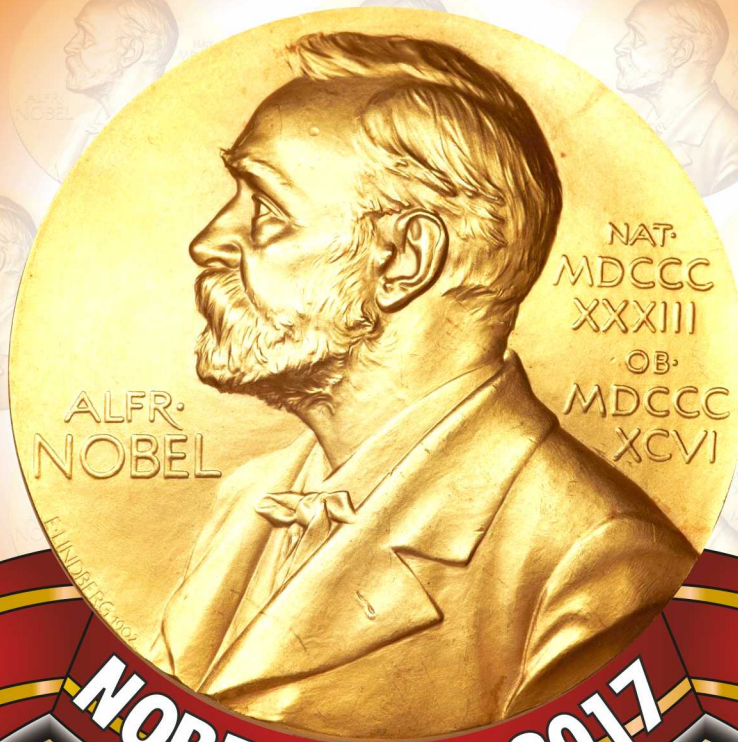


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NAVATRA

Monthly Magazine on Current Events

Year - 1 >>> Issue - 3 >>> November, 2017



NOBEL PRIZE 2017



**BULLET
TRAIN**

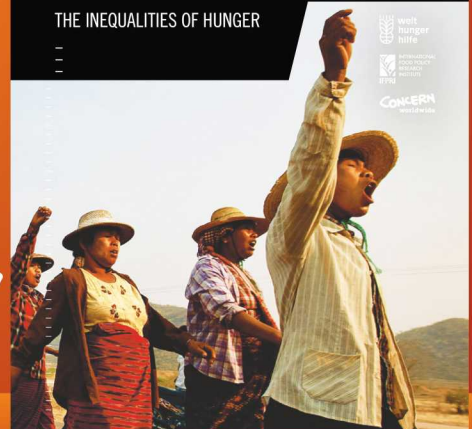


Mumbai-Ahmedabad
Ground Breaking Ceremony of High Speed Rail Project

2017

GLOBAL HUNGER INDEX

THE INEQUALITIES OF HUNGER



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 October to 31st October, 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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The Nobel Prize in Economic Sciences 2017

Question: Who has been awarded the Sveriges Riksbank Nobel Prize in Economic Sciences, 2017 by the Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences?

- (a) Richard H. Thaler (b) Rainer Weiss
(c) Barry C. Barish (d) Kip S. Thorne

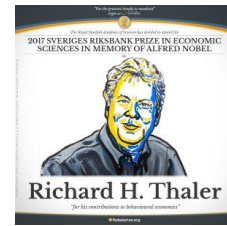
Answer: (a)

Related Facts:

- On 9th October, 2017 The Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences has decided to award the Sveriges Riksbank Prize in Economic Sciences in Memory of Alfred Nobel 2017 to Richard H. Thaler (University of Chicago, IL, USA) “for his contributions to behavioral economics”.
- Richard H. Thaler has incorporated psychologically realistic assumptions into analyses of economic decision-making.
- By exploring the consequences of limited rationality, social preferences, and lack of self-control, he has shown how these human traits systematically affect individual decisions as well as market outcomes.
- Richard Thaler’s contributions have built a bridge between the economic and psychological analyses of individual decision-making.
- His empirical findings and theoretical insights have been instrumental in creating the new and rapidly expanding field of behavioral economics, which has had a profound impact on many areas of economic research and policy.
- **About Nobel Prize in Economic Sciences**
- The Sveriges Riksbank Prize in Economic Sciences in Memory of Alfred Nobel Awarded to 79 Laureates since 1969.
- In 1968, Sveriges Riksbank (Sweden’s central bank) established the Prize in Economic Sciences in Memory of Alfred Nobel, founder of the Nobel Prize.
- The Prize is based on a donation received by the Nobel Foundation in 1968 from Sveriges Riksbank on the occasion of the Bank’s 300th anniversary.
- The first Prize in Economic Sciences was awarded to Ragnar Frisch and Jan Tinbergen in 1969.
- The Prize in Economic Sciences is awarded by the Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences, Stockholm, Sweden, according to the same principles as for the Nobel Prizes that have been awarded since 1901.
- 1 woman have been awarded the Prize in Economic Sciences so far, Elinor Ostrom, in 2009.

Reference:

https://www.nobelprize.org/nobel_prizes/economic-sciences/laureates/2017/

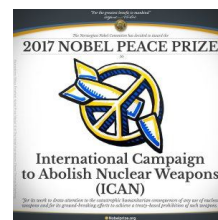


The Nobel Peace Prize for 2017

Question: How many persons have been awarded the Nobel Prize for Peace since 1901?

(a) 123 (b) 132 (c) 131 (d) 113

Answer: (c)



Related Facts:

- On 6th October, 2017 The Norwegian Nobel Committee has decided to award the Nobel Peace Prize for 2017 to the International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons (ICAN).
- The organization is receiving the award for its work to draw attention to the catastrophic humanitarian consequences of any use of nuclear weapons and for its ground-breaking efforts to achieve a treaty-based prohibition of such weapons.

About International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons (ICAN)

- The International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons (ICAN) is a coalition of non-governmental organizations in one hundred countries promoting adherence to and implementation of the United Nations nuclear weapon ban treaty.
- This landmark global agreement was adopted in New York on 7 July 2017.
- ICAN began in Australia and was officially launched in Vienna, Austria in 2007.
- ICAN have worked to build a powerful global groundswell of public support for the abolition of nuclear weapons.
- By engaging a diverse range of groups and working alongside the Red Cross and like-minded governments, ICAN have helped reshape the debate on nuclear weapons and generate momentum towards elimination.
- The UN secretary-general praised ICAN in 2012 “for working with such commitment and creativity in pursuit of our shared goal”.

About Nobel Nobel Peace Prize

- The Nobel Peace Prize is awarded by a committee of five persons who are chosen by the Norwegian Storting (Parliament of Norway).
- Awarded to 131 Nobel Laureates since 1901.
- 3 Peace Prize Laureates have been under arrest at the time of the award: German pacifist and journalist Carl von Ossietzky, Burmese politician Aung San Suu Kyi and Chinese human rights activist Liu Xiaobo.

Reference:

https://www.nobelprize.org/nobel_prizes/peace/laureates/2017/press.html

The Nobel Prize in Literature, 2017

Question: Who has been awarded the Nobel Prize in Literature, 2017?

(a) Dorris Lacing (b) Alice Munro (c) Bob Dillon (d) Kazuo Ishiguro

Answer: (d)

Related Facts:

- On 5th October, 2017 The Nobel Prize in Literature for 2017 is awarded to the English author Kazuo Ishiguro “who, in novels of great emotional force, has uncovered the abyss beneath our illusory sense of connection with the world”.

About Kazuo Ishiguro

- Kazuo Ishiguro was born on November 8, 1954 in Nagasaki, Japan.
- In the late 1970s, Ishiguro graduated in English and Philosophy at the University of Kent, and then went on to study Creative Writing at the University of East Anglia.
- Kazuo Ishiguro has been a full-time author ever since his first book, *A Pale View of Hills* (1982).
- Both his first novel and the subsequent one, *An Artist of the Floating World* (1986) take place in Nagasaki a few years after the Second World War.
- The themes Ishiguro is most associated with are already present here: memory, time, and self-delusion.
- This is particularly notable in his most renowned novel, *The Remains of the Day* (1989), which was turned into film with Anthony Hopkins acting as the duty-obsessed butler Stevens.
- Apart from his eight books, Ishiguro has also written scripts for film and television.

Works in English

- A Pale View of Hills*. – London : Faber & Faber, 1982
- An Artist of the Floating World*. – London : Faber & Faber, 1986
- The Remains of the Day*. – London : Faber & Faber, 1989
- The Unconsoled*. – London : Faber & Faber, 1995
- When We Were Orphans*. – London : Faber & Faber, 2000
- Never Let Me Go*. – London : Faber & Faber, 2005

Film and Television

- A Profile of Arthur J. Mason* / directed by Michael Whyte ; screenplay by Kazuo Ishiguro, 1984
- The Saddest Music in the World* / directed by Guy Maddin ; screenplay by Kazuo Ishiguro, 2003
- The White Countess* / directed by James Ivory ; screenplay by Kazuo Ishiguro, 2005
- Never Let Me Go* / directed by Mark Romanek ; screenplay by Alex Garland, 2010

About Nobel Prize in Literature

- The Nobel Prize in Literature is awarded by the Swedish Academy, Stockholm, Sweden.
- Awarded to 114 Nobel Laureates since 1901.
- 41 years was the age of the youngest Literature Laureate ever, Rudyard Kipling, best known for *The Jungle Book*.
- 88 years was the age of the oldest Literature Laureate ever, Doris Lessing, when she was awarded the Prize in 2007.

Reference:

https://www.nobelprize.org/nobel_prizes/literature/laureates/2017/press.html



The Nobel Prize in Chemistry, 2017

Question: Who has The Royal Swedish Academy awarded the Nobel Prize in Chemistry, 2017?

(a) Eric Betzig (b) Jacques Dubochet, Joachim Frank and Richard Henderson
(c) Fraser Stoddart (d) Thomas Lindall



Answer: (b)

Related Facts:

- On 4th October, 2017 The Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences has decided to award the Nobel Prize in Chemistry, 2017 to Jacques Dubochet, Switzerland, Joachim Frank, USA and Richard Henderson, UK.
- They are awarded for developing cryo-electron microscopy for the high-resolution structure determination of biomolecules in solution.
- **Prize amount:** 9 million Swedish krona, to be shared equally between the Laureates.

About their work

- We may soon have detailed images of life's complex machineries in atomic resolution.
- The Nobel Prize in Chemistry 2017 is awarded to Jacques Dubochet, Joachim Frank and Richard Henderson for the development of cryo-electron microscopy, which both simplifies and improves the imaging of biomolecules.
- This method has moved biochemistry into a new era.
- Electron microscopes were long believed to only be suitable for imaging dead matter, because the powerful electron beam destroys biological material.
- But in 1990, Richard Henderson succeeded in using an electron microscope to generate a three-dimensional image of a protein at atomic resolution. This breakthrough proved the technology's potential.
- Joachim Frank made the technology generally applicable.
- Between 1975 and 1986 he developed an image processing method in which the electron microscope's fuzzy twodimensional images are analysed and merged to reveal a sharp three-dimensional structure.
- Jacques Dubochet added water to electron microscopy.
- Liquid water evaporates in the electron microscope's vacuum, which makes the biomolecules collapse.
- In the early 1980s, Dubochet succeeded in vitrifying water – he cooled water so rapidly that it solidified in its liquid form around a biological sample, allowing the biomolecules to retain their natural shape even in a vacuum.

About Nobel Prize in Chemistry

- The Nobel Prize in Chemistry is awarded by the Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences, Stockholm, Sweden.
Awarded to 178 Nobel Laureates since 1901.
- 1 person, Frederick Sanger, has been awarded the Chemistry Prize twice, in 1958 and in 1980.
- 35 years was the age of the youngest Chemistry Laureate ever, Frédéric Joliot, who was awarded the Nobel Prize in 1935.

Reference:

https://www.nobelprize.org/nobel_prizes/chemistry/laureates/2017/press.html

The Nobel Prize in Physics 2017

Question: The Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences awarded the Nobel Prize in Physics, 2017 to-

- (a) J. Michael Kosterlitz, Duncan Halden, David J. Thouless
- (b) Shuji Nakamura, Hiroshi Ameno, Isamu Takasaki
- (c) Rainer Weiss, Barry C. Barish, Kip S. Thorne
- (d) Arthur B. Macdonald, Takaki Kajetea

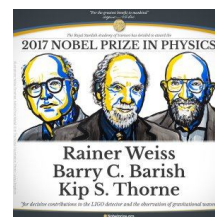
Answer: (c)

Related Facts:

- On 3 October, 2017 The Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences has decided to award the Nobel Prize in Physics 2017 with one half to Rainer Weiss and the other half jointly to Barry C. Barish and Kip S. Thorne.
- They are awarded for decisive contributions to the LIGO detector and the observation of gravitational waves.
- **Prize amount:** 9 million Swedish krona.
- **About their work**
- On 14 September 2015, the universe's gravitational waves were observed for the very first time.
- The waves, which were predicted by Albert Einstein a hundred years ago, came from a collision between two black holes. It took 1.3 billion years for the waves to arrive at the LIGO detector in the USA.
- The signal was extremely weak when it reached Earth, but is already promising a revolution in astrophysics.
- Gravitational waves are an entirely new way of observing the most violent events in space and testing the limits of our knowledge.
- LIGO, the Laser Interferometer Gravitational-Wave Observatory, is a collaborative project with over one thousand researchers from more than twenty countries. Together, they have realised a vision that is almost fifty years old.
- The 2017 Nobel Laureates have, with their enthusiasm and determination, each been invaluable to the success of LIGO.
- Pioneers Rainer Weiss and Kip S. Thorne, together with Barry C. Barish, the scientist and leader who brought the project to completion, ensured that four decades of effort led to gravitational waves finally being observed.
- **About Nobel Prize in Physics**
- The Nobel Prize in Physics is awarded by the Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences, Stockholm, Sweden.
Awarded to 207 Nobel Laureates since 1901.
- 1 person, John Bardeen, has been awarded the Physics Prize twice.
- 25 years was the age of the youngest Physics Laureate ever, Lawrence Bragg, when he was awarded the 1915 Physics Prize together with his father.

Reference:

https://www.nobelprize.org/nobel_prizes/physics/laureates/2017/press.html

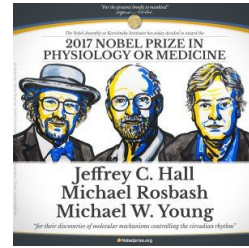


Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine, 2017

Question: The Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine for 2017 goes to-

- (a) Jeffrey C. Hall, Michael Rosbash, Michael W. Young
- (b) Yoshinori Oshumi
- (c) William C. Campbell, Satoshi Omuro, Yuyu Tu
- (d) Edward Mojar, May-Brit Mojar, John Okeeffe

Answer: (a)



Related Facts:

- On 2 October, 2017 The Nobel Assembly at Karolinska Institutet has decided to award the 2017 Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine jointly to Jeffrey C. Hall, Michael Rosbash and Michael W. Young.
- They are awarded for their discoveries of molecular mechanisms controlling the circadian rhythm.
- **About their work**
- Jeffrey C. Hall, Michael Rosbash and Michael W. Young were able to peek inside our biological clock and elucidate its inner workings.
- Their discoveries explain how plants, animals and humans adapt their biological rhythm so that it is synchronized with the Earth's revolutions.
- Using fruit flies as a model organism, this year's Nobel laureates isolated a gene that controls the normal daily biological rhythm.
- They showed that this gene encodes a protein that accumulates in the cell during the night, and is then degraded during the day.
- Subsequently, they identified additional protein components of this machinery, exposing the mechanism governing the self-sustaining clockwork inside the cell.
- We now recognize that biological clocks function by the same principles in cells of other multicellular organisms, including humans.
- **About Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine**
- Awarded to 214 Nobel Laureates since 1901.
- The Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine is awarded by the Nobel Assembly at Karolinska Institutet, Stockholm, Sweden.
- 32 years was the age of the youngest Medicine Laureate ever, Frederick G. Banting, who was awarded the 1923 Medicine Prize for the discovery of insulin.

Reference:

https://www.nobelprize.org/nobel_prizes/medicine/laureates/2017/press.html

NATIONAL

Gujarat Legislative Assembly's Election

Question: Schedule for the General Election to the Legislative Assembly of Gujarat, 2017 has been issued by election commission; as the term of the Legislative Assembly of Gujarat is normally due to expire on 22.01.2018. How many seats have been made reserved for scheduled tribes category of total 182?

(a) 13 (b) 22 (c) 27 (d) 34

Answer: (c)

Related Facts:

- On October 25th, 2017, Schedule for the General Election to the Legislative Assembly of Gujarat, 2017 has been issued by election commission.
- The total number of Assembly Constituencies as determined by the Delimitation of Parliamentary and Assembly Constituencies Order, 2008 in the state are 182.
- Out of these 13 seats are reserved for the Scheduled Castes.
- The numbers of seat reserved for Scheduled Tribes is 27.
- The election will be held in two phase.
- Gazette Notification for Phase-I will be issued on 14.11.2017 and for Phase –II date will be 20.11.2017.
- The date of polling for Phase-1 (89 Assembly Constituencies) is 09.12.2017, while date of Counting is 18.12.2017.
- The date of poling for Phase-2 (93 Assembly Constituencies) is 14.12.2017, while date of Counting is 18.12.2017.
- The total number of Electors of all the existing Assembly Constituencies in the State of Gujarat as per Final Roll published on 25/09/2017 is 43337492 (4.33 Crore).
- The number of Polling Stations of Gujarat is 50128 with an increase of 12.44% from year 2012(44579).
- **Following New Initiatives will be used in this election-**
- Use of VVPATs at Polling Stations: Voter Verifiable Paper Audit Trail will be used along with EVMs in all 50128 Polling Stations of 182 Assembly Constituencies of poll going state of Gujarat.
- It is noteworthy that Voter Verifiable Paper Audit Trail (VVPAT) machines are used during election process to verify that the vote polled by a voter goes to the correct candidate. VVPATs are a second line of verification particularly and are particularly useful in the time when allegations around Electronic Voting Machines' tampering crop up.
- **E-Atlas:** As a new innovation, GIS based planning, implementation and monitoring of various elections related activities in real time is being implemented in the State of Gujarat.
- **All Women Managed Polling Stations:** Total 182 Women Managed Polling Stations will be setup for the entire state of Gujarat for the first time where the entire polling staff, including the police and security personnel, shall be Women.
- **Following New IT Applications will be Used in these election-**
- SAMADHAN: Public Grievance Redressal and Monitoring System
- SUVIDHA: Single Window Permission System
- SUGAM: Vehicle Management System



- Webcasting/CCTVs at Polling Stations
- Polling/Police Personnel Deployment System
- E-Payment
- Voter Centric Information Dissemination Initiatives
- In addition to this, Electors who have been provided with Electors Photo Identity Cards shall be identified through EPIC.
- Presently, the EPIC coverage in Gujarat is 99.99%.
- The format of nomination paper (Forms 2A to 2E) has been partially amended.
- The Commission has provided to the candidates an additional facility for online submission (e-filing) of their Affidavit.
- During the entire election period starting from the date of announcement of election and ending with the date of declaration of results, the use of public address system or loudspeakers or any sound amplifier shall not be permitted at night between 10.00 p.m. and 6.00 a.m.

