised rate of 3 rupees per kg and wheat at the rate of 3 rupees per kg to target persons
- The Union government will bear a subsidy of 65 crores rupees to implement the scheme in the state.
- The state government will be spending around 25 crores annually for the same.
- The state government's civil supplies and distribution departments have scrutinized the PDS households for effective implementation of this scheme.
- Ration cards in the state are also getting digitized and the consolidated data is getting updated with Aadhar card and other identifications.
- The Act also includes the Midday Meal (MDM) Scheme, Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS) scheme and Public Distribution System (PDS) under it to provide subsidized food grains.



Reference:

http://www.dip.goa.gov.in/pressrelease_disp.php?id=80

<http://goacivilsupplies.gov.in/upload/NFSA%20Guidelines.pdf>

<http://indiatoday.intoday.in/education/story/goa-government-launches-national-food-security-act-2013/1/537716.html>

Year, Day & Week

Vijay Diwas

Question: Vijay Diwas is celebrated on-

- (a) 14 December
- (b) 16 December
- (c) 15 December
- (d) 17 December

Ans(b)

Related facts:

- On 16 December 2015, 44th Vijay Diwas was celebrated throughout India.
- On this occasion, Defence Minister Manohar Parrikar, Army Chief D S Suhag, Navy Chief R K Dhowan and Air Chief Arup Raha remembered martyrs and paid tributes at Amar Jawan Jyoti in New Delhi.
- The day is celebrated to honour the martyrs of the 1971 war between the two countries. On this day in 1971, about 93,000 Pakistani soldiers surrendered to the Indian forces.
- This historic victory led to creation of Bangladesh.
- Vijay Diwas celebrations at Fort William, Eastern Command assume a special significance as Mukti Jodhas & Indian war veterans who fought shoulder to shoulder reunite to celebrate this momentous occasion in history.
- This year 30 Mukti Jodhas attended the solemn occasion led by HE Md. Qamrul Islam, Food Minister, Bangladesh.

Reference:

<http://pibmumbai.gov.in/scripts/detail.asp?releaseId=E2015PR3180>

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=133353>



Navy Day

Question: Each year Navy Day is celebrated on-

- (a) 4 December
- (b) 14 December
- (c) 24 October
- (d) 14 September

Ans (a)

Related facts:

- 44th Navy Day was observed on 4 December 2015.
- The Navy day is celebrated every year to commemorate the success of **Operation Trident** of Indian Navy on Karachi Harbour during the 1971 Indo-Pak war and in memory Indian navy soldiers who died in various wars.
- On this day the Indian Navy warships and aircraft kept open for visitors, especially for school children.

Reference:

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

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

<http://indiannavy.nic.in/content/navy-day-press-conference%C2%A0-board-ins-vikramaditya>

<http://www.thehindu.com/features/metroplus/indian-navy-day-swear-by-the-tricolour/article7945214.ece>



National Integration Week (Qaumi Ekta Week), 2015

Ques: National Integration Week (Qaumi Ekta Week), 2015 was celebrated on -

- (a) 19-25 November, 2015
- (b) 19-25 October, 2015
- (c) 19-25 January, 2015
- (d) 19-25 July, 2015

Ans: a

Related facts:

