

NAVATRA

Monthly Magazine on Current Events

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**BULLET
TRAIN**



**Mumbai-Ahmedabad
Ground Breaking Ceremony of High Speed Rail Project**

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 September to 30th September 2017) will benefit our beloved readers.

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

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NATIONAL

Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe's official visit to India

Question: From 13-14, Prime Minister Shinzo Abe of Japan, was on the official visit to India. At which of the following places 12th India-Japan Annual Summit was held during his visit?

- (a) Gandhinagar (b) Ahmedabad
(c) Surat (d) Rajkot



Answer: (a)

Related Facts:

- From 13-14 September, 2017, His Excellency Shinzo Abe, Prime Minister of Japan was on an official visit to India on September along with his wife Aki Abe.
- He was formally welcomed at Sardar Vallabh Bhai Patel International Airport, Ahmedabad.
- After this, he paid tribute to Mahatma Gandhi in Sabarmati Ashram in Ahmedabad.
- During this visit, he visited the ancient Syedi Syed Mosque in Ahmedabad with Prime Minister Narendra Modi.
- On September 14th, 2017 Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Shinzo Abe jointly laid the foundation stone of India's first high-speed rail project between Ahmedabad and Mumbai.
- For this project, Japan has given a loan of 88 thousand crores to India for 50 years at an interest rate of 0.1 percent.
- After this he visited the museum at Dandi cottage in Gandhinagar dedicated to Mahatma Gandhi.
- After this, 12th India-Japan Annual Summit was organised at Mahatma Mandir in Gandhinagar, Gujarat on the 14th of September.
- 15 MoUs / agreements between the two countries were signed after delegation level talks.
- Major agreements are as follows:
- Aims to cooperate and collaborate in the field of disaster risk reduction and to share the experiences, knowledge and policies on disaster prevention.
- To further strengthen bilateral relations and cooperation in the field of Japanese language education in India.
- To enhance connectivity and promote developmental projects in the North Eastern Region of India in an efficient and effective manner.

- Aims at implementing the commercial arrangement of "Cool EMS" service between the Japan Post and India Post through which fresh food can be sent from Japan to India in cool boxes to facilitate for the Japanese expatriates in India.
- To facilitate and accelerate the Japanese investments in India.
- To cooperate in infrastructure development programmes in the Mandal Bechraj-Khoraj region.
- It opens skies between India and Japan i.e. Indian and Japanese carriers can mount now unlimited number of flights to the selected cities of each other's countries.
- To conduct joint research and to establish an International Centre named as "DBT-AIST International Center for Translational & Environmental Research (DAICENTER)" at AIST, Japan in order to promote science and technology in both the institutions and countries.
- To promote research collaboration between DBT Research Institutes and AIST in the field of Life Science and Biotechnology.
- To facilitate and deepen international education cooperation and exchanges between Lakshmibai National Institute of Physical Education, India and Nippon Sport Science University, Japan.
- To facilitate and deepen international education cooperation and exchanges between both Sports Authority of India and Nippon Sport Science University, Japan.
- To strengthen strategic collaboration, joint research programmes and exchanges between Lakshmibai National Institute of Physical Education, India and University of Tsukuba, Japan.
- To strengthen strategic collaboration, joint research programme and exchanges between University of Tsukuba, Japan and Sports Authority of India.
- To promote institutional cooperation between RIS and IDE-JETRO to strengthen the capacity of research and effectiveness of dissemination of research findings.

Reference:

<http://www.mea.gov.in/incoming-visit-info.htm?1/1005/Visit+of+Prime+Minister+of+Japan+to+India+September+1314+2017>
<http://www.mea.gov.in/incoming-visit-detail.htm?28933/Visit+of+Prime+Minister+of+Japan+to+India+September+1314+2017>
http://www.pmindia.gov.in/en/news_updates/pm-modi-and-japanese-pm-abe-lay-foundation-stone-for-indias-first-high-speed-rail-project/?comment=disable
https://www.nayaindia.com/latest-news-in-hindi/modi-abe-visited-dandi-cottage.html?fromNewsdog=1&utm_source=NewsDog&utm_medium=referral

Pradhan Mantri Sahaj Bijli Har Ghar Yojana, Saubhagya Launched

Question: On September 25, Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched 'Pradhan Mantri Sahaj Bijli Har Ghar Yojana', "Saubhagya" scheme. Consider the following statements in regards to this:

- (i) It is a new scheme to ensure electricity for every household in the rural areas of the country only.
- (ii) The States and Union Territories are required to complete the works of household electrification by the 31st of December 2018.
- (iii) NTPC Ltd. will be the nodal agency for the operation of the scheme throughout the country.
- (iv) The beneficiaries for free electricity connections would be identified using Socio Economic and Caste Census (SECC) 2011 data.

Which of the above mentioned statements is or are true?

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

Answer: (b)

Related Facts:

- On September 25th, 2017, on the occasion of the birth anniversary of Pandit Deendayal Upadhyay, Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched the Pradhan Mantri Sahaj Bijli Har Ghar Yojana, 'Saubhagya' in New Delhi.
- The objective of this scheme is to provide electricity to every household in all rural and urban areas of the country.
- Under this scheme, the States and Union Territories are required to complete the works of household electrification by the 31st of December 2018.
- The total outlay of the project is Rs. 16, 320 crore while the Gross Budgetary Support (GBS) is Rs. 12,320 crore.
- The outlay for the rural households is Rs. 14,025 crore while the GBS is Rs. 10,587.50 crore.
- For the urban households the outlay is Rs. 2,295 crore while GBS is Rs. 1,732.50 crore.
- The Government of India will provide largely funds for the Scheme to all States/UTs.
- Under the scheme, the beneficiaries for free electricity connections would be identified using Socio Economic and Caste Census (SECC) 2011 data.
- However, un-electrified households not covered under the SECC data would also be provided electricity connections under the scheme on payment of Rs. 500 which shall be recovered by DISCOMs in 10 instalments through electricity bill.
- The solar power packs of 200 to 300 Wp with battery bank for un-electrified households located in remote and inaccessible areas, comprises of Five LED lights, One DC fan, One DC power plug. It also includes the Repair and Maintenance (R&M) for 5 years.
- For easy & accelerated implementation of the Scheme, modern technology shall be used for household survey by using Mobile App.
- The Rural Electrification Corporation Limited (REC) will remain the nodal agency for the operationalisation of the scheme throughout the country.

Reference:

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/hindirelease.aspx?relid=67317>



Sanitation Ranking -2017 of Higher Education Institutions

Question: Recently, An award ceremony based on 'SWACHHTA' Ranking 2017 of Higher Educational Institutions was held. In category of universities which of the Universities got the top place?

- (a) Manipal University, Jaipur
- (b) O.P. Jindal Global University, Sonipat
- (c) Dayal Bagh Educational Institute, Agra
- (d) Banaras Hindu University, Varanasi

Answer: (b)

Related Facts:

- On September 14th, 2017, an award ceremony based on 'SWACHHTA' Ranking 2017 of Higher Educational Institutions was held at New delhi.
- Union Human Resource Development Minister, Shri Prakash Javadekar gave away the prizes to the awardees.
- Parameters for a clean campus were formulated, like student/toilet ratio, kitchen hygiene, availability of running water, modernity of toilet & kitchen equipment, campus green cover, garbage disposal, disposal techniques and water supply systems in hostels and academic buildings.
- Apart from this, institutions those have adopted any neighboring locality or village to spread awareness & activities in Swachhta a certain weightage was given to them.
- About 3500 higher educational institutions responded to the online invitation, submitting all their details as per format.
- The top 174 institutions were shortlisted as per criteria and officials from UGC and AICTE inspected the premises of all 174 institutions.
- Finally, the top 25 institutions across various categories like Universities, Technical Institutions, Colleges and Government institutions were selected and they were awarded on the occasion.
- **Top 5 institutes in the category of universities**
 - (i) OP Jindal Global University, Sonipat, Haryana
 - (ii) Manipal University, Jaipur, Rajasthan
 - (iii) Chitkara University, Kalu Jhanda (Barotiwal), Solan, Himachal Pradesh
 - (iv) K.L.E. Academy of Higher Education and Research, Belgaum, Karnataka
 - (v) Dayalbagh Educational Institute, Agra, U.P.
- **Top 5 institutes in the category of colleges-**
 - (i) Kongu Arts and Science College, Erode, Tamilnadu
 - (ii) Vidya Pratishthan Arts, Commerce and Science College, MIDC Baramati, Pune, Maharashtra
 - (iii) Ramkrishna Mission Vivekananda College, Chennai, Tamilnadu
 - (iv) Vivekananda College of Arts and Sciences, Tiruchengode, Tamilnadu
 - (v) S.N.R. Sons College, Coimbatore, Tamilnadu
- **Top 5 institutes in the category of technical institutes-**
 - (i) Amrita Vishwa Vidyapeetham, Coimbatore, Tamilnadu
 - (ii) Koneru Laxmaya Education Foundation, Guntur, Andhra Pradesh
 - (iii) Sri Ramchandra Medical College and Research Institute, Chennai, Tamilnadu
 - (iv) Vivekananda College of Engineering for Women, Tiruchengode, Tamilnadu
 - (v) R.M.D. Engineering College, Chennai, Tamilnadu



- **Top 5 institutions in the category of government institutions**
 - (i) GB Pant University of Agriculture and Technology, Pantnagar, Uttarakhand
 - (ii) Madurai Kamaraj University, Madurai, Tamilnadu
 - (iii) Alagappa University, Alagappa Nagar, Karaikudi, Tamilnadu
 - (iv) National Institute of Technology, Hamirpur, Himachal Pradesh
 - (v) Indian Institute of Technology, Guwahati, Assam

Reference:

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=170773>

Karnataka Electric Vehicles & Electric Storage Policy 2017

Question: Who amongst the following is the first State in the country to implement the Electric Vehicle and Energy Storage Policy?

- (a) Andhra Pradesh (b) Karnataka (c) Maharashtra
(d) West Bengal

Answer: (b)

Related Facts:

- On September 13th, 2017, Karnataka became the first state of India to implement Electric Vehicle and Energy Storage Policy, 2017 with the approval of the policy by Cabinet.
- This policy is prepared by the Department of Micro and Small Enterprises after consultation with the stakeholders including the vehicle manufacturing industries.
- The aim of this policy is to promote research and development to increase in this sector and electric mobility.
- The government will make amendments to building by-laws for providing mandatory charging infrastructure in all high-rise buildings.
- The government will also create a special purpose vehicle to create more charging infrastructure in Bengaluru and Karnataka.
- A Karnataka Electric Mobility Research and Innovation Centre will also be setup to promote the research in the state.
- It is noteworthy that Government of India is promoting the use of Electric Vehicles (EVs) in India and has ambitious to convert all vehicles into electric powered by 2030.



Reference:

<http://www.thehindubusinessline.com/news/national/karnataka-cabinet-clears-electric-vehicle-energy-storage-policy/article9857949.ece>

Uttar Pradesh Medical Supplies Corporation (UPMSC)

Question: In the Uttar Pradesh Cabinet meeting held recently, it was decided to set up a new corporation 'Uttar Pradesh Medical Supplies Corporation' for buying medicines and equipment and other health related services in the state. Under which of the following Companies Act it will form?

- (a) Companies Act, 1956 (b) Companies Act, 1972
(c) Companies Act, 2011 (d) Companies Act, 2013

Answer (d)

Related Facts:



- On September 2nd, 2017 in the meeting of the State Cabinet, it was decided to set up a new corporation for buying, medical-equipment and other health related services in the state.
- The name of this new corporation will be 'Uttar Pradesh Medical Supplies Corporation'.
- It will be formed under the Companies Act, 2013.
- Its main purpose is to purchase medicines, equipments, consultants and non-services for medical, health and family welfare and other departments in the state and to purchase contracts under public-private partnership and purchase of other health related services.
- Drug storage centers and logistics will be established under the Corporation to ensure the storage and distribution of medicines.
- Transparent earnings and distribution system will be implemented through information technology.
- Its headquarters will be set up in Lucknow.
- The Corporation will be funded by 100 percent Uttar Pradesh government and will be started with a share capital of Rs. 20 crore.
- This equity will be divided into 2,00,00,000 (two crore) shares of Rs 10 each.
- Under the Companies Act, 2013, 11 promoters / directors of the company will hold one share of Rs 10 each and the remaining shares will be in the name of the governor through the state government.
- The above mentioned 11 shareholder corporations will also be the first Board of Directors, who will be nominated by the government on the basis of designation.
- The Central Drug Store established in the Directorate of Medical and Health will be abolished with the establishment of this corporation.

Reference:

http://information.up.nic.in/View_Hindinews.aspx?id=609

First Pension Adalat

Question: Recently, how many persons have been given ' Anubhav ' Award, 2017, for tendering remarkable services or works in their departments?

(a) 14 (b) 15 (c) 17 (d) 25

Answer- (c)

Related Facts:

- On September 19th, 2017, the Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) Development of North-Eastern Region (DoNER), MoS PMO, Personnel, Public Grievances & Pensions, Atomic Energy and Space, Dr Jitendra Singh inaugurated the first 'Pension Adalat.
- He also honored the Pensioners for their outstanding contribution towards 'Anubhav'.
- 'Anubhav' is a platform for retiring employees for sharing their experience of working with Government.
- Moving ahead from e-governance to m-governance, a Mobile App, created to avail the services of Pensioners' Portal was also launched by him.
- With this App, a superannuating Central Government official will be able to monitor the progress of his pension settlement, and retired officials will be able to self-assess their pension through the pension calculator and will also be able to register their grievances, if any, and get updates on orders issued by the Department.



- As a measure of welfare to the pensioners of Government of India, a workshop on Pre-Retirement Counseling (PRC) of 300 retiring Central Government employees was also held.
- The event was organized by Department of Pension & Pensioners' Welfare, Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions, Government of India.
- The objective of this workshop is to create awareness about the post-retirement entitlements as well as an advance planning for life after retirement.
- The ANUBHAV AWARDS 2017 has been given to 17 pensioners for their contribution towards creating institutional memory for the departments.
- It was the first of a series of Pension Adalats launched by the Pension Department in this programme.
- The objective of the Pension Adalat is to bring the aggrieved pensioner, the concerned department, the bank or CGHS representative, wherever relevant, on a common table so that such cases can be settled across the table within the framework of extant rules.

Reference:

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintHindiRelease.aspx?relid=67187>

Film Selected for the official entry of India in the Best Foreign Film category at the 90th Oscar Awards

Question: Which of the following Indian film has been chosen to represent India in the Best Foreign Language category at the 90th Academy Awards next year?

(a) Masan (b) Newton (c) Rustum (d) Neerja

Answer: (b)

Related facts:

- On September 22nd, 2017, Hindi film "Newton" has been chosen to represent India in the Best Foreign Language category at the 90th Academy Awards next year (2018).
- The film was unanimously selected by FFI's selection committee, headed by Telugu producer C V Reddy.
- Amit Masurkar is Director of the film.
- Film is on the issue to hold elections in a Chhattisgarh village despite the threat of Naxalite violence.
- Rajkumar Rao is in the lead role in the film.
- So far, No Indian film has ever won an Oscar.
- The last Indian film that made it to the final five in the Best Foreign Film category list was Ashutosh Gowariker's "Lagaan" in 2001.
- "Mother India" (1958) and "Salaam Bombay" (1989) are the other two Indian movies to have made it to the top five.
- Tamil film "Visaranai" by director Vetrimaaran was India's official submission to the Oscars last year.
- Each year, a jury selects Indian official entry for the best foreign language film under the Film Federation of India.
- It is notable that the 90th Academy Awards will be held on March 4, 2018, in Los Angeles.



Reference:

http://www.ptinews.com/news/9092706_-Newton-is-India-s-official-entry-to-Oscars-2018.html

Sustainable Mountain Development Summit (SMDS)

Question: Where did the Sustainable Mountain Development Summit (SMDS) was held on September 9th?

(a) Nainital (b) Dehradun (c) Shimla (d) Panchamari

Answer: (b)

Related Facts:

- On 9th September, 2017 Uttarakhand Chief Minister Trivendra Singh Rawat inaugurated the Sustainable Mountain Development Summit (SMDS) organized at a local hotel in Dehradun.
- The two-day (9-10-September, 2017) conference was organized on the occasion of Himalaya Day.
- It was organized by the State Planning Department.
- In the conference, the Chief Minister gave a Mantra (rule) of 3C (Care, conservation, cooperates) and '3P (Plan, Produce, promote) for Himachal protection.
- He has also announced setting up of two eco-task forces for plantation and environmental conservation in the State's Himalayan region.
- 200 ex-servicemen would be recruited to provide their services in these forces.
- On the occasion CM appealed to the scientists, environmentalists and other stakeholders to make efforts to do something for Rishpana river flowing through Dehradun so as to help the river gain its old glory.
- In ancient times, this river was known as river Rishiparna.
- He also launched the website "Transforming Uttarakhand" that shows positive thing happening in the state made by the planning department
- A book "Himalaya Diwas" written by the eminent environmentalist Anil Joshi was released on the occasion.
- Campaign 'One Person One Tree' is being conducted by the State Government over the past three months to ensure conservation of the Himalayas.



Reference:

<http://www.hindustantimes.com/dehradun/ex-servicemen-to-be-rope-in-for-planting-saplings-rawat/story-fcHlfLH3tAbIV0iS4jmFHO.html>

Government to grant Citizenship to Chakma-Hajon

Question: Which of the following States has the largest number of Chakma-Hajong refugees?

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

Answer: (c)

Related Facts:



- On September 13th, 2017, in a meeting chaired by Union Home Minister Rajnath Singh it was decided to grant Indian citizenship to Chakma and Hajong refugees.
- Nearly one lakh Chakma and Hajong refugees came from the erstwhile East Pakistan five decades ago and currently living in camps in the Northeast.
- Mostly, these refugees are staying in Arunachal Pradesh.
- National Security Advisor Ajit Doval, Union Minister of State for Home Kiren Rijiju and Chief Minister of Arunachal Pradesh Pema Khandu were present in the meeting.
- In 2015, the Centre was directed by the Supreme Court to confer citizenship to these refugees.
- It is notable that Chakmas and Hajongs were originally residents of Chittagong Hill Tracts in the erstwhile East Pakistan who left their homeland when it was submerged by the Kaptai dam project in the 1960s.

Reference:

<https://thewire.in/176951/government-to-grant-citizenship-to-chakmas/>

Approves for survey of Un-appraised Areas of Sedimentary Basins of India

Question: Recently, the Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs gave its approval for a significant project to acquire 48,243 Line Kilometer (LKM) 2D seismic data for appraisal of Indian sedimentary basins where limited data is available. The survey work will be carried out in how many States?

(a) 20 (b) 22 (c) 24 (d) 26

Answer- (c)

Related facts:

- On September 12th, 2017, the Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs chaired by the Prime Minister, Narendra Modi, gave its approval for a significant project to acquire 48,243 Line Kilometer (LKM) 2D seismic data for appraisal of Indian sedimentary basins where limited data is available.
- Survey work will be carried out in 24 States.
- The project will be implemented by NOCs, i.e. Oil India Limited (OIL) and Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC).
- OIL will conduct survey in North – Eastern States while remaining area will be covered by ONGC.
- The project will help in increasing the investments in domestic production of oil and gas.
- Total estimated cost of the entire project is Rs. 2932.99 crore spread over five years.
- Entire project is likely to be completed by 2019-20.
- Initially National Oil Companies (NOCs) are meeting the fund requirement from their own sources, which will be reimbursed by the Government.
- Directorate General of Hydrocarbons is monitoring the project and reviewing the progress on monthly basis.
- India has 26 sedimentary basins covering an area of 3.14 Million Sq Km spread over onland, shallow water and deep water.
- An area of about 1.502 Million Sq. Km i.e. 48% of total sedimentary basin area does not have adequate geo-scientific data.



Reference:

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=170710>

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintHindiRelease.aspx?relid=67074>

Road accidents in India-2016

Question: Recently, the Minister for Road Transport and Highways, Shipping, Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation Shri Nitin Gadkari the Ministry's annual publication 'Road Accidents in India-2016. According to release, which of the following cities had the highest number of road accidents?