Reference:

http://eci.nic.in/eci_main1/current/PN80_25102017.pdf

19th Organic World Congress

Question: Which of the following states is going to organize the 19th Organic World Congress?

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

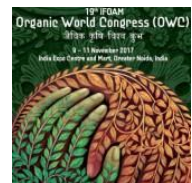
Answer: (a)

Related Facts:

- Between November 9-11, 2017, the 19th Organic World Congress (Biological Agriculture World Kumbh) will be organized in Greater Noida area of Uttar Pradesh.
- Principal Partner for the 19th OWC is the Agriculture and Processed Food Product Development Authority (APEDA) and associate Partner State Andhra Pradesh, Kerala and Sikkim and others.
- Its organizer is IFOAM: International Federation of Organic Agriculture Movement.
- This Congress It is organized once in 3 years. The last (18th) edition of the organic World Congress was organized in Istanbul, Turkey in October, 2014.
- This is the first time that the Organic World Congress is being organized in India.
- The aim of the congress is to share experience, innovation and knowledge about the organic world, while giving the organizing country global visibility.

Reference:

<https://owc.ifoam.bio/2017/about>



Indian Haj Committee presented its report

Question- On October 7, 2017, the Indian Haj Committee presented its report to Union Minority Affairs Minister Mukhtar Abbas Naqvi. Under whose chairmanship this committee was constituted?

- (a) Chaudhary Mahbub Ali Kaiser (b) Afzal Amanullah (c) Qaiser Shamim (d) J. Alam



Answer: (b)**Related facts:**

- On October 7, 2017, the Indian Haj Committee presented the report on Haj Policy, 2018-22, to Union Minority Affairs Minister Mukhtar Abbas Naqvi.
- It is to be noted that a committee was formed under the chairmanship of senior retired IAS officer Afzal Amanullah for the Ministry of Minority Affairs, Government of India to review the existing Hajj policy for the year 2013-17 and suggest the framework for the Haj Policy, 2018-22.
- The Terms of Reference of the Committee included the following;
 - Review the existing Haj policy pertaining to HCol and PTOs in the light of its objectives and achievements.
 - Examine implications of various directions of the Supreme Court with regard to the existing policy and to suggest suitable amendments in the said policy in the light of such directions.
 - Review the effectiveness of arrangements made by HCol for Haj pilgrims' accommodation and
 - air travel including issues related with Haj subsidy.
 - Examine the effectiveness of inter-relationship and coordination in the functioning of Haj Committee of India and CGI.
 - Examine the aspects of transparency, consumer satisfaction and disclosure requirements for PTOs to protect interest of the Haj Pilgrims with a view to make the new policy of greater assistance to the pilgrims.
 - Suggest measure for ensuring fair competition among PTOs and enhanced value for services provided by them.
 - Examine any other issues relevant to Haj policy for HCol and PTOs.
 - Suggest the framework for new Haj policy for HCol and PTOs in the light of the above.
- Major recommendations of the Committee are as under: Haj Policy of the Government for Haj Committee of India
 1. Distribution of quota between HCol and PTOs to be rationalised in the ratio of 70:30 for the next 5 years.
 2. Seats among the States/ Union Territories to be distributed in the ratio of their Muslim population as well as in proportion to the number of applications received.
 3. Quota for Mehram to be increased from 200 to 500.
 4. Special quota for Jammu & Kashmir to be increased from 1500 to 2000.
 5. States/ UTs receiving less than 500 applications to get priority in distribution of surplus seats. This will benefit UTs like Andaman & Nicobar Island, Lakshadweep, Dadra & Nagar Haveli, Daman & Diu & Puducherry as well as smaller States like Chhattisgarh, Goa, Himachal Pradesh and Manipur.
 6. Reserved category of applicants viz. 70+ and 4th timers to be abolished.
 7. Ladies above 45 years of age to be allowed in a group of 4 or more to go for Haj without Mehram.
 8. Only one category of accommodation in Makkah, in Azizia and adjoining areas to be hired with new, multi storied modern buildings with transportation facilities for the pilgrims
 9. Re-hiring arrangement to be made for new, good and big buildings in subsequent year.
 10. All accommodation in Madinah to be hired in Markazia only.
 11. Stay of all Indian Hajis to be ensured within the traditional boundaries of Mina.
 12. Adahi coupons to be made compulsory for each pilgrim.

13. Breaking cartel of contractors with transparent bidding process. Hiring rate to be brought down with better negotiations.
 14. Embarkation Points (EPs) to be reduced from 21 to 9 which are (1) Delhi (2) Lucknow (3) Kolkata (4) Ahmedabad (5) Mumbai (6) Chennai (7) Hyderabad (8) Bengaluru and (9) Cochin. Suitable Haj houses to be built at these EPs. States/Districts to be tagged with each EP properly.
 15. Facilities created in discontinued EPs to be used for round the year training, orientation of pilgrims and other productive uses for the community.
 16. Saudi Government to be consulted regarding Haj travel by ship and thereafter floating an EOI to gauge the market for such travel.
- Policy of the Government for Private Tour Operators
17. A robust portal to be developed for processing of PTO applications.
 18. A committee of 2-3 experts to consider representations of PTOs aggrieved by Haj Division's decisions.
 19. PTOs to be categorised in three categories in accordance with their experience and financial strength. The PTO quota to be divided in the ratio 30:40:30 among the three categories with the provision of allocation of seats in the ratio 200:100:50 to the individual PTOs.
 20. A comprehensive empanelment policy for the PTOs to be formulated that would facilitate easier and quicker renewals. Empanelment to be done on the basis of documents as well as physical inspection of the PTOs. Stringent norms to be followed for blacklisting and forfeiture of security deposit of PTOs.
 21. PTOs to collect full package costs from pilgrims through bank accounts only and render details to the Ministry before departure of pilgrims from India.
 22. Each PTO to have a proper website with pre decided disclosure norms.
 23. Nomenclature of PTO to be changed to Haj Group Organiser (HGO).
 24. Steering Committee to be co-chaired by Secretary (MoMA) and Secretary (MEA) with senior officials of other concerned Ministries to be constituted for better coordination.
 25. Two members Haj Goodwill Delegation from India to continue.
 26. Amendment in Haj committee act to include Umra and Ziyarat to Syria, Iran, Iraq and Jordan, removal of obsolete provisions, inclusion of official of MoMA in the HCoI, etc.

Reference:

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintHindiRelease.aspx?relid=67536>

India Water Week -2017

Question- On October 10, 2017, President Ramnath Kovind launched India Water Week-2017 in New Delhi. What is the theme of India Water Week?

- (a) Water and energy for sustainable development
- (b) Water and Energy for Inclusive Development
- (c) Water and Energy for Clean Environment
- (d) Water and energy for green growth

Answer: (b)

Related facts:

- On October 10, 2017, President Ramnath Kovind launched the India Water Week -2017 in New Delhi.



- The theme of the 5th edition of the India Water Week- “Water and Energy for Inclusive Growth” is for ‘comprehensive development’.
- In this five-day international event, 1500 representatives from 13 countries are participating.
- The main components under this event are as follows:
- Water, Food and Energy Security – Essential requirement for sustainable development.
- Water for inclusive Growth.
- Sustainable energy development – Key for all round economic growth.
- Water and society.
- The Business to Business Exhibition “India Water Expo 2017” co-located with the conference will also be organized from 11 to 14 October, 2017.
- Apart from this, the World Water Forum will present a presentation on the eighth World Water Forum to be held in March 2018 in Brazil.

Reference:

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=171545>

ADOPT A HERITAGE ‘Apni Dharohar, Apni Pehchaan’ Project

Question: How many companies have been shortlisted as future ‘Monument Mitras’ under ‘Adopt a Heritage Scheme’?

(a) 5 (b) 7 (c) 11 (d) 17

Answer: (b)

Related Facts:



ADOPT A HERITAGE

- On October 26th, 2017, Seven (7) companies have been shortlisted as future ‘Monument Mitras’ under ‘Adopt a Heritage Scheme’ of Ministry of Tourism at the closing ceremony of ‘Paryatan Parv.’
- These companies have been given ‘Letters of Intent’ for fourteen monuments.
- Under the first phase of the scheme Fifty Seven (57) responses have been recorded and fourteen (14) monuments have been opted through seven (7) Expression of Interest(s).
- **These seven shortlisted companies and 14 monuments adopted by them are as follows:**
 - 1. SBI Foundation shortlisted for the adoption of –**
 - Jantar Mantar, Delhi.
 - 2. TK International Limited shortlisted for the adoption of –**
 - Sun Temple, Konark
 - Raja Rani Temple, Bhubaneswar
 - Ratnagiri Monuments, Jaipur, Odisha
 - 3. Yatra Online Pvt. Limited shortlisted for the adoption of:**
 - Hampi, Karnataka
 - Leh Palace, Jammu & Kashmir
 - Qutub Minar, Delhi
 - Ajanta Caves, Maharashtra
 - 4. Travel Corporation of India Ltd. shortlisted for the adoption of:**
 - Mattancherry Palace Museum, Kochi
 - Safdarjung Tomb, Delhi
 - 5. Adventure Tour Operator Association of India shortlisted for the adoption of :**
 - Gangotri Temple Area and Trail to Gaumukh

- Mt. StokKangri, Laddakh, Jammu and Kashmir
- **6. Special Holidays Travel Pvt. Ltd. (With) Rotary Club of Delhi shortlisted for the adoption of:**

- Agrasen ki Baoli, Delhi
- **7. NBCC shortlisted for the adoption of:**

- Purana Quila, Delhi.
- These companies have been shortlisted after detailed scrutiny, ranging from hospitality industry, travel industry and banking industry sectors.

What is 'Adopt a Heritage Project'?

- ADOPT A HERITAGE 'Apni Dharohar, Apni Pehchaan' is a unique endeavour of Ministry of Tourism in close collaboration with Ministry of Culture and Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) which envisages developing monuments, heritage and tourist sites across India and making them tourist friendly to enhance their tourism potential and cultural importance, in a planned and phased manner.
- Scheme was launched on World Tourism Day i.e. 27th September, 2017.
- Objectives of the project are to:
- Develop basic tourism infrastructure in and around heritage monuments and any other tourist sites.
- Inclusive tourist experience for heritage site / monument or tourist site.
- Promote cultural and heritage value of the country to generate livelihoods of local communities of respective heritage site / monument/ tourist site.
- Enhance the tourist attractiveness in a sustainable manner by developing world class infrastructure at heritage site / monument or tourist site.
- Create employment through active involvement of local communities.
- Harness tourism potential for its multiplier effects in employment generation and economic development.
- Develop sustainable tourism infrastructure and ensuring proper Operations and Maintenance therein.
- For management under the project, organization such as Oversight and Vision Committee, Implementation Committee, Monument Committee etc. have been constituted.
- Public / Private sector companies or individuals successfully selected through the process of 'Vision Bidding', on a competitive basis for the project shall be called as Monument Mitras.
- This project is initially proposed to be implemented for 5 years subject to the review of the performance at any time.
- In case of unsatisfactory performance and non-compliance of guidelines the MoU is liable to be terminated.
- Under the project Monuments have been categorized in three as Green, Blue and Orange.

Reference:

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

The first ever All India Institute of Ayurveda dedicated to the Nation

Question: At which of the following places Prime Minister Narendra Modi recently dedicated the first ever All India Ayurveda Institute to the nation?

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

Answer: (b)

Related Fact:

- On October 17th, 2017, the Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi, dedicated the All India Institute of Ayurveda, in New Delhi, to the nation.
- The All India Ayurveda Institute, established on the lines of AIIMS, is the first such medical institute under the Ministry of AYUSH, which has got prestigious status of NABH Accreditation for its diagnostic services.
- As an apex institute under the Ministry of AYUSH, the AIIA will bring synergy between the traditional wisdom of Ayurveda and modern diagnostic tools and technology.



Reference:

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=171776>

West Zone Regional Training Centre of IB

Question: At which place was the inauguration of the Western Zone Regional Training Center of the Intelligence Bureau (IB) by Union Home Minister Rajnath Singh recently?

(a) Jaisalmer (b) Jodhpur (c) Bikaner (d) Ajmer

Answer: (b)

Related Facts:

- On October 16th, 2017, the Union Home Minister Shri Rajnath Singh inaugurated the West Zone Regional Training Centre of the Intelligence Bureau (IB), in Jodhpur, Rajasthan.
- The purpose of the training centre is to strengthen and professionally empower the State Police Special Branches.
- The West Zone will include states of Madhya Pradesh, Goa, Gujarat, Rajasthan and Maharashtra.
- Intelligence Bureau is India's internal intelligence agency, which was rebuilt in the year 1947 under the Ministry of Home Affairs as the Central Intelligence Bureau.
- It is notable that IB places lot of emphasis on continuous upgradation of professional skills of IB employees through regular In-service training courses.
- In the 21 month period between January, 2016 and September, 2017, a total of 12, 142 personnel were given training in intelligence and national security related subjects.
- Presently, Rajiv Jain is the Director of Intelligence Bureau.



Reference:

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=171760>

Women Bio-Tech Incubator

Question: Where was the IISF-2017 organized recently?

(a) Jaipur (b) Chennai (c) Bangalore (d) Uttar Pradesh

Answer: (b)



Related Facts:

- On October 16th, 2017, Union Minister of Science & Technology Dr. Harshvardhan inaugurated Women Bio-tech Incubator at Golden Jubilee Biotech Park for Women Society during IISF, 2017 in Chennai.
- M. S. Swaminathan, Founder Chairman, Women Biotech Park, and State Minister of Industry, Government of Tamilnadu – Shri M C Sampath were present at the occasion.
- Biotech Park is a good example of a Centre and State Government Partnership.
- With the support of the State Government it will drive many important initiatives under Start up India and Make in India.
- Women Scientists Conclave with the theme “Women Scientist and Entrepreneurs – Game Changers Driving Science for New India” was held as a part of India International Science Congress, 2017 in Chennai.
- The Atal Innovation Mission also aims to promote the innovation ecosystem.
- The Conclave is being attended by over 350 Women Scientists, Researchers, Faculty and Entrepreneurs.
- Harshvardhan also released a book – Genesis of Biotech Park – on this occasion.
- It is noteworthy that The first women to receive a medical doctorate degree was Anandibai Joshee in 1885, the first Indian women Doctorate in Basic Science was Janaki Ammal in 1931 and India’s first woman to get a doctorate of science from an Indian university was Asima Chatterjee in 1944.

Reference:

<http://www.dbtindia.nic.in/iisf-festival-2017-inaugurated/>

Bureau of Indian standards (BIS) Act 2016 brought into force

Question: From which date the Indian Standards Bureau (BIS) Act, 2016 came into effect?

- (a) October 5, 2017 (b) October 9, 2017 (c) October 12, 2017
(d) October 15, 2017

Answer- (c)

Related Facts:

- A new Bureau of Indian standard (BIS) Act 2016 which was notified on 22nd March, 2016, has been brought into force with effect from 12th October, 2017.
- This Act was notified in Parliament in March 2016.
- Indian Standards Bureau (BIS) Act, 1986 was implemented in the country so far.
- The Act has enabling provisions for the Government to bring under compulsory certification regime any goods or article of any scheduled industry, process, system or service which it considers necessary in the public interest or for the protection of human, animal or plant health, safety of the environment, or prevention of unfair trade practices, or national security. Enabling provisions have also been made for making hallmarking of the precious metal articles mandatory.
- The new Act also allows multiple type of simplified conformity assessment schemes including self-declaration of conformity against a standard which will give simplified options to manufacturers to adhere to the standards and get certificate of conformity.

Reference:

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=171705>



RO RO (Roll on, Roll off) ferry service

Question: On October 22nd, 2017, the Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi, inaugurated Phase 1 of the RO RO (Roll on, Roll off) ferry service between-

- (a) Ghogha and Dahej (b) Mumbai and Pune
(c) Bengaluru and Kolkata (d) Ghogha and Mumbai

Answer- (c)

Related Facts:

- On October 22nd, 2017, the Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi, inaugurated Phase 1 of the RO RO (Roll on, Roll off) ferry service between Ghogha and Dahej.
- It is the first ever not only for the country but the entire South-Asia.
- This ferry service shall reduce the travel time between Ghogha in Saurashtra, and Dahej in South Gujarat, from about seven or eight hours, to just over an hour.
- Phase 1, enables passenger movement and will shorten the 360 kms distance between Ghogha in Bhavnagar district to Dahej in Bharuch district to just 32 kms by water.
- The Prime Minister travelled on the maiden voyage of this service, from Ghogha to Dahej.
- Phase 1 RO (Roll on, Roll off) ferry service is of Rs. 615 crore.
- The Prime Minister also dedicated Sarvottam cattle feed plant of Shree Bhavnagar District Cooperative Milk Producers Union Ltd at Ghogha in Bhavnagar district.
- He also laid foundation stones for development projects worth over 1,140 crores in Vadodara.



Reference:

<http://ddinews.gov.in/sites/default/files/ferry.jpg>

Prime Minister lays Foundation Stone for infrastructure projects in Kedarnath

Question: For how many infrastructure and development projects, Prime Minister Narendra Modi has laid the foundation stone at Kedarnath?

- (a) Four (b) Two (c) Five (d) Three

Answer: (c)

Related Facts:



- On 20 October, 2017 the Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi, visited Kedarnath.
- He offered prayers at the Kedarnath Temple, and laid the Foundation Stone for five infrastructure and development projects.
- These include the development of retaining wall and ghat on the Mandakini River; development of retaining wall and ghat on Saraswati River; construction of main approach to Kedarnath Temple; development of Shankaracharya Kutir and Shankaracharya Museum; and development of houses for Kedarnath Purohits.
- The Prime Minister was briefed on the Kedarpuri Reconstruction Project.
- Shri Narendra Modi said that the Himalayas have much to offer for spiritualism, adventure and tourism, and for the nature lover.
- He invited everyone to come and explore the Himalayas.

- The Governor of Uttarakhand, Dr. K.K. Paul, and Chief Minister of Uttarakhand, Shri Trivendra Singh Rawat, were present on the occasion.