- Ministry of Home Affairs Government of India announced 19-25 November, 2015 will be celebrated as **National Integration Week (Qaumi Ekta Week)**.
- The Union Home Minister Shri Rajnath Singh has asked the Central and State Governments to organise and celebrate the “Qaumi Ekta Week” in a befitting manner so that the message of Communal Harmony and National Integration could reach out to every part of the country and society.
- November 19, 2015 will be observed as **National Integration Day**.
- Programmes like meetings, symposia and seminars will be organized to emphasize the themes of secularism, anti-communalism and non-violence.
- November 20, 2015 will be observed as **Welfare of Minorities Day**.
- November 21, 2015 will be observed as **Linguistic Harmony Day**.
- Programmes like Special literary functions and Kavi Sammelans will be organized to enable people of each region to appreciate the linguistic heritage of other parts of India.
- November 22, 2015 will be observed as **Weaker Sections Day**.
- Meetings and rallies will be organized to highlight programmes under various Governments which help SCs/STs and weaker sections with particular emphasis on the distribution of surplus land to landless labourers.
- November 23, 2015 will be observed as **Cultural Unity Day**.
- Cultural functions will be organized to present the Indian tradition of unity in diversity and for promoting cultural conservation and integration.
- November 24, 2015 will be observed as **Women’s Day**.
- On this day, the importance of Women in Indian Society and their role in development of nation-building are highlighted.
- November 25, 2015 will be observed as **Conservation Day** and several meetings and functions will be organized to emphasise the growing need for awareness and action to conserve the environment.
- The National Foundation for Communal Harmony (NFCH), an autonomous organisation with the Ministry of Home Affairs, also organises Communal Harmony Campaign coinciding with the Qaumi Ekta Week and observes the **Communal Harmony Flag Day** on 25th November.
- The Foundation promotes Communal Harmony and strengthens National Integration.

Reference:

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=130352>

<http://www.nfch.nic.in/>



International Day of People with Disability

Question: International Day of People with Disability is celebrated on-

- (a) 1 December
- (b) 2 December
- (c) 3 December
- (d) 5 December

Ans (c)

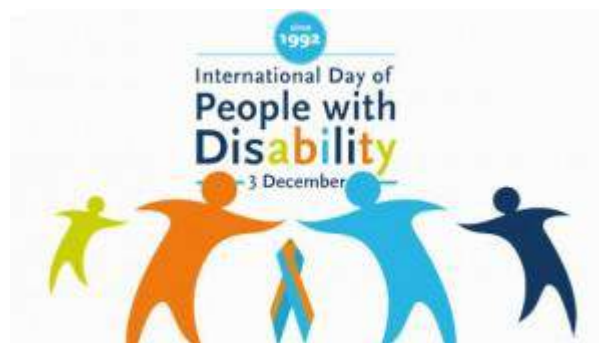
Related facts:

- International Day of Persons with Disabilities was observed across the world on 3 December 2015.
- The theme of 2015 International Day of Persons with Disabilities is "Inclusion matters: access and empowerment for people of all abilities".
- United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) in 1992 through resolution 47/3 proclaimed the annual observation of the International Day of Disabled Persons.
- Whose purpose is to eliminate discrimination in modern society with physically disabled.

Reference:

<http://www.idpwd.com.au/3-december/>

<http://www.un.org/disabilities/default.asp/default.asp?id=111>



Human Rights Day

Question: In which year did the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) adopted the Universal Declaration of Human Rights?

- (a) 10 December 1948
- (b) 10 December 1949
- (c) 10 December 1950
- (d) 10 December 1951

Ans (a)

Related facts:

- Human Rights Day was observed on 10 December 2015 across the world.
- The theme chosen for the year 2015 Human Rights day is 'Our Rights. Our Freedoms. Always'.
- Human Rights Day (HRD) is marked annually on 10th December to commemorate the day in 1948 when the United Nations (UN) adopted the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR).
- In 1950, the Assembly passed resolution 423 (V), inviting all States and interested organizations to observe 10 December of each year as Human Rights Day.
- The first Human Rights Day was celebrated in 1950.
- The fundamental principle behind observing this day is to set a common standard for achievement of all persons and nations.

Reference:

<http://www.ohchr.org/EN/NewsEvents/HRDay2015/Pages/HRD2015.aspx>



**OUR RIGHTS
OUR FREEDOMS
ALWAYS**
HUMAN RIGHTS DAY 2015

World Soil Day

Question: Officially first World Soil Day was celebrated in which year?