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

Answer: (c)

Related Facts:

- On September 6th, 2017, the Minister for Road Transport and Highways, Shipping, Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation Shri Nitin Gadkari the Ministry's annual publication 'Road Accidents in India-2016.
- According to the report, the year 2006 seeing 4, 80,652 road accidents as against 5, 01,423 in 2015.
- Nearly 1, 50,785 persons were killed in 2016 as against 1, 46,133 in 2015.
- Road accidents in the country have decreased by around 4.1% however fatalities resulting from these accidents have risen by about 3.2% for the same period.
- There has been a 3 % reduction in road accidents between January to July 2017, along with a 4.75 % reduction in road accident fatalities.
- During 2016, 13 States accounted for 86 per cent of the total road accidents in the country.
- These are Tamil Nadu, MP, Karnataka, Maharashtra, Kerala, UP, AP, Rajasthan, Telangana, Gujarat, Chhattisgarh, West Bengal and Haryana.
- Similarly, 13 States accounted for 84 per cent of the total persons killed in road accidents during 2016.
- These are UP, Tamil Nadu, Maharashtra, Karnataka, Rajasthan, MP, AP, Gujarat, Telangana, West Bengal, Punjab, Haryana and Bihar.
- Chennai had the highest number of road accidents (7,486).
- Delhi had the highest number of deaths (1,591) due to road accidents.
- According to the publication, the age profile of road accident victims for 2016 reveals that the percentage accounted by different Youth age group is as follows-



Age group	Percentage
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18 – 35 years	46.3 per cent (69,851 persons)
18-45 years	68.6% (1,03,409 persons)
18-60 years	83.3 per cent (1,25,583 persons)

- Number of accidents per lakh population declined from 42.5 in 2010 to 37.9 in 2016.
- Number of persons injured per lakh population decreased from 44.8 in 2010 to 39.0 in 2016.
- Number of persons killed per lakh population marginally increased from 11.4 in 2010 to 11.9 in 2016.
- The National Highways accounted for 29.6 per cent of total road accidents and 34.5 per cent of total number of persons killed.
- The share of two wheelers in total road accidents has increased from 28.8 per cent in 2015 to 33.8 per cent in 2016.
- The other road users killed in road accidents are cars, taxies, vans and other light and medium motor vehicles – 17.9 per cent; trucks – 11.2 per cent; pedestrians – 10.5 per cent; buses – 6.6 per cent; auto rickshaws – 4.7 per cent; and others motor vehicles – 10.6 per cent.
- The share of two wheelers in total road accidents has increased from 28.8 per cent in 2015 to 33.8 per cent in 2016.

Reference:

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=170577>

State Visit of President of Republic of Belarus to India

Question: During the 11-12 September, 2017, the President of the Republic of Belarus remained on the State Visit of India. The President of Belarus is-

- (a) Mikhail Chigir (b) Alexander Lukashenko
(c) Vladimir Yermoshin (d) Andrey Kobikov

Answer: (b)

Related Facts:

- During September 11-12, 2017, President of the Republic of Belarus, H.E. Mr. A.G. Lukashenko, was at a State visit to the Republic of India.
- This visit took place in a year when Belarus and India are celebrating 25th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations.
- It is known that India's relations with Belarus have been traditionally warm and cordial.
- India was one of the first countries to recognize Belarus as independent country in 1991.
- Formal diplomatic relations were established and the Indian diplomatic mission in Minsk was opened in 1992 and Belarus opened its Mission in New Delhi in 1998.
- President Alexander Lukashenka was formally welcomed at the Rashtrapati Bhavan on September 12, 2017.
- After that he paid tribute to Mahatma Gandhi at Rajghat.
- During this visit, he met President Ramnath Kovind, Vice President Venkaiah Naidu and External Affairs Minister Sushma Swaraj.



- On September 12, 2017, delegation-level bilateral talks concluded at the Hyderabad House in New Delhi, between Prime Minister Narendra Modi and President Lukashenko.
- **After the talks, 10 MoUs / agreements / treaties signed between the two countries were signed-**
 1. Memorandum of Understanding between the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports of the Republic of India and the Ministry of Education of the Republic of Belarus.
 2. Memorandum of Understanding between the Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship of the Government of the Republic of India and the Ministry of Education of the Government of the Republic of Belarus for Cooperation in the Field of Vocational Education and Training.
 3. Agreement on Scientific and Technical Cooperation between Indian National Science Academy (INSA) and the National Academy of Sciences of Belarus.
 4. MoU between Indian Council of Agricultural Research, New Delhi, India and Belarusian State Agricultural Academy, Gorki, Belarus for Cooperation in Agricultural Research and Education.
 5. Protocol amending the Agreement between the Ministry of Agriculture & Farmer's Welfare of the Republic of India and the Ministry of Agriculture and Food of the Republic of Belarus signed on April 16, 2007.
 6. Programme of cooperation between the Government of Republic of India and the Government of Republic of Belarus in the field of culture for 2018-2020.
 7. MoU between M/o Petroleum & Natural Gas of the Republic of India and Belarusian State Concern of Oil and Chemistry in the Oil and Gas Sector.
 8. Memorandum of Understanding between JSV "Belzarubezhstroy" and National Buildings Construction Corporation Ltd.
 9. Memorandum of Understanding between JSC Belarusian Potash Company (BPC) and Indian Potash Ltd (IPL).
 10. Agreement on the implementation of MoU signed between OJSC Minsk Tractor Works and Kirloskar Oil Engines Ltd. India in Pune.

Reference:

<http://www.mea.gov.in/incoming-visit-detail.htm?28934/Visit+of+the+President+of+the+Republic+of+Belarus+11+12+September+2017>

Recruitment of women jawans to the Army

Question: Recently, the army approved the proposal for inducting women in military Police Corps. How many women will be recruited under this proposal?

(a) 500 (b) 700 (c) 800 (d) 1500

Answer: (c)

Related Facts:

- On September 8th, 2017, the army approved the proposal for recruitment of women in military Police Corps.
- Under this proposal, about 800 women will be recruited.
- Army will intake yearly 52 women.
- This is the first time that they will be recruited in the army.
- The decision is taken under the necessity to introduce women in the Corps of Military Police with increasing need for investigation of gender-specific allegations and crime.
- These women crops will be trained at *Corps Training Centre Bangalore*.



- It is worth mentioning that in the year 1992, the army commissioned women as an officer.
- They are working in non-combat role in the administrative, law, academic and engineering departments of the Army.

Reference:

<http://www.thehindu.com/news/national/army-to-induct-800-women-into-military-police/article19646140.ece>

Country's first Green Field Smart City

Question: The country's first green field smart city will be –

- (a) Ahmedabad Smart City
- (b) Bangalore Smart City
- (c) Ranchi Smart City
- (d) Jaipur Smart City

Answer: (c)

Related Facts:

- On September 9th, 2016, Vice-President Venkaiah Naidu laid the foundation building the nation's first Greenfield smart city project
- Ranchi will be the first Greenfield Smart City of the country
- This WiFi City will be equipped with Carbon free zone, modern traffic control system, World-class education hub, 24-hour electricity-water, toilet at every 200 meters, and many other facilities.
- The goal of the government is to provide housing to every person in the state by the year 2022.
- He also laid foundation stone for Urban Civic Tower, Convention Centre and Jharkhand Urban Planning and Management Institute in the Campus of Ranchi Smart City Area.
- On this occasion Vice President also released the master plan of Smart City, Jharkhand Urban Transport Corporation Limited and Real State Regulatory Authority website.
- State government has paid Rs 743 crore to Heavy Engineering Corporation (HEC) for 564 acre land for the Smart City project.
- The Smart City Project will be completed in a time span of two years with transparency.



Reference:

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=170641>

Maharatna status to Bharat Petroleum Corporation Ltd

Question: Recently, the panel constituted under the chairmanship of the Cabinet Secretary, Bharat Petroleum Corporation Ltd a public sector oil marketing company has been given Maharatna status. Now how many companies have Maharatna status?

- (a) 7 (b) 9 (c) 8 (d) 6

Answer: (c)

Related Facts:

- On September 8th, 2017, the panel constituted under the chairmanship of the Cabinet Secretary, it was decided to give Maharatna status to Bharat Petroleum Corporation Ltd (BPCL) a public sector oil marketing company,
- This effect will be announced soon by the Department of Public Enterprises of the Central Government.



- After this, the total number of Maharatna companies will be 8.
- At present, the Central Government has given the status of Maharatna to 7 Central PSUs which are as follows:
 - Bharat Heavy Electricals Ltd. (BHEL).
 - Coal India Ltd. (CIL).
 - Gail India Ltd. (GIL)
 - Indian Oil Corporation Ltd. (IOCL).
 - NTPC Ltd. (NTPC Ltd)
 - Oil and Natural Gas Ltd. (ONGC Ltd)
 - Indian Steel Authority Ltd. (SAIL)
- The Government had introduced the 'Navratna' scheme, in 1997, to identify Central Public Sector Enterprises (CPSEs) that had comparative advantages and to support them comparative advantages and to support them in their drive to become global giants.
- It aims to enable large public sector central undertakings (CPSE) to expand its business and emerge as the world's largest company.
- 'Maharatna' Central Public Sector Undertaking can invest Rs. 5000 crores in a project.
- The CPSEs fulfilling the following criteria are eligible to be considered for grant of Maharatna status:
 - Having Navratna status.
 - Listed on Indian stock exchange with minimum prescribed public shareholding under SEBI regulations.
 - Average annual turnover of more than Rs. 25,000 crore, during the last 3 years.
 - Average annual net worth of more than Rs. 15,000 crore, during the last 3 years.
 - Average annual net profit after tax of more than Rs. 5,000 crore, during the last 3 years.
 - Should have significant global presence/international operations.
 - In order to help the central government identify the central public sector undertakings with a comparatively beneficial situation and help them emerge as huge enterprises at the international level, the central government started the 'Navaratna' scheme in 1997.
- Criteria for grant of Navratna status:
 - The Miniratna Category – I and Schedule 'A' CPSEs, which have obtained 'excellent' or 'very good' rating under the Memorandum of Understanding system in three of the last five years, and have composite score of 60 or above in the six selected performance parameters, namely,
 - Net profit to net worth,
 - Manpower cost to total cost of production/services,
 - Profit before depreciation, interest and taxes to capital employed,
 - Profit before interest and taxes to turnover,
 - Earning per share and
 - Inter-sectoral performance.
- At present, the Central Government has given 17 CPSEs as 'Navaratnas' status, which are as follows:
 - (1) Bharat Electronics Ltd. (BEL).
 - (2) Indian Container Corporation Ltd. (CONCOR: Container Corporation of India Ltd.)
 - (3) Hindustan Aeronautics Ltd. (HAL).
 - (4) Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Ltd. (MTNL)
 - (5) National Building Construction Corporation Ltd. (NBCCL).
 - (6) Neyveli Lignite Corporation Ltd.

- (7) Power Finance Corporation Ltd.
- (8) National Steel Corporation Ltd.
- (9) Indian Shipping Corporation Ltd.
- (10) Bharat Petroleum Corporation Ltd.
- (11) Engineers India Ltd.
- (12) Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Ltd.
- (13) National Aluminum Company Ltd.
- (14) NMDC Ltd.
- (15) Oil India Ltd.
- (16) Power Grid Corporation of India Ltd.
- (17) Indian Rural Electrification Corporation Ltd.

Criteria for grant of Miniratna status :-

The CPSEs which have made profits in the last three years continuously and have positive net worth are eligible to be considered for grant of Miniratna status.

Currently there are 71 Miniratna.

Reference:

<http://www.financialexpress.com/industry/bharat-petroleum-set-to-get-maharatna-status/846141/>

Lucknow Metro

Question: Who amongst the following has designed the logo of the Lucknow Metro?

- (a) Pratima Yadav (b) Pooja Yadav (c) E. Sreedharan
- (d) Kumar Keshav

Answer: (b)

Related Facts:

- On September 5th, 2017, Uttar Pradesh's Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath and Union Home Minister Rajnath Singh inaugurated the Lucknow Metro Rail service from the primary section constructed from Charbagh to Transport Nagar.
- In the first phase, this service will be operated from Transport Nagar to Charbagh (8.5 km).
- The operational time for the METRO is from 6 a.m. to 10 p.m.
- All Metro stations currently operated will be elevated.
- Free Wi-Fi service will be available at all Metro stations.
- Travelers can also travel through Go smart card.
- Free mineral water will be available at all Metro stations.
- From 6th September, 2017, the metro travel will be accessible to the general public.
- The maximum speed of the Metro will be 80 km / h.
- For passenger safety, facilities like fire smoke detection and prevention and immediate emergency removal are available.
- The project Lucknow Metro was started in 2013.
- Lucknow Metro logo has been designed by Pooja Yadav.
- Uttar Pradesh Government will set up Uttar Pradesh Metro Rail Corporation for Metro Rail Operation in big cities of the state.



Reference:

<https://twitter.com/CMOfficeUP/status/904967753852997632>

INTERNATIONAL

Rationalization/Merger of the Government of India Press (GIPs) and their modernization

Question: Recently, The Union Cabinet chaired by the Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi has given its approval for rationalization/merger and modernization of 17 Government of India Presses (GIPs)/Units. In how many GPI's /Units, these 17 (GIPs)/units will be integrated and modified into-

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

Answer: (c)

Related Facts:

- On September 20th, 2017, The Union Cabinet chaired by the Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi has given its approval for rationalization/merger and modernization of 17 Government of India Presses (GIPs)/Units.
- Under this sanction, these 17 Government of India Presses (GIPs)/Units will be integrated into 5 Government of India Presses (GIPs)/Units.
- These 5 Presses will be redeveloped and modernised by monetisation of their surplus land at Rashtrapati Bhavan, Minto Road and Mayapuri, New Delhi, Nashik, Maharashtra and Temple Street, Kolkata, West Bengal.
- Land measuring 468.08 acres of the other merged Presses will be given to Land & Development Office, Ministry of Urban Development.
- Land measuring 56.67 acres of the Government of India Text Books Presses (GITBPs) at Chandigarh, Bhubaneswar and Mysuru will be returned to the respective State Governments.



Reference:

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=170944>

World's 100 Greatest Living Business Minds

Question: Recently, Forbes released a list of the 100 greatest living business minds (thinkers) in the world. How many Indians have been included in this list?

(a) 4 (b) 2 (c) 3 (d) 6

Answer- (c)

Related facts:

- On September 19th, 2017, Forbes released a list of the world's 100 Greatest Living Business Minds.
- In this list, former Tata Group Chairman Ratan Tata, ArcelorMittal Chairman and Chief Executive Officer Laxmi Mittal and Sun Microsystems Co-founder Vinod Khosla have been included.
- This list also include the name of U.S. President Donald Trump, Amazon's founder Jeff Bezos, Virgin Group founder Richard Branson, Berkshire Hathaway Chief Executive Officer Warren Buffett, Microsoft co-founder Bill Gates and Executive Chairman of News Corporation Rupert Murdoch.
- In addition, CNN founder Ted Turner, talk show Master Oprah Winfrey, Dell Technologies founder Michael Dell, PayPal, co-founder of Tesla and SpaceX Elon Musk, Starbucks



Chief Executive Officer Howard Schulz and Facebook co-founder Mark Zuckerberg also secured place in list.

- It is notable that Forbes Magazine released this special list to commemorate the completion of 100 years of its establishment.
- This list has specially included those who historically created such things which have a lasting impact on the world.
- It is known that Forbes Magazine was founded in 1917 by economic journalist Forbes and his colleague Walter Drey.

Reference:

<https://www.forbes.com/sites/forbespr/2017/09/19/forbes-unveils-special-centennial-magazine-issue-featuring-worlds-100-greatest-living-business-minds-and-their-words-of-wisdom-for-the-next-100-years/#3163c0a94dcf>

<https://www.forbes.com/100-greatest-business-minds>

Global Human Capital Report-2017

Question: What is the position of India in the 'Global Human Capital Report-2017' released by the World Economic Forum (WEF)?

(a) 95th (b) 103th (c) 85th (d) 60th

Answer: (b)

Related facts:

- On September 13th, 2017, the 'Global Human Capital Report' -2017 was released by the World Economic Forum (WEF) in Geneva.
- The Global Human Capital Index 2017 ranks 130 countries on how well they are developing their human capital on a scale from 0 (worst) to 100 (best).
- The measurement is based on four thematic dimensions and five distinct age groups to capture the full human capital potential profile of a country.
- **Four thematic dimensions are:**
 - I. Capacity, largely determined by past investment in formal education;
 - II. Deployment, the application and accumulation of skills through work;
 - III. Development, the formal education of the next generation workforce and continued upskilling and reskilling of existing workers; and
 - IV. Know-how, the breadth and depth of specialized skills-use at work.
- Five distinct age groups or generations: 0-14 years; 15-24 years; 25-54 years; 55-64 years; and 65 years and over.
- Under this to measure the human capital rank of any country, the level of knowledge and skill of the people of that country to make a significant contribution in the global financial system is kept in mind.
- In the Global Human Capital Report-2017, Norway (Score 77.12) is at the top.
- Norway is followed by Finland (Score: 77.07), Switzerland (Score: 76.48), America (Score: 74.84) Denmark (Score: 74.40) respectively.
- Yemen (Score-35.48) is ranked in the bottom at the 130th position in this report.
- Martania (score-41.19) is at 129th place, Senegal (score-43.33) at 128th, Ethiopia (score-44.44) at 127th and Mali (score -46.02) at 126th place.
- India is at 103rd place in the Global Human Capital Report, with the score of 55.29.



- While the last year India was at the 105th place in this index.
- Amongst neighboring countries of India, China is ranked 34th, Sri Lanka is 70th, Nepal 98th, Bangladesh 111th and Pakistan 125th.

Reference:

<https://www.weforum.org/reports/the-global-human-capital-report-2017>

Uranium Bank

Question- At which of the following places Uranium Bank was started recently by the International Atomic Energy Agency?

(a) Uzbekistan (b) Kazakhstan (c) Turkmenistan (d) Armenia

Answer: (b)

Related Facts:

- On August 29th, 2017, Uranium Bank was started by the International Atomic Energy Agency in Kazakhstan.
- It is world's first Low Enriched Uranium Bank under the auspices of the IAEA started for global cooperation.
- Its aim is to ensure the supply of nuclear fuel in spite of any hindrance caused in the various countries of the world.
- The IAEA LEU (Low Enriched Uranium) Bank will be a physical reserve of up to 90 metric tons of low enriched uranium.
- The IAEA LEU Bank will be located at the Ulba Metallurgical Plant in Oskemen, Kazakhstan.
- This low enriched uranium is suitable to make fuel for a typical light water reactor, the most widely used type of nuclear power reactor worldwide.
- The Bank is part of global efforts to create an assured supply of nuclear fuel to countries in case of disruption of the open market or of other existing supply arrangements for LEU.
- This bank has been started with the objective of keeping the smooth supply of the enriched uranium.
- According to the International Atomic Energy Agency, this storage is for those conditions where any member of the United Nations cannot achieve nuclear fuel for any reason.
- For this project financial aid was provided by the United States America, more than two dozen countries of the European Union, Kuwait, United Arab Emirates and Norway.
- The International Atomic Energy Agency was created on July 29, 1957, with its headquarters located in Vienna, Austria.



Reference:

<http://www.kazatomprom.kz/en/news/kazakh-president-opens-iaea-low-enriched-uranium-bank>

‘Ujala’ Scheme

Question: In which of the followings countries Energy Efficiency Services Limited (EESL), under Ministry of Power has launched UJALA Scheme?

(a) Myanmar (b) Malaysia (c) Bhutan (d) Nepal



Answer: (b)

Related facts:

- On September 6, 2017, Energy Efficiency Services Limited (EESL), under Ministry of Power, Government of India has launched UJALA Scheme in the State of Melaka, Malaysia.
- UJALA stands for “Unnat Jyoti by Affordable Lighting for All”.
- The Scheme was launched by Chief Minister of Melaka Datuk Seri Utama Ir. Hj. Idris Bin Hj.
- Under this scheme, each household in Melaka will get 10 high quality 9-watt LED bulbs at a cost of only RM 10, which is a special price and is almost half of what in begin offered in the market.
- Under the extensive and ever-expanding idea of UJALA, Energy Efficiency Services Limited (EESL) plans to distribute about 1 million 9W LED bulbs, which will replace 18W CFLs.
- The distribution of these LED bulbs will take place from 28 numbers of Japerun in the region.
- These Japerun are a unique community welfare and engagement centers, which are situated across the Melakan State.
- The initiative will have the logistical assistance and facilitation support from Green Growth Asia, which is a not for profit organization.
- The successful Indian model of UJALA scheme has become a sought-after example for the different nations of the world.
- UJALA scheme has taken a new stride and after UK its latest entrant is the Malaysian market.
- It is known that Prime Minister of India Sh. Narendra Modi on January 5, 2015 had launched the world's largest and most extensive LED distribution programme, UJALA (Unnat Jyoti by Affordable Lighting for All).
- Currently, over 25-crore LED bulbs have been distributed under the UJALA scheme in India, which are resulting in 33,828 mn kWh of energy savings per year.

Reference:

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=170569>

Economics

Foreign Debt Status Report on India 2016-17

Question: According to the ‘Foreign Debt Status Report on India 2016-17’ released in the end of March 2017 by Department of Economic Affairs, Ministry of Finance, , how many billion US dollars foreign debt to India?