Reference:-

http://www.pmindia.gov.in/en/news_updates/pm-visits-kedarnath-lays-foundation-stone-for-infrastructure-projects/?comment=disable

PM dedicates All India Institute of Ayurveda to the nation

Question: Prime Minister Narendra Modi has dedicated All India Institute of Ayurveda (AIIA) to the nation in-

- (a) Varanasi (b) New Delhi
(c) Mumbai (d) Dehradun

Answer: (b)

Related Facts:



- On 17 October 2017, the Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi, dedicated the All India Institute of Ayurveda, in New Delhi, to the nation.
- It is the first ever All India Institute of Ayurveda (AIIA) is set up along the lines of AIIMS.
- As an apex institute under the Ministry of AYUSH, the AIIA will bring synergy between the traditional wisdom of Ayurveda and modern diagnostic tools and technology.
- Speaking on this occasion, the Prime Minister congratulated the gathering on the celebration of Dhanvantari Jayanti as Ayurveda Divas.
- He complimented the Ministry of AYUSH for the establishment of the All India Institute of Ayurveda.
- On this occasion the Prime Minister said the Union Government has approved 100 percent FDI in healthcare systems.
- The Ministry has signed an MOU with the National Health Organization of USA for development of Ayurveda and Yoga.
- On this occasion, The Prime Minister released the “Ayurvedic Standard Treatment Guidelines”.
- The All India Institute of Ayurveda (AIIA) has been set up with a total campus area of 10.015 acres with a budget of Rs.157 Crore.
- It has an NABH Accredited Hospital and an Academic Block. Out Patient Services are being provided in the hospital block of the AIIA and medicines are given free of cost.
- Currently clinical specialties running in the hospital block are Neurological & Degenerative Disease Care Unit, Rheumatology & Musculoskeletal Care Unit, Diabetes & Metabolic/Allergic Disorders Care Unit, Yoga, Panchakarma Clinic, Kriya Kalpa, Diabetic Retinopathy Clinic, Kshara Evum Anushastra Karma and Infertility Clinic.
- It also has pathology, biochemistry, microbiology and radiology laboratories/diagnosis facilities.
- The indoor patient department has provision for 200 beds.

Reference:

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=171768>

Sampoorna Bima Gram (SBG) Yojana

Question- Recently, Union Minister for Communications Shri Manoj Sinha launched the Sampoorna Bima Gram (SBG) Yojana and an initiative for expansion of clientele base of Postal Life Insurance. Consider the following statements related to this:

(i) Postal Life Insurance (PLI) was introduced in the year 1884.

(ii) Under the scheme, at least 5 villages in each revenue districts of the country will be marked.

(iii) On the recommendations of the Malhotra Committee, the beginning of rural postal life insurance was started on March 1995.

Which of the following statements is / are true / to-

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

(d) All the above

Answer: (b)

Related Facts:

- On October 13th, 2017, the Minister for Communications Shri Manoj Sinha launched the Sampoorna Bima Gram (SBG) Yojana and an initiative for expansion of clientele base of Postal Life Insurance.
- Coverage of all households in the identified Sampoorna Bima Gram village is the primary objective of this scheme.
- The Minister said, under Sampoorna Bima Gram (SBG) Yojana, at least one village (having a minimum of 100 households) will be identified in each of the revenue districts of the country.
- Endeavour will be made to cover all households of that identified village with a minimum of one RPLI (Rural Postal Life Insurance) policy each.
- All villages under the Saansad Adarsh Gram Yojana will be brought under its ambit.
- Under the scheme expansion of clientele base of PLI, it has now been decided that benefits of PLI will no more be confined to Government and semi-Government employees, but will also be available to professionals such as Doctors, Engineers, Management Consultants, Chartered Accountants, Architects, Lawyers, Bankers etc. and to employees of listed companies of NSE (National Stock Exchange) and BSE (Bombay Stock Exchange).
- It is noteworthy that Postal Life Insurance (PLI), introduced in 1884, is one of the oldest life insurance schemes for benefit of Government and semi-Government employees.
- Rural Postal Life Insurance (RPLI), introduced on March 24, 1995 on recommendations of Malhotra Committee, provides insurance cover to people residing in rural areas, especially weaker sections and women living in rural areas.

Reference:

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintHindiRelease.aspx?relid=67659>



Intensified Mission Indradhanush

Question- Full immunisation under Mission Indradhanush to at least 90% coverage was to be achieved by-

(a) Upto 2018 (b) Upto 2019 (c) Upto 2020 (d) Upto 2021

Answer: (c)

Related Facts:



- On October 8, 2017, Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched the Intensified Mission Indradhanus, in Vadnagar, Gujarat.
- Through this programme, Government of India aims to reach each and every child under two years of age and all those pregnant women who have been left uncovered under the routine immunisation programme.
- The special drive will focus on improving immunization coverage in select districts and cities to ensure full immunization to more than 90% by December 2018.
- The achievement of full immunisation under Mission Indradhanush to at least 90% coverage was to be achieved by 2020 earlier.
- Four phases of Mission Indradhanush have reached to more than 2.53 crore children and 68 lakh pregnant women with life-saving vaccines including 5.21 lakh children & 1.27 lakh pregnant women in Gujarat.
- Earlier the increase in full immunization coverage was 1% per year which has increased to 6.7% per year through the first two phases of 'Mission Indradhanush'.
- Intensified Mission Indradhanush will cover low performing areas in the selected districts and urban areas.
- Special attention will be given to unserved/low coverage pockets in sub-centre and urban slums with migratory population.
- The focus is also on the urban settlements and cities identified under National Urban Health Mission (NUHM).
- IMI is supported by 11 other ministries and departments, such as Ministry of Women and Child Development, Panchayati Raj, Ministry of Urban Development, Ministry of Youth Affairs among others.
- An appreciation and awards mechanism is also conceived to recognize the districts reaching more than 90% coverage.
- The criteria include best practices and media management during crisis. To acknowledge the contribution of the partners/Civil Society Organization (CSOs) and others, Certificate of Appreciation will be given.
- At the function, the Prime Minister also dedicated the GMERS Medical College, Vadnagar to the nation.
- He also launched the Innovative Mobile Phone Technology for Community Health Operation (ImTeCHO).
- This technology will help in improving coverage of community based maternal, neonatal and infant health services to reduce neonatal and infant mortality in Gujarat by empowering health staff through use of innovative mobile phone application.

Reference:

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=171499>

Nanaji Deshmukh

Question- Where did Prime Minister Narendra Modi recently inaugurate 'Nanaji Deshmukh Phenomics Center'?

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

Answer: (c)

Related Facts:

- On October 11, 2017, Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated 'Nanaji Deshmukh



Phenomics Center' developed by Indian Council of Agricultural Research in Pusa, New Delhi.

- This state-of-the-art, automated Phenomics Center is one of the public funding institutions in the world.
- This center will also help in understanding the interaction between the genes and the environment in the field of crop improvement and management.
- This center is equipped with high-tech controlled climate greenhouse, dynamic field conveyor system, automated weight lifting and irrigation stations, and various imaging sensor reflections by Scanalyzer 3D software.
- With this help, the interaction between the genes and the environment will be understood as the next phase of expanding the boundaries of our knowledge in the area of crop improvement and management.

Reference:

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=171569>

Conference on the National Pension System for Central Public Sector Enterprises

Question: At which of the following places a conference on National Pension System (NPS) for Central Public Sector Enterprises (CPSE) was organized?

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

Answer: (d)



Related Facts:

- On October 10, 2017; a conference on National Pension System (NPS) for Central Public Sector Enterprises (CPSE) was organized at India Habitat Center, New Delhi.
- It was organized by the Pension Fund and Development Authority (PFRDA).
- Its objective was to make the Central Public Sector Enterprises aware of the benefits and characteristics of the National Pension System and to provide solutions to their queries related to the National Pension System.
- In this conference, the Public Enterprises Department has issued a notification ending the condition of term of retirement from minimum 15 years service and CPSE to obtain the benefit of the recommendation of the third pay revision committee.
- In addition to this, Government has also amended the Income Tax Act providing for tax free migration of superannuation funds to NPS.
- This provision will facilitate CPSE to implement NPS for its employees.
- This provision will facilitate the CPSEs to implement NPS for their employees. The total employee strength in CPSEs stood at 12.91 lakh (excluding contract workers) in 2014-15.
- The Conference saw an active participation of more than 55 CPSEs with around 150 participants.
- Individuals can now subscribe to NPS upto the age of 65 years and can defer the purchase of annuity to three more years post retirement and defer lump-sum withdrawal in phased manner over a period of 10 years.

Reference:

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=171552>

First meeting Economic Advisory Council to Prime Minister (EAC-PM)

Question: Under whose chairmanship the First meeting of Economic Advisory Council to Prime Minister held in New Delhi?

- (a) Arvind Subramaniam (b) Dr. Surjit Bhalla
(c) Dr. Bibek Debroy (d) Dr. Ashima Goyal

Answer: (c)

Related Facts:

- On October 11, 2017, the first meeting of the Prime Minister's Economic Advisory Council to the PM was held in New Delhi.
- In the council meeting chaired by Dr. Bibek Debroy, a member of the Policy Commission, the status of the present economic, fiscal and monetary policy was taken into consideration and the main areas which were identified by the Council would be the special emphasis.
- The 10 regions identified by the Council include economic growth and employment generation, unofficial sector and unification of the informal sector, financial structure, monetary policy and public spending efficiency, public expenditure, economic sector institutions, agriculture and animal husbandry, consumption trend and production and social sector.
- In the council meeting chaired by Dr. Bibek Debroy, a member of the Policy Commission, the status of the present economic, fiscal and monetary policy was taken into consideration and the main areas which were identified by the Council would be the special emphasis.
- Arvind Subramanyam, Chief Economic Advisor of India also joined the meeting.
- They put their views about the policy measures being taken to speed up economic growth including investment and exports.
- On 26th September 2017, the Council had been set up with the approval of the Prime Minister.
- Council comprised of reputed economists and experts which include Dr. Bibek Debroy, Member, NITI Aayog as the Chairman, Shri. Ratan P. Watal, Principal Adviser, NITI Aayog as Member Secretary and Dr. Surjit Bhalla, Dr. Rathin Roy and Dr. Ashima Goyal as part time members.



Reference:

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=171565>

First meeting of India-Australia Joint Steering Committee

Question- At which of the following places the first meeting of India-Australia Joint Steering Committee held recently?

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

Answer: (b)

Related Facts:

- On October 6th, 2017, the first meeting of the India-Australia Joint Steering Committee was held in New Delhi.
- It is noteworthy that this meeting is a follow-up to the Memoranda of Understanding (MoU) on Cooperation in Combating International Terrorism and Transnational Organized Crime exchanged between the two sides during the visit of Australian Prime



Minister Mr. Malcolm Turnbull to New Delhi in April this year and his talks with the Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi.

- During the Joint Steering Committee meeting the two sides discussed scope for cooperation in counter-terrorism and checking extremism and radicalization besides steps to check illegal financial transactions and counterfeiting and cybercrimes.
- Issues related to human trafficking and people smuggling, combating illegal drug trafficking and sharing information between law enforcement agencies were also discussed.

Reference:

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/hindirelease.aspx?relid=67516>

Prime Minister Constitutes Economic Advisory Council

Question: Under whose chairmanship the Economic Advisory Council (EAC-PM) to the Prime Minister was constituted by PM Narendra Modi?

- (a) Dr. Bibek Debroy (b) Dr. Rajiv Kumar (c) Dr. Rathin Roy
(d) Dr. Ashima Goyal

Answer: (a)

Related Facts:

- On September 25th, 2017, The Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi constituted the Economic Advisory Council to the Prime Minister (EAC-PM).
- The composition of the EAC-PM is as follows-Dr. Bibek Debroy, Member, NITI Aayog- Chairman
 2. Dr. Surjit Bhalla- Part-time Member
 3. Dr. Rathin Roy- Part-time Member
 4. Dr. Ashima Goyal- Part-time Member
 5. Shri Ratan Watal, Principal Advisor, NITI Aayog – Member-Secretary
- Terms of reference of the EAC would be as follows:(i) To analyze any issue, economic or otherwise, referred to it by the Prime Minister and advising him thereon;
(ii) To address issues of macroeconomic importance and presenting views thereon to the Prime Minister. This could be either suo-motu or on reference from the Prime Minister or anyone else;
(iii) To attend to any other task as maybe desired by the Prime Minister from time to time.
- It is noteworthy that the EAC-PM is an independent body to give advice on economic and related issues to the Government of India, specifically to the Prime Minister.



Reference:

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/hindirelease.aspx?relid=67319>

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 Lakshmi Bai National Institute of Physical Education, India and Nippon Sport Science University, Japan.
 - To facilitate and deepen international education cooperation and exchanges between Sports Authority of India and Nippon Sport Science University, Japan.
 - To strengthen strategic collaboration, joint research programmes and exchanges between Lakshmi Bai 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+13+14+2017>

Governors appointed by the President

Question:- On September 30th, 2017, President Ramnath Kovind appointed new governors in the States of Arunachal Pradesh, Bihar, Tamil Nadu, Assam and Meghalaya.

- (i) Arunachal Pradesh-Bigredier B.D. Mishra
(ii) Bihar-Banwari Lal Purohit (iii) Tamilnadu-Satypal Malik
(iv) Assam-Jagdish Mukhi

Which of the following is correctly matched?

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



Answer: (a)

Related Facts:

- On September 30, 2017, President Ramnath Kovind appointed new governor in the States of Arunachal Pradesh, Bihar, Tamil Nadu, Assam and Meghalaya.
- Brigadier (Dr.) B.D. Mishra (Retd) has been appointed as the new Governor of Arunachal Pradesh.
- Satyapal Malik has been appointed as the new Governor of Bihar.
- Banwari Lal Purohit has been appointed as the new governor of Tamil Nadu.
- Jagdish Mukhi is the new governor of Assam.
- Ganga Prasad was appointed the new governor of Meghalaya.
- In addition, the President appointed Admiral (retired) Devendra Kumar Joshi as the Deputy Governor of Andaman and Nicobar Islands.
- He will replace Professor Jagdish Mukhi.

Related Links:

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintHindiRelease.aspx?relid=67416>

Fifth India Water Week 2017

Question: The India Water Week-2017 has been inaugurated by the President of India on-

- (a) 11th October, 2017 (b) 9th October, 2017
(c) 12th October, 2017 (d) 10th October, 2017

Answer: (d)

Related Facts:

- On 10 October, 2017 the President of India, Shri Ram Nath Kovind, inaugurated India Water Week-2017 in Vigyan Bhavan, New Delhi.
- Ministry of Water Resources, RD & GR is to organize the India Water Week 2017 between October 10-14, 2017.



- This is the fifth event of its kind with the theme “Water and Energy for Inclusive Growth” focusing on improving role of water use across all sectors.
- India Water Week is organized to use it as a platform to elicit ideas and opinions from global level decision makers, politicians, researchers and entrepreneurs in the field of water resources for mutual benefit and goodwill.
- The Conference was attended by more than 1500 national and international delegates and an exhibition covering an area of 3000 sqm as well as number of specialized add-on events as other highlights of the event.
- A multi-disciplinary dialogue in the form of a conference discussing issues of “Water and Energy for inclusive Growth”:-
- Water, Food and Energy Security-Essential Requirement for Sustainable Development.
- Water for Inclusive Growth.
- Sustainable Energy Development-Key for All Round Economic Growth.
- Water and Society.
- **Organising Group**
- The India Water Week (IWW)-2017 will be organised by the Ministry of Water Resources, RD& GR in co-ordination with nodal ministries of Agriculture, Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Rural Development, Urban Development, Drinking Water Supply and Sanitation, Power, New and Renewable Energy, Niti Aayog along with their associated expert organizations and Public Sector Units, key International Bodies and private and public business houses.
- **Other Facts to Know –**
- Currently, 80 per cent of water in India is used by agriculture and only 15 per cent by industry. In the coming years, this ratio will change.
- In India, 54 per cent of people are dependent on farming for their livelihood. Yet, their share of national income is only 14 per cent.
- To make agriculture more remunerative and to improve the prosperity of farming communities, the government has introduced many new projects. These include:
- ‘Har Khet ko Paani’– Water for Every Farm: This requires enhancing the supply and availability of water
- 2. ‘Per Drop, More Crop’: This requires using drip irrigation and related methods to improve farm productivity, while using the same volume of water
- 3. ‘Doubling Farm Incomes by 2022’: To achieve this, the government is rapidly expanding the area under irrigation, and completing 99 long-pending irrigation projects. Sixty per cent of these projects are in drought-prone areas

Reference:

http://indiawaterweek.in/docs/information_bulletien/IB1_2017.pdf

Prime Minister Sri Narendra Modi lays foundation stone for AIIMS at Bilaspur

- The Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi, visited Bilaspur in Himachal Pradesh on 3 October, 2017.
- The Prime Minister laid the foundation stone for the All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS), at Bilaspur.
- This 750 bed hospital will be built at a cost of approximately Rs. 1350 crore.



- In addition to healthcare, it will also provide medical education at the under-graduate and post-graduate level, besides nursing.
- The Prime Minister also unveiled a plaque to mark the launch of Digital Nerve Centres for primary healthcare.
- The Prime Minister laid the foundation stone for the Indian Institute of Information Technology (IIIT), at Una.
- Shri Narendra Modi also inaugurated a Steel Processing Unit of Steel Authority of India Limited (SAIL), at Kandrori, Kangra.
- **know about AIIMS**
- Nehru's dream was that such a centre would set the pace for medical education and research in Southeast Asia, and in this he had the wholehearted support of his Health Minister, Rajkumari Amrit Kaur.
- The health survey and development committee, chaired by Sir Joseph Bhore, an Indian Civil Servant, had in 1946 already recommended the establishment of a national medical centre which would concentrate on meeting the need for highly qualified manpower to look after the nation's expanding health care activities.
- The dreams of Nehru and Amrit Kaur and the recommendations of the Bhore Committee converged to create a proposal which found favor with the government of New Zealand.
- A generous grant from New Zealand under the Colombo Plan made it possible to lay the foundation stone of All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) in 1952.
- The AIIMS was finally created in 1956, as an autonomous institution through an Act of Parliament, to serve as a nucleus for nurturing excellence in all aspects of health care.

Reference:

http://www.pmindia.gov.in/en/news_updates/pm-visits-himachal-pradesh-lays-foundation-stone-for-aiims-at-bilaspur/?comment=disable

INTERNATIONAL

Melbourne Mercer Global Pension Index-2017

Question- Recently released Melbourne Mercer Global Pension Index-2017 India is ranked at-

(a) 44 (b) 45 (c) 28 (d) 23

Answer- (c)



Related Facts:

- On October 23, 2017 the Mercer Mercer Global Pension Index was released by Mercer.
- India ranked 28th in the list of 30 countries.
- India's overall index value has increased from 43.4 in 2016 to 44.9 in 2017.
- Denmark is ranked sixth for the sixth consecutive year in this list.
- This year Index expanded to include Colombia, New Zealand and Norway.
- The top five countries in the list are Denmark at first, Netherlands at second, Australia at third and Norway and Finland at fifth and sixth places respectively.
- Countries from the lower order in the list are Argentina (30th), Japan (29th), Mexico (27th), China (26th), and Korea (25th).

- List is published by the Australian Center for Financial Studies (ACFS) in collaboration with the State Government of Victoria and Mercer.
- The primary objective of the Index is to benchmark each country's retirement income system so we can learn to understand what best practice may look like, both now and into the future.
- List compares the retirement income system of different countries on the basis of adequacy, integrity and sustainability of retired people.