- (a) 2012
- (b) 2014
- (c) 2015
- (d) 2010

Ans (b)

Related facts:

- On December 5, 2015, the Second World Soil Day was celebrated around the world.
- This year theme is "Soils: a solid ground for Life"
- On 20 December 2013, the 68th UN General Assembly declared 5th of December as the World Soil Day.
- In this resolution (A/RES/68/232) UN General Assembly has declared 2015 as the International Year of Soils.
- Since 2012, the Food and Agriculture (FAO) -Global Soil Partnership (GSP) has been organizing celebration World Soil Day.
- The International Union of Soil Sciences (IUSS), in 2002, adopted a resolution proposing the 5th of December as World Soil Day to celebrate the importance of soil as a critical component of the natural system and as a vital contributor to human wellbeing.
- The FAO Conference, in June 2013, unanimously endorsed World Soil Day and requested official adoption at the 68th UN General Assembly.
- The **World Soil Day campaign** aims to connect people with soils and raise awareness on their critical importance in our lives.



Reference:

<http://www.un.org/en/events/soilday/#>

<http://www.fao.org/globalsoilpartnership/world-soil-day/en/>

<http://www.fao.org/globalsoilpartnership/iys-2015/en/>

National Mathematics Day

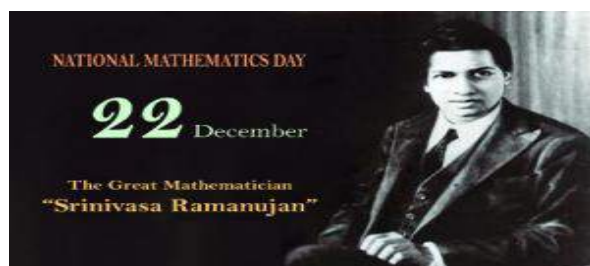
Question: When did National Math Day is celebrated in India?

- (a) 22 December
- (b) 25 December
- (c) 30 December
- (d) 20 December

Ans (a)

Related facts:

- India on 22 December 2015 celebrated National Mathematics Day.
- The day is observed to commemorate the birth anniversary of great Indian Mathematician Srinivasa Ramanujan.
- The declaration to observe 22 December as National Mathematics Day was made by former Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh on 26 February 2012 at Madras University on the occasion of 125th birth anniversary of Ramanujan.
- The objective behind celebrating National Mathematics Day is to inspire students and youth of the country to study mathematics.



Reference:

http://zeenews.india.com/news/science/national-mathematics-day-remembering-the-genius-srinivasa-ramanujan_1837437.html

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

National Milk Day

Question: Recently the National Milk Day (NMD) was observed on which day across India to mark 94th birth anniversary of the Father of the White Revolution Dr Verghese Kurien?

- (a) 25 November
- (b) 25 October
- (c) 26 November
- (d) 21 October

Ans (c)

Related facts:

- The National Milk Day (NMD) was on 26 November 2015 observed across India to mark 94th birth anniversary of the Father of the White Revolution Dr Verghese Kurien.
- The idea of observing National Milk Day was first mooted by Indian Dairy Association (IDA) in 2014.
- The NMD was observed on 26 November 2015 by all Indian dairy sector majors including National Dairy Development Board (NDDB), IDA along with around 22 state level milk federations.
- Verghese Kurien was born on 26 November 1921 in Calicut in then Madras Presidency of British India. He had died on 9 September 2012.
- Dr. Verghese Kurien is also known as the Milkman of India and the architect of Operation Flood.
- **Awards and Honours:** Ramon Magsaysay Award (1963), World Food Prize (1989), Padma Shri (1965), Padma Bhushan (1966) and Padma Vibhushan (1999).
- India is currently the world's largest milk producing country in the world, currently it produces 16 percent of the world's total production of milk.



Reference:

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

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

<http://www.iamin.in/en/new-delhi/news/national-milk-day-twitterati-pay-tribute-milkman-india-76891>

<http://www.newindianexpress.com/cities/thiruvananthapuram/Values-of-an-Organisation-Make-it-Timeless-Amul-MD/2015/11/27/article3148502.ece>

<http://indairyasso.org/magazine/jan15/milkday.pdf>

National Consumers Day

Ques : When is National Consumers Day celebrated?