- (a) 390.71 billion US dollars (b) 400.80 billion US dollars
(c) 471.9 billion US dollars (d) 350.60 billion US dollars

Ans: (c)

Related facts:-

- On September 15, 2017, the 23rd issue of the Annual Publication 'India's External Debt: A Status Report 2016-17' prepared by the Department of Economic Affairs, Ministry of Finance, Government of India was released.
- Repots presents a detailed analysis of India's External Debt position at end-March 2017, based on the data released by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) on June 30, 2017 and data and information available from other sources.
- **The salient features of the Report are:**
- India's external debt stock stood at US\$ 471.9 billion at end-March 2017, decreasing by US\$ 13.1 billion (2.7 per cent) over the level at end-March 2016.
- The decline in external debt was due to the decrease in long-term debt particularly NRI deposits and commercial borrowings.
- At end-March 2017, long-term external debt was US\$ 383.9 billion, showing a decrease of 4.4 per cent over the level at end-March 2016.
- Long-term external debt accounted for 81.4 per cent of total external debt at end-March 2017 as compared to 82.8 per cent at end-March 2016.
- Short-term external debt increased by 5.5 per cent to US\$ 88.0 billion at end-March 2017. This is mainly due to the increase in trade related credits, a major component of short-term debt with a share of 98.3 per cent.
- Government (sovereign) external debt increased from US\$ 93.4 billion at end-March 2016 to US\$ 95.8 billion at end-March 2017, and constituted 20.3 per cent of the total external debt, as compared to 19.3 per cent in the previous year.
- India's external debt has remained within manageable limits and the external debt situation has improved in 2016-17 over 2015-16 as indicated by the increase in foreign exchange reserves cover to debt to 78.4 per cent from 74.3 per cent, and fall in the external debt-GDP ratio to 20.2 per cent from 23.5 per cent.
- External debt of the country continues to be dominated by the long-term borrowings.
- It is worth noting that the World Bank's 'International Debt Statistics 2017', which has presented loan data for 2015, shows that India is still counted in 'less unsafe' countries.
- India's foreign credit indicators are better than other indebted or indebted developing countries.
- The ratio of external debt and gross national income to India is 23.4 percent, which reflects the fifth lowest level.
- Similarly in terms of cover provided by foreign exchange reserves for foreign debt, India was at the sixth highest level with 69.7 percent in year 2015.

Reference:

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=170828>

<http://www.pib.nic.in/newsite/hindirelease.aspx?relid=67148>

RuPay digital debit card

Question: Who amongst the following banks has recently announced the launch of RuPay-powered digital debit card?

- (a) State Bank of India (b) ICICI Bank (c) Paytm Payment Bank
(d) Airtel Payment Bank



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

Answer: (c)

Related Facts:

- On September 12th, 2017, announcing of the RuPay-powered digital debit card was made by Paytm Payment Bank, an *Indian electronic payment and e-commerce platform*.
- This debit card offers a free insurance cover of up to Rs 2 lakh in the case of death or permanent total disability.
- Paytm Payment Bank has made partnership with National Payments Corporation of India Limited (NPCI) to launch debit cards.
- This card will be available only to those customers whose KYC will be completed.
- This card will be completely digital.
- Customers will be able to make online payments through this card.
- Through this, all those merchants will get the facility like Paytm wallet on this card and through PPB digital debit card, payment can be made online at all places where debit cards and credit cards are accepted.

Reference:

<https://paytm.com/offer/blog/press-release/paytm-payments-bank-partners-with-npci-for-rupay-digital-card/>

CCEA approves implementation of Dairy Processing & Infrastructure Development Fund

Question: Recently, for which period, the Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs, has approved a Dairy Processing & Infrastructure Development Fund” (DIDF)?

- (a) 2017-18 to 2028-29 (b) 2016-17 to 2026-27
(c) 2017-18 to 2019-20 (d) 2016-19 to 2026-20

Ans: (a)

Related facts:-

- On 12th September, 2017, The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs, chaired by Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi has approved a Dairy Processing & Infrastructure Development Fund” (DIDF) with an outlay of Rs 10,881 crore during the period from 2017-18 to 2028-29.
- It is notable that as Consequent to the Union Budget 2017-18 announcement, Dairy Processing & Infrastructure Development Fund will be set up as a corpus of Rs 8004 crore with National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD).
- It is noteworthy that Rs 8004 crore shall be loan from NABARD to NDDDB/NCDC, Rs 2001 crore shall be end borrowers contribution, Rs 12 crore would be jointly contributed by NDDDB/NCDC and Rs 864 crore shall be contributed by DADF towards interest subvention.



Reference:

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=170712>

GST Advantage

Question: Recently, Bharti Airtel Limited's Business to Business (B2B) unit, Airtel Business launched a solution called GST Advantage. Which of the following is its partner?

- (a) State Bank of India (b) Clear tax (c) ICICI Bank
(d) Yes Bank

Answer: (b)

Related Facts:

- On September 7th, 2017, Business-to-Business (B2B) unit of Bharti Airtel Ltd, India's largest telecom service provider, Airtel Business launched a GST Advantage solution.
- GST Advantage has been prepared for small businesses and start ups.
- This solution is launched in the partnership of Clear tax.
- Through this, GST returns can be filed easily and accurately without any interruption.
- It is being made available for free to the existing Airtel Business customers.
- All existing customers need to resister on airtel.in/gst-advantage.
- Information on its helpdesk can be obtained from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m.
- The facility of uploading returns without bandwidth charges is provided to customers.
- Customers with GST Advantage will also get additional data free of cost.
- Bharti Airtel is the world's fourth largest mobile operator company.



Reference:

http://www.airtel.in/wps/wcm/connect/818867db-8d1f-4f98-a470-f43dffe73676/Bharti+Airtel+limited++-+Press+Release+dt.+September+07%2C+2017.pdf?MOD=AJPERES&CONVERT_TO=url&CACHEID=818867db-8d1f-4f98-a470-f43dffe73676

Estimates of Gross Domestic Product for the First Quarter (April-June) of 2017-18

Question: Recently, The Central Statistics Office (CSO), Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation has released the estimates of Gross Domestic Product(GDP) for the first quarter (April-June) Q1, of 2017-18, both at constant (2011-12) and current prices. According to this estimates the percentage of the GDP growth rate at constant (2011-12) prices was-

- (a) 5.7 percent (b) 6.5 percent (c) 5.5 percent (d) 7.1 percent

Answer: (a)

Related Facts:

- On September 7th, 2017, The Central Statistics Office (CSO), Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation has released the estimates of Gross Domestic Product(GDP) for the first quarter (April-June) Q1, of 2017-18, both at constant (2011-12) and current prices.
- The estimates have been released along with the corresponding quarterly estimates of expenditure components of the GDP.
- GDP at constant (2011-12) prices in Q1 of 2017-18 is estimated at 31.10 lakh crore, as against 29.42 lakh crore in Q1 of 2016-17.
- It is showing a growth rate of 5.7 percent.



- The economic activities which registered growth of over 7 percent in Q1 of 2017-18 over Q1 of 2016-17 are 'trade, hotels, transport & communication and services related to broadcasting', 'public administration, defence and other services' and 'electricity, gas, water supply & other utility services'.
- The growth in the 'agriculture, forestry and fishing', 'mining and quarrying', 'manufacturing', 'construction' and financial, insurance, real estate and professional services is estimated to be 2.3 per cent, (-) 0.7 percent, 1.2 per cent, 2.0 percent and 6.4 percent respectively during this period.
- GDP is derived by adding taxes on products net of subsidies on products to GVA at basic prices.
- GDP at current prices in Q1 of 2017-18 is estimated at 38.84 lakh crore, as against 35.55 lakh crore in Q1 of 2016-17, showing a growth rate of 9.3 percent.
- GVA at Basic Price at current prices in Q1 of 2017-18, is estimated at 35.77 lakh crore, as against 33.17 lakh crore in Q1, 2016-17, showing an increase of 7.9 percent.
- Growth in collection of Union excise duties, customs duties and service tax was 7.3 percent, 15.0 percent and 20.4 percent respectively in Q1 of 2017-18 as against 60.5 percent, 17.8 percent and 28.5 percent respectively in Q1 of 2016-17.

Reference:

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintHindiRelease.aspx?relid=66870>

Fixation of support price of the common paddy

Question: How much Minimum Support Price has been fixed for common paddy in recent meeting of the Uttar Pradesh cabinet?

- (a) Rs 1550 per Quintal (b) Rs 1565 per Quintal
(c) Rs 1570 per Quintal (d) Rs.1590 per Quintal

Ans: (a)

Related facts:-

- On August 29th, 2017, the Uttar Pradesh Government in its recent cabinet meeting has decided to fix Rs. 1550 per quintal as Minimum Support Price for Common Paddy and Rs. 1590 per quintal for Grade A Paddy.
- The state government has set a target of procuring 50 lakh metric tonne of paddy from farmers.
- For the first time farmer's registration is made compulsory before the sale of Paddy in Kharif marketing year 2017-18.
- Apart from this, the process of online procurement of Paddy is essentially started on all the purchasing agencies.
- Farmers will be paid at the rate of Rs.15 per quintal at the expenditure of the paddy unloading, filtration, cleaning etc.
- All purchase agencies pay the price of paddy online through R.T.G.S.
- In case of non-availability of R.T.G.S. payment will be done through account payee check.



Reference:

http://information.up.nic.in/View_Hindinews.aspx?id=570

Third Advance Estimates of Area and Production of various Horticulture Crops for the year 2016-17

Question: Recently, third advance estimation of area and production of various horticultural crops for 2016-17 was released by the Department of Agriculture, Cooperation and Farmers Welfare. According to this, what is the estimated crop production in the country for year 2016-2017?

- (a) 300 million tons (b) 265 million tons (c) 295 million tons
(d) 325 million tons

Answer: (a)

Related facts:-

- On August 31st b, 2017, third advance estimation of area and production of various horticultural crops for 2016-17 was released by the Department of Agriculture, Cooperation and Farmers Welfare.
- These estimates are based on information received from different States / Union Territories in the country.
- The record production of horticulture crops in the country during 2016-17 is estimated to be around 300 million tonnes which is 4.8% higher as compared to the previous year's i.e. 2015-16 estimates.
- The area under horticulture crops has increased from 24.5 million hectare to 25.1 million hectare, recording an increase of 2.6% over previous year.
- Fruit production during the current year is estimated to be record 93.7 million tonnes which is about 3.9% higher than the previous year.
- Production of vegetables is estimated to be record around 176 million tonnes which is 4.2% higher than the previous year.
- Record potato production in the country has increased from 43.4 million tonnes to 48.2 million tonnes in the current year which is 11.1% higher than the previous year.
- Major Potato growing States are Uttar Pradesh, West Bengal, Bihar, Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh and Punjab.
- During the year 2016-17, the estimated production of onion in the country is 21.7 million tonnes, which is 3.8 percent higher than the previous year.
- The major onion producing States are Maharashtra, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Bihar and Gujarat.
- During the current year tomato production is estimated to be around 19.5 million tonnes which is 4.3% higher than the previous year.
- The major tomato growing States are Madhya Pradesh, Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Odisha and Gujarat etc.
- Production of Aromatics & Medicinal Plants is estimated to be around 1.04 million tonnes which is 2% higher than the previous year.
- Record production of spices is estimated to be around 8.2 million tonnes which is 17.4% higher than the previous year.



Reference:

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintHindiRelease.aspx?relid=66857>

Scientific

DEFENSE/SCIENCE

China displayed its first unmanned combatant helicopter

Question: Recently, during the 4th China Helicopter Expo China displayed its first unmanned combatant helicopter for foreign buyers. What is the name of this helicopter?

(a) AT 400 F (b) AQ 500 W (c) AV 500 W (d) AN 500 W

Answer: (c)

Related facts:

- From 14-17 September During the 4th China Helicopter Expo held in Tianjin city of China, 2017, China displayed its first unmanned combat helicopter AV 500W for overseas buyers.
- This reconnaissance cum combat helicopter was displayed in this exhibition by the government aircraft maker Aviation Industry Corps of China.
- This helicopter has been developed and manufactured at Helicopter Research Institute and Development Institute of the Aviation Industry Corp of China (AVIC) in Jingdezhen, Jiangxi Province.
- Its length is 7.2 meters and it can fly with the maximum weight of 450 kg.
- Its maximum speed is 170 km / h and it can fly up to a height of 4,000 meters.
- The capacity of this helicopter is to carry arms and equipment weighing upto 120 kg.



Reference:

<http://www.thehindu.com/news/international/china-displays-its-first-unmanned-attack-helicopter/article19689895.ece>

INS Tarasa commissioned into the Indian Navy

Question: Recently, INS Tarasa, fourth and last of the follow-on Water Jet Fast Attack Craft commissioned into the Indian Navy. This Craft is built by-

- (a) Garden Reach Shipbuilders and Engineers Kolkata
(b) Cochin Shipyard Ltd. (c) Hindustan Shipyard Ltd.
(d) Mazagaon Dock Shipbuilders Ltd.

Answer- (a)

Related Facts:

- On September 26th, 2017, INS Tarasa, fourth and last of the follow-on Water Jet Fast Attack Craft commissioned into the Indian Navy.
- INS Tarasa, an upgrade of the Car Nicobar class Fast Attack Crafts is built the Garden Reach Shipbuilders and Engineers (GRSE), Kolkata.
- INS Tarasa is 50 m long and powered by three waterjets which give it speeds of over 35 knots (65 kmph).
- The ship is armed with a 30 mm main gun indigenously built, and a number of light, medium and heavy machine guns to undertake coastal defence operations.



- The ship is an ideal platform for missions like coastal and off-shore surveillance, EEZ Patrol, law enforcement as well as non-military missions such as Search and Rescue, Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief.
- The new INS Tarasa will be based at Mumbai under the operational control of Western Naval Command.
- It is notable that this is the second ship of the Indian Navy to be named INS Tarasa.
- The first INS Tarasa was in service of the Navy from 1999 to 2014.
- It was gifted to Seychelles Coast Guard as a symbol of India's partnership with friendly maritime nation in IOR.

Reference:

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=171117>

Astra Missile

Question: What is the target range of the Astra missile?

(a) 50-80 km (b) 80-90 km (c) 80-100 km (d) 150-200 km

Answer- (c)

Related Facts:

- From September 11th-14th, 2017, a total of seven trials of Astra Missile were conducted against Pilotless Target Aircrafts (PTA) successfully.
- Trials of Astra were successfully conducted over the Bay of Bengal, Off the Coast of Chandipur, Odisha.
- Missile was fired from Sukhoi-30 MKI fighter aircraft targeted Pilotless Aircrafts (PTA).
- It is developed by Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO).
- Astra is India's first beyond-visual-range (BVR) air-to-air missile indigenously designed.
- It has been designed to engage multiple targets at ranges between 80-100 kilometer.



Reference:

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=170810>

Submarine Kalvari

Question- Recently, the country's first indigenously built Scorpene-class submarine Kalvari built by the Mazagaon Docks Limited, handed over to the Indian Navy.

Submarines are being developed by the Indian government, with a joint effort of which of the following countries?

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

Answer: (b)

Related facts:

- On September 21st, 2017, the country's first indigenously built Scorpene-class submarine Kalvari handed over to the Indian Navy.
- Kalvari is the dreaded Tiger Shark, a deadly deep sea predator.
- The submarine was built by the Mazagaon Docks Limited (MDL) at Mumbai.
- As part of the project, MDL will build a total of six submarines and Kalvari is the first one.
- These Scorpene submarines are being built under Project 75.



- The state-of-art features of the Scorpene include superior stealth and the ability to launch a crippling attack on the enemy using precision guided weapons.
- The attack can be launched with torpedoes, as well as tube launched anti-ship missiles, whilst underwater or on surface.
- It can be operated in all seasons.
- This submarine is capable of carrying out various types of missions.
- These include anti-submarine warfare, anti-surface warfare information collection, field monitoring etc.
- 'Kalvari' is built from special steel, capable of withstanding high yield stress and having high tensile strength, thereby allowing them to withstand high hydrostatic force and enabling them to dive deeper to further enhance stealth.
- The ongoing project for the construction of six Scorpene class submarines has M/s DCNS of France, as Collaborator and includes 'Transfer of Technology', with M/s MDL as the 'Builder'.
- The cost of Scorpion submarines developed under Project-75 is approximately 3.5 billion dollars.
- The first Kalvari, which was also the first Indian submarine, was commissioned into the Indian Navy on 08 December 1967. She was decommissioned on 31 May 1996 after almost 30 years of yeoman service to the nation.

Reference:

<http://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/defence/first-scorpene-submarine-ins-kalvari-delivered-to-navy-to-be-commissioned-soon/articleshow/60783199.cms>

Exercise: Yudh Abhyas – 2017

Question: At which of the following places the joint military exercise 'Yudh Abhyas 2017' is being organized between the armies of India and America?

- (a) Joint Base Lewis McChord Washington
- (b) Jaisalmer, Rajasthan (c) Chaubatia, Uttarakhand
- (d) Bay of Bengal

Answer: (a)

Related facts:

- On September 16th, 2017, Exercise Yudh Abhyas – 2017, a joint military exercise between Indian and US armies commenced this morning at Joint Base Lewis McChord, Washington, USA.
- During the two week long exercise soldiers from both countries will hone their tactical skills in counter insurgency and counter terrorist operations under a joint brigade headquarter.
- The war exercise is the biggest exercise of joint military training and defense cooperation efforts between India and the US.
- It is the 13th edition of joint exercise being conducted in two countries in a rotational manner.
- The US contingent is being represented by Company of 5th Infantry Battalion from 20 Infantry Regiment of the US Army while the Indian side is being represented by soldiers of Gorkha Rifles from the Surya Command.
- Both sides will jointly train, plan and execute a series of well-developed tactical drills for neutralization of likely threats that may be encountered in UN peace keeping operations.



- Last year in 2016, this exercise was organized in India's Chaubatia Cantonment Uttarakhand.

Reference:

<https://twitter.com/adgpi/status/909034590802554880>

NASA's search Craft 'Cassini'

Question: Recently NASA's search craft 'Cassini' was destroyed by burning. This craft was sent to collect important information of which planet and its mysterious rings and the moon (satellites)?

(a) Venus (b) Mercury (c) Saturn (d) Jupiter

Ans: (c)

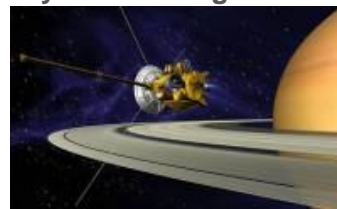
Related facts:-

- On September 15th, 2017, the US space agency (NASA) spacecraft Cassini was destroyed.
- NASA named it 'Grand Finale'.
- Cassini entered the Saturn's atmosphere with a speed of 11 lakh 30 thousand kilometers / hour and was destroyed in only a few seconds.
- This craft was sent to collect vital information of the Saturn and its mysterious rings and moons.
- The craft was sent from the NASA's Kennedy Space Center in Florida on October 15, 1997.
- The spacecraft arrived in the Saturn system on June 30, 2004.
- The Cassini search craft has traveled 7.9 billion km in space.
- This craft discovered seven new moons (satellites) of Saturn Methone, Pallene, Polydeuseas, Daphnis, Anthe, Aegaeon and S-2009.
- Detected the sea of liquid methane upon Titan, Saturn's largest satellite.
- In 1998, this craft passed near Venus and gathered vital information about its gravity.
- This spacecraft passed near the planet Jupiter in 2000 and took 26,000 photos of it.

Reference:

<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/science/nasa-cassini-saturn-titan-enceladus-crash-when-latest-updates-destroyed-a7948341.html>

<http://www.pbs.org/newshour/rundown/analysis-nasas-cassini-probe-must-destroyed/>



Advanced Portable Ventilator

Question: Which one of the following institutes recently developed advanced portable ventilator in collaboration with a private company?

(a) IIT, Delhi (b) IIT, Kanpur (c) AIIMS (d) IIT Madras

Answer: (c)

Related Facts:

- In September, 2017, All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) developed an advanced portable ventilator in collaboration with a private company.



- It is the world's first cheapest, small and non-oxygen cylinder working ventilator.
- This ventilator is so small that it can also be kept in pocket.
- This ventilator is capable of running from the air present in the atmosphere and does not require the supply of oxygen separately.
- It can be operated through the Android app.
- This invention is the brainchild of Dr Deepak Agrawal, professor in the department of neurosurgery at AIIMS, who joined with Diwakar Vaish, a robotics researcher at A-SET Robotics to make the device.

Reference:

<http://www.hindustantimes.com/science/delhi-robotic-engineer-develops-world-s-cheapest-pocket-ventilator/story-1g1Gpaw1q8XVvODpAsN0AO.html>

Country's first Advanced Homeopathy Virology Laboratory

Question: Recently, The Union Minister of State for AYUSH (Independent Charge) Shri Shripad Yesso Naik inaugurated India's first State of art virology laboratory at-

(a) Gandhinagar (b) Lucknow (c) Jaipur (d) Kolkata

Answer: (d)

Related Facts:

- On September 12th, 2017, The Union Minister of State for AYUSH (Independent Charge) Shri Shripad Yesso Naik inaugurated India's first State of art virology laboratory at Dr. Anjali Chatterjee Regional Research Institute for Homoeopathy in Kolkata.
- Laboratory has been established to develop new drugs and technologies in Homoeopathy to combat emerging challenges of viral diseases.
- Laboratory is the only one in India for conducting basic and fundamental research in Homoeopathy for viral diseases like influenza, Japanese encephalitis, dengue, chikungunya and swine flu. New drugs and technologies would also be developed here to combat emerging challenges of viral diseases.
- The laboratory, established at a cost of Rs. 8 crore.



Reference:

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=170725>

Navika Sagar Parikrama

Question: Who amongst the following recently flagged off 'Navika Sagar Parikrama'?

(a) Manohar Parrikar (b) Narendra Modi
(c) Nirmala Sitharaman (d) Admiral Sunil Lamba

Answer: (c)

Related Facts:

- On September 10th, 2017, Defense Minister Nirmala Sitharaman flagged off the Indian Navy's expedition 'Navika Sagar Parikrama'.