Reference:

<https://www.mercer.co.in/newsroom/2017-melbourne-mercet-global-pension-index.html>

Approval for status of IALA as inter-governmental organization

Question- The headquarters of the International Association of Marine Aids to Navigation and Lighthouse Authorities (IALA) is located in-

(a) Vienna (b) St. Petersburg (c) St. Germainen Laye (d) Paris

Answer: (c)

Related facts:

- On October 11, 2017, the Union Cabinet chaired by the Prime Minister has given its approval for International Association of Marine Aids to Navigation and Lighthouse Authorities (IALA) to change its status from Non-Governmental Organization (NGO) to Inter-Governmental Organization (IGO).
- It will bring IALA at par with International Maritime Organisation (IMO) and International Hydrographic Organisation (IHO).
- The IALA, having headquarters at St. Germainen Laye (France) was established in 1957 under French law.
- This organization is governed by a General Assembly having 83 National members.
- In this there is a council working as an executive system.
- The number of members in the IALA Council is 24.
- India is one of the council members represented through the Directorate General of Lighthouses and Lightships (DGLL), Ministry of Shipping.
- DGLL establishes and maintains Aids to Navigation in general waters along coast of India including A&N and Lakshadweep group of islands, as per Lighthouse Act 1927.
- In its XII session held in La Coruna, Spain in May 2014, International Association of Marine Aids to Navigation and Lighthouse Authorities (IALA) General Assembly adopted a resolution stating its firm belief that the status of IALA from NGO to IGO will best facilitate IALA's aims in the 21st century.



Reference:

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintHindiRelease.aspx?relid=67618>

Global Passport Power Rank-2017

Question: India has been ranked 74th with 51 visa free score in the Global Passport Power Rank -2017 released in October, 2017. Who is the first place in this list?

(a) Germany (b) Singapore (c) Sweden (d) South Korea

Answer: (b)

Related Facts:

- Global Passport Power Rank -2017 was released by global Financial Advisory firm Aartion Capital on October 24, 2017.
- Singapore has the world's "most powerful" passport followed by Germany second, Sweden and South Korea in third place respectively.
- India, which was listed 78th, last year, has improved its ranking, figuring at 74th position with a visa-free score of 51.
- Coming in at last place on the list is Afghanistan, ranked 93 with a score of 22, followed by Pakistan and Iraq at 92 with a score of 26, Syria at 91, having a score of 29 and Somalia at 90 with a score 34.
- The status of other countries in this list is: China (66th place), Nepal and Sri Lanka (88th place), Myanmar (83th place), United State of America (6th position) and Russia (40th position)
- The index ranks national passports by the cross-border access they bring, assigning a "visa-free score" according to the number of countries a passport holder can visit visa-free or with visa on arrival.

Reference:

<https://www.passportindex.org/byRank.php>

Victory of Shinzo Abe in Re-election

Question: How many seats the Shinzo Abe's Liberal Democratic Party-led coalition has won in the Parliamentary elections?

- (a) 315 seats (b) 312 seats
(c) 310 seats (d) 311 seats

Answer: (b)

Related Facts:

- Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe secured a crucial victory in Japan's parliamentary elections held on October 19th, 2017.
- Abe's Liberal Democratic Party-led (LDP) coalition won a combined 312 seats, keeping its two-thirds "super majority" in the 465-member lower house.
- If Abe serves out a complete four-year term, he will remain at the helm during the 2020 Tokyo Olympic Games and become Japan's longest-serving prime minister.
- He ran with very little opposition.
- Tokyo Governor Yuriko Koike launched her conservative Party of Hope ahead of the poll, splintering the traditional opposition. But Koike did not herself run for a seat in Parliament and her party failed to put forward a viable candidate.
- Earlier Abe took office in December 2012.
- The Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi has congratulated his Japanese counterpart Shinzo Abe, on victory in the snap polls.

Reference:

<http://ddinews.gov.in/international/shinzo-abe-headed-record-win-says-north-korea-top-priority>



Levels and Trends in Child Mortality Report, 2017

Question: The levels and Trends in Child Mortality Report, 2017 was published by-

- (a) WHO (b) UNESCO
(c) WTO (d) UNICEF

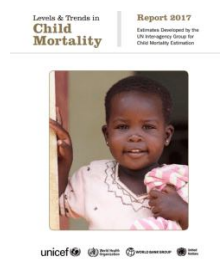
Answer: (d)

Related Facts:

- A new report from UNICEF and its partners in the Inter-Agency Group for Child Mortality Estimation (IGME), Levels and Trends in Child Mortality: Report 2017, shows the full scope of child and newborn mortality across the world.
- Over the past 25 years, the world has made significant progress in saving young children's lives.
- The rate of child mortality fell 62 per cent from 1990–2016, with under-five deaths dropping from 12.7 million to 5.6 million.
- In addition to global estimates for under-five, infant and newborn mortality, the report for the first time contains estimates on mortality among children aged 5-14.
- In 2016 alone, 7,000 newborn babies died every day. Newborn deaths made up 46 per cent of all child deaths, an increase from 41 per cent in 2000.
- Most of these deaths are entirely preventable.
- Prematurity, complications during labour and birth, and infections like sepsis, pneumonia, tetanus and diarrhoea are among the leading causes – all of which can be treated or prevented with simple, affordable solutions.
- Globally, the under-five mortality rate has dropped by more than half (1990-2016), but inequities persist among and within countries.
- Under-five mortality rate: probability of dying between birth and exactly five years of age, expressed per 1,000 live births.
- Newborn mortality is not decreasing as quickly as the mortality among children aged 1 to 59 months
- Neonatal mortality rate: probability of dying between birth and 28 days of age, expressed per 1,000 live births.
- Globally, the under-five mortality rate dropped to 41 (39, 44) deaths per 1,000 live births in 2016 from 93 (92, 95) in 1990 – a 56 (53, 58) per cent decline.
- **in Indian scenario-**
- The largest number of newborn deaths occurred in Southern Asia (39 per cent), followed by subSaharan Africa (38 per cent). Five countries accounted for half of all newborn deaths: India, Pakistan, Nigeria, the Democratic Republic of the Congo and Ethiopia.
- At the country level, half of all neonatal deaths are concentrated in five countries, namely, India (24 per cent), Pakistan (10 per cent), Nigeria (9 per cent), the Democratic Republic of the Congo (4 per cent) and Ethiopia (3 per cent).
- India and Pakistan alone accounted for about a third of all newborn deaths.

Reference:-

<https://data.unicef.org/resources/levels-trends-child-mortality/>



Global Hunger Index-2017

Question: What is the ranking of India in the 'Global Hunger Index-2017' released by 'International Food Policy Research Institute' (IFPRI) on October 12, 2017?

- (a) 86th (b) 100th
(c) 97th (d) 65th

Answer- (b)

Related Facts:

- On October 12, 2017, the 'Global Hunger Index-2017' was released by the International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI).
- The main theme of the GHI-2017 report is 'The Inequalities of Hunger'.
- GHI scores are based on four component indicators—undernourishment, child wasting, child stunting, and child mortality.
- Each of the four component indicators is given a standardized score on a 100-point scale, based on the highest observed level for the indicator globally.
- This calculation results in GHI scores on a 100-point scale, where 0 is the best score (no hunger) and 100 is the worst.
- According to 2017 GHI scores, the level of hunger in the world has decreased by 27 percent from the 2000 level.
- 119 countries have been included in the global hunger index.
- Of the 119 countries assessed in this year's report, one falls in the extremely alarming range on the GHI Severity Scale; 7 fall in the alarming range; 44 in the serious range; and 24 in the moderate range. Only 43 countries have scores in the low range.
- The 14 countries with 2017 GHI scores of less than 5 are not assigned individual ranks, but rather are collectively ranked 1–14.
- In which five top countries are Belarus, Bosnia and Herzegovina (jointly), Chile, Croatia and Cuba respectively.
- India is jointly ranked 100th with the Djibouti and Rwanda in the global hunger index - 2017, while India was at 97th rank last year (2016) in 118 countries.
- India's score in GH-Index -2017 is -31.4.
- India remains still in a serious position.
- Like last year, India's position is better than Pakistan (106th position).
- While India is at bad condition comparable to Nepal (72nd), Sri Lanka (84th) and Bangladesh (88th position).

Reference:

<http://www.globalhungerindex.org/pdf/en/2017.pdf>



ECONOMICS

Coal India Limited-Historical Pay Agreement

Question: Recently, 10th Wage Agreement of Coal Workers was finalised on the 10th meeting on 10th day of 10th month of this year. In this meeting, at what percentage of increase in the salary was agreed upon?

(a) 15 percent (b) 20 percent (c) 25 percent (d) 30 percent

Answer: (b)

Related Facts:

- On October 10th, 2017, the 10th Wage Agreement of Coal Workers was finalised in the 10th meeting this year.
- Wage Agreement of the employees has been due from 1 July 2016.
- Trade Union representatives were insistent for 50% of wage increase.
- Their demand was there should be 50% wage increase for the employees.
- But considering the country's position, CIL's benefit and financial position, a new record has been created by agreeing 20% increase on wages.
- The special accomplishment of this agreement is that every employee shall get one day's rest in a week.
- It has also been decided that from 16th October to 15th November, 2017 welfare, safety and productivity drive shall be carried out.
- To implement the agreement in totality, the payment of arrears would be made in three stages – 40%, 30% & 30%.
- For the welfare of workers an amount of Rs.40,000/- would be paid to the employees before Diwali as a one-time advance.
- CIL and its employees will contribute, for the first time, 7% towards pension fund which will help retired employees to avail the pension facility.
- To implement the scheme of medical treatment to the retired employees, CIL will contribute an amount of Rs.18,000/- for each employee towards contributory post retirement medical scheme, apart from Rs.40,000/- by each employee contributed towards the said scheme. This fund will be operated through a Trust.



Reference:

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=171575>

India top remittance-receiving country

Question: According to the World Bank, which country is the top remittance-receiving country in 2017?

(a) India (b) China (c) Japan (d) Nepal

Answer: (a)

Related Facts:

- According to the figures released by the World Bank on October 3, 2017, India is on top in the world in terms of remittance-receiving country in 2017.
- According to World Bank, a total of \$ 65 billion was sent to India in 2017 by the Indian community living abroad.



- According to a report issued by the World Bank, et cetera to the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and World Bank annual meeting, that remittance, which include flows to high-income countries, are projected to grow by 3.9 per cent to USD 596 billion.
- China (USD 61 billion), Philippines (USD 33 billion), Mexico (USD 31 billion) and Nigeria (USD 22 billion) are the other countries receiving the highest amount of money after India.
- However, as a share of gross domestic product (GDP) for 2017, the top five recipients (Kyrgyz Republic, Haiti, Tajikistan, Nepal, and Liberia) are smaller countries.
- India, despite of a 9% decline received USD 62.7 billion in remittances in 2016, while in the year 2017 it was 65 billion dollars with a 4.2% increase.
- In 2017, there is a possibility of stability in Pakistan for money transfers, while there is a possibility of a decline in Sri Lanka, Bangladesh and Nepal.
- The money sent in India is likely to grow 2.5 percent in year 2018.

Reference:

http://www.business-standard.com/article/current-affairs/india-to-top-global-remittances-chart-with-65-billion-in-2017-world-bank-117100301160_1.html

Acquisition of Tata Teleservices Ltd.

Question: Which of the following telecom company recently, announced the acquisition of Tata Tele-services Ltd?

(a) Bharti Airtel (b) Reliance Jio (c) Idea Cellular (d) Aircel

Answer: (a)

Related Facts:

- On October 12, 2017, Bharti Airtel Ltd, the country's largest telecom company announced the acquisition of Tata Group's telecommunications company Tata Teleservices Ltd.
- Under this, from November 1st, 2017, Airtel would acquire 40 million subscribers of Tata Tele-services Ltd. and Tata Tele-services Maharashtra Ltd. across 19 circles.
- Tata Teleservices Ltd, in the telecom circles from November 1, 2017 to 19 (TTSL) and Tata Teleservices Maharashtra Ltd. (TTML) will have more than 40 million subscribers under Airtel.
- This acquisition will be based on 'Debt Free, Cash Free'.
- This is the 7th acquisition of Airtel in the last five years.
- Total employees of 19 Circles of TTSL (17) and TTML (2) will also go to Airtel.



Reference:

<http://www.thehindu.com/business/Industry/bharti-airtel-to-acquire-tatas-consumer-mobile-business/article19846171.ece>

NABARD Sanctions Rs 119 Crore Loan For Haryana

Question: Recently, the National Agriculture and Rural Development Bank (NABARD) has sanctioned a loan to Haryana State for Rs. –

(a) 119 crores (b) 118 crores (c) 120 crores (d) 119 crores

Answer: (a)

Related Facts:



- On September 22, 2017, NABARD approved a loan of Rs 119 crore for the construction of seven bridges including various projects and improvement of a rural road project.
- Under the Project, construction of seven bridges and one road will be constructed in Ambala, Panchkula, Sonipat, Yamuna Nagar and Panipat districts covering RIDF (Rural Infrastructure) Infrastructure Development Fund of Rs. 28.25 crore.
- In addition, loan has been sanctioned for 167 government veterinary hospitals and dispensaries and one drinking water supply planning in Rewari district in all districts.
- During the implementation of non-recurring employment, about 2.71 lakh labors is likely to be generated.
- The project will directly benefit 46 villages and provide farmers access to 18 marketing centres.
- Nabard has also sanctioned a project for augmentation of one Rural Drinking Water Supply Schemes in Rewari district, involving RIDF loan of Rs 37.71 crore.
- The project is expected to generate about 1.16 lakh work days of non-recurring employment during implementation
- Nabard has also sanctioned construction of 52 government veterinary hospitals and 115 veterinary dispensaries in all 22 districts of the state.
- The main objective of construction of buildings of the veterinary institutions was to provide a better working environment for the staff for quality delivery of veterinary services to the farmers or villagers, he said.
- The project involves RIDF loan of Rs 53.29 crore and will benefit more than 167 villages.
- Project will generate non-recurring employment of 8.35 lakh work days.

Reference:

<https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/business/india-business/nabard-sanctions-rs-119-cr-loan-for-haryana/articleshow/60794480.cms>

India's 100 Richest People-2017

Question- On October 5, 2017, the prestigious magazine 'Forbes' released the list of India Rich List -2017. Who has got the top rank in this list?

- (a) Dilip Shanghvi (b) Lakshmi Mittal (c) Mukesh Ambani
(d) Shiv Nadar

Answer: (c)

Related Facts:

- On October 5, 2017, the prestigious magazine 'Forbes' released 'India Rich List' -2017, the annual list of India's 100 Richest People.
- In this list, Reliance Industries Ltd (RIL) Chairman Mukesh Ambani has been put at the top place for the 10th consecutive year with a net worth of US \$ 38 billion.
- Azim Premji, the Chairman of Wipro Limited country's third largest software service company, remained second in the list with a net worth of US \$ 19 billion.
- After this, the Hinduja family with the property worth 18.4 billion US dollars, the third place, followed by steel King Lakshmi Mittal (4th), with a net worth of US \$ 16.5 billion and Pallonji Mistry (5th) with a property of US \$ 16 billion.
- Godrej family with a net worth 14.2 billion US dollars, HCL Technology founder Shiv Nadar with a net worth USD 13.6 billion, Aditya Birla Group's Kumar Birla with a net worth of USD12.6 billion was ranked sixth, seventh and eighth respectively.



- Dilip Sanghvi, chief of the Sun pharmaceuticals, stayed at number 9 in the list with a net worth of USD 12.1 billion, while he was at second place in the previous year.
- Gautam Adani of Adani Port and SEZ remained at the tenth place with US \$ 11 billion, while Acharya Balkrishna remained at the 19th position with a net worth of US \$ 6.55 billion.
- Savitri Jindal of Jindal group is at top in the list of women, while her overall ranking in the ranked 16th.
- In this list, Vijay Shekhar Sharma of Paytm is the youngest person (39 years, 99th position) and Samprada Singh is the chairman emeritus of Alkem Laboratories (91 years, 43rd position) is the oldest person.

Reference:

<https://www.forbes.com/india-billionaires/list/>

Fourth Bi-monthly Monetary Policy Statement, 2017-18

Question: The Reserve Bank of India has issued the Fourth Bi-monthly Policy Statement, 2017-18 on-

- (a) 2nd October, 2017 (b) 4th October, 2017
(c) 3rd October, 2017 (d) 5th October, 2017

Answer: (b)

Related Facts:



- On October 4th, 2017, Reserve Bank of India has issued Fourth Bi-monthly Monetary Policy Statement, 2017-18.
- Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) made a resolution on the basis of an assessment of the current and evolving macroeconomic situation.
- **Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) has decided:**
- To keep the policy repo rate under the liquidity adjustment facility (LAF) unchanged at 6.0 per cent.
- Consequently, the reverse repo rate under the LAF remains at 5.75 per cent, and the marginal standing facility (MSF) rate and the Bank Rate at 6.25 per cent.
- The decision of the MPC is consistent with a neutral stance of monetary policy in consonance with the objective of achieving the medium-term target for consumer price index (CPI) inflation of 4 per cent within a band of +/- 2 per cent, while supporting growth.
- **The main considerations underlying the decision are set out in the statement below-**
- The projection of real GVA growth for 2017-18 has been revised down to 6.7 per cent from the August 2017 projection of 7.3 per cent, with risks evenly balanced.
- The MPC was of the view that various structural reforms introduced in the recent period will likely be growth augmenting over the medium- to long-term by improving the business environment, enhancing transparency and increasing formalisation of the economy. The MPC also decided to keep the policy stance neutral and monitor incoming data closely.
- The MPC remains committed to keeping headline inflation close to 4 per cent on a durable basis.

Reference:

https://rbi.org.in/scripts/BS_PressReleaseDisplay.aspx?prid=41852

List of Domestic Systemically Important Banks

Question: Which of the following banks is recently identified as a Domestic Systemically Important Banks (D-SIB) by the Reserve Bank?

(a) Kotak Mahindra (b) HDFC (c) Central Bank of India (d) Punjab National Bank

Answer: (b)

Related Facts:

- On September 5, 2017, HDFC Bank is included in the list of Domestic Systematic Important Banks (D-SIBs) by the Reserve Bank of India.
- It is important that HDFC Bank is the second largest private sector bank.
- This is the third bank to be included in D-SIB list after State Bank of India (SBI) and ICICI Bank.
- The Reserve Bank had issued the Framework for dealing with Domestic Systemically Important Banks (D-SIBs) on July 22, 2014.
- The D-SIB Framework requires the Reserve Bank to disclose the names of banks designated as D-SIBs every year in August starting from 2015.
- In the D-SIB list, those financial institutions are included in whose failure the country's economy has to suffer huge losses.



Reference:

https://rbi.org.in/Scripts/BS_PressReleaseDisplay.aspx?prid=41556

Coal India Limited-Historical Pay Agreement

Question: Recently, 10th Wage Agreement of Coal Workers was finalised on the 10th meeting on 10th day of 10th month of this year. In this meeting, at what percentage of increase in the salary was agreed upon?