- (a) 24
- (b) 25
- (c) 26
- (d) 27

Ans (a)

Related facts

- December 24, 2015 National Consumers Day was celebrated throughout the country.
- It is notable that In this day Parliament has enacted the Consumer Protection Act, 1986.
- The main objective of the day is to provide better protection of consumer's interest.
- It is important to know that the World Consumers Day is observed on March 15.

Reference

<http://consumeraffairs.nic.in/WriteReadData/userfiles/file/NCDArticle.PDF>



World AIDS Day

Question: World AIDS day is observed on –

- (a) 01 December
- (b) 29 November
- (c) 2 December
- (d) 3 December

Ans (a)

Related facts:

- Every year on 1st December World Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome (AIDS) Day is being observed across the world.
- In 2015, World AIDS Day logo is “On the Fast Track to end AIDS”.
- According to the data released by Ministry of Health and Family welfare new infections have decreased by 66% to 86,000 in 2015.
- Rapid scale up of Antiretroviral Therapy (ART) has a very significant impact in producing a drop in AIDS-related deaths by 54% from 2007 to 2015.
- HIV prevalence among adults aged 15-49 years is estimated to have fallen from 0.34% to 0.26% in 2007-2015.
- Currently adult prevalence is 0.30% among males, and 0.22% among females.
- Adult prevalence varies significantly across the country with Manipur still having the highest estimated HIV adult prevalence at 1.15%.
- AIDS (AIDS: Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome) is a syndrome which is caused by HIV virus infection.
- As a result of the infection the individual's natural immunity to fight disease gets affected and person becomes prone to various diseases.
- Nationally, 21.17 lakhs people were living with HIV at the end of 2015. Among these, around 40% are females, while children (<15 years) account for 6.5%.

Reference:

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

<http://www.unaids.org/wad2015/>

<http://www.pib.gov.in/newsite/erelease.aspx>



Miscellaneous

America lifts its ban on oil exports

Question: The United States (US) has lifted a ban on oil exports after how many years?

- (a) 30
- (b) 20
- (c) 40
- (d) 50

Ans (c)

Related facts:

- On 19 December 2015, United States lifted a 40-year-old ban on export of oil after US government passed a bill to do so.
- The ban was lifted as President Barack Obama today signed into law the Omnibus USD 1.8 trillion spending package and tax bill for the current fiscal ending on September 30, 2016.
- The removal of 40-year-old ban on oil export is expected to benefit the energy deficit oil-importing countries.



Reference:

<http://indiatoday.intoday.in/story/us-lifts-40-year-old-ban-on-oil-export/1/551121.html>

<http://www.economist.com/news/finance-economics/21684531-light-sweet-compromise-puts-end-crude-market-distortions-america-lifts>

BSF plane crashed in Delhi

Ques : Recently which one of the following paramilitary personnel were killed in a plane crash held in Delhi?

- (a) BSF
- (b) CISF
- (c) CRPF
- (d) RPSF

Ans (a)

Related facts

- On December 22, 2015 Border Security Force (BSF) plane was crashed near the Delhi airport.
- 10 BSF officers, including seven technicians were killed in this accident.
- The plane took off from Delhi to Ranchi with technical staff and personnel of the BSF.