- This is the first-ever Indian circumnavigation of the globe by an all-women crew and shall attempt to circumnavigate the globe on Indian Navy's sailing vessel INSV Tarini.
- Indian Naval Sailing Vessel Tarini (INSV Tarini) started its journey with an all women crew from INS Mandovi boat pool, Goa.
- The expedition will be covered in five legs, with stop-overs at 4 ports viz. Fremantle (Australia), Lyttleton (New Zealand), Port Stanley (Falklands), and Cape Town (South Africa).
- The crew is expected to return to Goa in April 2018, on completion of the voyage.

Reference:

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=170645>

Sports

TENNIS

Korea Open-2017

Question: Who was the winner of the Singles Women's competition in recently concluded Korea Open Tennis Tournament?

- (a) Jelena Ostapenko (b) Johanna Larson (c) Kiki Bertens
(d) Luksika Kumkhum

Ans: (a)

Related facts:-

- Professional Women's Tennis Championship of 2017 'Korea Open' of the WTA Tour Session-2017, concluded in Seoul, Korea (September 18-24, 2017).
- **Competition Results:**
- **Women's singles**
- Winner-Jelena Ostapenko (Latvia)
- Runners up-Beatriz Haddad Maia (Brazil)
- **Women's doubles**
- Winner-Kiki Bertens (Netherlands) and Johanna Larson (Sweden)
- Runner up-Luksika Kumkhum and Peangtarn Plieuech (both Thailand)

Reference:

<http://www.wtatennis.com/tournament/2017-seoul>



St. Petersburg Open-2017

Question: Who is the men's singles winners of the St. Petersburg Open men's tennis competition concluded on March 24, 2017?

- (a) Damir Dzumhur (b) Roman Jebavy (c) Julithe Peralta
(d) Matwe Middelkoop

Answer: (a)

Related facts:



- The ATP Tour Session-2017, St Petersburg Open Competition of 2017, concluded in St. Petersburg, Russia. (September 18-24, 2017)
- **Competition Results:-**
- **Men's singles:-**
- Winner-Damir Dzumhur (Bosnia and Herzegovina)
- Runners up- Fabio Fognini (Italy)
- **Men's doubles**
- Winner-Roman Jebavy(Czech Republic) and Matwe Middelkoop (Netherlands)
- Runner up- Julio Peralta (Chile) and Horacio Zeballos (Argentina)

Reference:

<https://www.atpworldtour.com/en/tournaments/st-petersburg/568/overview>

MOSELLE OPEN-2017

Question: Who won the Men's singles title of the recently concluded MOSELLE Open Tennis Tournament?

- (a) Eduard Roger-Vasselin (b) Benoit Pire (c) Wesley Koolhof
(d) Peter Gzowski

Answer: (d)

Related facts:

- ATP Tour Session, 2017 men's tennis competition 'Moselle Open' concluded in the Metz France. (September 18-24, 2017)
- **Competition Results:**
- **Men's singles:**
- Winner-Peter Gzowski (Germany)
- Runners up- Benoit Pire (France)
- **Men's doubles:**
- Winner- Julien Benneteau and Eduard Roger-Vasselin (both France)
- Runner up-Wesley Koolhof (Netherlands) and Artem Sik (New Zealand)

Reference:

<https://www.atpworldtour.com/en/tournaments/metz/341/overview>



Torre Pan Pacific Open- 2017

Question: Who is the women singles winner of the Women's Tennis Tournament Torre Pan Pacific Open concluded on September 24th, 2017?

- (a) Andreja Klepac (b) Daria Gavrilova (c) Caroline Wozniacki
(d) Daria Kasatkina

Ans: (c)

Related facts:-



- The WTA Tour Session, 2017 Women's Tennis Tournament Tore Pan Pacific Open concluded in Tokyo Japan. (September 18-24, 2017)
- **Competition Results:**
- **Women's singles**
- Winner-Caroline Wozniacki (Denmark)
- Runner up-Anastasia Pavlyuchenkova (Russia)
- **Women's doubles**
- Winner-Andreja Klepac (Slovenia) and Maria Jose Martínez Sánchez (Spain)
- Runner up-Daria Gavrilova (Australia) and Daria Kasatkina (Russia)

Reference:

<http://www.wtatennis.com/tournament/2017-Tokyo>

Guangzhou International Women's Open

Question: Who is the winner of the singles competition of Guangzhou International Women's Tennis Tournament, held on September 23, 2017?

- (a) Alexandra Krunic (b) Zhang Shuai (c) Alice Mertens
(d) Demi scoores

Answer: (b)

Related facts:

- WTA Session, 2017 Women's Tennis Competition 'Guangzhou International Women's Open' concluded in Guangzhou, China. (September 18-23, 2017)
- **Competition Results:**
- **Women's singles**
- Winner-Zhang Shuai (China)
- Runner up- Alexander Krunic (Serbia)
- **Women's doubles**
- Winner-Alice Mertens (Belgium) and Demi Schuurs (Netherlands)
- Runner up- Monique Adamczak and Storm Sanders (both Australia)

Reference:

<http://www.wtatennis.com/tournament/2017-guangzhou>



CRICKET

India-Sri Lanka ODI series-2017

Question- In recently concluded India-Sri Lanka ODI series M.S Dhoni made a new world record for 100 stumping in ODIs. Who amongst the following is the first player to hold this record?

- (a) Adam Gilchrist (b) Mark Boucher
(c) Kumar Sangakara (d) Nayan Mongia



Answer: (c)**Related Facts:**

- A series of 5 ODIs concluded between India and Sri Lanka. (August 20 to September 3, 2017)
- India won the ODI series by 5-0 with a clean sweep.
- This is the first time that India has defeated Sri Lanka by 5-0 on their soil.
- Indian bowler Jaspreet Bumrah, who took 15 wickets in the series, was selected as Player of the Series.
- Most 330 runs in the series are scored by Indian captain Virat Kohli.
- The first ODI in the series was the 200th match of Sri Lankan Lasith Malinga's ODI career.
- The second ODI in the series was Sri Lanka's 800th ODI match.
- In this match Sri Lankan spinner Akila Dhananjay joined the club (Hall) of 5 wicket takers in a match.
- Akila received 54 runs in 10 overs with 6 wickets.
- S Dhoni in the second match and Bhuvneshwar Kumar shared an unbeaten 100-run partnership for the 8th wicket.
- This is the highest partnership for the 8th wicket in ODIs against any country.
- In the third match, Chamara Kapugedara became Sri Lanka's 20th ODI captain.
- In this match, Jaspreet Bumrah joined the club (haul) of 5-wicket takers in a match.
- Bumrah taken 5 wickets giving 27 runs in 10 overs.
- Lasith Malinga became Sri Lanka's 21st ODI captain in the fourth one-dayer.
- In the fourth one-dayer match Virat Kohli shared a 219-run partnership with Rohit Sharma.
- With this, Virat has become the first cricketer to have done 200 or more runs (double century partnership) 10 times in one-dayers.
- The fourth match of the series, M.S. Dhoni was the 300th ODI, in which he made the world record of not being out.
- This was the 73rd occasion that in an ODI when Dhoni return at not-out (49 runs).
- Earlier this record was in the name of Sri Lanka's Chaminda Vaas and South Africa's Shaun Pollack (72-72 times not out).
- In the fourth match, Sri Lanka lost by 168 runs, which is the biggest defeat on its own field in terms of runs.
- MS Dhoni in the fifth and final match of the series, stumped Akila Dhananjay on the ball of Yajuwendra Chahal, became the world's first cricketer to do 100 stumpings in ODIs.
- He broke the record of 99 stumpings of former Sri Lankan cricketer Kumar Sangakara
- Dhoni has caught 283 catches behind the wicket in 301 ODIs.
- In the fifth match, Virat Kohli made his 30th century (in the 186th innings of 194th match) of his ODI career by playing an unbeaten innings.
- With this, Kohli has reached the second place with Australia's Ricky Ponting in terms of hitting the most hundreds in one-dayers.
- In the same series, he had secured third place in the list by breaking the record of 28 centuries in Sri Lanka's Sanath Jayasuriya.
- In ODIs record for hitting maximum 49 ODI centuries is in the name of Sachin Tendulkar (India).
- In the fifth match, Indian bowler Bhuvneshwar Kumar joined the club (Haul) of takers of 5 wickets in a match.

- In 9.4 overs Bhuvneshwar got 5 wickets giving 42 runs.

Reference:

<http://www.bcci.tv/international/results>

India –Sri Lanka 20-20 Match, 2017

Question: Ruthless Indian team have achieved a unique sweep with 9-0 against Sri Lankan cricket team. Who amongst the following teams had achieved this target firstly?

(a) Australia (b) England (c) New Zealand (d) South Africa

Answer: (a)

Related Facts:

- On the Indian Cricket Team tour of Sri Lanka, the sole Twenty-20 match between India and Sri Lanka concluded on September 6th, 2017.
- India won the Twenty-20 match by 7 wickets.
- Virat Kohli, who scored the highest 82 runs, was selected as Player of the Series.
- Yuzvendra Chahal (India) was the most wicket taker (3 wickets).
- It was Virat's 50th Twenty-20 match.
- Indian team has made a new record by winning 9-0 in a tour involving all three formats.
- With this, India became the world's first country to perform such kind of performance outside the nation.
- India won the Test series by 3-0, ODI series by 5-0 and Twenty-20 matches by 1-0.
- Although Australia cricket team (beat Pakistan in 2009-10) is the first team to clean sweep with 9-0 in all three formats.
- Captancy of Sri Lanka cricket team continued to change in this series due to the circumstances.
- Rangana Herath and Dinesh Chandimal (regular captain) in the Test series, while Upul Tharanga (regular captain) Chamara Kapugedara and Lasith Malinga took the captancy in one-day series.
- The Captancy of Twenty-20 match was in the hand of Upul Tharanga.



Reference:

<http://www.espnricinfo.com/sri-lanka-v-india-2017/engine/series/1109590.html>

CHESS

National Junior (U-19) chess championship

Question: Recently in which city, National Junior (U-19) chess championship- 2017 was concluded?

(a) Patna, Bihar (b) Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh
(c) Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh (d) Ahmedabad, Gujarat

Answer: (b)

Related Facts:

- From September 3-11, 2017, the 47th edition of the



National Junior Championship and the 32nd National Junior Girl's Chess (U-19) championship concluded at the Patliputra Sports Complex in Patna, Bihar.

- **Competition Results:-**

- **Junior open category**

- Winner – International Master Harsha Bharathakoti (Telangana)
- Second place- Karthik Venkataraman (Fide Master), Andhra Pradesh

- **Junior Girl Category**

- Winner-International Master M. Mahalakshmi (Tamil Nadu)
- Second place-Sakshi Chitalange (IM), Maharashtra

Reference:

<http://aicf.in/national-juniors-2017/>

BADMINTON

Japan Open Super Series-2017

Question: Who is the men's singles winner in recently concluded Japan Open Super Series Badminton competition?

- (a) Shrikant Kidambi (b) Victor Axelsen (c) Lee Chong Wei
(d) Lin Dan

Answer: (b)

Related facts:

- BWF Super Series of the Session-2017 Japan Open Badminton Competition concluded in Tokyo Japan (September 19-24, 2017)
- **Competition Results:**
- **Men's singles**
- Winner-Victor Axelsen (Denmark)
- Runners up- Lee Chong Wei (Malaysia)
- **Women's singles**
- Winner-Carolina Marin (Spain)
- Runner up- He Bingjiao (China)
- **Men's doubles**
- Winner-Marcus Fern Gideon and Kevin Sanja Sukamuljo (both Indonesia)
- Runner-up, Takuto Inoue and Yuki Kaneko (both Japan)
- **Women's doubles**
- Winner-Misaki Matsutomo and Ayaka Takahashi (both Japan)
- Runner up-Kim Ha-Na and Hee-Yong Kong (both South Korea)
- **Mixed doubles**
- Winner-Wang Yilyu and Huang Dongping (both Japan)
- Runners up- Takuro Hoki and Sayaka Hirota (both Japan).

Reference:

<http://bwfworldsuperseries.com/results/2669/dai-hatsu-yonex-japan-open/podium>



Korea Open Super Series

Question: Who amongst the following was defeated by PV Sindhu in the women's singles final of the recently concluded Korea Open Super Series Badminton Competition?

(a) *Chang Ye Na* (b) *Yu Xiaohan* (c) *Huang Yaqiong* (d) *Nozomi Okuhara*

Answer: (d)

Related facts:

- BWF Super Series season, 2017 'Korea Open Super Series' concluded in Seoul South Korea (September 12-17, 2017)
- **Competition Results:**
- Winner-Anthony Sinisuka Ginting (Indonesia)
- Runners up-Jonatan Christie (Indonesia)
- **Women's singles**
- Winner-P.V. Sindhu (India)
- Runners up-Nozomi Okuhara (Japan)
- **Men's doubles**
- Winner-Matthias Boe and Carsten Mogensen (both Denmark)
- Runners up-Marcus Fernaldi Gideon and Kevin Sanjaya Sukamuljo (both Indonesia)
- **Women's doubles**
- Winner- *Huang Yaqiong and Yu Xiaohan*(both China)
- Runners up- *Chang Ye Na and Lee So Hee* (both D. Korea)
- **Mixed doubles**
- Winner: *Praveen Jordan and Debby Susanto* (both Indonesia)
- Runners up- *Wang Yilu and Huang Dongping* (both China)
- V. Sindhu is the first Indian player to win this tournament.
- This is the third of Sindhu's career and the second Super Series title of 2017.
- Recently, Sindhu was defeated by Nozomi Okuhara in the final of the World Badminton Championship.



Reference:

<http://bwfworldsuperseries.com/results/2668/victor-korea-open/podium>

FORMULA ONE

Singapore Grand Prix-2017

Question: Who won the recently concluded Singapore Grand Prix Formula One car race?

(a) Louis Hamilton (b) Daniel Ricciardo (c) Nico Rosberg (d) Sebastian Vettel

Answer: (a)

Related facts:

- Formula One race Singapore Grand Prix concluded in Marina Bay Street Circuit, Singapore (September 17, 2017)
- Winner- Louis Hamilton, British player of German team Mercedes-Benz
- This is Hamilton's third consecutive victory.
- Hamilton is running at the top with 263 points in the race for Formula One championship.
- At the same time, his team Mercedes-Benz is also at the top with 475 points.



Reference:

<https://www.formula1.com/en/results.html/2017/races/972/singapore.html>

SPORTS PERSONALITY

Karnam Malleshwari

Question: Recently, Prime Minister Narendra Modi has linked, Karnam Malleshwari, the first Indian woman weight lifter (athlete) to win a bronze medal in the Olympics with which of the following campaigns?

- (a) Swacchta Mission (b) Door-locked campaign (c) Beti Bachao Beti Padhao Yojana
(d) Sports campaign

Answer: (a)

Related Facts:

- On September 19th, 2017, Prime Minister Narendra Modi linked the first Indian woman weight lifter (athlete) Karnam Malleshwari with Central government's Swacchta Mission.
- It is notable that On September 19, 2000, Malleswari in 69 kg weight class, lifted 240 kg to win the Sydney Olympics Bronze medal.
- She became the first woman athlete to win a medal in the Olympics.
- On completion and to celebrate her 17th anniversary of Sydney Olympics win, the Prime Minister Narendra Modi invited her to join the Swacchta mission.



Reference:

<http://www.timesnownews.com/sports/article/first-female-olympic-medal-winner-karnam-malleshwari-celebrates-17-years-of-victory-by-joining/93210>

Eight year Ban on Indian female runner

Question- Who amongst the following is the runner banned for 8 years by the National Anti-Doping Agency (NADA) on September 11th, 2017?



(a) Man deep Kaur (b) Tintu Lukka (c) Puvamma (d) Priyanka Pawar

Answer: (d)

Related Facts:

- The disciplinary panel of the National Anti-Doping Agency (NADA) banned the Indian runner Priyanka Pawar for eight years.
- Priyanka's samples had tested positive for mephentermine (a stimulant) which is a restricted force-enhancing drug.
- This sample was taken during last year's inter-state athletics championship (Hyderabad) in June-July and since then there was temporary restriction on Priyanka.
- Suspension will be effective from July 2016.
- As per the NADA code, athletes caught for a second anti-doping rule violation get a maximum suspension from eight years to maximum life ban.
- Earlier, Priyanka had tested positive for anabolic steroids in the dope tests conducted in 2011.
- At that time she was banned for two years.
- Priyanka was part of the Indian women's team clinched the gold medal for India in the women's 4x400m relay event at the Asian Games-2014.

Reference:

<http://www.hindustantimes.com/other-sports/asian-games-gold-winner-priyanka-panwar-handed-8-year-ban-for-failed-drug-test/story-ifcgjyqclx8qWCit1gWwIN.html>

<http://www.uttarpradesh.org/india/indian-athlete-priyanka-pawar-dope-test-ban-nada-8-year-32424/>

Short Notes

PERSONALITIES

Brand Ambassador for Swachhata Hi Seva

Question: Who amongst the following has recently become brand ambassador of Srinagar Municipal Corporation under 'Swachhta Hi Seva Abhiyan'?

(a) Sahique Ahmed (b) Bilal Dar (c) Ahmed Hussein (d) Faisal Shah

Answer: (b)

Related Facts:

- On September 25th, 2017, Bilal Dar, a young boy from Srinagar has become the brand ambassador for Srinagar Municipal Corporation.
- Dar has been contributing to the 'Swachhta Abhiyan' since the age of 12.
- He found a mention in the Hon'ble Prime Minister's recent Mann Ki Baat.

Reference:

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=171099>

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintHindiRelease.aspx?relid=67313>



Shakeela

Question: Shakeela passed away recently. She was-

(a) Environmentist (b) Classical Music Singer (c) Actress (d) Social Worker

Answer: (c)

Related Facts:

- On September 20th, 2017, Famous Bollywood Actress Shakeela passed away. She was 82 years old.
- She worked Dev Anand's CID and Gurudatta's Aar-Paar.
- Apart from this, her other popular films include 'Shriman Satyawadi', 'China Town', 'Post Box 999', 'Dastaan', 'Sindbad the Sailor', 'Rajrani Damyanti', 'Aagosh', 'Shahenshah', 'Raj Mahal', 'Armaan', 'Alibaba Aur Chaalis Chor', 'Lalpari', 'Roop Kumari', 'Hatim Tai' and 'Al-Hilal'.
- From "Babuji Dheere Chalna" she became quite famous.



Reference:

<http://indianexpress.com/article/entertainment/bollywood/bollywood-actress-shakila-passes-away-4853953/>

Comptroller and Auditor-General of India

Question: Who amongst the following recently swore in as the new Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) of India?

(a) Rajiv Goba (b) Rajiv Kumar (c) Rajiv Maharishi (d) Akal Kumar Jyoti

Answer: (c)

Related Facts:

- Rajiv Mehrishi was sworn in as the Comptroller and Auditor-General of India today (September 25, 2017).
- He took and subscribed to the oath of office before the President at a ceremony held at Rashtrapati Bhavan.
- Shri Rajiv Mehrishi will have a tenure till August 7, 2020.



Reference:

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/erecontent.aspx?relid=171075>

<http://www.livehindustan.com/national/story-rajiv-mehrishi-takes-charge-as-the-comptroller-and-auditor-general-of-india-1567816.html>

<http://www.thehindubusinessline.com/news/rajiv-mehrishi-takes-oath-as-the-new-comptroller-and-auditor-general/article9871511.ece>

Dr. K. S. Chugh

Question: Dr. K. S. Chugh recently passed away. He was-

(a) Generation of Dynamics (b) Father of Nephrology
(c) The father of Cardiology (d) DNA finger printing



Answer: (b)

Related Facts:

- On September 17, 2017, Dr. Kirpal Singh Chugh, who was fondly called the 'father of nephrology in India', passed away here today at the age of 85.
- Chugh was suffering from blood cancer.
- He was a recipient of several national and international awards, including the Padma Shri, the fourth highest civilian award, in 2000.

Reference:

http://www.ptinews.com/news/9078471_K-S-Chugh—father-of-nephrology-in-India—dead.html

First woman president of Singapore

Question: Who amongst the following recently took over as the first woman president of Singapore?

- (a) Taslima Yakub (b) Halimah Yacob (c) Yasmin Malik
(d) Hasina Yakub

Ans: (b)

Related facts:-

- On September 14, 2017, Halimah Yacob assumed charge as the first woman president of Singapore.
- Her tenure will be for 6 years.
- She was the President of the Singapore Parliament from January 2013 to August 2017.
- At this post, she replaced Tony Tan.

Reference:

<http://www.thehindu.com/news/international/singapore-swears-in-first-woman-president-amid-criticism/article19684303.ece>



Women allowed to marry non-Muslims

Question: Which of the following country's government has recently allowed Muslim women to marry non-Muslims?

- (a) Ethiopia (b) Tunisia (c) Yemen (d) Indonesia

Answer: (b)

Related Facts:

- In September 2017, the Tunisia government allowed Muslim women to marry non-Muslims.
- The order comes into force immediately.
- Earlier, President Beji Cad Asbasi had abolished the law lifting of the marriage restriction enacted in the year 1973.
- So far Tunisia had a provision that if a non-Muslim person wishes to marry a Tunisian Muslim woman, he had to accept Islam first.
- In Arab countries Tunisia is considered to be the most progressive country for women's rights.
- 99% of the population in this country is Muslim.