(a) 15 percent (b) 20 percent (c) 25 percent (d) 30 percent

Answer: (b)

Related Facts:

- On October 10th, 2017, the 10th Wage Agreement of Coal Workers was finalised in the 10th meeting this year.
- Wage Agreement of the employees has been due from 1 July 2016.
- Trade Union representatives were insistent for 50% of wage increase.
- Their demand was there should be 50% wage increase for the employees.
- But considering the country's position, CIL's benefit and financial position, a new record has been created by agreeing 20% increase on wages.
- The special accomplishment of this agreement is that every employee shall get one day's rest in a week.
- It has also been decided that from 16th October to 15th November, 2017 welfare, safety and productivity drive shall be carried out.
- To implement the agreement in totality, the payment of arrears would be made in three stages – 40%, 30% & 30%.
- For the welfare of workers an amount of Rs.40,000/- would be paid to the employees before Diwali as a one-time advance.



- CIL and its employees will contribute, for the first time, 7% towards pension fund which will help retired employees to avail the pension facility.
- To implement the scheme of medical treatment to the retired employees, CIL will contribute an amount of Rs.18,000/- for each employee towards contributory post retirement medical scheme, apart from Rs.40,000/- by each employee contributed towards the said scheme. This fund will be operated through a Trust.

Reference:

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=171575>

SCIENTIFIC

DEFENSE/SCIENCE SHORT NOTES

INS Kiltan

Question: Submarine warship 'INS Kiltan', recently inducted in the Indian Navy belongs to which category?

(a) Kadmat Class (b) Kamorta Class (c) Sagarika Class (d) Arihant Class

Answer: (b)

Related Facts:

- On October 16, 2017, INS Kiltan (P30), third Anti-Submarine Warfare (ASW) was commissioned into the Indian Navy by Defense minister Smt. Nirmala Sitharaman at Naval Dockyard, Visakhapatnam.
- This is the third warship under the project 28 of the 4 anti-submarine warship of Kamorta Class.
- It indigenously designed by the Indian Navy's in-house organization, Directorate of Naval Design and constructed by Garden Reach Shipbuilders & Engineers Limited, Kolkata.
- The ship gets her name from old INS Kiltan (P79), a Petya class ASW ship that served the nation for 18 years before being decommissioned in June 1987.
- Named after the coral island belonging to the Lakshadweep group of islands in India.
- The sleek and magnificent ship spans 109 meters in length, 14 meters in breadth with a displacement of 3,300 tonnes.
- It is 'Combination of Diesel and Diesel (CODAD)' propulsion system of four diesel engines to achieve speeds in excess of 25 knots and has an endurance of around 3,500 Nautical Miles.
- More than 80 % of the ship is indigenous with state of the art equipment & systems to fight in Nuclear, Biological and Chemical (NBC) warfare conditions.
- 'INS Kiltan' is equipped with many state-of-the-art technologies and it could not be detected by the radar.
- Anti-submarine rockets and torpedoes have been installed on this vessel, with the help of which the enemy submarines can be detected and destroyed off.



- It will be an integral part of Eastern Fleet under the Eastern Naval Command of the Indian Navy.
- Under Project 28, in four anti-submarine warships the first warship of Kamorta Class, INS Kamorta, was inducted in the Indian Navy on August 23, 2014 and 'INS Kadmat' on January 7, 2016.
- While this category's fourth anti-submarine warship 'INS Kavaratti' will soon join the Indian Navy.

Reference:

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=171743>

Climate Change Adaptation Policy

Question: Which of the following State cabinet has recently approved the climate change adaptation policy?

(a) Rajasthan (b) Gujarat (c) Maharashtra (d) Odisha

North- (c)

Related facts:

- On October 10th, 2017, the Maharashtra cabinet approved a climate change adaptation policy.
- A special cell under the state Environment department will be set up for the effective implementation of the policy.
- The focus of this policy will be to develop environment-friendly villages and cities.
- The cabinet also approved provision of funds for agricultural pumps, approval of special scheme for pending agricultural pumps in Vidarbha and Marathwada region.
- The cabinet also gave its nod for a grant of Rs 10 lakh to the Akhil Bharatiya Marathi Sahitya Mahamandal and six other regional educational institutions.
- For the development of basic infrastructure of 26 municipal corporations in A and D category in the state, the state government also increased subsidy from 50 per cent to 75 per cent.

Reference:

http://www.ptinews.com/news/9143392_Maha-govt-approves-climate-change-adaptation-policy.htm



महाराष्ट्र शासन

MITRA SHAKTI-2017

Question: On October 13, 2017, where did the fifth India-Sri Lanka joint exercise MITRA SHAKTI 2017 started?

(a) Abbeypura (b) Pune (c) Visakhapatnam (d) Waller

Answer: (b)

Related facts:

- On October 13th, 2017, the fifth India-Sri Lanka Joint Training Exercise MITRA SHAKTI 2017 started Aundh Military Station, Pune.
- It will be organized from 13 to 25 October 2017.



- In this joint military exercise, the Indian Army is being represented by the 'Rajputana Rifles Regiment' and Sri Lanka Army represented by 'Singha Regiment'.
- The exercise is based on Counter Terrorist Operations and an Infantry company from both the countries is participating in the same.
- Last year, this practice was organized in the Singha Regimental Center, Ambeepusa, Sri Lanka.
- It is being organized every year since 2012.

Reference:

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=171691>

Satellite NROL 42

Question: What type of satellite is US satellite NROL 42?

(a) Weather Satellite (b) Spy satellite (c) Telecommunication satellite (d) None of these

Answer: (b)

Related Facts:

- On September 23, 2017, the US's ULA-United Launch Alliance launched the Spy Satellite NROL-42 (National Reconnaissance Office Launch-42) by Atlas V Rocket from the Vandenberg Air Force Base in California.
- After the establishment of NRO Company in 2006, NROL-42 is the 25th mission, which ULA has launched for NRO.
- ULA is a joint venture between Lockheed Martin and Boeing that specializes in the construction and launch of satellites.
- This satellite will provide the Intelligence information to the US National Security Monitoring Office (NRO-National Reconnaissance Office).
- This organization provides information related to national security to US leading intelligence agencies.
- It has been launched in Molniya Orbit.



Reference:

<https://www.space.com/38229-spy-satellite-nrol-42-launch.html>

Immigration check posts along the borders with Myanmar and Bangladesh

Question: India has recently opened two immigration check post in the districts of Mizoram on the border of Myanmar and Bangladesh. In which of the following District these check post are situated?

(a) Lawngtlai (b) Lunglei (c) Collasib (d) Mamit

Answer: (a & b)

Related Facts:

- On October 1, 2017, India opened two immigration check posts along the borders with Myanmar and Bangladesh.
- Central government has designated Zorinpui land check post in Lawngtlai district of Mizoram and Kawrpuchhuah land check post in Lunglei district of Mizoram as an authorised immigration check post for entry into or exit from India with valid travel



documents for all classes of passengers to or from Myanmar and Bangladesh respectively.

- It is significant Zorinpui was selected for a new land custom station along the Indo-Myanmar border in Mizoram for the Kaladan multi-modal project.
- The remote Zorinpui is 287 km away from Sittwe Port in Myanmar.
- It is noteworthy that India enjoys close relations with Bangladesh and shares a 4,096-km-long border which touches Assam, Tripura, Mizoram, Meghalaya and West Bengal.

Reference:

http://www.ptinews.com/news/9115976_India-opens-two-border-crossing-points-with-Myanmar-B-desh

EX. Mitra Shakti 2017

- On 13th October, 2017 the fifth India-Sri Lanka Joint Training Exercise MITRA SHAKTI 2017 started with a grand Opening Ceremony conducted at Aundh Military Station, Pune.
- The exercise is based on Counter Terrorist Operations and an Infantry company from both the countries is participating in the same.
- The Opening Ceremony commenced with immaculate parade, followed by skill displays carried out by troops from both the countries.
- The spectacular display of Unarmed Combat, Khukri Dance and Pipe Band was carried out by Indian Army and Udarata Narthanaya by Sri Lanka Army.
- The India – Sri Lanka joint training exercise MITRA SHAKTI 2017 in its fifth edition will send a strong signal to the world that both India and Sri Lanka understand the emerging threat of terrorism and stand shoulder to shoulder in countering this menace.
- The exercise will be conducted for next 14 days upto 26 Oct 17 & will involve sharing and learning from each others experiences.



Reference:

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=171691>

Indian Naval Ships Satpura and Kadmatt visit Sasebo, Japan

- In pursuance of India's Act East Policy and demonstration of India's commitment to peace and stability in the Indo-Pacific Region, Indian Naval Ships Satpura and Kadmatt are visiting Sasebo, Japan from 12th to 15th October 2017.
- The visit of these ships is part the Indian Government's initiatives to strengthen the long standing, mutually supportive and strong relationship between Japan and India.
- This historic relationship spans across the entire spectrum of engagement between both countries – cultural, spiritual, economic and security.
- the ships will take part in Passage Exercise (PASSEX) with the Murusame Class destroyer, JS Kirisame.



Reference:

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=171642>

BIO-GLUE for the treatment of wounds

Question: Recently, which of the researchers of which of the following universities has created flexible Bio-Gum (BIO-GLUE) for the treatment of wounds?

- (a) McGill University, Canada (b) Harvard University, United States
(c) Both A and B (d) None of the above



Answer: (c)

Related facts:

- In July, 2017, a team of researchers has created flexible bio-glue for healing wounds.
- This bio-glue was created by assistant professor Jianyuli, of mechanical engineering at MacGill University, and his colleagues at John A. Paulson School of Engineering and Applied Sciences (SEAS) of Harvard University.
- It is flexible adhesive material inspired by the glue secreted by slugs.
- The main feature of this gum is a very strong adhesive force and the combination of the ability to transfer and eliminate stress.
- Bio-glue has an adhesive layer of bilateral hydrogel with alginate-polyacrylamide matrix and this layer has a positively charged polymer.
- This bio-glue can be cut to desired sizes and applied to tissue surfaces or as an injectable solution for deeper injuries.
- The researchers tested their adhesive on a variety of both dry and wet pig tissues including skin, cartilage, heart, artery, and liver, and found that it bound to all of them with significantly greater strength than other medical adhesives.

Reference:

<https://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2017/07/170727141508.htm>

SPORTS

TENNIS

Stockholm Open-2017

Question: Who amongst the following became the winner of singles title of recently concluded Men's Tennis Championship 'Stockholm Open, 2017'?

- (a) Grigor Dimitrov (b) Jack Sok (c) Juan Martin del Potro (d) Fabio Fognini

Answer: (c)

Related Facts:

- Men's tennis championship 'Stockholm Open, 2017' concluded in Stockholm, Sweden. (October 16 to 22, 2017)
- Competition Results
- **Men's Singles:**
winner-Juan Martin del Potro (Argentina)
Runner up- Grigor Dimitrov (Bulgaria)
- **Men's Doubles:**
winner-Oliver Marach (Austria) and Mate Pavic (Croatia)
Runner up- Aisam-ul-Haq Qureshi Pakistan) and Jean-Julien Roger (Netherlands)



Reference:

<http://www.atpworldtour.com/en/scores/archive/stockholm/429/2017/results>

Rakuten Japan Open, 2017

Question: Who amongst the following is the men's singles title champion of the recently concluded Japan Open Tennis Tournament?

(a) Rafael Nadal (b) Roger Federer (c) David Goffin (d) Yashutka Uchiyaama

Answer: (c)



Related facts:

- The ATP World Tour, 2017 Tennis Tournament Rakuten Japan Open, 2017 concluded in Tokyo, Japan. (October 2-8, 2017)
- Competition Results:
- **Men's Singles:**
- Winner-David Goffin (Belgium)
- Runners up- Adrian Mannarino (France)
- **Men's Doubles:**
- Winner-Ben McLachlan and Yasutaka Uchiyama (both Japan)
- Runners up- Jamie Murray (UK) and Bruno Soares (Brazil)

Reference:

<http://www.atpworldtour.com/en/scores/archive/tokyo/329/2017/results?matchType=doubles>

China Open-2017

Question- Who amongst the following is men's singles champion of the China Open qualifying tennis tournament?

(a) Roger Federer (b) Rafael Nadal (c) John Eisner (d) Jack Sock

Answer: (b)

Related facts:

- The ATP World Tour, 2017 Tennis Competition China Open, 2017 concluded in Beijing, China. (October 2-8, 2017)
- **Competition Results:**
- Winner-Rafael Nadal (Spain)
- Runner up- Nick Kyrgios (Australia)
- **Women's Singles:**
- Winner-Caroline Garcia (France)
- Runner up- Simona Halep (Romania)
- **Men's Doubles:**
- Winner Henri Kontinen (Finland) and John Pearce (Australia)
- Runner-up- John Isner and Jack Sock (both US)
- **Women's Doubles:**
- Winner-Chan Yung Jan (Chinese Taipei) and Martina Hingis (Switzerland)
- Runner up-Timea Babos (Hungary) and Andrea Hlavackova (Czech Republic)



Reference:

<http://www.chinaopen.com/2017-10-09/docen-ifymrqmq1498061.shtml>

Wuhan Open-2017

Question: Who won the title of the recently concluded “Wuhan Open”, a Women’s Tennis Championship?

- (a) Caroline Garcia (b) Wang Qiang (c) Katrina Makarova
(d) Martina Hingis

Answer: (a)

Related facts:

- WTA Tour Session, 2017 Premier of five Series Women’s Tennis Tournament Wuhan Open, concludes in China. (24-30 September, 2017). For professional reason it is also known as Dongfeng Motor Wuhan Open, 2017.
- **Competition Results:**
- **Women’s Singles:**
- Winner- Caroline Garcia (France)
- Runner up- Ashleigh Barty (Australia)
- **Women’s Doubles:**
- Winner- Chan Yung Jan (Chinese Taipei) and Martina Hingis (Switzerland)
- Runner up- Shuko Aoyama (Japan) and Yang Zhaoxuan (China)

Reference:

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



Tashkent Open-2017

Question: Who is the only winner of the recently concluded Women’s Tennis Tashkent Open, 2017?

- (a) Andrea Hlavackova (b) Kateryna Bondarenko (c) Timea Babos (d) Martina Hingis

Answer: (b)

Related Facts:

- WTA Tour season 2017 of ‘Tashkent Open’ tennis championship concluded in Uzbekistan. (September 25-30, 2017)
- **Competition Results:**
- **Women’s singles:**
- Winner-Kateryna Bondarenko (Ukraine)
- Runner up- Timea Babos (Hungary)
- **Women’s doubles:**
- Winner-Andrea Hlavackova (Czech Republic) and Timea Babos (Hungary)
- Runner up- Nao Hibino (Japan) and Oleksandra Kalashinkova (Georgia)

Reference:

<http://www.tashkentopen.uz/en/news/130>

<http://www.tashkentopen.uz/en/news/131>



Fenesta National Tennis Championship, 2017

Question: Dalwinder Singh, the winner of the Fenesta National Tennis Championship concluded recently, belongs to which state?



(a) Haryana (b) Punjab (c) Rajasthan (d) Gujarat

Answer: (b)

Related Facts:

- Fenesta National Tennis Championship, 2017 concluded in New Delhi. (7 October 2017)
- **Competition Results:**
- **Men's singles:**
- **Winner-**Dalwinder Singh
- **Runner up-**Suraj Prabodh
- **Women's singles:-**
- **Winner-**Mahak Jain
- **Runner up-**Jeel Desai
- Dalwinder became the second player of the Punjab to win this championship.
- Before him, Sunil Kumar Sipaiya from Punjab has won this national championship.

Reference:

<https://www.fenestaopentennis.com/images/Punjab%20kesari%208-Oct,17%20Page%2018.ND0001.jpg>

30th table tennis ITTF-ATTU Asian Cup-2017

Question- Where did the ITTF-ATTU 30th Asian Cup finals-2017 concluded?

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

Answer: (a)

Related Facts:

- The ITTF-ATTU 30th Asian Cup finals -2017 concludes in Ahmedabad, India. (September 15-17, 2017)
- **Competition Results**
- Men's singles
- **Winner-** Lin Gaoyuan (China)
- Runner up- bt fan Zhendong (China)
- Women's singles
- **Winner-** Zhu Yuling (China)
- Runner up- Liu Shiwen (China)
- Third place in men category-Lee Sangsu (Korea)
- Third place in women category- Kasumi Ishikawa (Japan)



Reference:

<http://ttfi.org/events/newsdetail/580/Lin%20and%20Zhu%20crowned%20Asian%20Cup%20champions>

India-F9 Futures Tennis Tournament, 2017

Question: Who amongst the given is the champion of the men's singles in the India F9 Futures Tennis Tournament concluded on September 24, 2017?

(a) Arjun Khade (b) Chandril Sood (c) Lakshit Sood (d) Sasi Kumar Mukund

Answer: (d)

Related Facts:

- International Tennis Association (ITF) India F9 Futures Tennis Tournament,



2017 concluded in Coimbatore, Tamil Nadu (18-24 September, 2017).

- **Competition Results-**

- Winner: *Sasi Kumar Mukund* (India)
Runner up: Arjun Khade (India)
- Male Doubles
Winner: Chandril Sood and Lakshit Sood (Both India)
Runner up: *Sasi Kumar Mukund* and Arjun Creek (India)

Reference:

<http://www.itftennis.com/procircuit/tournaments/men%27s-tournament/info.aspx?tournamentid=1100040700>

CRICKET

Women's Cricket Super League

Question: Which team won the title of the English Women's Cricket Super League, concluded on September 1st, 2017?

- (a) Western Storm (b) Surrey Stars (c) Lancashire Thunder
(d) Yorkshire Diamonds

Answer: (a)

Related Facts:

- England's semi-professional cricket tournament Women's Cricket Super League, 2017 (T-20) concluded in the Howe, England. (10 August – 1 September, 2017)
- For reasons of sponsorship, it is known as the Kia Super League.
- Administrator-England and Wales Cricket Board
- Format-Twenty-20
- Participants Teams-6
- Competition Results:
- Winner-Western Storm, Captain-Heather Knight
- Runner-up Southern Vipers, Captain-Charlotte Edwards

Reference:

<https://www.ecb.co.uk/matches/super-league/resultshttps://www.ecb.co.uk/matches/super->



HOCKEY

10th Men Hockey Asia Cup, 2017

Question: Who was the captain of the 10th Men Hockey Asia Cup, 2017 India's winning team?