Reference

<http://www.thehindu.com/news/cities/Delhi/ranchibound-bsf-aircraft-crashes-in-dwarka/article8017586.ece>

<http://indianexpress.com/article/india/india-news-india/bsf-aircraft-crashes-at-dwarka-in-delhi/>

China successfully launches earth observation satellite Gaofen-4

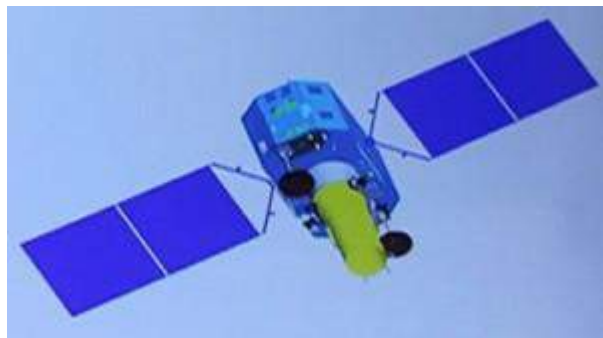
Question: What is the total number of satellites which is to be launched by china by the year 2020 as part of the country's high-definition (HD) earth observation Gaofen project?

- (a) 5
- (b) 6
- (c) 7
- (d) 4

Ans (c)

Related facts:

- On 29 December 2015, China successfully launched its “most sophisticated” observation satellite, Gaofen-4, as part of the country's high-definition earth observation project.
- It was launched from the Xichang Satellite Launch Centre in the south-western province of Sichuan.
- The Satellite was launched aboard a Long March-3B carrier rocket.
- It was the 222th space flight of the Long March rocket series and China's 19th space mission in year 2015.



Highlights of Gaofen-4:

1. Gaofen-4 is China's first geosynchronous orbit HD optical imaging satellite and the world's most sophisticated HD geosynchronous orbit remote sensing satellite.
 2. Different from Gaofen-1 and Gaofen-2 in low orbits (600-700 km) around the earth, Gaofen-4 is located at the orbit 36,000 kilometers away from the earth and moves synchronously with the earth.
 3. It will be used for disaster prevention and relief, surveillance of geological disasters and forest disasters, and meteorologic forecast.
 4. The satellite is equipped with a visible light and infrared staring optical imager with a common optical system.
 5. It is designed to operate for eight years.
- The Gaofen project aims to launch seven high-definition observation satellites before 2020.
 - Gaofen-1, the first satellite of the project, was launched in April 2013.
 - The Gaofen satellites are part of the China High-Resolution Earth Observation System (CHEOS).
 - The Earth Observation System and Data Center of China National Space Administration (EOSDC-CNSA) is responsible for organizing the construction of CHEOS.

Reference:

<http://www.spaceflightinsider.com/missions/earth-science/chinese-long-march-3b-rocket-successfully-launches-gaofen-4-earth-observation-satellite/>
<http://www.thehindubusinessline.com/news/science/china-launches-its-most-sophisticated-observation-satellite/article8041409.ece>
<http://www.india.com/news/world/china-launches-most-sophisticated-observation-satellite-gaofen-4-820396/>

Civil Aviation Ministry has given clearance for Greenfield airports

Question: The Civil Aviation Ministry has given clearance for how many Greenfield airports?

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

Ans(b)

Related facts:



- The Ministry of Civil Aviation has approved the construction of four greenfield airports in India. The airports are aimed to reduce passenger traffic of other major airports in the country.
- Three of the total four Greenfield airports will be set up in Andhra Pradesh.
- One Greenfield airport will be constructed at Dholera in Gujarat the new airport aims to reduce traffic of the Ahmedabad airport.
- The Andhra Pradesh government has announced separate aviation policy aimed at encouraging investment and basic infrastructure development.
- **Greenfield Airport:** It is a new airport which is constructed on an undeveloped site. It is built from scratch on a new location because the existing airport is unable to meet the traffic requirements.