Reference:

<http://www.bbc.com/news/world-africa-41278610>



Arjan Singh

Question: Arjan Singh passed away recently. Consider the following statements in regards to him-

(i) He died on September 16th, 2017.

(ii) He was the first officer of the Air Force and non-military army who was given the rank of Marshal.

(iii) He is known to play a key role in the Indo-Chinese War of 1962.

Which of the aforesaid statements is / are correct?

(a) Only (i) and (iii) (b) Only (i) and (ii) (c) .Only (ii) and (iii)

(d) All of the above

Answer: (b)

Related Facts:

- On September 16th, 2017; former Air Chief and the sole officer of the Air Force, promoted to the five star rank Marshal Arjan Singh, died. He was 98 years old.
- Born on April 15th 1919, in Lyallpur.
- On August 1st, 2017, Air chief marshal Arjan Singh took over as the IAF's third Indian Chief of Air staff.
- He was Chief of the Air Force from 1964 to 1969.
- He played a crucial role in the Indo-Pak war in the year 1965 and for his meritorious service he was awarded with Padma Vibhushan.
- Apart from this he also participated in World War II.
- He was honored with the rank of Marshal Rank of the Indian Air Force in the year 2002.
- He was the first officer of the Air Force and non-military army who was given the rank of Marshall.
- Marshall Rank is equivalent to Army's Field Marshal.
- K.M. Cariappa and Sam Manekshaw (First) were two army officers to hold the highest Rank of Field Marshal.



Reference:

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=170853>

Working president of UP Hindi Sansthan

Question: Who has recently been made the acting president of Uttar Pradesh Hindi Institute?

(a) Uday Pratap Singh (b) Sadanand Gupta (c) Neeraj Singh

(d) Abhyanand Singh

Answer: (b)

Related facts:

- On September 13th, 2017 Renowned Hindi litterateur Sadanand Gupta has been appointed as working president of the Uttar Pradesh Hindi Sansthan.
- At this post, he will replace Uday Pratap Singh.

Reference:

<http://www.uniindia.com/sadanand-gupta-made-working-president-of-up-hindi-sansthan/states/news/988383.html>



Vasant Narasimhan

Question: Recently, Vasant Narasimhan of Indian origin was appointed Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of which of the following major pharma company?

(a) Ranbaxy Laboratories (b) Novartis (c) Lupine (d) Sunpharma

Answer: (b)

Related Facts:

- On September 4th, 2017, Vasant Narasimhan of Indian origin was appointed the new Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of the famous Swiss pharma company Novartis.
- His tenure will begin on February 1, 2018.
- In present he is Global Head of Drug Development and Chief Medical Officer for Novartis since February 1, 2016.
- On this post, he will replace Joseph Jimenez.



Reference:

<https://www.novartis.com/news/media-releases/novartis-announces-ceo-joseph-jimenez-retire-novartis-2018-vasant-narasimhan>

<https://www.novartis.com/sites/www.novartis.com/files/cv-vasant-narasimhan-en.pdf>

Harsh Kumar Jain

Question: Harsh Kumar Jain has been appointed as the next Ambassador of India to-

(a) Kazakhstan Republic (b) Slovak Republic (c) South Korea
(d) Canada

Answer: (b)

Related facts:

- On September 14th, 2017, according to the release issued by the Ministry of External Affairs Harsh Kumar Jain, has been appointed as the next Ambassador of India to the Slovak Republic.
- Presently he is Ambassador of India to the Republic of Kazakhstan.
- He is the IFS officer of 1993 batch.
- The Slovak Republic is a country in the continent of Europe, whose capital is Bratislava.
- Its currency is EURO.



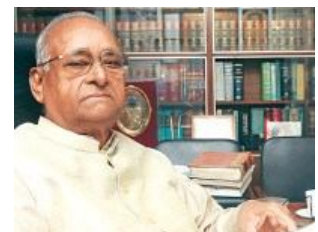
Reference:

<http://www.mea.gov.in/press-releases.htm?dtl/28951/Harsh+Kumar+Jain+appointed+as+the+next+Ambassador+of+India+to+the+Slovak+Republic>

PP Rao

Question: Recently P.P. Rao passed away. He was-

(a) Environmental Expert (b) Constitution Expert
(c) Agricultural Expert (d) Historian



Answer- (b)

Related Facts:

- On September 13th, 2017, the senior advocate and constitutional law expert P.P. Rao passed away. He was of 84.
- He had completed 50 years of his legal practice in July 2017.
- He was elected president of the Supreme Court Bar Association in 1991.
- He was awarded Padma Bhushan by the Central Government in the year 2006.

Reference:

<http://indiatoday.intoday.in/story/senior-advocate-p-p-rao-passes-away/1/1047252.html>
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pavani_Parameswara_Rao

New Chairman and Managing Director of United India Insurance Company Ltd

Question: Recently, who has been appointed as new Chairman and Managing Director of the United India Insurance Company Ltd. by the Central Government?

- (a) Deepak Sharma
- (b) T. S. Vijayan
- (c) M. Nagaraja Sharma
- (d) Deshbandhu Gupta



Answer: (c)

Related Facts:

- On September 13th, 2017, the Central Government appointed M. Nagaraja Sharma as Chairman cum Managing Director (CMD) of United India Insurance Company Limited.
- His term will be of 5 years.
- At present, he is General Manager (GM) In the Oriental Insurance Company Ltd.

Reference:

<https://uiic.co.in/aboutus/top-management>
<http://indiatoday.intoday.in/story/m-nagaraja-sharma-new-chairman-and-md-of-united-india/1/1046609.html>

New Chairperson of PTI

Question: Who has recently been elected as the new chairperson of the Indian Press Trust of India (PTI)?

- (a) Vineet Jain (b) Riyadh Mathew (c) Vivek Goenka (d) N. ravi

Answer- (c)

Related Facts:

- On September 7th, 2017, Viveck Goenka, Chairman and Managing Director of the Express Group unanimously elected as Chairman of Press Trust of India.
- At this post Goenka replaced Riyadh Mathew.
- Ravi, a former Editor-in-Chief of The Hindu daily, has unanimously been elected as Vice Chairman of PTI.
- It is Noteworthy that PTI is India's leading news agency, established in the year 1947.



Reference:

http://www.ptinews.com/news/9048595_Viveck-Goenka-of-Indian-Express-elected-new-PTI-Chairman-Hindu-s-N-Ravi-is-Vice-Chairman

Ramanand Sengupta

Question- Ramanand Sengupta passed away recently. He was a-

(a) Historian (b) Literary (c) Actor (d) Cinematographer

Ans: (d)

Related Facts:

- On August 23rd, 2017, India's oldest cinematographer Ramanand Sengupta passed away. He was 101 years old.
- He was born on May 8th, 1916, in Dhaka, Bangladesh.
- His first film as a full time cinematographer was Purbaraag, directed by Arindu Mukherjee in 1946.
- He had also worked with legends like Jean Renoir, Ritwik Ghatak and Mrinal Sen.

**Reference:**

<http://www.thehindu.com/entertainment/movies/indias-oldest-cinematographer-ramananda-sengupta-no-more/article19552209.ece>

<http://www.india.com/hindi-news/entertainment-hindi/indias-oldest-cinematographer-ramanand-sengupta-is-no-more/>

Sultan Ahmed

Question: Sultan Ahmed passed away recently. He was-

(a) Film director (b) Politician (c) Environmentalist
(d) Human rights activist

Answer: (b)

Related Facts:

- On September 4th, 2017, Former Union Minister and Lok Sabha member Sultan Ahmed Passed away. He was 64 years old.
- He was elected on the Trinamool Congress Party ticket from Uluberia Parliamentary Constituency of Howrah district of West Bengal State.
- He was Minister of State for Tourism in the UPA Government led by Manmohan Singh.
- He remained Member, West Bengal Legislative Assembly two times.

**Reference:**

<http://indiatoday.intoday.in/story/narada-sting-case-sultan-ahmed-trinamool-congress-mamata-banerjee/1/1040369.html>

John Lawrence Ashbery

Question: Famous poet John Laurence Ashbery died recently?

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

Answer: (c)

Related Facts:

- On September 3rd, 2017, Famous American Poet John Lawrence Ashbery passed away
- He was 90 years old.
- He was awarded with the Pulitzer Prize in the year 1976 for his famous poem collection 'Self Portrait in a Convex Mirror'.

Reference:

<https://www.britannica.com/biography/John-Ashbery>

Shirish Pai

Question: Famous poet Shirish Pai has passed away recently. She was the poet of which of the following languages?

(a) Hindi (b) Telugu (c) Marathi (d) Kannada

Answer: (c)

Related Facts:

- On September 2nd, 2017, the famous Marathi poet Shirish Pai passed away. She was 88 years old.
- She was born in 1929 and was the daughter of famous writer and journalist Acharya Prahlad Keshav Acre.
- She started writing 'haiku' in the year 1975.
- She studied the origin and nature of the Japanese 'Haiku' and published five Marathi haiku books.



Reference:

<http://www.thehindu.com/books/books-authors/marathi-poet-activist-shirish-pai-passes-away/article19609880.ece>

New Election Commissioner of the country

Question: Who recently assumed charge as new election commissioner of the country?

(a) Ashok Kumar (b) Sunil Arora (c) Ranjan Kumar Ghosh
(d) Rajiv Maharishi

Answer: (b)

Related facts:

- On September 1st, 2017, former Secretary, Information & Broadcasting, Government of India Sunil Arora assumed charge as the new Election Commissioner of the country.
- Sunil Arora is the senior bureaucrat of the 1980 batch of Indian Administrative Service (Rajasthan cadre).
- His tenure at this post will be of 6 years or till the age of 65, whichever is earlier.
- It is notable that Achal Kumar Jyoti is the Chief Election Commissioner and Om Prakash Rawat is another Election Commissioner.



Reference:

<http://www.pib.nic.in/newsite/printrelease.aspx?relid=170452>

New Chairperson National Authority Chemical Weapons Convention (NACWC)

Question: Who amongst the following has been given additional charge of the post of Chairperson, National Authority Chemical Weapons Convention (NACWC)?

- (a) Dr. Sarvjit Singh (b) Dr. Inderjit Singh
(c) Dr. Vinay Singh Rajdoot (d) Deepak Chatterjee

Ans: (b)

Related facts:

- On September 6th, 2017, the competent authority has approved the assignment of the additional charge of the post of Chairperson, National Authority Chemical Weapons Convention (NACWC) to Dr. Inderjit Singh.
- At present, he is Additional Secretary, Cabinet Secretariat.
- It is worth mentioning that NACWC has been established under the weapons convention act, 2000 for implementing the provision of the convention.
- NACWC is an office in Cabinet Secretariat, Government of India, established on 29 April 1997.
- India has signed the convention at Paris on the 14th day of January, 1993.

Reference:

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=170574>



New Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) of India

Question: Who amongst the following has recently been appointed as the new Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) of India?

- (a) Sunil Arora (b) Rajiv Maharishi (c) Rajiv Gouba
(d) Ranjan Kumar Ghosh

Answer: (b)

Related facts:

- On August 31st, 2017, former Union Secretary Rajiv Maharishi has been appointed as the new Comptroller and Auditor General of India (CAG).
- In this post, he will replace Shashi Kant Sharma.
- Rajiv Maharishi is an IAS of 1978 batch (Rajasthan cadre).
- He has also been the Secretary of the Department of Economic Affairs (DEA), Ministry of Finance.
- According to constitutional provision for CAG under 148 "There shall be a Comptroller and Auditor General of India who shall be appointed by the President by warrant under his hand and seal".
- CAG shall only be removed from office in like manner and on the like grounds as a Judge of the Supreme Court.
- He holds the office for a period of 6 year or up to the age of 65 years, whichever is earlier.



Reference:

<http://www.thehindu.com/news/national/rajiv-mehrishi-made-cag/article19596018.ece>

New Chairperson, Central Board of Secondary Education

Question: Who recently appointed the Central Government for the Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE)?

- (a) Rajeev Kumar (b) Anita Karwal
(c) Rajesh Kumar Chaturvedi (d) Anurag Tripathi

Answer- (b)

Related Facts:

- On August 31st, 2017, the Central Government appointed senior IAS officer Anita Karwal as new president Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE).
- Currently, she is working on the post of Joint Secretary in the Ministry of Human Resource Development.
- She is an officer of 1988 batch of Indian Administrative Service (Gujarat cadre).
- On this post, she replaced Rajesh Kumar Chaturvedi.



Reference:

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=170427>

New Secretary, Department of Financial Services

Question: Who recently took charge as the new Secretary of the Finance Services Department of Finance?

- (a) Dr. Asha Ram Sihag (b) Rajiv Kumar (c) Surendra Nath Tripathi
(d) Dr. Indra Jit Singh

Answer: (b)

Related Facts:

- On September 1st, 2017, Senior IAS officer Rajiv Kumar took charge as the new Secretary, Department Financial Services Department (DFS), Ministry of Finance.
- He has fill the vacancy caused due to superannuation of Smt Anjuly Chib Duggal, IAS (PB: 1981) on 31.08.2017.
- Rajiv Kumar belongs to the 1984 batch of Indian Administrative Service (Jharkhand cadre).



Reference:

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=170427>

New Director General, National Skill Development Agency (NSDA)

Question: Who has recently been appointed as the new Director General of the National Skill Development Agency (NSDA)?

- (a) S. Ramadorai (b) Jyotsna Slinging (c) Rajesh Kumar Chaturvedi
(d) Anita Karwal

Answer: (c)

Related Facts:



- On August 1st, 2017, Central Government appointed senior IAS officer Rajesh Kumar Chaturvedi as Director General, National Skill Development Agency (NSDA).
- Currently he is the Chairman of the Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE).
- He is 1987 batch officer of the Indian Administrative Service (Madhya Pradesh cadre).
- National Skill Development Agency (NSDA) is an autonomous body under Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship that anchors the National Skill Qualifications Framework and allied quality assurance mechanisms for synergizing skill initiatives in the country.
- India is that NSDA is an autonomous body established on June 6th, 2013, under the Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship, which works to coordinate the work done by the Government of India and the private sector in the field of skill development.

Reference:

<http://www.deccanherald.com/content/630779/government-removes-rajesh-kumar-chaturvedi.html>

PLACES

Mexico

Question- Recently, a powerful earthquake occurred in Mexico. According to the American Geological Survey, the intensity of this earthquake was-

(a) 6.8 (b) 7.1 (c) 7.4 (d) 8.1

Answer: (b)

Related facts:

- On September 19th, 2017, there was a powerful earthquake in Mexico.
- According to the US Geological Survey, the magnitude of this earthquake was 7.1.
- The center of this earthquake was 120 km away from Mexico City near San Juan Rebajo of Puebla province, at a depth of 51 km.
- More than 300 people died due to the earthquake and many buildings dismantled.
- Among the dead are children of Enrica Rabbesman Primary School.
- The biggest harm came in Mexico City, Morelos state and Puebla province.
- President Enrique Peña Nieto announced a three-day state mourning.
- It is notable that, 32 years ago (in 1985) on the same day a similar earthquake struck the country and killed about 10,000 people.



Reference:

<http://edition.cnn.com/2017/09/20/americas/mexico-earthquake-live/index.html>

India's First High Horse Power Locomotive

Question: India has received country's first high horse power locomotive engine from-

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

Ans: (c)

Related facts:-

- In September, 2017, India received the first high horse power locomotive engine of the country from the France.
- The first supply of the locomotive engine of 12,000 horsepower by Alstom (France) reached the Calcutta port on September 20, 2017.
- This is the first high powered electric locomotive of its kind, which will be used to run at twice the speed of the current speed of the freight train from next year.
- In November 2015, Indian Railways had signed a contract with French company Alstom, to manufacture such engines for locomotive factories in Madhepura in Bihar.
- Under this agreement, 800 such engines will be built by the French company in the next 11 years.
- This is the first Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) project in the Rail Sector.
- The cost of this type of locomotive engine is estimated at Rs 30 crores.
- This locomotive engine will be tested in February -2018.
- Initially, five engines will be imported, while the remaining 795 engines are to be manufactured locally in support of the government's Make in India campaign.
- The total cost of this agreement is 3 billion Euros.
- This project will be set up in Madhepura of Bihar while two depots will be set up in Saharanpur (Uttar Pradesh) and Nagpur (Maharashtra) respectively for maintenance.
- This locomotive will be supplied from 2018 to 2028.
- The locomotive will run at a speed up to 120 km/h.
- At present, Railways is using 6000 Horse Power Engines for freight services.
- Under the scheme 35 locomotives will be ready by 2020, 60 locomotives in year 2021.
- After that, 100 locomotives will be made ready every year unless the target of 800 locomotives is completed.



Reference:

<https://twitter.com/i/web/status/910428246407286785>

Discovery of a new oil reserves in the Arabian Sea

Question: Who amongst the following has recently discovered new oil reserves in the west near the Mumbai High (near the WO-16 region) in the Arabian Sea?

(a) Cairn Energy (b) ONGC (c) Vedanta Energy (d) Reliance Petrochemicals Limited

Answer: (b)

Related facts:

- In September, 2017, Public Sector Undertaking Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC) has discovered a new oil reserves in the west near the Mumbai High (near the WO-16 region) in the Arabian Sea.
- According to a senior official, the new oil reserves have been discovered in WO-24-3.



- It is estimated to hold an in-place reserve of about 20 million tones.
- It is notable that this new find has come almost 50 years after ONGC began production in Mumbai High.
- This will help the company maintain production levels from the basin for a longer time than currently estimated.
- Mumbai High is the largest oil field in India, which currently produces 205,000 barrels of crude oil per day (more than 10 million tonnes per annum).
- Mumbai High is the main oil producing property of ONGC.

Related Links:-

<http://indiatoday.intoday.in/education/story/ongc-oil-arabian-sea/1/1052929.html>

India's first centre for animal law

Question: India's first centre for animal law has been established in the premises of which university?

- (a) Damodaram Sanjivayya National Law University
- (b) Nalsar University of Law
- (c) Sri Venkateswara Veterinary University
- (d) Acharya N. G. Ranga Agricultural University

Answer: (b)

Related Facts:

- On September 15th, 2017, Union Women and Child Development Minister Maneka Gandhi inaugurated the Center for Animal Law in the campus of the NALSAR University of Law in Telangana, Hyderabad.
- This is India's first centre for animal law.
- This Center will prepare curriculum on animal welfare laws, including developing topics for research.
- Apart from this, this center will also organize workshops on issues of animal law and animal welfare.
- NG, Managing Director, HSI-India Jayasimha has been appointed as the Honorary Director of this center.
- Human Society International, India (HSI / India) will work with Nalasar University for the operation and coordination of the activities of this center.



Reference:

<http://indiatoday.intoday.in/story/centre-for-animal-law-set-up-at-nalsar/1/1048734.html>

<http://www.deccanchronicle.com/nation/current-affairs/160917/maneka-gandhi-opens-centre-for-animal-rights.html>

<http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/home/education/news/hyderabad-gets-indias-first-centre-for-animal-law/articleshow/60526612.cms>

Decision to declare Jharkhand fully plastic free zone

Question: Recently, Jharkhand Cabinet has decided to put a complete ban on manufacturing, import, storage, transportation, storage and use of plastic in the state. The violation of this provision will be a punishable offense under which section of the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986?



(a) Section 13 (b) Section 14 (c) Section 15 (d) Section 16

Answer: (c)

Related facts:

- On 5th September, 2017, in cabinet meeting state government decided to ban plastic in Jharkhand and to declare the state as a fully plastic free zone.
- There will be a complete ban on manufacturing, import, storage, transportation, storage and use of plastic.
- This decision is taken on the proposal of Forest, Environment and Climate Change Department.
- Also, food containers used for packaging of milk and milk products and advanced nursery plants will not be considered as plastic carry bags.
- This violation of this provision shall be treated as a punishable offense under section 15 of the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986.

Reference:

<http://www.jharkhandnewsonline.com/%E0%A4%9D%E0%A4%BE%E0%A4%B0%E0%A4%96%E0%A4%A3%E0%A5%8D%E0%A4%A1/full-ban-on-plastic-carry-bag-in-jharkhand/>

Awards & Honors

Akkineni Nageshwar Rao National Award

Question-Who was awarded with the Akkineni Nageshwar Rao (ANR) National Award for 2017?

- (a) Rajkumar Hirani (b) A.R. Rahman (c) S. S. Rajamouli
(d) Rajkumar Santoshi



Answer: (c)

Related Facts:

- On September 17th, 2017, Vice-President Venkaiah Naidu honored famous film producer S. S. Rajamouli with the Akkineni Nageshwar Rao (AHR) National Award for the year 2017.
- Rajamouli has been awarded this award for his outstanding contributions to the Telugu film industry.
- It is known that this award is provided annually by Akkineni Nageshwar Rao International Foundation.
- For the first time, the award was given in the year 2006 to the evergreen actor Dev Anand among the best actors of the Indian film industry.

Reference:

<http://www.thehindu.com/news/cities/Hyderabad/anr-award-inspires-me-to-work-harder-says-rajamouli/article19704764.ece>

http://ptinews.com/news/9078766_S-S-Rajamouli-receives-ANR-award

UNHCR Nansen refugee award

Question: Nansen refugee award for the year 2017, has been announced to be given peace maker of which of the following countries?