- (a) Akashdeep Singh (b) Manpreet Singh (c) Lalit Upadhyay
(d) Sardar Singh

Answer: (b)

Related facts:

- Dwelling in the Hero Sponsored Asia Cup Hockey Tournament, 2017, Maulana Bhasani National Stadium, Dhaka. (October 22, 2017)
- **Competition Results:-**



- Gold Medal-India (Third title)
- Silver medal-Malaysia
- Bronze Medal – Pakistan
- Fourth place-S.Korea
- **Competition award:-**
- Hero Man of the Match – Akashdeep Singh (India)
- Goal of the Match-Lalit Upadhyaya (India)
- India has won Asia Cup at a gap of 10 years.
- South. Korea has won Asia Cup four times.
- This is Malaysia's best performance in this tournament.
- Earlier Malaysia won the bronze medal in 2007.
- This time except one match which was draw with Korea, India won all their matches in the tournament.
- Captain of Indian team was Manpreet Singh and the coach Sjoerd Marijne.

Reference:

<http://www.uniindia.com/indian-colts-beat-malaysia-2-1-in-finals-to-win-the-hero-asia-cup-2017/sports/news/1024621.html>

CHESS

Chess.com Isle of Man Tournament

Question: Who amongst the following was the winner of the Chess.com Isle of Man International Chess Tournament?

- (a) Viswanathan Anand (b) Magnus Carlson (c) Hikaru Nakamura
(d) Levin Aronian

Answer: (b)

Related facts:

- International Chess Tournament 'Chess.com Isle Of Man, 2017 'concluded in Douglas (September 23 to October 1, 2017).
- Magnus Carlsen from Norway won the title of the tournament by getting 7.5 points out of 9 points.
- Viswanathan Anand of India, jointly with the American Hikaru Nakamura, remained at second place (7-7 points).



Reference:

<http://iominternationalchess.com/news-media/news.html>

Chess World Cup-2017

Question: Who amongst the following players has won the title of the recently concluded Chess World Cup?

- (a) Wesley Sleep (b) Ding Liren (c) Levon Aronian (d) Peter Swidler

Answer: (c)

Related Facts:



- FIDE Chess World Cup, 2017 concluded in Tbilisi, Georgia. (2 to 27 September, 2017)
- 128 chess players participated in this knockout format tournament.
- **Competition Results:-**
- Winner-Levon Aronian (Armenia), 4 marks
- Runners up-Ding Liren (China), 2 points
- This is Levon Aronian's second World Cup title.
- Earlier, Levan had won the 2005 Chess World Cup.

Reference:

<https://tbilisi2017.fide.com/2017/09/27/levon-aronian-wins-the-fide-world-cup/>

BADMINTON

DANISH Denmark Open-2017

Question: The recently concluded badminton tournament is the Dennis Denmark Open, 2017 men's singles champion winner?

(a) HS Prannoy (b) S.Day (c) Srikanth Kidambi (d) BS Praneeth

Answer: (c)

Related facts:

- BWF Super Series Session of 'DANISH Denmark Open' concluded in Odense (Denmark). (17-22 October, 2017)
- **Competition Result:**
- **Men's singles**
Winner-Srikanth Kidambi (India)
Runner up- Lee Hyun Il (Korea)
- **Woman singles**
Winner-Ratchanok Intanon (Thailand)
Runner up- Akane Yamaguchi (Japan)
- This is Srikanth's third Super Series title.
- He has already won the title of Indonesia Open and Australia Open earlier this year.



Reference:

<http://bwfworldsuperseries.com/results/2676/danisa-denmark-open/podium>

Babolt Bulgarian International, 2017

Question: Which Indian player won the title of the Babolt Bulgarian International Badminton Competition held on October 8, 2017?

(a) RMV Gurusaidutt (b) P. Kashyap (c) Chetan Anand
(d) Valiyatil Diju

Answer: (a)

Related facts:

- BWF Future Series Badminton Contest Babolt Bulgarian International, 2017 concluded. (5-8 October, 2017)
- **Competition Results (Main):**



- **Men's Singles:**
- Winner-RMV Gurusaidutt (India)
- Runner up- Mohammed Ali Kurt (Turkey)
- **Women's Singles:**
- Winner-Maria Mitsova (Bulgaria)
- Runner up— Maja Pavlinic (Croatia)

Reference:

<http://bwfbadminton.com/results/2973/babolat-bulgarian-international-2017/2017-10-06>

BOXING

Third Youth International Championships Balkan Open 2017

Question- How many medals did India win in recently concluded third Youth International Championships Balkan Open 2017?

(a) 4 (b) 6 (c) 8 (d) 10

Answer: (c)

Related Facts:

- The third Youth International Championships Balkan Open 2017 concluded in Sofia, Bulgaria. (October, 2017)
- Indian team won total 8 medals including 4 gold, 1 silver and 3 bronze medal.
- Indian Women's team has been declared the best Youth Team of the championship.



Reference:

http://www.business-standard.com/article/pti-stories/indian-boxers-win-8-medals-in-balkan-open-117102100688_1.html

GOLF

MACAO OPEN-2017

Question: Who won the title of the recently concluded golf tournament Macao Open, 2017?

(a) Arjun Atwal (b) Jyothi Randhawa (c) Jeev Milkha Singh (d) Gaganjeet Bhullar

Answer: (d)

Related Facts:

- Golf Tournament Finished Macao Open, 2017 (October 22, 2017)
- **Competition Results:**
Winner – Gaganjeet Bhullar (India)
- It was Bhullar overall 8th Asian Tour title and second Macau Open (first 2012) title.
- From this win, Bhullar came equal to Arjun Atwal and Jyoti Randhawa, who has eight-eight Asian titles.



Reference:

<http://themacaoopen.com/brilliant-bhullar-hits-lucky-numbers-macao-open/#8UhZYG8zo3rooLMT.97>

Yeangder Golf Tournament

Question: Which of the following Indian golfer won the title of the recently concluded Yeangder Golf Tournament, 2017?

(a) Gaganjeet Bhullar (b) SSP Chaurasia (c) Ajeetesh Sandhu (d) Shriram Niwas

Answer: (c)

Related facts:

- Indian golfer Ajeetesh Sandhu won his first Asian Tour title. (October 8, 2017)
- Ajeetesh won this title by making a score of two-under-par 70 in the Yeangder Golf Tournament in Chinese Taipei.
- After Gaganjeet Bhullar, Sandhu is the second Indian to win a Yeangder Tournament.
- Along with this, Ajeetesh became the second player to win the Asian Tour title without getting the full tour card.



Reference:

<http://www.asiantour.com/2017/10/09/sandhu-celebrates-birthday-with-breakthrough-win/>

Presidents Cup, 2017

Question: The American golf team won the title of the Presidents Cup, 2017. How many times the United States won this competition?

(a) 12 (b) 14 (c) 16 (d) 10

Answer: (d)

Related Facts:

- The 12th edition of Presidents Cup Golf Team Tournament concludes in Jersey City, New Jersey. (September 28 – October 1, 2017)
- This competition is a biennial competition between the teams of American and international golfers.
- America defeated the international team by 19-11 and won the title for the seventh consecutive time.
- Steve Stryker was the American team's captain and international team was headed by Nick Price (Zimbabwe).
- It is notable that since 1994 12 Presidents Cup has held in which US has won 10 times and the international team has won 1 time and one match was a tie.



Reference:

<https://www.presidentscup.com/tournament-info.html>

FORMULA ONE

United States Grand Prix-2017

Question: Who is the winner of the Formula One car race concluded on October 22, 2017?

- (a) Sebastian Vettel (b) Valtteri Bottas (c) Max Verstappen
(d) Lewis Hamilton

Answer: (d)

Related Facts:

- 17th car race of Formula One Session-2017, United States Grand Prix concluded in Texas. (October 22, 2017)
- Competition Result: Winner-Lewis Hamilton, British Driver of Mercedes Benz German Team
- Hamilton is running at the top position with 331 points in the medal list by winning 9 matches out of 17 of the championship.



Reference:

<https://www.formula1.com/en/results.html/2017/races/975/united-states.html>

Malaysian Grand Prix

Question: Which driver won the title of the 'Malaysian Grand Prix' title concluded on October 1st, 2017?

- (a) Louis Hamilton (b) Sebastian Vettel (c) Max Verstappen
(d) Sergio Perez

Answer: (c)

Related Facts:

- The 15th 'Malaysian Grand Prix' of Formula One Session, 2017 concluded in the Sepang International Circuit, Kuala Lumpur (Malaysia). (October 1, 2017)
- The Red Bull team's driver Max Verstappen (Netherlands) won the title of Race on his 20th birthday.
- Verstappen has won the second F-One Race title in his career.
- Earlier in 2016, he won the Spanish Grand Prix title.



Reference:

<https://www.formula1.com/en/championship/races/2017/Malaysia.html>

SPORTS MISCELLANEOUS

New Associate Member of BCCI

Question: Who amongst the following has been made new Associate Member of the BCCI?

- (a) Goa (b) Dadra and Nagar Haveli (c) Chandigarh (d) Puducherry

Answer: (d)

Related Facts:



- On October 25, 2017, the administrators' committee gave its approval to make Puducherry to be the Associate Member of BCCI.
- Now Puducherry will be allowed to play Ranji Trophy from next year.
- Puducherry can now host International and domestic matches of the board.

Reference:

<http://www.thehindu.com/sport/cricket/puducherry-becomes-an-associate-member-of-bcci/article19919787.ece>

First Country to qualify FIH Hockey World Cup

Question: Which country has recently qualified for the FIH Hockey World Cup?

(a) Nepal (b) Bhutan (c) China (d) Iran

Answer: (c)

Related facts:

- China for the first time have become the latest team to qualify for the FIH Hockey Men's World Cup .(October 21, 2016)
- This World Cup will be played in 2018 in Bhubaneswar, Odisha, India.
- China's qualification is based and supported by the results at the Hero Asia Cup 2017, which is currently being played in Dhaka, Bangladesh.
- South Korea had to win the Asia Cup to play the World Cup, but missed out on the final by playing a draw from Malaysia.
- Meet Drau enabled to qualify for China qualification
- This is the first time when South Korea is failed to qualify for the Hockey World Cup since the 1998 event in Utrecht, Netherlands.
- China's eighth position finish at Hero Hockey World League Semi-Final in London earns World Cup qualification.



Reference:

<http://www.fih.ch/events/world-cup/world-cup-2018/hockey-world-cup-bhubaneswar-2018-m/news/latest-news/china-confirmed-for-odisha-hockey-mens-world-cup-bhubaneswar-2018/>

NATIONAL ROTAX KARTING CHAMPIONSHIP 2017

Question: Who amongst the following won the title in the Senior Category of recently concluded National Rotax Karting Championship-2017?

(a) Aaroh Ravindra (b) Yash Aradhya (c) Rohan Alva
(d) Sunil Kumar

Answer: (a)

Related Facts:

- MECO Motorsports FMSCI National Rotax Karting Championship 2017 concluded in Bangalore (October 15, 2017).
- **Competition Result:**
- Max senior class winner-Aaroh Ravindra (Mumbai)
- Max Junior class winner-Yash Aradhya (Bangalore)
- My Micro class winner- Arjun Rajiv (Bangalore)



Reference:

<https://www.mecomotorsports.co.in/wp-content/uploads/2017/10/Points-tally.pdf>

Weightlifting: One-Year Ban on Nine Countries

Question: Recently, the International Weightlifting Federation has imposed a one-year ban on nine countries. Which one is not included in the given options?

(a) Russia (b) Germany (c) China (d) Turkey

Answer: (b)

Related Facts:

- The International Weightlifting Federation (IWF) imposed one-year ban upon nine countries in the case of doping violation.
- IWF decided this under the results of re-examination of dope samples of players who participated in the Olympic Games held in 2008 and 2012. (September 30, 2017)
- The list of these infringing countries includes China, Russia, Turkey, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Kazakhstan, Moldova and Ukraine.
- Due to the ban, these 9 countries will not be able to participate in any international competition associated with weightlifting for the next one year.



Reference:

<http://news.sport.itthon.ma/live/weightlifting-russia-china-handed-oneyear-doping-bans>

Star India acquired broadcast rights of IPL matches

Question: Recently which of the following channels has won the global broadcasting and digital media rights of the Indian Premier League (IPL)?

(a) Sony India (b) ESPN (c) Star India (d) Discovery

Answer: (c)

Related Facts:

- Media and Entertainment Company 'Star India' won the global broadcasting and digital media rights of the Indian Premier League (IPL) for the next five years (from 2018-2022) after bidding a lump sum amount of Rs 16,347.5 crore (USD 2.55 billion). (September 4, 2017)
- It will also include digital broadcast rights in addition to global television broadcasts.
- Star India is the only company to bid for a single global media rights.
- The media rights include broadcast (TV) and digital (mobile and internet) for various segments namely India, Middle East, Africa, Europe and America.
- BCCI stands to earn nearly double that amount in half the duration (five years) with earnings of Rs 3270 crore from IPL media rights per year.
- The BCCI will now earn Rs 55 crore approximately from an IPL match compared to Rs 43 crore, ironically, for each international match that India play.
- Accordingly, the sum total of other bids, excluding Star consortium, was Rs 15,819.51 crore which is at least Rs 500 crore less than Star India's consolidated bid.
- Star India, owned by 21st Century Fox, has now the global media rights of BCCI, ICC and IPL.



- Of these, the right of BCCI will be terminated by March 2018.
- 14 out of the 24 companies that had bought the ITT (Invitation to Tender) document bid for various rights, turned up for the auction.
- Out of the 14 companies, BamTech was disqualified as they did not meet the requisite criteria.
- Some of the other companies that were in contention for India digital rights were Times Internet Limited, Jio, Airtel, Facebook, Amazon, ESPN Digital Media, Twitter, Discovery etc.

Reference:

http://www.ptinews.com/news/9039172_Star-India-pays-Rs-16-347-crore-for-IPL-media-rights

Rural sports festival be organized

Question: In the first stage, under the Rural Games or Grameen Khel Mahotsav, the games will not be held in-

(a) Alipur (b) Mehrauli (c) Palam (d) Najafgarh

Answer: (c)

Related Facts:

- On August 26th, 2017, Union Minister of Youth Affairs and Sports Minister shri Vijay Goel announced that the first edition of Rural Games or Grameen Khel Mahotsav will kick-start from Delhi.
- It will be take place between 28th August to 3rd September, 2017.
- The Rural Games are aimed to popularising the indigenous games like wrestling; athletics etc. and also have fun games like Matka Race, Tug of War for senior citizens to add the fun element in the games.
- In the first stage, the games will be held in Alipur, Mehrauli, Nangloi, Najafgarh and Shahadara.
- In the first stage 10000-12000 youngsters will participate.
- The second stage will commence on 31st August till 01 September 2017 which will have inter-block games.
- It is noteworthy that the sports talent search portal is also to be proposed to launch on 28th August, 2017.
- The portal enables any person from across India to upload his information and as per that the Ministry will tap their talent and train them further in their respective disciplines.



Reference:

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintHindiRelease.aspx?relid=66770>

SPORTS PERSONALITY

Indian gymnast honoured with D Lit degree

Question: Who amongst the following gymnast will be honoured with D lit degree announced recently by the National Institute of Technology, Agartala?



(a) Sanathoi Devi (b) Dipa Karmakar (c) Vikas Gowda
(d) Sharath Gayakwad

Answer: (b)

Related facts:

- According to the announcement of the Director of National Institute of Technology, Agartala, N.K. Rai, Gymnast Deepa Karmakar will be honoured with D-Lit degree. (21 October, 2017)
- Degree will be awarded to her in the 10th Convocation of the Institute on
- Besides Dipa, Goutam Biswas Director of IIT Guwahati and Biswajit Ghosh professor of Jadavpur University will also be honoured with a D.Sc. at the convocation of the NIT.

Reference:

<http://www.uniindia.com/nit-agartala-offers-dlit-to-gymnast-dipa-karmakar/other/news/1023570.html>

Ashish Nehra

Question: Which Indian cricketer announced his retirement from international cricket on October 12, 2017?

(a) Ashish Nehra (b) Bhubaneswar Kumar (c) M.S. Dhoni
(d) Rohit Sharma

Answer: (a)

Related Facts:

- On October 12, 2017, Indian bowler Ashish Nehra officially announced his retirement from international cricket.
- He will retire from international cricket after the T-20 match against New Zealand in Delhi on November 1, 2017.
- Nehra has played 17 Tests, 120 ODIs and 26 T-20 matches for India so far.
- Nehra has taken 44 wickets in Tests, 157 in ODIs and 34 wickets in T-20.



Reference:

<http://www.thehindu.com/sport/cricket/new-zealand-tour-of-india-india-vs-new-zealand-t20-international-series-ashish-nehra-announces-retirement-will-sign-off-in-delhi/article19845109.ece>

President of Brazil Olympic Committee dismissed

Question: The President of which country's Olympic Committee has been recently dismissed by International Olympic Committee?

(a) Brazil (b) India (c) Germany (d) UK

Answer: (d)

Related Facts:

- Carlos Arthur Nuzman, the head of the Brazilian Olympic Committee, was detained by the police in corruption investigation (October 5, 2017).
- Nuzman arrested amid claims he was involved in bribery scandal of buying votes for the Rio Olympics, 2016.



- Chief operating officer of Committee of Rio Olympics, 2016, Leonardo Graner has also been arrested with him.
- Both have charges of involvement in corruption, black marketing and criminal activities.
- On October 11, 2017, Nuzman had resigned as Chairman of the Organizing Committee of Rio Olympics, 2016, along with the post of President of the Brazilian Olympic Committee.

Reference:

<http://abcnews.go.com/Sports/wireStory/president-brazilian-olympic-committee-arrested-50297550>

Australian cricketer's retirement from Test and one-day Cricket

Question: Which one of the following Australian fast bowlers recently retired from Test and ODI cricket?

(a) Mitchell Stark (b) James Pattison (c) John Hastings (d) Chris Lin

Answer: (c)

Related Facts:

- Australian fast bowler John Hastings retired from international and one-day matches. (October 6, 2017)
- Hastings decided this because of constant injuries.
- Even though he will continue to play T-20 matches for Australia.
- He has played 1 Test match and 29 ODIs for Australia.
- He has claimed 42 wickets in ODIs and 1 wicket in Test match.



Reference:

<http://www.espncricinfo.com/australia/content/player/228622.html>

Pro Olympia Power Lifting championship 2017

Question: Who amongst the given became the first Indian bodybuilder to win the gold medal in recently concluded Pro Olympia Power Lifting Championship-2017?

(a) Jagdish Lad (b) Suneet Jadhav (c) Prashant Sulankhey (d) Mukesh Singh *Gahlot*

Answer: (d)

Related Facts:

- Pro Olympia Power Lifting Championships-2017 concluded in Las Vegas, America. (September 15-16, 2017)
- India's Mukesh Singh *Gahlot* won the gold medal while participating in this championship and became the first Indian to do so.
- Mukesh scored a total of 780 Kg to win gold in his category (110 kg category).
- Mukesh Singh is 3 times world champion and European champion in power lifting.
- He has also won the national title of Mr. India 4 times (2008, 2009, 2010 and 2012).



- His mentor is Dronacharya awardee Bhupendra Dhawan.