Reference:

<http://aera.gov.in/documents/pdf/GREENFIELDAIRPORTPOLICY.pdf>

http://civilaviation.gov.in/sites/default/files/moca_000939_0.pdf

Delhi government decided to implement vehicle rationing plan

Question: In December 2015, to control air pollution in the national capital, Delhi government has decided to implement vehicle rationing plan, Its first phase will be implemented from-

- (a) 2 to 8 February 2016
- (b) 1 to 15 January 2016
- (c) 2 to 12 March 2016
- (d) 4 to 20 April 2016

Ans(b)

Related facts:

- On 4 December 2015 to control air pollution in the national capital, Delhi government has decided to implement vehicle rationing plan.
- According to this plan odd numbered vehicles would be allowed on the roads on odd dates “like 1, 3, 5 and so on” and even numbered vehicles on even dates “like 2, 4, 6 and so on”.
- Delhi government’s car rationing formula’s first phase will be tried out between January 1 and January 15, 2015 on the basis of dates from 8am to 8pm.
- The rules will not apply to emergency vehicles such as ambulances and also on Public vehicles and two-wheelers.

Reference:

<http://www.thehindu.com/news/cities/Delhi/delhi-to-try-out-oddeven-car-formula-from-jan-1/article7962728.ece>

<http://indiatoday.intoday.in/story/odd-even-formula-delhi-government-autos-buses-permit/1/545708.html>

<http://www.hindustantimes.com/cities/15-day-delhi-car-rationing-trial-from-january-1-formula-based-on-dates/story-oIR8WpDzUqIMv2G1Ri4M3J.html>



Uttar Pradesh government decided to ban polythene

Question: National Green Tribunal headquarters is located at-

- (a) Bhopal
- (b) New Delhi
- (c) Chennai
- (d) Pune

Ans (b)

Related facts:



- On 18 December 2015, Uttar Pradesh government has decided to enforce the ban on the use of polythene across the state to protect the environment and public health.
- The administration however has not specified the timeline as to when the ban will come into force.
- Decision in this regard was taken in a cabinet meeting chaired by Chief Minister Akhilesh Yadav as per the directives of National Green Tribunal and Allahabad High Court to prohibit its usage.
- The ban prohibits manufacturing; importing, purchasing and storage of all kinds of plastic carry bags in state.
- However, the ban will not be applicable on carry bags used for packaging purposes.
- On November 18, 2015 Allahabad High Court had directed the state government to issue a notification for complete ban on the sale of polythene across the state by December 31, 2015 in view of its negative impact on people's health as well as environment.

Reference:

http://www.ptinews.com/news/6876309_UP-govt-decides-to-ban-plastic-bags.html

<http://indianexpress.com/article/india/india-news-india/uttar-pradesh-govt-decides-to-ban-polythene/>

E-Tourist Visa Scheme Registers 2713 Per Cent Growth in November 2015

Question: Presently to how many countries does India provided the facility of E tourist Visa?

- (a) 110
- (b) 185
- (c) 95
- (d) 113

Ans (d)



Related facts:

- According to release made by Ministry of Tourism on 15 December 2015, A total of 83,501 foreign tourists arrived in the country on E-Tourist Visa in November 2015 registering a growth of 2713.4%.
- Tourist Visa on Arrival (TVoA) enabled by Electronic Travel Authorization (ETA), presently known as E-Tourist Visa scheme was launched on November 27, 2014.
- A total of 83,501 foreign tourists arrived in the country on E-Tourist Visa in November 2015 as compared to 2,968 during the month of October, 2014.
- At present e-Tourist Visa facility is available for citizens of 113 countries arriving at 16 Airports in India.
- The percentage shares of top 10 source countries availing e-Tourist Visa facilities during November, 2015 were as follows: UK (23.93%), USA (16.33%), Russian Fed. (8.17%), France (7.64%), Germany (5.60%), Australia (4.82%), Canada (4.71%), China (3.26%), Ukraine (2.03%) and Netherlands (1.75%).
- E-Tourist Visa fee structure has been revised w.e.f November 03, 2015.
- Bank charges have also been reduced.

Reference:

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=133223>

<http://www.financialexpress.com/article/travel/latest-updates-travel/e-tourist-visa-scheme-registers-2713-growth-in-november/179606/>

<http://www.thehindubusinessline.com/news/etourist-visa-scheme-registers-2713-growth-in-november/article7992296.ece>