(a) Sudan (b) Libya (c) Nigeria (d) Afghanistan

Answer: (c)

Related Facts:

- On September 8th, 2017, Zannah Mustapha, a champion for the rights of displaced children growing up amid violence in north-eastern Nigeria to get a quality education, has been named the 2017 winner of UNHCR's Nansen Refugee Award.
- This award has been provided to him for the dedicated efforts and commitment made to provide school education to the children and orphans affected by the conflict in Borno state.
- The school has stayed open throughout the conflict with Boko Haram.
- Mustafa had established a school in 2007 that provides free education, food, clothing and health care to children affected by violence.
- He mediated between Nigerian government and Boko Haram militant outfit in the Chibok School kidnapping (April 2017) case, due to which 100 girl students could be freed.
- Under the awards, Zannah will be given a cash of one million US dollars and a medal.
- The prize distribution ceremony will be organized in Geneva on October 2, 2017.



Reference:

<http://www.unhcr.org/news/press/2017/9/59bbdac44/visionary-nigerian-teacher-wins-unhcr-nansen-refugee-award.html>

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

The Equator Prize 2017

Question: How many local and indigenous communities of the world were awarded the UNDP Equator prize 2017?

(a) 15 (b) 20 (c) 25 (d) 10

Answer- (a)

related facts:

- On September 17th, 2017, The Equator Prize Award Ceremony concluded in New York.
- The prizes were given to organization which showcase innovative solutions for tackling poverty, environment, and climate challenge.,
- This year 15 local and indigenous communities from Africa, Asia, and Latin America have been awarded with Prize.
- Earlier, on June 29th, 2017, UN Development Programme (UNDP) and partners had announced the winners of the Equator Prize 2017.
- From the Asia Pacific region [Swayam Shikshan Prayog](#), a NGO at Pune, Maharastra, India also honored with the prize.
- Operating at the nexus of nutrition, sustainable agriculture, and gender, Swayam Shikshan Prayog empowers 72,000 women in the drought-prone state of Maharashtra to



act as agricultural decision-makers, improving their health, food security, and economic well-being.

- It is notable that the initiative has created 5,500 self-help and saving groups for women.

Reference:

<http://www.undp.org/content/undp/en/home/presscenter/pressreleases/2017/06/29/equator-prize-2017-winners-announced-highlighting-outstanding-nature-based-solutions-for-local-sustainable-development.html>

Global Diversity Award -2017

Question: Which famous Bollywood actor was recently conferred the ‘Global Diversity Award -2017’?

- (a) Akshay Kumar (b) Salman Khan (c) Farah Khan
(d) Shahrukh Khan

Answer: (b)

Related Facts:

- On September 15th, 2017 Famous Bollywood actor Salman Khan was honored with the ‘Global Diversity Award 2017’ at the British Parliament House (House of Commons).
- This award was given for his contribution in the Indian film industry as well as for social service.
- He is working to change the lives of poor people in the country through his NGO ‘Being Human’.
- This award is given to people who have done a special job for diversity in the world.
- Earlier, Bollywood legend Amitabh Bachchan, actress Aishwarya Rai, Chinese actor Jackie Chan, Bangladesh’s Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, American human rights leader Jesse Jackson and Formula One racer Louis Hamilton has also been honored with this award.



Reference:

<http://www.hindustantimes.com/bollywood/salman-khan-gets-global-diversity-award-honoured-for-his-success-as-an-actor-philanthropy/story-DhOKY67hooijt0hIFJJp7O.html>

Badminton Association of India (BAI) Lifetime Achievement Award

Question: For the first time, the Badminton Association of India (BAI) has announced the lifetime achievement award. Who amongst the following is the first receiver of the award?

- (a) Prakash Padukone (b) Aparna Popat (c) Pullela Gopichand
(d) Abhinna Shyam Gupta

Answer: (a)

Related Facts:

- On September 11, 2017, the Badminton Association of India (BAI) has announced the lifetime achievement award.
- Prakash padukone is the first awardees to receive award.
- This award is being given by BAI for the first time.
- The announcement was made by BAI president Himanta Biswa Sarma on the sidelines of the Manorama BWF World Senior Championships.



- Award will comprise a cash reward of Rs 10 lakh and a citation.
- Prakash Padukone has also been bestowed with the Arjuna award in 1972 and the Padma Shri in 1982.

Reference:

<http://ddnews.gov.in/sports/first-bai-lifetime-achievement-award-be-presented-prakash-padukone>

Honor of the players by the Uttar Pradesh government

Question- On August 29, 2017, Uttar Pradesh's Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath honored 22 outstanding sportspersons of the state. On whose name a sports college in Saifai is announced?

- (a) Pt. Deendayal Upadhyay (b) Major Dhyanchand (c) Shyama Prasad Mukherjee
(d) Rani Lakshmibai

Answer: (b)

Related Facts:

- On August 29, 2017, Uttar Pradesh's Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath on the occasion of National Sports Day, honored 22 sportspersons who have performed exemplarily well in different sports.
- This year, 14 players were honored with Laxman Award and Rani Laxmibai Award and 8 other players for outstanding performance in different sports competitions.
- These include 8 female players and 6 male players.
- In female category, Manjula Pathak (Handball), Sushila Pawar (Weightlifting), Shreya Singh (Taekwondo), Shreya Kumar (soft tennis), Gargi Yadav (wrestling), Preeti Gupta (Kho-Kho), Ranjana (hockey, Veteran class) Anshu Dalal (Judo, Veteran class) were awarded with the Rani Laxmibai Award.
- In male category, Rahul Chaudhary (Kabadi), Shaniish Mani Mishra (soft tennis), Siddharth Verma (gymnastics), Danish Mujtaba (hockey), Mohammad Asad (shooting) and Rajneesh Kumar Mishra (hockey, veteran class) were awarded the Laxman award.
- Both Lakhman and Rani Lakshmibai awardees received a sum of Rs. 3 lakh 11 thousand rupees, a bronze statue and a citation.
- ICC Women Cricket World Cup Team Member Deepali Sharma and Poonam Yadav received Rs. 8 lakh each, IAS Officer and Gold and silver medal winner of Asian Para Badminton championship-2017, Suhas L.Y. got the award of Rs.10 lakh and the members of 12th South Asian Games 2016 Indu Gupta, Ms. Srishti Agarwal, Ms. Manjula Pathak and Mr. Sachin Kumar Bhardwaj were awarded with a sum of Rupees one lakh each.
- Vishu Sharma, who was illuminating the name of the state in the Wushu game, was honored with a sum of Rs 3 lakhs.
- In addition to this, the Chief Minister announced the name of the Sports College located in Saifai after Major Dhyanchand.
- He said that on the lines of the Central Government, the Olympic medal winner of the state will be given Rs 6 crore, silver medal winner will be given Rs 4 crore and bronze medal winner will get Rs 2 crore.



- State's winners in the Asian and Commonwealth Games, will also be honored on the lines of the Central Government.

Reference:

<https://twitter.com/CMOfficeUP/status/902569848311394305/photo/1>

26th Neerja Bhanot Award

Question: Who was recently awarded the 26th Neerja Bhanot Award?

- (a) Sonam Kapoor (b) Sarojini Agarwal (c) Pooja Thakur
(d) Jhulan Goswami

Answer: (c)

Related Facts:

- On September 7th, 2016, Haryana Governor, Kaptan Singh Solanki honored Dr. Sarojini Aggarwal with the 26th Neerja Bhanot Award.
- Dr. Sarojini has established a 'Manisha Mandir' for destitute girls in the memory of his late daughter Manisha.
- Above 700 girls have been provided shelter in this Manisha Mandir.
- This award is given annually by 'The Neerja Bhanot Pan Am Trust of India' to the woman who has faced social injustice faces the situation, overcomes it and then helps others in distress.
- Under this award, prize the winner is honored with a sum of Rs 1, 50,000, a citation and a trophy.
- It is notable that this award is given in memory of Neerja Bhanot Neerja, who was the senior flight purser of Pan-Am 73, gave up her life while trying to save the lives of passengers during a terrorist-hijack of a Pan-Am flight at Karachi international airport in Pakistan on September 5, 1986.
- She was given the Ashoka Chakra, country's highest peacetime gallantry award for bravery, in 1987, for her act of bravery and sacrifice.



Reference:

<http://indianexpress.com/article/cities/for-helping-over-700-destitute-girls-stand-on-their-feet-sarojini-agarwal-to-be-honoured-with-neerja-bhanot-award-today-4832277/>

Mahabaleshwar Sail

Question: Eminent Konkani writer Mahabaleshwar Sail has recently been honoured with which of the following Samman?

- (a) Sahitya Akademi Samman (b) Saraswati Samman
(c) Vyas Samman (d) katha puraskar

Answer: (b)

Related Facts:

- On August 30th, 2017, Eminent Konkani writer Mahabaleshwar Sail has been honoured with the 26th Saraswati Samman 2016 for his novel 'Hawthan'.
- The award carries a cash prize of 15 lakh and a citation was given by Nirmala Sitharaman, Minister of State for Commerce and Industry.



- His novel, published in 2009, was shortlisted from 22 books written in as many languages.
- This is a well-researched work of fiction presenting the cultural map of the traditional potter community of Goa.
- Saraswati Samman, instituted by K K Birla Foundation is provided in recognition of literary excellence in the last 10 years in any Indian language as described in the 8th Schedule of the Constitution.

Reference:

http://www.ptinews.com/news/8485837_Konkani-author-Mahabaleshwar-Sail-gets-Saraswati-Samman.html

Operations & Campaign

President of India launches 'Swachhta hi Seva' Campaign

Question: From which of the following places President of India, launched a nationwide sanitation campaign, 'Swachhta hi Seva'?

(a) Lucknow (b) Kanpur (c) Jaipur (d) New Delhi

Answer: (b)

Related facts:

- On September 15th, 2017, the President of India, Shri Ram Nath Kovind, launched a nationwide sanitation campaign, 'Swachhta hi Seva', at Ishwariganj village in Kanpur.
- On this occasion, he administered pledged to a new start in this direction in more than two and a half million village panchayats and cities whereby they resolved to create a clean, healthy and new India.
- This nationwide campaign will run from September 15 to October 2, 2017.
- Its purpose is to increase the participation of people in fulfilling the Mahatma Gandhi's clean India dream.
- It is significant that on October 2, 2017, 3 years of 'Clean India Mission' are being completed.
- Different programs related to this campaign will be organized by all the Ministries of the Government of India.



Reference:

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=170823>

SLINEX 2017

Question: At which of the following places the 5th India-Sri Lanka joint naval exercise 'SLINEX' -2017 is being organized?

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

Answer: (b)

Related Facts:

- From September 07th-14th, 2017, Naval Exercise 'SLINEX 2017' is being organized at Visakhapatnam (Andhra Pradesh).
- It is the 5th Joint naval operations of SLINEX series between India –Sri Lanka.



- The objective of this Joint naval operations is to enable both Navies to rehearse and improve own capabilities and enhance operational effectiveness required to maintain maritime security in the region.
- 368 Sri Lankan Naval personnel including 43 officers and 60 mid-shipmen are taking part in the Exercise.
- It is noteworthy that this bilateral maritime exercise was initiated in 2005.

Reference:

http://www.defence.lk/new.asp?fname=Sri_Lankan_Navy_ships_leave_for_SLINEX_2017_in_India_20170905_01

Commission & Committee

The Group of Ministers (GoM) on GST

Question: Under whose chairmanship a group of minister is constituted by central government in order to monitor and resolve the IT challenges faced in the implementation of GST?

(a) Anil Agarwal (b) Sushil Modi (c) Amit Mitra (d) Thomas Isaac

Answer: (b)

Related facts:



- On September 12th, 2017, a group of minister is constituted by central government in order to monitor and resolve the IT challenges faced in the implementation of GST under the chairmanship of Deputy Chief Minister of Bihar, Shri Sushil Kumar Modi.
- The constitution of the group took place in pursuance of decision taken in the 21st Meeting of GST Council held on 9th September, 2017 at Hyderabad.
- The Members of the GoM are Shri Amar Agarwal, Minister for Commercial Taxes, Government of Chhattisgarh; Shri Krishna Byregowda, Minister for Agriculture, Government of Karnataka; Dr. T.M. Thomas Isaac, Finance Minister, Government of Kerala and Shri Etela Rajendar, Finance Minister, Government of Telangana.
- The GoM will be assisted in its work by the Chairman, Goods and Services Tax Network (GSTN) and the Chief Executive Officer, GSTN.
- The Committee on Exports has also been constituted under the convenorship of the Revenue Secretary to look at the issues of export sector and to recommend to the GST Council suitable strategy for helping the export sector in the post-GST scenario.

Reference:

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=170728>

Planning & Project

Jansamvad Project

Question: Which state government has started a Jansamvad project recently?

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

Ans: (c)

Related Facts:

- On 18th September, 2017, Chief Minister of Chhattisgarh, Dr. Raman Singh launched the Jansamvad project in New Raipur to communicate directly with the people.
- Through the call center established under this project, feedback will be taken by the citizens regarding the public welfare schemes and policies run by the State and Central Government.
- This will give the government an opportunity to make necessary improvements in its schemes.
- The information of the Central and State government schemes will be compiled in the local language.
- Chhattisgarh Infotech Promotion Society (Chips) has been made nodal agency for implementation of this project.



Reference:

<https://www.nayaindia.com/chhattisgarh-raipur/chhattisgarh-public-dialogue-project-for-direct-dialogue-with-citizens.html>

Implementation of the scheme 'Dairy Processing & Infrastructure Development Fund' approved

Question: For which period did the Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs gave its approval for the implementation of the 'Dairy Processing & Infrastructure Development Fund' scheme?

(a) 2017-18 to 2028-29 (b) 2016-17 to 2026-27
(c) 2017-18 to 2019-20 (d) 2016-19 to 2026-20

Answer: (a)

Related facts:

- On September 12th, 2017, Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs, chaired by Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi has approved a Dairy Processing & Infrastructure Development Fund" (DIDF) with an outlay of Rs 10,881 crore during the period from 2017-18 to 2028-29.
- It is notable that consequent to the Union Budget 2017-18 announcement, Dairy Processing & Infrastructure Development Fund will be set up as a corpus of Rs 8004 crore with National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD)



Reference:

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintHindiRelease.aspx?relid=67058>
<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=170712>
https://twitter.com/MIB_India/status/907581847437180930

Integrated cargo terminal in Manipur

Question: Under which scheme of the Ministry of Commerce and Industry, Airports Authority of India will undertake construction of Integrated Cargo Terminal at Tuliha, Imphal Airport?

- (a) AMIDE (b) ASIDE (c) Cargo Management Planning
(d) Terminal Development Plan

Answer: (b)

Related facts:

- Airports Authority of India will undertake construction of Integrated Cargo Terminal at Imphal Airport after obtaining grant-in-aid under Trade Infrastructure for Export Scheme (TIES) of Ministry of Commerce & Industry, Govt. of India (September 11, 2017).
- The Government of Manipur had planned to establish an Export Import Cargo Terminal (EICT) at Tuliha, Imphal Airport under ASIDE Scheme of the Ministry of Commerce & Industry.
- The proposed Integrated Cargo Terminal is expected to give a boost to the export of handicrafts items and perishable cargo.
- This will also help generate employment opportunities in the North Eastern region of the country, thereby fostering economic development of the region.
- In addition to this, the EICT will help establish better connectivity with South & Southeast Asia and give a boost to trade between India and the ASEAN countries.
- The estimated cost construction of the cargo terminal is Rs.16.20 crores.
- Out of this, the Ministry of Commerce & Industry has sanctioned a grant of Rs.12.96 crores under TIES.
- The balance amount to construct will be met out of internal sources of AAI.



Reference:

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintHindiRelease.aspx?relid=67036>

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=170667>

Divyang Sarathi-app

Question: Which Ministry amongst the following recently launched 'Divyang Sarathi-app'?

- (a) Ministry of Human Resource Development
(b) Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment
(c) Ministry of Health and Family Welfare
(d) Ministry of Labor and Employment

Answer: (b)

Related facts:

- On September 26th, 2017, Shri Thaawarchand Gehlot, Minister for Social Justice and Empowerment launched the Beta version of 'Divyang Sarathi'.
- This mobile application aims at providing all relevant information pertaining to the Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities (DEPwD), Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment, including its various acts, rules, regulations and guidelines,



schemes, information about the various outreach institutions, employment opportunities, and the disability market in an accessible format.

- The mobile application 'Divyang Sarathi' is compliant with the principles of UNCRPD for Universal Access and the provisions of the Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act, 2016.
- The Act mandates that all information to be made available in an accessible form.
- The application is also an integral part of the ICT component of the Accessible India Campaign launched by the Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi on 3rd December, 2015.
- It is known that according to the Census 2011, there are over 2.68 crore 'Divyangjans' in India which constitute more than 2.2% of the population.

Reference:

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=171125>

Project Yash Vidya

Question: 'Project Yash Vidya' has been started for empowerment of

(a) Persons with Disabilities (b) Deaf and dumb (c) Soldier (d) Illiterate citizens

Answer- (c)

Related Facts:

- On 21st September, 2017, Lt Gen Ashwani Kumar, AG, IHQ, Ministry of Defense and Yashwant Rao Chavan Maharashtra Open University, Nasik signed a Memorandum of Understanding in New Delhi.
- Under this, the University will provide diploma in self-empowerment and a bachelor's degree in arts and commerce through the "Project Yash Vidya".
- The University will award Diploma in Self Empowerment and a Bachelors Degree in Arts or Commerce under PROJECT YASH VIDYA enabling them with academic qualifications for better future.



Reference:

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=171020>

Mukhya Mantri Educational Tour scheme

Question: Which State government has recently started the Mukhya Mantri Educational Tour scheme?

(a) Chhattisgarh (b) Jharkhand (c) Karnataka (d) Odisha

Answer: (b)

Related Facts:

- On September 18th, 2017, Jharkhand CM Raghubar Das launched an ambitious Educational Tour scheme for the overall intellectual development of children.
- The scheme will enable the children to learn about the culture of other states as well as gain knowledge.
- A first train, filled with 900 children, was flagged off by CM under the Mukhya Mantri Shaikshanik Brahman Yojna.
- This train will travel to New Delhi and Agra.
- 50 teachers are accompanying these students who will guide them throughout the tour.



Reference:

<http://jharkhandstatenews.com/article/top-stories/2485/cm-raghubar-das-launches-educational-tour-scheme-for-state-run-school-students/>

Deendayal Hastkala Sankul Dedicated to the Nation

Question: Recently, Prime Minister dedicates Deendayal Hastkala Sankul to the Nation. This Sankul is located at-

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

Answer: (c)

Related Facts:

- On September 22nd, 2017, Prime Minister inaugurated 17 projects and 'digitally' laid the foundation stone of six other projects at Varanasi.
- On this occasion the Prime Minister also dedicated "Deendayal Hastkala Sankul – a trade facilitation centre for handicrafts" to the nation.
- This Sankul is located at Varanasi.
- The foundation stone of the Sankul was laid by the PM on 7th November, 2014 and that the first phase was inaugurated by the PM on 22nd December, 2016.
- The project spans 7.93 acres, with a built-up area of 43,450 square metres.
- The approximate cost of the complex is 300 crore rupees.
- The setting up of the center is aimed to develop and promote handlooms, handicrafts and silk products of Varanasi and to provide necessary help to weavers, artisans and entrepreneurs of Varanasi in strengthening their marketing activities in domestic as well as international markets and in carrying forward the rich tradition of handlooms at Varanasi.
- He also launched the service of four water ambulances, four hearse carrying boats and inaugurated the Head office of Uttarkash Small Finance Bank opened at Varanasi.
- He also flagged off the weekly train no 20903/20904 Vadodara–Varanasi–Vadodara Mahamana Superfast Express.



Reference:

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/printrelease.aspx?relid=171046>

'Pandit Deendayal Upadhyay Shram Anna Sahayata Yojna'

Question: In which of the following States 'Pandit Deendayal Upadhyay Shram Anna Sahayata Yojna' is launched under which nutritious meal for Rs 5 will be provided to labourers?

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

Answer: (c)

Related Facts:

- On September 17th, 2017, 'Pandit Deendayal Upadhyay Shram Anna Sahayata Yojna' was launched in Chhattisgarh.
- Chhattisgarh Chief Minister Raman Singh launched this Yojna under which nutritious meal for Rs 5 will be provided to labourers in the state.
- As many as 60 such food centers will be set up step by step in 27 districts of the states which will cater to at least 60,000 labourers on a regular basis.



- The centre has been constructed at a cost of Rs 20 lakh.
- Under the scheme, first Shram Anna Sahayata centre was inaugurated here in Telibandha area where around 1,000 labourers will be served meal daily between 8 am to 10 am.
- Social service organisations will be roped in to operate these centers although; it will be supervised by the officials of labour department.

Reference:

http://www.ptinews.com/news/9078687_Scheme-to-provide-meal-to-labourers-launched-in-C-garh.html

Shramik Annapurna Yojana

Question: Which of the following States launched 'Shramik Annapurna Yojana'?