Reference:

<https://www.indianbodybuilding.co.in/results/mukesh-singh-wins-gold-pro-olympia-power-lifting/>

First foreign coach of Indian women boxers resigned from the post

Question: Recently, the first foreign coach of Indian women boxers, Stephanie Cottalorda resigned from the post. What country are they related to?

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

Answer: (a)

Related Facts:

- India's first ever foreign coach for women boxers -Stephane Cottalorda has resigned on September 14, 2017.
- She resigned within a month of taking over, complaining of delay in salary payment and lack of professionalism in the national federation.
- Stephane was appointed to this position in May 2017 and he took office in August.
- Santiago Nieva is the Indian men's team coach and Youth women boxers coach is Rafael Bergmasco.



Reference:

http://www.ptinews.com/news/9068825_India-s-first-foreign-coach-for-women-boxers-resigns.html

SHORT NOTES PERSONALITIES New CEO of AMFI

Question: Who has recently been appointed the new Chief Executive Officer of AMFI?

(a) Sunil (b) SS Tyagi (c) NS Venkatesh (d) Ashok Bhargava

Answer: (c)

Related Facts:

- On October 23rd, 2017, NS Venkatesh has been appointed as chief executive of the Association of Mutual Funds in India (AMFI).
- The post was lying vacant after CVR Rajendran stepped down from the position in December.
- AMFI, a nodal association of mutual funds across India dedicated to developing the Indian Mutual Fund Industry on professional, healthy and ethical lines and to enhance and maintain standards in all areas.



Reference:

<https://www.amfiindia.com/know-about-amfi>

http://www.ptinews.com/news/9172791_NS-Venkatesh-appointed-AMFI-chief-executive

First Indian to occupy the top spot on the ITTF World Junior Circuit Standings

Question: Which Indian player recently occupies the top rank in the ITTF World Junior Circuit Standings?

(a) Manav Thakkar (b) Vishal Thakur (c) Gaurav Kumar (d) Suraj Prakash

Answer: (a)

Related Facts:

- Manav Thakkar became the first Indian to occupy the top spot with 3,455 points on the ITTF World Junior Circuit standings.
- Thakkar achieved this feat after participating in a tournament in Belgrade.
- Kanak Jha is at second position with 2,950 points, followed by Argentina's Francisco Sanchi (2,895 points), Frenchman Bastien Rembert (2,880 points) and Chinese Taipei's Feng Yi-Hsin (2,706 points).



Reference:

<https://www.ittf.com/2017/10/11/manav-vikash-thakkar-new-leader/>

Dr Soumya Swaminathan

Question: Recently, the famous Indian doctor Dr Soumya Swaminathan was appointed as the Deputy Director General in which global organization?

(a) Food and Agriculture Organization (b) World Trade Organization
(c) World Health Organization (d) UNICEF

Answer: (c)

Related Facts:

- On October 3rd, 2017, the eminent Indian doctor Dr Soumya Swaminathan was appointed Deputy Director General of the World Health Organization (W.H.O.).
- His appointment was announced by the Director General of WHO Dr. Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus.
- The post of Deputy Director General is the second highest post of the organization.
- Soumya Swaminathan is the first Indian woman to be appointed to the post of WHO.
- She will be in charge of WHO programs.
- Soumya Swaminathan is India's renowned pediatrician and is known for her research especially on TB.
- She is currently the Director General of the Indian Medical Research Council (ICMR), New Delhi.
- She is the daughter of founder of the Green Revolution in India Dr. MS Swaminathan.



Reference:

<http://www.dhr.gov.in/about-us/secretary-dhr><http://www.dhr.gov.in/about-us/secretary->

Mridul Kumar

Question: Central government appointed Mridul Kumar, senior official of the Indian Foreign Service, as the next High Commissioner of India to which of following countries?

(a) Australia (b) Malaysia (c) Bangladesh (d) Indonesia

Answer: (b)

Related Facts:

- On September 27, 2017, according to a release issued by the Ministry of External Affairs, Mridul Kumar, senior official of the Indian Foreign Service, was appointed the next Ambassador of India to Malaysia.
- He is the IFS officer of 1992 batch.
- He is currently working as the Joint Secretary in the Ministry of External Affairs.



Reference:

<http://mea.gov.in/press-releases.htm?dtl/28983/Mridul+Kumar+appointed+as+the+next+High+Commissioner+of+India+to+Malaysia>

Lady Brand Ambassador of Delhi Dynamos FC

Question: The Indian Super League (ISL) franchisee Delhi Dynamo has appointed which Bollywood actress as its brand ambassador?

(a) Deepika Padukone (b) Jacqueline Fernandez (c) Katrina Kaif (d) Shilpa Shetty

Answer: (b)

Related Facts:

- Delhi Dynamos FC appointed Bollywood actress Jacqueline Fernandez as its brand ambassador for the upcoming season of Indian Super League (ISL). (October 4, 2017)
- The fourth edition of the ISL will begin on November 17, 2017.
- According to Rohan Sharma, Director of Delhi Dynamo, Delhi has become the first such club in the country, whose brand ambassador is women.



Reference:

<https://sportsflashes.com/en/news/jacqueline-fernandez-is-delhi-dynamos-brand-ambassador/128842.html>

Girija Devi

Question: Recently Eminent classical singer and Padma Vibhushan awardee Girija Devi passed away. She was attached with which of the following Vocal Gharanas?

(a) Agra Gharana (b) Jaipur Gharana (c) Gwalior Gharana (d) Benaras Gharana

Answer: (d)

Related Facts:

- On October 24th, 2017, noted vocalist Girija Devi passed away at Kolkata. She was of 88.
- Girija Devi was born in Varanasi, on 8 May 1929.
- She was the Seniormost artist of Benaras Gharanas.
- She had performed first time at the age of 20 in Allahabad.
- She was considered as the queen of Thumri and fondly called Appa ji.
- She had been awarded with Padma Shri (1972), Padma Bhushan (1989), Padma Vibhushan (2016), Sangeet Natak Akademi Award (1977), Banga Bibhushan (2015)



Sangeet Natak Akademi Fellowship (2010), Maha Sangeet Samman Award (2012) with various other.

Reference:

<http://ddinews.gov.in/people/thumri-queen-girija-devi-passes-away>

New Special Director of CBI

Question: Recently, whose appointment was approved by the Central Government (Home Ministry) as the special director of the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI)?

(a) Arvind Kumar (b) Dr. A.P. Maheshwari (c) Deepak Kumar (d) Rakesh Asthana

Answer: (d)

Related Facts:

- On October 23rd, 2017, the Union Cabinet's Appointments Committee approved the appointment of Rakesh Asthana as Special Director of the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI).
- Rakesh Asthana was earlier the Additional Director of 'Central Bureau of Investigation' (CBI).
- Apart from this, the Cabinet Appointments Committee also approved the appointment of the following other officers-
- Shri Gurbachan Singh, IPS working as Additional Director in IB to the rank of Special Director in IB.
- Shri Sudeep Lakhtakia, IPS working as Additional DG in CRPF to the rank of Special DG in CRPF.
- Shri S. Javeed Ahmed, IPS working as Director, NICFS to the rank of Special DG NICFS.
- Shri Deepak Kumar Mishra, IPS working as Additional DG in CRPF to the rank of Special DG in CRPF.
- Dr. A. P. Maheshwari, IPS working as Additional DG in BSF to the rank of Special DG in BSF.
- Shri Arvind Kumar, IPS working as Additional Director in IB to the rank of Special Director.
- Shri Rajesh Ranjan, IPS working as Additional DG, BSF to the rank of Special DG, BSF.



Reference:

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=171855>

Centre's Representative in J&K

Question: Who amongst the following has recently been appointed as a representative of GOI in Jammu & Kashmir by the Central Government?

(a) Dineshwar Sharma (b) Rakesh Sharma (c) Deepak Mishra
(d) A.P. Maheshwari

Answer: (a)

Related Facts:

- On October 23rd, 2017, the Centre appointed Shri Dineshwar Sharma, former Director of Intelligence Bureau, as the Representative of Government of India in the State of Jammu & Kashmir.



- His appointment is to initiate and carry forward a dialogue with the elected representatives, various organizations and concerned individuals in the State of Jammu & Kashmir.
- He will initiate a sustained interaction and dialogue to understand the legitimate aspirations of the wide cross sections of society, particularly the youth in Jammu & Kashmir and communicate them to the State Government and the Centre.
- Shri Sharma is a Retired IPS officer from 1979 Batch of Kerala Cadre.
- It is noteworthy that during his distinguished career, he has served in J&K, Kerala, Uttar Pradesh, Nagaland and Manipur and as Additional Director and Special Director in the Intelligence Bureau in the Headquarters.

Reference:

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=171866>

New Addition Director General of CISF

Question: Who amongst the following IPS officers has been appointed as the Additional Director General of the CISF recently by the Appointments Committee of the Cabinet?

(a) Alok Kumar Pateria (b) Rakesh Asthana (c) Gurbachan Singh (d) Arvind Kumar

Answer: (a)

Related Facts:

- On October 23rd, 2017, the Appointments Committee of the Cabinet has approved the appointment of Shri Alok Kumar Pateria, IPS; as Additional Director General, CISF.
- His appointment is on deputation basis for a period upto 31.05.2020 i.e. date of his superannuation from the date of assumption of charge of the post or until further orders, whichever is earlier.



Reference:

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=171869>

Gautam H. Babawale

Question: Recently, Gautam H. Babawale, senior officer of the Indian Foreign Service, was appointed as the next ambassador of India in which country?

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

Answer: (b)

Related Facts:

- According to a press release issued by the Ministry of External Affairs on October 12, 2017, Shri Gautam H. Bambawale, (IFS: 1984), has been appointed as the next Ambassador of India to the People's Republic of China.
- He is the IFS officer of the 1984 year's batch.
- Presently he is High Commissioner of India to the Islamic Republic of Pakistan.



Reference:

http://www.mea.gov.in/press-releases.htm?dtl/29023/Gautam_H_Bambawale_appointed_as_the_next_Ambassador_of_India_to_the_Peoples_Republic_of_China

New president of US India Business Council

Question: Recently, who has been appointed as the new president of US India Business Council (USIBC)?

- (a) Nisha Mathur (b) Nisha Desai Biswal (c) Indra Nooyi
(d) Asha Khemka

Answer: (b)

Related Facts:

- On October 10, 2017, Nisha Desai Biswal, former Indian American associate secretary of South and Central Asia, was appointed as the new president of US-India Business Council (USIBC).
- In this post, she will replace Mukesh Aghi, who is the head of the current US-India Strategic Partnership Forum (USISPF).
- The objective of this Council is to create an inclusive bilateral business environment between India and America.



Reference:

<http://www.usibc.com/press-release/us-chamber-appoints-nisha-desai-biswal-president-us-india-business-council>

New Director-General of UNESCO

Question: Who amongst the following has recently been nominated by UNESCO Executive Board for the post of Director General?

- (a) Margaret Chan (b) Adre Juoly (c) Audrey Azoulay (d) Robert Azoulay

Answer: (c)

Related Facts:

- On October 13th, 2017, the 58-member UNESCO executive board nominated former French Minister of Culture, Audrey Azoulay for the post of Director General of the Organization.
- Azoulay will succeed outgoing Director-General Irina Bokova of Bulgaria, whose eight-year term was marred by financial woes.
- Audrey Azoulay served as France's Minister of Culture from February 2016 to May 2017.
- It is notable that UNESCO (United Nations Educational Scientific and Cultural Organization) was established on November 16, 1945.
- Its headquarters is in Paris, France.
- Recently, the United States and Israel have announced its intention to withdraw from UNESCO, a 195 member's organization.



Reference:

<http://en.unesco.org/news/audrey-azoulay-nominated-unesco-executive-board-post-director-general>

Contestants representing India in Miss Universe contest

Question: Who will represent India in the Miss Universe contest held to be in US?

- (a) Madhuri Chillar (b) Shradha Shashidhar (c) Deepa Mukherjee (d) Apeksha Porwal

Answer: (b)

Related Facts:



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

- Shraddha Shashidhar from Bengaluru will represent India in the Miss Universe contest to be held in US on November 26, 2017.
- She was elected the winner of Yamaha Fascino Miss Diva-Miss Universe India 2017 competition held in Mumbai on October 11, 2017.
- Peden Ongmu Namgyal (Sikkim) was crowned Yamaha Fascino Miss Diva – Supranational 2017, and Apeksha Porwal (Mumbai) as Yamaha Fascino Miss Diva 2017.

Reference:

<http://indiatoday.intoday.in/story/miss-diva-winner-shraddha-shashidhar-miss-universe-2017-indian-representative-beauty-pageant-lifest/1/1067130.html>

Two New Member of Railway Board

Question- Who has recently been appointed as the new member of the Railway Board by the Central Government?

- (a) MC Chauhan and Deepak Chaturvedi (b) DK Gayen and Mahesh Kumar Gupta
(c) R.K. Gupta and Rajiv Gupta (d) MC Chauhan and Mahesh Kumar Gupta

Answer: (b)

Related Facts:

- On October 12, 2017, the Central Government appointed two new members in the Railway Board.
- DK Gayen Railway Board Member (Staff) and Mahesh Kumar Gupta Board Member (Engineering) were appointed.
- DK Gayen is an officer of 1981 batch Indian Railway Mechanical Engineering Service.
- Earlier, he was the General Manager at Hajipur Eastern-Eastern Railway.
- Mahesh Kumar Gupta is an officer of 1979 batch of Indian Railway Engineering Service.
- Earlier, he was the General Manager in Modern Coach Factory located in Rae Bareilly.
- Additionally, Mahesh Kumar Gupta has been appointed ex-officio secretary of the Government of India.
- It is noteworthy that Ashwini Lohani is currently the Chairman of the Railway Board.



Reference:

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintHindiRelease.aspx?relid=67643>

Ashish Kumar Shrivastav

Question: Recently, Ashish Kumar Shrivastav was appointed as managing director and chief executive officer of which of the following life insurance company?

- (a) SBI Life Insurance Company Ltd. (b) PNB MetLife India Insurance Company Ltd.
(c) United India Insurance Company Ltd. (d) Oriental Insurance Company Ltd.

Answer: (b)

Related Facts:

- On October 9, 2017, Ashish Kumar Shrivastav was appointed as Managing Director (MD) and Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of PNB MetLife India Insurance Company Limited.
- He joined PNB MetLife in the year 2013.



Reference:

<http://www.thehindubusinessline.com/money-and-banking/pnb-metlife-appoints-ashish-srivastava-as-mdceo/article9894205.ece>

Uttar Pradesh's new Chief Electoral Officer

Question: Who amongst the following recently became the new chief election officer of Uttar Pradesh?

- (a) T. Venkatesh (b) L. Venkateswarlu (c) Kumar Kamlesh
(d) Dimple Verma

Answer: (b)

Related Facts:

- On September 23rd, 2017, Senior IAS officer L. Venkateswarlu became the new chief election officer of Uttar Pradesh.
- India Election Commission (ECI) gave approval for his name.
- He is an IAS officer of 1991 batch UP Cadre.
- At this post, he will replace T. Venkatesh.

Reference:

<https://hindi.news18.com/news/uttar-pradesh/lucknow-ias-l-venkateswarlu-became-chief-election-officer-of-uttar-pradesh-1116817.html>



New Non-Executive Chairman of Infosys Ltd. Board

Question: Recently, the board of directors of Infosys Ltd. approved whose name as the new non-executive chairman of the board?

- (a) R. Seshasayee (b) T. Sundararajan (c) Nandan Nilekani
(d) Ravi Venkatesan

Answer: (c)

Related Facts:

- On July 24th, 2017, the Board of Directors of Infosys Ltd. has unanimously approved the name of Nandan Nilekani as the new Non-Executive Chairman of the Board.
- On this post, he replaced R. Seshasayee, who had resigned from the post chairman of the board of the company.
- He is also one of the co-founder of Infosys served as its CEO from 2002 to 2007.
- He had also served as the President of the Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI).

Reference:

<https://www.infosys.com/newsroom/press-releases/Pages/press-release-24-aug-2017.aspx>



PLACES

New Research Center of ISRO

Question: Recently, in which state of the North-East, ISRO announced to set up a research center?

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

Answer- (a)

Related Facts:



- On October 5, 2017, ISRO Chairman Kiran Kumar and Assam Chief Minister Sarbananda Sonowal signed a Memorandum of Understanding for setting up a research center for startups, academic world, environmentalists and entrepreneurs in Guwahati, Capital of Assam.
- This research center will assist in possibility of the use of space technology in the North-East and to connect North-East with East Asian countries under the 'Act East Policy'.
- This research center will be equipped with 'Global Positioning System' (GPS), Geographic Information System (GIS) and Remote Sensing Technology.
- Remote Sensing Technology will be used for exact information of flood warning system, soil erosion, landslide etc. in Assam.
- Assam Government will provide free land for this research center.

Reference:

<https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/guwahati/isro-to-set-up-research-centre-at-guwahati/articleshow/60955127.cms>

Meenakshi Sundareswar Temple

Question: Which one of the following places was selected for the cleanest iconic place award-2017?

- (a) Tajmahal (b) Meenakshi Sundareswar Temple
(c) Vaishno temple (d) Ajmer Sharif

Answer: (b)

Related Facts:

- On October 1st, 2017, the Ministry of Drinking Water and Sanitation announced the 10 most clean iconic place under the 'Swachhta Hi Seva'.
- Meenakshi Sundareswar temple of Madurai was remained at the first place as the Cleanest Iconic Place for 2017.
- Under the 'Swachh Bharat Mission' by the Ministry of Drinking Water and Sanitation, on October 2, a special award was given to Madurai Municipal Corporation on the occasion of Gandhi Jayanti.
- Till March 2018, the temple complex has to be completely made of plastic free area.
- This scheme worth approximately Rs 11.65 crore is being sponsored by Bharat Petroleum Corporation Ltd.
- This temple has 12 Gopurams and its sanctum is 2500 years old.
- Malik Kafur, the Islamic conqueror (Allauddin Khilji's general), almost demolished it after looting in 1310 AD.
- It was reconstructed by Tirumalaya Nayak between 1623-1655 AD.
- Meenakshi Sundareswar Temple is related to Lord Shiva and Parvati.

Reference:

<http://www.thehindu.com/news/national/tamil-nadu/meenakshi-temple-gets-cleanest-iconic-place-tag/article19782075.ece>



Andaman and Nicobar Islands

Question: Nile Islands is located in

(a) Andaman and Nicobar (b) Lakshadweep (c) Egypt (d) Run of Kutch

Answer: (a)

Related Facts:

- On October 5, 2017, Union Home Minister Rajnath Singh and Central Shipping, Road Transport and Highways and Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Conservation Minister Nitin Gadkari inaugurated an alternate sea route to Baratang Island.
- In addition to this, the two Ministers laid the foundation stone for extension of dry dock in Port Blair, extension of wharf in Hope Town and construction of an additional jetty along with extension of Berthing Jetty in Neil Island at an event in Port Blair in A&N Islands.
- The sea route to Baratang will provide an alternative to the National Highways-4 route that linked Baratang to Port Blair, passing through the Jarawa Tribal Reserve.
- This route connects Bartang to Port Blair.
- The project for extension of wharf in Hope Town is expected to be complete by February 2018.
- The wharf is used for movement of petroleum products.
- The construction of additional approach jetty and extension of existing jetty at Neil Island is expected to be complete by March 2018.
- The extension of Dry Dock –II at Port Blair will help augment the available ship building and ship repair facilities. The project is expected to be complete by September 2019.