- (a) Tamil Nadu (b) Karnataka (c) Madhya Pradesh
(d) Gujarat

Answer: (d)

Related Facts:

- On July 18th, 2017, Gujarat Chief Minister Vijay Rupani launched 'Shramik Annapurna Yojana' as a pilot project in Ahmedabad.
- This is to serve hot nutritious full meal to the workers in the unorganized sector at Rs. 10/meal.
- Although the total cost of that meal would be Rs 30, the government would make its available at Rs 10 by providing Rs 20 subsidy per meal.
- In this scheme in those workers of unorganized sector has been included who are engaged in construction work.
- Under this scheme, food will be provided at 84 locations in the state.
- Gujarat government has allotted Rs.50 crore for Shramik Annapurna Yojana.
- For the benefit of the scheme, the workers will have to register through Aadhaar card after which they will be issued a meal card.
- Initially Under this scheme, the government will provide affordable lunch to 25000 workers.



Reference:

<http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/ahmedabad/annapurna-yojna-to-be-launched-today/articleshow/59639487.cms>

Kashang Hydel Project

Question: In which of the following States the Kashang Hydel Project is located?

- (a) Manipur (b) Nagaland (c) Himachal Pradesh
(d) Jammu-Kashmir

Answer: (c)

Related Facts:

- On September 11th, 2017, Himachal Pradesh Chief Minister Virbhadra Singh inaugurated the first phase of Kashang Hydroelectric Project (65 MW) in tribal Kinnaur district.



- This project is operated by Himachal Pradesh Power Corporation.
- This is 195 MW (65 × 3 megawatts) project.
- The project started in the year 2009.
- Due to some rehabilitation disputes pending in the National Green Tribunal, only 65 MW of electricity is being produced presently.

Reference:

<http://indiatoday.intoday.in/story/cm-inaugurates-first-phase-of-kashang-hydel-project/1/1045809.html>

Action plan for a visible improvement in Solid Waste Management in Delhi

Question: Recently, Minister of Housing & Urban Affairs Shri Hardeep Singh Puri announced an action plan for a visible improvement in Solid Waste Management in Delhi. Total cost of this plan will be-

(a) 250 crores (b) 300 crores (c) 350 crores (d) 450 crores

Answer: (b)

Related Facts:

- On September 15th, 2017, Minister of Housing & Urban Affairs Shri Hardeep Singh Puri announced an action plan for a visible improvement in Solid Waste Management in Delhi.
- Total cost of this plan will be 300 crores.
- Action plan will be operated by Delhi Development Authority.
- Under the Plan, automated machinery, equipment and other systems will be procured for better collection, transport and storage of garbage, decentralized treatment and better maintenance of sewers and drains.
- North, South and East Municipal Corporation of Delhi will spend Rs.100 crores each on procuring a total of 549 units of modern equipment.
- An assistance of Rs.80 crores will be provided to each MCD from the Urban Development Fund.
- All equipment including treatment plants are to be procured and commissioned by the end of this year.
- This initiative will quickly add a waste treatment capacity of 670 metric tons of bio-degradable waste besides preventing release of foul gases, smell and proliferation of germs, pathogens, pests etc.



Reference:

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=170797>

Sainj Hydroelectric Project

Question: Sainj Hydel Project is located in which of the following State?

- (a) Uttarakhand (b) Jammu-Kashmir (c) Himachal Pradesh
(d) Karnataka

Answer: (c)

Related Facts:

- On September 12th, 2017, Himachal Pradesh Chief Minister Virbhadra Singh inaugurated the Sainj Hydroelectric Project, set up at Sainj in Kullu district of Himachal Pradesh.
- Its power generation capacity is 100 MW (50X50 MW).
- This is the first project under HPPCL which is evacuating 400 KV power directly on the power grid network and 400 KV Gas Insulated Switchgear.
- The power generation by this project will be fed into the northern region grid through 'Loop in Loop out' arrangement with Parbati-II and III, hydel electric power project.
- It is one of the projects registered as 'Green Power Project' under clean development mechanism.
- The project would earn revenue of Rs 80 crore to Rs.100 crore per annum.
- Project Affected Families (PAFs) would be provided 100 units free electricity per month as per the policy.



Reference:

<http://www.himachalpr.gov.in/OneNews.aspx?Language=1&ID=10675>

Lucknow Metro

Question: Who amongst the following has designed the logo of the Lucknow Metro?

- (a) Pratima Yadav (b) Pooja Yadav (c) E. Sreedharan
(d) Kumar Keshav

Answer: (b)

Related Facts:

- On September 5th, 2017, Uttar Pradesh's Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath and Union Home Minister Rajnath Singh inaugurated the Lucknow Metro Rail service from the primary section constructed from Charbagh to Transport Nagar.
- In the first phase, this service will be operated from Transport Nagar to Charbagh (8.5 km).
- The operational time for the METRO is from 6 a.m. to 10 p.m.
- All Metro stations currently operated will be elevated.
- Free Wi-Fi service will be available at all Metro stations.
- Travelers can also travel through Go smart card.
- Free mineral water will be available at all Metro stations.
- From 6th September, 2017, the metro travel will be accessible to the general public.
- The maximum speed of the Metro will be 80 km / h.
- For passenger safety, facilities like fire smoke detection and prevention and immediate emergency removal are available.
- The project Lucknow Metro was started in 2013.



- Lucknow Metro logo has been designed by Pooja Yadav.
- Uttar Pradesh Government will set up Uttar Pradesh Metro Rail Corporation for Metro Rail Operation in big cities of the state.

Reference:

<https://twitter.com/CMOfficeUP/status/904967753852997632>

Gyanodaya Yojana

Question: Which of the following State cabinet recently approved the Gyanodaya Yojana' for qualitative improvement in school education?

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

Answer: (b)

Related Facts:

- On August 29th, 2017, Jharkhand Cabinet approved the Gyanodaya Yojana, for the qualitative improvement in school education.
- On the operation of this scheme 63.60 crore is estimated to be spent.
- This approval has been given on the proposal of the School Education and Literacy Department.
- All the 41,000 Government schools in the State will get one tablet through e-Vidyavahini.
- Teachers and officers will be provided training.
- At the State level the project management unit will be constituted.



Reference:

<http://hindi.eenaduindia.com/Jharkhand/RanchiCity/2017/08/29204948/Jharkhand-cabinet-Approves-22-proposals-in-meeting.vpf>

Price Deficit Financing Scheme (Bhavantar Bhugtan Yojana)

Question: Which of the following States has decided to implement the Price Deficit Financing Scheme (Bhavantar Bhugtan Yojana) in order to provide the right value of their produce to the farmer?

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

Answer: (b)

Related Facts:

- On August 29, 2017, Madhya Pradesh Government has decided to implement Price Deficit Financing Scheme (Bhavantar Bhugtan Yojana) in the State.
- The purpose of the scheme is to provide appropriate value of farming produces to the State farmers.
- Under the scheme, difference between actual mandi sale price and the discovered supporting price will be reimbursed to the farmers.
- The Scheme currently on pilot basis has determined a supporting price for Kharif for the year 2017.
- Kharif crops include moong, sesamum jowar, urad, arhar ,soyabean, groundnut maize etc.
- Under this scheme, farmers will have to register themselves from September 1st-30th.



- Under this scheme, the difference between Modal prices declared by the State Government on the sale of the crop yields at mandis and minimum support price declared by Central government will be paid by the State Government to the farmers.
- Modal prices (average market prices for a particular commodity) over a two-month period will be calculated on the basis of model price of Madhya Pradesh and two other states where the crop is grown and traded.
- Registered farmers will get benefit on the sale of agricultural produce only in the notified mandi premises.
- Under the scheme eligible farmers will be compensated through Madhya Pradesh Cooperative Marketing Association and the State Civil Supplies Corporation.
- Madhya Pradesh is the first State in the country to implement the scheme.

Reference:

https://mp.mygov.in/sites/default/files/mygov_15033819031701.pdf

Treaty & Agreements

USTAD links MoU with AAI

Question: Recently, the US Trade and Development Agency (USTDA) signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the Airports Authority of India to develop the operational capabilities of which of the following airports?

- (a) Madras, Delhi (b) Amritsar, Lucknow (c) Kolkata, Lucknow
(d) Kolkata, Varanasi

Answer: (c)

Related facts:

- On September 13th, 2017, the US Trade and Development Agency (USTDA) signed a memorandum of understanding with the Airports Authority of India to develop operational capabilities of Kolkata and Lucknow airports.
- This MoU is to support 20-year master plan to develop operational capabilities of these airports.
- Indian Airport Authority (AAI) has selected Cincinnati based Landrum and Brown (L & B) for the master plan of these airports.
- This company will incorporate sustainable and Environment friendly ways to accommodate the anticipated increase in demand ti these two airports.
- Under the US-India Aviation Cooperation Program, the US Trade and Development Agency is supporting many of these types of activities.
- India's civil aviation sector will be the world's third largest market by 2020 and and, potentially, the largest by 2030.



Reference:

<http://www.thehindubusinessline.com/economy/logistics/ustda-signs-mou-with-aii-to-develop-kolkata-lucknow-airports/article9856942.ece>

MoU between India and Japan

Question: On November 11, 2016, a MoU was signed between India and Japan for initiating a Collaborative Research in which of the following field?

- (a) Agriculture (b) Railway (c) Silkworm and Silk industries
(d) Disaster Management

Answer: (c)

Related Facts:

- On September 12th, 2017, the Union Cabinet chaired by the Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi has been apprised of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between India and Japan for collaborative research in the field of silkworm and silk industries.
- The MoU was signed on 11.11.2016 between Central Silk Board (CSB), India and National Institute of Agrobiological Sciences (NIAS), Japan.
- The MoU is for initiating a Collaborative Research for developing prolific bivoltine hybrids of silkworm suitable for the Indian tropical conditions.
- The MoU is of scientific and technological nature.
- It would help in developing prolific hybrid silkworms, which would improve the manufacturing capacity and the quality standards of the Indian sericulture industry and thereby enhance exports of silk and silk products.



Reference:

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=170698>

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintHindiRelease.aspx?relid=67063>

Force Motors tie up with Rolls Royce to make engines

Question: Which one of the following automobile companies has agreed to build engine with the Indian Automobile Company Force Motors recently?

- (a) Audi (b) Toyota (c) Rolls Royce (d) Ford

Answer: (c)

Related Facts:

- On September 12th, 2017, the Indian Automobile Company Force Motors and the British company Rolls Royce Power Systems agreed to build railways and electric utility engines.
- This is a joint venture in which Force Motors will invest 300 crores.
- A plant is being built in Chakan, Pune for construction of engine.
- The plant will be operational by the first quarter of fiscal 2018-19.
- Force Motors also supplies engines and engine components to luxury carmakers Mercedes Benz India Pvt. Ltd and BMW India Pvt. Ltd.
- UK based Rolls Royce is a multinational leading engine manufacturer who makes engines for defense products railway's engine and engines belonging to electric products.



Reference:

http://www.business-standard.com/article/pti-stories/force-motors-ties-up-with-rolls-royce-to-set-up-engine-plant-117091201192_1.html

MoU between Garhwal University and Namami Gange Project

Question: A MoU was recently signed between Hemvati Nandan Bahuguna Garhwal University and Namami Gange Project in Uttarakhand? The MoU is for-

- (a) For Technical Support in Ganga Sanitation Campaign.
- (b) To work jointly on projects for connecting rivers together.
- (c) To promote and spread public awareness on Ganga conservation.
- (d) For collaboration in cleanliness of Ganga in Haridwar.

Answer: (c)

Related Facts:

- On September 11th, 2017, a Memorandum of Understanding to promote and spread public awareness on Ganga conservation was signed between Hemvati Nandan Bahuguna Garhwal University and Namami Gange Project in Uttarakhand.
- The MoU was signed by Namami Gange project director Raghav Langer and the registrar of the University in the presence of its vice-chancellor Jawahar Kaul and the chief minister.
- Through this Memorandum of Understanding, this University will play the role of an active regional partner for the Ganga Conservation program.

Reference:

<http://www.uttarainformation.gov.in/news.php?id=21672>

<http://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/politics-and-nation/garhwal-university-signs-mou-with-namami-gange-project-for-ganga-conservation/articleshow/60464321.cms>



Mother Dairy ties up with India's Maharashtra state for a milk processing plant

Question: Recently, an agreement to set up a plant for the processing of milk and milk products has been signed between the government of the state of Maharashtra and Mother Dairy Fruit and Vegetable Pvt Ltd. In which of the following areas a dairy development initiative will begin under the MoU?

- (a) Pune, Aurangabad (b) Nashik, Nagpur (c) Vidarbha, Marathwada
- (d) Marathwada, Aurangabad

Answer: (c)

Related Facts:

- On September 12th, 2017, the government of the western Indian state of Maharashtra and Mother Dairy Fruit and Vegetable Pvt Ltd, a subsidiary of National Dairy Development Board (NDDB), has signed an agreement to set up a plant for the processing of milk and milk products in the state.
- According to the MoU, a dairy development initiative will begin in Vidarbha and Marathwada regions of the state to provide milk producers access to markets in Nagpur and Mumbai.
- Mother Dairy has already initiated milk procurement operations in Amravati, Wardha, Nagpur, Chandrapur, Nanded, Osmanabad, Buldana and Yavatmal districts of Maharashtra state.



Reference:

<http://www.thehindubusinessline.com/economy/agri-business/mother-dairy-maharashtratieup-for-processing-plant/article9854434.ece>

MoU between India and Morocco

Question: Recently, the Union Cabinet approved the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding on cooperation of which one of the following field between India and Morocco?

- (a) Education (b) Health (c) Information Technology
(d) Electrical

Answer- (b)

Related Facts:

- On September 12th, 2017, the Union Cabinet chaired by the Prime Minister Narendra Modi has given its approval for signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between India and Morocco.
- MoU is on cooperation in the field of health.
- The MoU covers the following areas of cooperation:-
- Non-communicable diseases, including child cardiovascular diseases and cancer;
- Drug Regulation and Pharmaceutical quality control;
- Communicable Diseases;
- Maternal, child and neonatal health;
- Hospital twinning for exchange of good practices;
- Training in administration and management of health services and Hospitals;
- Any other area of cooperation as may be mutually decided upon.
- A Working Group will be set up to further elaborate the details of cooperation and to oversee the implementation of this MoU.



Reference:

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=170704>

MoU between India and Armenia

Question: On Cooperation in which of the following fields Union Cabinet has given its approval for signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between India and Armenia?

- (a) Health (b) Energy (c) Disaster Management (d) Agriculture

Answer- (c)

Related Facts:

- On September 12th, 2017, the Union Cabinet chaired by the Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi has given its approval for signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between India and Armenia on Cooperation in the field of Disaster Management.
- The MoU would enhance cooperation in the field of Disaster Management and contribute to the well-being and safety of the people of both the countries in the event of disaster.
- It will also result in exchange of information in the relevant fields of disaster management which is of mutual interest.



- Further, the MoU seeks to put in place a system, whereby both India and Armenia will be benefited from the disaster management mechanisms of the other country and will help in strengthening the areas of preparedness, response and capacity building.

Reference:

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=170701>

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintHindiRelease.aspx?relid=67060>

MoU between India and Armenia

Question: On Cooperation in which of the following fields Union Cabinet has given its approval for signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between India and Armenia?

(a) Health (b) Energy (c) Disaster Management (d) Agriculture

Answer- (c)

Related Facts:

- On September 12th, 2017, the Union Cabinet chaired by the Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi has given its approval for signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between India and Armenia on Cooperation in the field of Disaster Management.
- The MoU would enhance cooperation in the field of Disaster Management and contribute to the well-being and safety of the people of both the countries in the event of disaster.
- It will also result in exchange of information in the relevant fields of disaster management which is of mutual interest.
- Further, the MoU seeks to put in place a system, whereby both India and Armenia will be benefited from the disaster management mechanisms of the other country and will help in strengthening the areas of preparedness, response and capacity building.



Reference:

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=170701>

MoU signed by Assam Government with Google

Question: Recently, the Assam Government signed a Memorandum of Understanding with Google India Private Limited to increase Internet connectivity. Under this agreement, in how many villages the state government will work to provide the Internet connection?

(a) 25,000 (b) 26,000 (c) 26,500 (d) 27,000

Answer- (b)

Related Facts:

- On September 7th, 2017, the Government of Assam signed a Memorandum of Understanding with Google India Pvt. Limited to take internet connectivity to the remotest part of the State.
- Secretary Information Technology Department Ninit Khare and Chtean Krishnaswami Country Head (Policy) of Google India signed the MoU on behalf of Government of Assam and Google respectively.
- Through MoU with Google, the State Government would work to provide internet connection to 26000 villages and 1500 tea garden areas and increase digital literacy.



- It is notable that just a few days ago, the Gujarat government has also tied up with Google for Digital Gujarat.

Reference:

<http://cm.assam.gov.in/pressrelease.php?displayid=100472>

MOU between the Ministry of Corporate Affairs and Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT)

Question: An MOU between the Ministry of Corporate Affairs and Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT) for Automatic and Regular Exchange of Information was signed recently.

This MoU is effective from –

- (a) September 6, 2017 (b) September 8, 2017
(c) September 12, 2017 (d) September 14, 2017

Answer- (a)

Related Facts:

- On September 6th, 2017, the Ministry of Corporate Affairs and Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT) have signed a formal Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) for data exchange.
- The MoU will facilitate the sharing of data and information between CBDT and MCA on an automatic and regular basis.
- The purpose of this is to curb the menace of shell companies, money laundering and black money in the country and prevent misuse of corporate structure by shell companies for various illegal purposes.
- In addition to regular exchange of data, CBDT and MCA will also exchange with each other, on request, any information available in their respective databases, for the purpose of carrying out scrutiny, inspection, investigation and prosecution.
- Sharing of specific information such as Permanent Account Number (PAN) data in respect of corporates, Income Tax returns (ITRs) of corporates, financial statements filed with the Registrar by corporates, returns of allotment of shares, audit reports and statements of financial transactions (SFT) received from banks relating to corporate will also be available.
- The MoU will ensure that both MCA and CBDT have seamless PAN-CIN (Corporate Identity Number) and PAN-DIN (Director Identity Number) linkage for regulatory purposes.
- The information shared will pertain to both Indian corporates as well as foreign corporates operating in India.
- The MoU comes into force from the date it was signed.
- A Data Exchange Steering Group also has been constituted for the initiative, which will meet periodically to review the data exchange status and take steps to further improve the effectiveness of the two agencies.



Reference:

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=170769>

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintHindiRelease.aspx?relid=67112>

Agreement between Punjab National Bank and Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited

Question: An agreement between Punjab National Bank and Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) was signed recently. Under the agreement, in how many states the BSNL will expand the Speed Pay services?

(a) 8 (b) 10 (c) 12 (d) 15

Answer: (b)

Related facts:

- On September 8, 2017, an agreement was signed between Punjab National Bank (PNB) and public sector telecom company Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) to present mobile wallet.
- This agreement was signed in the presence of Manoj Sinha, the Minister of State for Telecommunications.
- Under the agreement, BSNL will expand Speedpay services in 10 states.
- These states are: Punjab, Chandigarh (UT), Haryana, Jammu and Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, West Bengal, Jharkhand and Uttarakhand.
- PNB's Speedway will enable users to operate Internet banking services from the application.
- Its users will be able to deposit and withdraw money from authorised retail outlets.
- It is worth mentioning that India is the second largest market in the world with 120 crore mobile users.



Reference:

https://twitter.com/DoT_India/status/906405530989584385

Nepal signs United Nations Development Support Format

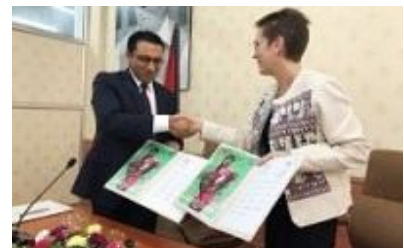
Question: Recently, Nepal Government signed the United Nations Development assistant plan. This plan is for –

(a) 2017-2021 (b) 2018-2022 (c) 2018-2021 (d) 2018-2025

Answer: (b)

Related Facts:

- On September 1st, 2017, the Government of Nepal has signed a USD 635 million United Nations Development assistant plan for year 2018-2022.
- The National Planning Commission, apex advisory body of the Government of Nepal, and the United Nations Country Team (UNCT) in Nepal signed the the United Nations Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF).
- The framework will prepare the lay out the country's development strategy for the next five years.
- The package involving 26 individual UN agencies, spans interventions aimed at assisting in four broad areas.
- These four broad areas are: inclusive economic growth; social development; resilience, climate change adaptation and disaster risk reduction; and governance, rule of law and human rights.



- The framework will contribute to our ambition to achieve the Agenda 2030 for Sustainable Development.
- It is broadly aligned without national priorities as envisioned by the Government of Nepal.
- The United Nations was founded on October 24, 1945.
- The number of current member countries of the United Nations is 193.

Reference:

<http://nepal.unfpa.org/en/news/govt-un-nepal-sign-5-year-development-assistance-framework>

Agreement between Rajasthan Rural Livelihood Development Council and the IDBI

Question: Recently, Memorandum of Understanding was signed between Rajasthan Grameen Aajeevika Vikas Parishad and IDBI bank for providing bank credit to Rajivika-backed Self Help Groups. What is the duration of this agreement?

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

Answer: (b)

Related Facts:

- On September 4th, 2017, Memorandum of Understanding was signed between, the Rajasthan Rural Livelihood Development Council and the IDBI bank for providing loan to Rajivika-backed Self Help Groups.
- Under this agreement, a loan of about 100 crore rupees is to be provide to 10,000 women self-help groups.
- The agreement was signed between Rohit Kumar, the Director of Rajivika State Mission and Regional Head of the I.D.B.I. Bank, Anunay Kumar Jha.
- The duration of this agreement is 3 years.



Reference:

<http://dipr.rajabasthan.gov.in/content/dipr/en/news-detail.53094.html>

International Solar Coalition Framework Agreement

Question: 9th member country to ratify the International Solar Coalition Framework Agreement recently, is –

(a) Niger (b) Fiji (c) Seychelles (d) Tuvalu

Answer: (c)

Related Facts:

- Seychelles became the ninth member to ratify the ISA Framework Agreement in September, 2017..
- Earlier India, France, Nauru, Niger, Fiji, Mauritius, Tuvalu and Bangladesh have ratified the ISA Framework Agreement.
- Signing and thereafter ratification, acceptance or approval by 15 countries will make ISA an Agreement based inter-governmental organization.
- Now the ISA focusing to get at least six more countries on board before October-end.
- It is mentionable that The International Solar Alliance is a common platform for cooperation among sun-rich countries lying fully or partially between the Tropics of Cancer and Capricorn who are seeking to massively ramp up solar energy.



- The International Solar Alliance (ISA) was jointly launched by the Prime Minister of India and the President of France on 30 November 2015 at Paris, France

Reference:

<http://www.thehindubusinessline.com/news/seychelles-ratifies-international-solar-alliance-framework-pact/article9842424.ece>

MNRE & GIZ Signs Agreement to Improve Framework Conditions for Grid Integration of Renewable Energies

Question: The Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE), Government of India and Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH India on behalf of the Government of the Federal Republic of Germany signed an agreement. Main objective of this programme is to –

- (a) Establishment of solar stations
- (b) Improve the sector framework and conditions for grid integration of renewable energies.
- (c) Import of components for renewable energy
- (d) Investment in new and renewable energy



Answer: (b)

Related Facts:

- On August 28th, 2017, The Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE), Government of India and Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH India on behalf of the Government of the Federal Republic of Germany signed an agreement.
- The agreement is on technical cooperation under the “Indo-German Energy Programme – Green Energy Corridors (IGEN-GEC).
- The main objective of this programme component is to improve the sector framework and conditions for grid integration of renewable energies.
- The agreement was signed by Dr. Wolfgang Hannig, Country Director, Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH India and Mr. A.N. Sharan, Joint Secretary, Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE).
- The agreement will result in improve market mechanisms and regulations, help us train manpower, to ensure grid stability & integration of renewables into grid and ensure safer & secure grid and a grid which can take cyber challenges.

Reference:

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=170280>

Conference North East Calling Festival

Question- Where was the North East Calling Festival organized recently?

- (a) Imphal (b) New Delhi (c) Dispur (d) Kohima

Answer: (b)

Related facts:

- From 9-10 September, 2017, the 'North East Calling' festival was organized in New Delhi.
- The Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) of the Ministry of Development of North Eastern Region (DoNER), MoS PMO, Personnel, Public Grievances & Pensions, Atomic Energy and Space, Dr Jitendra Singh inaugurated the "North East Calling" festival.
- The "North East Calling" event is being organised by the Ministry of Development of North Eastern Region (DoNER), Government of India under its 'Destination North East' series of this year.
- The purpose of the event is to promote the art, culture, heritage, cuisine, handicrafts, business and tourism of North East India.
- On this occasion Jitendra launched 'North East Venture Fund', which is a joint initiative of Ministry of DoNER and North Eastern Development Finance Corporation Ltd.
- The objective of the fund is to promote entrepreneurship and Start up in the North Eastern Region.
- The Minister also launched North East Tourism Development Council with objective to promote sustainable tourism in North East India.
- It is the first dedicated Venture Fund for the region with a corpus of Rs 100 crores.

Reference:

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=170636>

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintHindiRelease.aspx?relid=66956>

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=170548>

Third meeting of India–Kuwait Joint Ministerial Commission

Question: The third meeting of the India-Kuwait Joint Ministerial Commission was held in Kuwait recently. Who led the Indian delegation to this meeting?

- (a) B K Singh (b) M J Akbar (c) Jayant Sinha
(d) Ravi Shankar Prasad

Answer: (b)

Related Facts:

- Between 18–20 September, 2017, third Meeting of India–Kuwait Joint Ministerial Commission for Trade, Economic, Scientific and Technological Cooperation held in Kuwait.
- Shri M.J. Akbar, Minister of State for External Affairs led an Indian delegation for the meeting.
- This was his first official visit to Kuwait at the invitation of the Kuwaiti Deputy Prime Minister and Finance Minister Mr. Anas Khaled Al-Saleh.
- The meeting sustained the necessary momentum in further cementing our mutually beneficial ties encompassing a wide range of political, commercial, energy and diaspora related issues.
- It is noteworthy that Kuwait has been an important trading partner for us with a total trade of US\$ 5.95 billion in 2016-2017.



Reference:

<http://www.mea.gov.in/press-releases.htm?dtl/28955/Third+meeting+of+IndiaKuwait+Joint+Ministerial+Commission+for+Trade+Economic+Scientific+and+Technological+Cooperation+Kuwait+September+1820+2017>

National SC ST Hub (NSSH) Confluence

Question: Recently, the National SC-ST Hub Conference was organized by which one of the following?

- (a) Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Industries
- (b) Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises
- (c) Ministry of Commerce & Industry
- (d) Ministry of Corporate Affairs

Answer: (b)

Related facts:

- On September 20th, 2017, National SC ST Hub (NSSH) Confluence was organized by Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME).
- The Vice President, Shri Venkaiah Naidu was the Chief Guest of National SC ST Hub (NSSH) Confluence.
- On the occasion first ever radio jingle for National SC ST Hub was also released.
- The confluence was aimed to a collective, coordinated action needed to strengthen the eco-system for promoting SC & ST Entrepreneurs in the country.
- In addition, MOUs were signed with 3 Sector Skill Councils to provide skill development trainings of SC-ST Entrepreneurs under capacity building initiatives of NSSH.



Reference:

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=170962>
<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintHindiRelease.aspx?relid=67230>

Conclave on Financial Inclusion

Question: Where was the conclave on financial inclusion was recently organized by UN?

- (a) Vienna (b) Bali (c) New Delhi (d) Nairobi

Answer: (c)

Related Facts:

- On September 13th, 2017, the conclave on Financial Inclusion was organized at New Delhi.
- A daylong conclave was organized by the United Nations.
- The conclave focused on physical access and infrastructure of financial inclusion, maximizing financial access and literacy for women and marginalized groups and using technology and innovation to determine the way forward.
- Speaking at a conclave Shri Ravi Shankar Prasad, Union Minister for Electronics & Information Technology and law & Justice said, “*Digital inclusion is the foundation of financial inclusion.*”



Reference:

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/hindirelease.aspx?relid=67100>

First ever National Conference on “Mission Mode to address Under-Nutrition”

Question: First National Conference on ‘Mission Mode for Dealing with Nutrition’ was recently organized at –

(a) Jaipur (b) Nagpur (c) New Delhi (d) Bengaluru

Answer: (c)

Related Facts:

- On September 19th, 2017, First ever National Conference on “Mission Mode to address Under-Nutrition” was organized at New Delhi.
- The conference was organized by the Ministry of Women & Child Development in collaboration with Ministry of Drinking Water and Sanitation and Ministry of Health & Family Welfare, keeping in mind the goal of “Malnutrition Free India-2022”.
- The conference was inaugurated by Union Women and Child Development Minister Maneka Gandhi.
- On this occasion she said that under the ICDS: Integrated Child Development Services program, women need to provide 1000 calorie diets and 600 calories diet to the children.



Reference:

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=170894>

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=170908>

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintHindiRelease.aspx?relid=67195>

First National Conference on “Uniformed Women in Prison Administration”

Question: At which of the following places Two-day First National Conference on “Uniformed Women in Prison Administration” was concluded recently?

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

Answer: (d)

Related Facts:

- From September 14-15, 2017, the Valedictory Session of the first National Conference on “Uniformed Women in Prison Administration” was concluded at New Delhi.
- The two-day Conference for women officers in the ranks of Jailors to Deputy Superintendent of Prisons in States and UTs was organised by the Bureau of Police Research and Development (BPR&D), Ministry of Home Affairs.
- The Minister of State for Home Affairs Shri Kiren Rijiju inaugurated the Conference.
- More than 90 delegates from all across the country attended the conference and actively participated in discussions to arrive at conclusions and recommendations to solve as many problems of women officers in prison administration and correctional services as possible. Ms. Lalitha Kumaramangalam, Chairperson, National Commission for Women (NCW) was the chief guest of the conference and addressed the Valedictory Session of this first National Conference.



Reference:

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=170830>

International Hindu Conference

Question: In which of the following countries the International Hindu Conference was organized recently?

(a) India (b) Myanmar (c) Nepal (d) Sri Lanka

Answer: (c)

Related Facts:

- A three day “International Hindu Conference” was organized between August 31, 2017 -September 2nd, 2017 in Kathmandu, Nepal.
- Conference was organized at Nepal’s Pashupatinath Temple premises.
- The purpose of this conference is to reinstating Kathmandu as the global capital of Hinduism.
- Emerging Spirituality: Renaissance of Hinduism’ was the theme of the conference.
- The conference was joined by Hindu scholars, Hindu activists, religious leaders and officials of India, Bangladesh, Pakistan, America and Britain.



Reference:

<http://www.thehindu.com/news/international/international-hindu-conference-begins-in-nepal/article19595378.ece>

10th Medical Technology Conference

Question: At which of the following places 10th Medical Technology Conference was organized on September 7, 2017?

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

Answer: (c)

Related Facts:

- On September 7th, 2017, 10th Medical Technology Conference was organized by the Health and Family Welfare Ministry at New Delhi.
- This conference was organized by the Confederation of Indian Chambers (CII) on ‘Medical Technology Shaping Universal Healthcare’.
- The conference was inaugurated by Smt. Anupriya Patel, Minister of State for Health and Family Welfare.
- Members of the medical technology industry including the science community, industry etc. were present on this occasion.



Reference:

<https://twitter.com/AnupriyaSPatel/status/905690329315131392>

Associations & Organizations

Acquisition of Briliants Basics

Question: Which of the following companies recently completed the acquisition of Briliants basics?

(a)Wipro Limited (b)Infosys Ltd. (c)TCS (d)Tech Mahindra Ltd.

Answer: (b)

Related Facts:

- On September 11th, 2017, Infosys Ltd. a global leader in consulting, technology and nextgeneration services completed the acquisition of Briliants basics.
- Acquisition is in accordance with the terms set out in the agreement announced by the company on August 3, 2017.
- This acquisition includes the amount based on future benefits and retention of employees.
- Infosys has completed this acquisition cash in 75 million British pounds.
- This acquisition will help Infosys to expand its digital studio business globally.
- This business is focused on fulfilling the needs of the global clients and to find the right problem, and to solve these effectively.
- Infosys Digital Studios are located in Bangalore, Pune, New York, London and Melbourne.
- Brilliant Basics established in 2012, is a global design and product studio that creates products that make life simply better.
- The 100 percent stakeholder of this company was controlled management.
- It had studios in London and Dubai.



Reference:

<https://www.infosys.com/newsroom/press-releases/Pages/completed-acquisition-briliant-basics.aspx>

Law & Justice

Dentists (Amendment) Bill, 2017

Question: Recently, the Union Cabinet has given its approval for introduction of the Dentists (Amendment) Bill, 2017 in Parliament. The bill will be subject to the necessary amendment in which of the following Acts?

- (a) Dentist Act, 1952 (16 of 1952)
(b) Dentist Act, 1948 (16 of 1948)
(c) Dentist Act, 1956 (16 of 1956)
(d) Dentist Act, 1992

Answer: (b)

related Facts:

- On September 20th, 2017, The Union Cabinet chaired by the Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi has given its approval for introduction of the Dentists (Amendment) Bill, 2017 in Parliament.



- The bill will be subject to modifications of drafting or consequential nature, if any, as may be considered necessary by the Legislative Department by amending the Dentists Act, 1948 (16 of 1948).
- The amendment will reduce the redundancy.
- The clauses being amended include those pertaining to certain modifications in the provisions of the Dentists Act, 1948 with regard to:
- The membership of the Dental Council of India under clause (f) of section 3 and
- The membership of State and Joint State Dental Councils under clause (b) of section 21 and clause (b) of section 23 of the said Act.
- As per the existing Act, it was required to have the representation of dentists registered in Part B as Central Government nominees in the Dental Council of India and the election of four/ two members from Part B to the State/ Joint State Dental Councils.

Reference:

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=170942>

MISCELLANEOUS

First transgender clinic in the country

Question: Country's first transgender clinic will be opened soon by the government of which State?

(a) Tamil Nadu (b) Karnataka (c) Kerala (d) Himachal Pradesh

Answer: (c)

Related facts:

- The Kerala government will open special transgender clinics in state government medical colleges. (September 11, 2017)
- This will be the first transgender clinic in the country.
- In addition to the treatment of transgender community in these clinics, their sex-change surgery will also be facilitated.
- State Health and Social Justice Department, in collaboration with the Legal Services Society, will initiate transgenic clinics to provide solutions to various health issues of people belonging to the third gender and provide counseling to them.
- According to the State Health Minister K. K. Shylaja, such a first clinic will be opened soon in the -to-government medical college, Kottayam.
- The state government's plan is to open transgenic clinics in all government medical colleges.
- Surgery facility will be provided in at least two government medical colleges.
- The Kerala Government has made a budget of Rs 10 crore for the welfare of this community in the last budget.
- For the purpose of empowering transgenders, the Kerala Government's plan is to open skill development centers in Kochi.



Reference:

<https://www.thebetterindia.com/115224/kerala-to-open-indias-first-clinics-exclusively-for-transgenders/>

New Intelligence Set-up of the Sashastra Seema Bal (SSB)

Question: Sashastra Seema Bal (SSB) has been declared as the Chief Intelligence Agency for the borders of which of the following countries?

- (a) Bharat-Bhutan, India-Myanmar (b) India-Nepal, Bhutan (c) India-Bangladesh, India-Nepal
(d) Bharat-Bhutan, India-Pakistan

Answer: (b)

Related facts:

- On September 18th, 2017, Union Home Minister Shri Rajnath Singh operationalised the New Intelligence Set-up of the Sashastra Seema Bal (SSB).
- SSB has been declared as the Lead Intelligence Agency (LIA) for both the Indo-Nepal and Indo-Bhutan borders.
- MHA has accordingly sanctioned 650 posts in various ranks from Battalion to Frontier Headquarters.
- This intelligence network is of the highest capabilities that can function and deliver would be the prime requirement of comprehensive Border Management.
- On the occasion, the Union Home Minister launched the Welfare and Rehabilitation Board (WARB) Mobile App for CAPF personnel.
- The App is available on Google Play store and is user friendly.



Reference:

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintHindiRelease.aspx?relid=67181>

India started production of world's most expensive coffee

Question: which Indian State has started the production of world's most expensive coffee at a small scale?

- (a) Assam (b) Karnataka (c) Kerala (d) Andhra Pradesh

Answer: (b)

Related Facts:

- From September, 2017, India started production of world's most expensive coffee.
- Its name is civet cat coffee, made from the poop of civet cat.
- The production on a small scale is started by Coorg Consolidated Commodities (CCC) Coorg district, Karnataka; the India's largest coffee producer.
- It is also decided to open a cafe to serve the brew locally.
- It is being sold at Rs 8,000 per kg here, while it is available at Rs 20,000-25,000 per kg overseas.
- Coffee digested by civet cat; is prepared by the refinement of beans (seeds).
- Production of this coffee is expensive due to the unusual method of production.
- India is Asia's third largest coffee producer and exporter.



Reference:

<http://indiatoday.intoday.in/story/india-starts-producing-worlds-most-expensive-coffee/1/1045373.html>

Railways permits m-Aadhar as one of the prescribed proofs of Identity

Question: m- Aadhar is a mobile app launched by-

- (a) Railway Ministry (b) Indian Unique Identification Authority
(c) Policy Commission (d) Ministry of Personnel

Answer: (b)

Related facts:

- On September 13th, 2017, Ministry of Railways has decided to permit m- Aadhar (Aadhar card on mobile app namely m- Aadhar launched by UIDAI) as one of the prescribed proofs of Identity for Rail Travel purpose in any reserved class.
- It is effective from 8th September 2017.
- m- Aadhar is a mobile app launched by UIDAI on which a person can download his/her Aadhar Card.
- It can be done only on the mobile number to which Aadhar has been linked.

Reference:

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=170750>



FSSAI launches online platform

Question: Recently, Food Safety and Standards Authority of India put in place a nationwide online platform for food inspection, sampling etc. This web based platform is
(a) FoBAScoSI (b) FoPCoDSI (c) FoSCoRIS (d) FoARoPIS

Answer: (c)

Related Facts:

- On September 12th, 2017, to bring in transparency in food safety inspection and sampling, food regulator FSSAI put in place a nationwide online platform.
- The web-based 'FoSCoRIS' system will help verify compliance of food safety and hygiene standards by food businesses as per the government norms.
- The new system will bring together all key stakeholders-food businesses, food safety officers (FSOs), designated officers, state food safety commissioners — on a nation-wide IT platform.
- In the initial phase, the FSSAI said, it has decided to bear the cost of rental plans for first three months to a maximum of Rs 500 per month per connection to first ten states and UTs.
- The states have been told to appoint a nodal officer for this purpose and send the details of the officers of the state food authority for integrating them with FoSCoRIS.
- It would help eliminate discrepancy and make food safety officers accountable.



Reference:

<http://economictimes.indiatimes.com/industry/cons-products/food/fssai-launches-online-platform-for-food-inspection-sampling/articleshow/60469712.cms>

Age bar raised under national Pension Scheme

Question: Recently, the Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority have announced to raise the upper age limit of the National Pension Scheme from the existing 60 years to –

(a) 61 years (b) 62 years (c) 65 years (d) 70 years

Answer: (c)

Related Facts:

- On September 11th, 2017, Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority have raised the upper limit to join National Pension Scheme (NPS) to 65 from 60.
- Its aim is to make it attractive and easy for customers by transferring old age funds into National Pension Scheme (NPS).

Reference:

<http://zeenews.india.com/personal-finance/national-pension-scheme-entry-age-limit-raised-to-65-years-from-the-current-60-2041264.html>



Approval for hiving off mobile tower assets of Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited into a separate company, fully owned by BSNL

Question: Number of mobile towers installed by BSNL in the country, approximately are–

(a) 82,000 (b) 82,000 (c) 66,000 (d) 66,000

Answer: (d)

Related Facts:

- On September 12th, 2017, the Union Cabinet chaired by the Prime Minister Narendra Modi has given its approval for hiving off mobile tower assets of Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) into a separate company, fully owned by BSNL.
- This approval authorizes BSNL to monetize its telecom tower infrastructure with the formation of a separate subsidiary company.
- There are around 4,42,000 mobile towers in the country out of which more than 66,000 mobile tower are of BSNL.
- An independent, dedicated tower company of BSNL with a focused approach will lead to increasing of external tenancies and consequentially higher revenue for the new company.

Reference:

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=170700>



UPI based digital payment service app Tej

Question: Recently, Union Finance Minister Arun Jaitley launched UPI based digital payment service app 'Tej'? The App belongs to which of the following companies?

(a) Microsoft (b) Google (c) Petty (d) Bharti Airtel Ltd

Answer: (b)

Related Facts:

- On September 18th, 2017, Union Finance Minister Arun Jaitley launched the famous search engine company Google's UPI-



based digital payment service app 'Tej'.

- The company has taken this step to exploit the growing potential in digital payments in the country.
- It is worth mentioning that the Unified Payment Interface (UPI) is the payment system launched by the Indian National Payment Corporation (NPCI), which is controlled by the Reserve Bank of India.
- Instant fund transfer can be done between two bank accounts through mobile with the help of the UPI.

Reference:

http://bhasha.ptinews.com/news/1639173_bhasha

Country's 1st Police Control Room to get ISO 9001 Certificate

Question: Which of the following States Police Control Room has recently been given the ISO-9001 certificate?

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

Answer: (d)

Related Facts:

- On 30th August, 2017, Director General of Uttar Pradesh Police (DGP) Sulkhan Singh unveiled the ISO-9001 certification of police control room of the UP-100.
- It is noteworthy that with this certification the UP-100 became the first Police Control Room in the country to achieve this certificate.
- ISO-9001 certification is provided by BSCIC, which has given the certificate to UP-100 after testing for 45 days for best service and quick response.
- Certification Agency examined the entire work process, which was found to be standard on the basis of staying with the Police Response Vehicle (PRV) in the office of the UP-100 and the Police Response Vehicle (PRV) in the work area.
- It is remarkable that around 18000 police personnel are deployed in the UP-100 and about 9000 thousand are employed at one time.
- DGP also released the handbook of UP-100 on the occasion.



Reference:

<https://hindi.news18.com/news/uttar-pradesh/lucknow-up-police-control-room-first-in-country-to-get-iso-certificate-1094569.html>