Reference:

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=171432>

First Cow Sanctuary of the Country

Question: In which state has the first cow sanctuary been established?

(a) Rajasthan (b) Madhya Pradesh (c) Chhattisgarh (d) Assam

Answer: (b)

Related Facts:

- On 27th, September, 2017, country's first cow sanctuary established in Agar Malwa district of Madhya Pradesh was inaugurated.
- It was inaugurated jointly by, chairperson of Madhya Pradesh Gau Samvardhan Board, Swami Akhileshwaranand Giri and RSS Kshetra Sanghachalak Ashok Soni.
- This sanctuary is established by the Board Board in Salaria village, 50 km far from the district headquarters.
- This sanctuary is also known as Kamdhenu Gau Abhyaranya.
- The sanctuary is spread over 472 hectares and can be kept about 6000 cows.
- The Samvarddhan Board operates 600 registered gaushalas in the state of MP and 1.4 lakh bovines are handled in these.
- Its aim is to preserve the cattle, to enrich Indian breed, research the objects manufactured from Panchagavya, their production and to conduct research on organic fertilizers and pest control.
- Medicines will be made from cow urine and biogas from cow dung.



- The construction cost of this sanctuary is Rs. 32 crores.
- This sanctuary was announced by Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chauhan in January 2008.
- Its bhumi puja was done on December 24, 2012.

Reference:

<http://www.hindustantimes.com/india-news/india-s-first-cow-sanctuary-opened-in-mp-s-malwa/story-g6xSFx4iOpWuctfD8Yip0J.html>

Uttara Contemporary Art Museum

Question: At which of the following places Uttarakhand's Chief Minister, Trivendra Singh Rawat, unveiled the Uttara Contemporary Art Museum?

(a) Mussoorie (b) Dehradun (c) Nainital (d) Haridwar

Answer: (b)

Related Facts:

- On October 4, 2017 Uttarakhand Chief Minister, Trivendra Singh Rawat unveiled Uttara Contemporary Art Museum in the Hematati Nandan Bahuguna Complex, Dehradun.
- The establishment of this museum will get a platform to display the creations of old established artists with ease, along with new artists of the state.
- This museum has been built in the guidance and guidance of well-known painter and Shilpi Surendra Pal Joshi, by Mussoorie-Dehradun Development Authority.
- This museum will be operated by the Culture Department.
- Museum is expanded in the area of 408 square meters.
- This museum is the first museum based on the disaster in the country.
- This museum has been presented and preserved the events of the year 2013 disaster, in the form of art.



Reference:

<https://navbharattimes.indiatimes.com/state/uttarakhand/dehradun/cm-will-inaugurate-art-museum-in-dehradun/articleshow/60939382.cms>

Saudi Aramco India Office

Question: Saudi Aramco's ARAMCO ASIA INDIA office is located at–

(a) Bangalore (b) Ahmedabad (c) Gurugram (d) Noida

Answer: (c)

Related Facts:

- On October 8th, 2017, Minister of Petroleum and Natural Gas & Skill Development & Entrepreneurship Shri Dharmendra Pradhan inaugurated Saudi Aramco's ARAMCO ASIA INDIA office in Gurugram jointly with Mr Amin H Al-Nasser, President and CEO of Saudi Aramco.
- The office is located at Two Horizon Tower, Gurugram.
- Saudi Aramco through its subsidiary ARAMCO Asia India (AAI) established its formal business presence in India in 2016.
- AAI would now formally engage in crude oil and LPG marketing, engineering & technical services, and other business development activities.



- Saudi Aramco's Office in India will help in strengthening the existing buyer – supplier relationship between the two sides to a strategic partnership in the hydrocarbon sector.
- ARAMCO India is planning to expand its operation by introducing hydrocarbon sector services functions, including engineering services, IT operations & security and also R&D centre in near future.
- Saudi Aramco intends to partner with Indian companies and set up integrated business ventures in the hydrocarbon value chain in India including to boost “Make in India” activities.
- Saudi Arabia is the second largest supplier of crude to India after Iraq and it accounts for about 19% of our crude oil imports and also 29% of LPG imports respectively.
- During 2016-17, India imported about 39.5 MMT of crude from Saudi Arabia.

Reference:

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=171493>

RBI's new branch at Dehradun

Question: Recently, Uttarkhand Chief Minister Trivendra Singh Rawat inaugurated the facility service of all government banking activities of the state through the RBI's Dehradun branch. Earlier, the state government had to do financial transactions through which of the following branches of the RB?

(a) Lucknow (b) Kanpur (c) Patna (d) Bhopal

Answer: (b)

Related facts:

- On October 3, 2017, Uttarkhand Chief Minister Trivendra Singh Rawat inaugurated the RBI's new branch at Dehradun to make transactions of the state government more convenient.
- Now all banking facilities will be executed from this branch of the state government.
- It is important that before that all financial transactions of Uttarkhand state government were executed from the Kanpur branch of the Reserve Bank of India.
- This will facilitate the banking and financial work of the state government, and also will accelerate economic progress.
- On this occasion, the Chief Minister also released the 'Information Book' of the Reserve Bank of India for providing information about the Uttarkhand Government Business.



Reference:

<http://economictimes.indiatimes.com/industry/banking/finance/banking/reserve-bank-of-india-opens-branch-in-dehradun/articleshow/60927367.cms>

Hyderabad Airport

Question: Hyderabad Airport became the first airport to start wheelchair lift service. This service has been started under which initiative?

(a) Clean India campaign (b) Sugamya Bharat Abhiyan
(c) MUDRA (d) Skill India

Answer: (b)

Related Facts:



- On September 23, 2017, the Rajiv Gandhi International Airport became the first airport in the country, to launch the wheelchair lift service to benefit senior citizens and the physically challenged. .
- This service has been started under 'Sugamya Bharat Mission'.
- On December 3, 2015, on the occasion of International Day of Disabled, Prime Minister Narendra Modi had launched this campaign.
- This campaign has been divided into three areas – creating environment, transport facilitation and information and communication technology (ICI) ecosystem.
- The purpose of the transport facilitator is to make all international airports fully accessible as soon as possible, as well as the domestic airports domestic airports till March 2018.
- Under this, amenities like ramps, accessible toilets, Braille lifts and auditory signs are being provided at the airports.
- About 40 thousand passenger travels daily at Hyderabad Airport, in which about 100 passengers are on wheelchairs.
- This is a part of the prime' signature program of GMR Hyderabad International Airport Ltd. (GHIAL) 'Passenger is Prime which started in August, 2017.

Reference:

<http://pib.nic.in/mobile/mbHErel.aspx?relid=59930>

Benghazi Port

Question- Recently, the Benghazi Port reopened after closure of 3 years. This port is located at-

(a) Eastern Libya (b) Western Libya (c) Somalia (d) Turkish

Answer: (a)

Related Facts:

- On October 1, 2017, the Benghazi commercial port in East Libya officially reopened on Sunday after a three-year closure.
- It is mentionable that the port was closed three years ago due to fighting between rival factions in the east Libyan city.
- The port does not export oil, but imports gas and some petroleum products as well as general cargo, and local costs.

Reference:

<https://www.reuters.com/article/us-libya-security-benghazi-port/port-in-libyas-benghazi-reopens-after-three-year-closure-due-to-clashes-idUSKCN1C61LR>



Province of Catalonia

Question: Recently, a referendum was held in the province of Catalonia to separate it from the country. In which country the Province of Catalonia is located?

(a) Cyprus (b) Spain (c) Sweden (d) Slovenia

Answer (b)

Related Facts:

- On October 1st, 2017, a referendum was recently held to separate from Spain in the Catalonia province, located in the north-east of Spain.
- The Spanish government had banned this referendum by declaring it unconstitutional.



- Government had deployed thousands of policemen in different parts of the country to thwart the referendum efforts.

Reference:

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Catalan_independence_referendum,_2017

Harohalli Industrial Zone

Question: Harohalli Industrial zone is situated in which of the following States?

(a) Andhra Pradesh (b) Karnataka (c) Telangana (d) Kerala

Answer: (b)

Related Facts:

- On October 1st, 2017, the Centre has given its green light to the combined development of Harohalli industrial zone in Ramnagara district of Karnataka.
- The Karnataka Industrial Areas Development Board (KIADB)'s proposal is to build a multi-product industrial park in about 904.86 hectares.
- The Union environment ministry has given environment clearance (EC) for combined development of phase II and III of Harohalli industrial park in Karnataka.
- The cost of the project is pegged at Rs 1,561 crore and is expected to generate 23,500 jobs.
- In the proposed industrial park, KIADB will develop common infrastructure like roads, water sources, power, drainage and street lightening, among others, as well as social infrastructure facilities like banks, post office, canteen, and primary health centres.



Reference:

http://www.ptinews.com/news/9115986_Green-nod-to-Karnataka-s-Rs-1-561-cr-Harohalli-industrial-park

Inauguration of first e-Court in Jammu and Kashmir

Question: Jammu and Kashmir High Court was established on-

(a) 1928 (b) 1935 (c) 1954 (d) 1956

Reply- (a)

Related Facts:

- On September 21st, 2017, Chief Justice of the Jammu and Kashmir High Court Badar Durrraj inaugurated the first e-Court of Jammu and Kashmir in Srinagar (Wing).
- Its purpose is to make the judiciary digital.
- The Jammu and Kashmir High Court was established in the year 1928.



Reference:

http://www.business-standard.com/article/pti-stories/first-e-court-in-j-k-inaugurated-117092101140_1.html

Allahabad

Question: A turtle sanctuary is developed in-

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

Answer: (a)

Related Facts:



- In order to protect the rich aquatic biodiversity of river Ganga from escalating anthropogenic pressures, development of a Turtle sanctuary in Allahabad along with a River Biodiversity Park at Sangam have been approved under Namami Gange programme.
- The project at an estimated cost of Rs 1.34 crore would include development of River Biodiversity Park at Sangam (confluence of Ganga, Yamuna and mythical Sarasvati), establishment of a Turtle Rearing Centre (Permanent nursery at Triveni Pushp and makeshift annual hatcheries) and awareness about the importance of river Ganga and imperativeness of its conservation has been approved.
- This project will provide much needed platform to make the visitors aware of their place in the ecosystem, their roles and responsibilities, improve their understanding of the complexity of co-existence with the environment and help generate awareness for reducing the impact of human activities on critical natural resources.
- This project is 100% centrally funded.
- The sustenance of more than 2000 aquatic species including threatened gharials, dolphins and turtles in river Ganga exemplifies the rich biodiversity of this lifeline to over 40 per cent of the country's population.
- Rivers Ganga and Yamuna at Allahabad are home to some of the most endangered fauna like turtles (Batagur kachuga, Batagur dhongoka, Nilssonia gangetica, Chitra indica, Hardella thurjii etc.), the National Aquatic Animal – Gangetic dolphin (Platanista gangetica), the Gharial (Gavialis gangeticus) and numerous migratory and resident birds.

Reference:

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=171361>

Yamethin

Question: The Union Cabinet has given its ex-post facto approval to the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between-

- (a) India and Sri Lanka
(b) India and Pakistan
(c) India and Bangladesh
(d) India and Myanmar

Answer: (d)

Related Facts:



- On 4th october, 2017 the Union Cabinet chaired has given its ex-post facto approval to the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between India and Myanmar on upgradation of the Women's Police Training Centre at Yamethin, Myanmar.
- The MoU was signed on 6th September, 2017.

- The MoU covers upgradation of the Yamethin Women's Police Training Centre to further augment the capabilities of the Myanmar Government to build capacities of its police force with technical and financial assistance from Government of India.

Reference:

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=171370>

Cabinet approves renaming of Kandla Port as Deendayal Port

Question: The Kandla Port was renamed as-

- (a) Pandit Deendayal Port
- (b) Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel Port
- (c) Morarji Desai Port
- (d) Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru Port

Answer: (a)

Related Facts:

- On 4th October, 2017 the Union Cabinet chaired by the Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi has given its ex-post facto approval to the renaming of Kandla Port as Deendayal Port.
- This will inspire the People of Gujarat, particularly the Youth, who may not be fully aware of the contributions made by the great leader Pandit Deendayal Upadhyay.
- Since the birth anniversary of Pandit Deendayal Upadhyay was to be celebrated on 25th September, 2017, it was felt that it would be most appropriate if the decision to rename the Kandla Port as Deendayal Port was made as a part of the birth anniversary celebration of this great national leader.

About Pandit Deendayal Upadhyay-

- Pandit Deendayal Upadhyaya was the leader of the Bharatiya Jana Sangh from 1953 to 1968.
- A profound philosopher, organiser par excellence and a leader who maintained the highest standards of personal integrity, he has been the source of ideological guidance and moral inspiration for the BJP since its inception.
- His treatise Integral Humanism, which is a critique of both communism and capitalism, provides a holistic alternative perspective for political action and statecraft consistent with the laws of Creation and the universal needs of the human race.
- Pandit Deendayal Upadhyaya was born on Monday September 25, 1916, in the sacred region of Brij in the village of Nagla Chandrabhan in Mathura District .
- At the instance of his friend Shri. Balwant Mahashabde, he joined the RSS in 1937.
- He established the publishing house 'Rashtra Dharma Prakashan' in Lucknow and launched the monthly magazine 'Rashtra Dharma' to propound the principles he held sacred.
- Later he launched the weekly 'Panchjanya' and still later the daily 'Swadesh'.
- In 1950, Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee, then Minister at the Center, opposed the Pandit Deendayalji convened on September 21, 1951 a political convention of UP and founded the state unit of the new party, Bharatiya Jana Sangh. Pandit. Deendayalji was the moving spirit and Dr. Mookerjee presided over the first all-India convention held on October 21, 1951.



- Pandit Deendayalji's organizing skills were unmatched. Finally came the red letter day in the annals of the Jana Sangh when this utterly unassuming leader of the party was raised to the high position of President in the year 1968.
- On assuming this tremendous responsibility Deendayalji went to the South with the message of Jana Sangh.
- On the dark night of February 11, 1968, Deendayal Upadhyaya was fiendishly pushed into the jaws of sudden death.

Reference:

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=171368>

Eco-park

Question: Recently in which district of Jammu and Kashmir, the State government has decided to set up an Eco-Park?

(a) Ramban (b) Rajouri (c) Udhampur (d) Srinagar

Answer: (b)

Related facts:

- On August 25th, 2017, Jammu & Kashmir Government decided to construct an eco-park in the Kandi area of Rajouri district.
- The park is a first-of-its-kind project in the region.
- The eco-park will be built on over 34 acres of land.
- This park will have botanical gardens, cactus gardens, cafeteria and other amenities.
- This project has been planned under the convergence of local resources.
- It is expected to be completed by end of 2017.



Reference:

http://www.business-standard.com/article/pti-stories/j-k-govt-to-setup-eco-pak-in-rajouri-117082500731_1.html

Bagan

Question: Bagan is an important religious and tourist place of which of the following countries?

(a) Bhutan (b) Myanmar (c) Thailand (d) Vietnam

Answer: (b)

Related Facts:

- On the Union Cabinet chaired by the Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi has approved the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between India and Myanmar for the conservation of earthquake-damaged pagodas at Bagan, Myanmar.
- The MoU was signed during the visit of the Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi to Myanmar during 6-7 September 2017.
- Implementation of the project will further strengthen India's enduring ties in culture and religion with Myanmar.
- It is noteworthy that Bagan (Myanmar) is included in UNESCO World Heritage Sites List.



- Bagan is one of the premier tourist attractions as well as religious significance of Myanmar.
- Myanmar is called 'the Country of Golden Pagoda'.

Reference:

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintHindiRelease.aspx?relid=66828>

AWARDS & HONORS

Miss India Worldwide -2017

Question: Who has recently won 'Miss India Worldwide -2017' title?

(a) Sarita Pattnaik (b) Madhu Valli (c) Neeta Biswas (d) Dr. Shweta Dakar

Answer: (b)

Related facts:

- On October 8, 2017, Madhu Valli of Indian origin won the 'Miss India Worldwide -2017' title in the 26th beauty pageant held in New Jersey, United States.
- She is a student of Criminal Law at George Mason University, Virginia and an emerging artist of hip-hop.
- It is worth mentioning that this coveted competition is being done by New York's India Festival Committee from the year 1990 for the Indian expatriates living in the world.
- Stephanie Madavane from France and Sangeeta Bahadur from Guyana was declared Second and Third respectively.
- Participants from 18 countries participated in this year's beauty contest.
- Sarita Pattnaik, who lives in Texas, was declared Mrs. India Worldwide.
- The Mrs. India Worldwide Competition was launched to provide platform to married women of Indian origin.



Reference:

<http://www.livehindustan.com/international/story-madhu-valli-wins-2017-miss-india-worldwide-title-1589669.html>

Swachhta Pakhwada award to Ministry of Health and Family Welfare

Question: When the Swachhta Pakhwada was organized by the Health Ministry in the-year 2017?

(a) 1-15 February (b) 1-15 January (c) 1-15 March (d) 1-15 April

Answer: (a)

Related facts:

- On October 2, 2017, the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare was rewarded for outstanding contribution during the Swachhta Pakhwada.
- Shri C K Mishra, Secretary (HFW) received the award on behalf of the Ministry.
- The Ministry of Drinking Water and Sanitation, Government of India, declared it the best department in the Inter-Ministry Exhibition under Clean India Mission.



- The Health Ministry organized the Swacchta fortnight from February 1, 2017 to February 15, 2017.
- Swachhta Pakhwada activities were organized and observed within the Ministry offices, in Central Government Hospitals and in public health facilities of the states across 36 States/UTs.

Reference:

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=171336>

Vayalar Award

Question: Who amongst the following has been awarded with Vayalar Award for the Year 2017?

- (a) Ramachandra Guha (b) T.D. Ramakrishnan (c) Surendra Verma
(d) Narendra Modi

Answer: (b)

Related Facts:

- On October 7, 2017, T.D. Ramakrishnan was selected for the 40th Vayalar Award for his novel Sugandhi Anna Andal Devanayaki.
- The Vayalar Award is given on 27th October every year on the death anniversary of Vayalar Ramvarma, by the Vayalar Ramvarma Memorial Trust for working in the literary field of Malayalam language.
- Sugandhi Anna Andal Devanayaki is based on the struggle of the Tamils in Sri Lanka.
- The award, consist a cash prize of Rs 1, 00,000, citation and a statuette.



Reference:

<http://www.thehindu.com/news/national/kerala/kerala/article19823851.ece>

Anna Politkovskaya Award

Question: Which Indian journalist was selected for the Anna Politkovskaya Prize for the Year 2017?

- (a) Arfa Khanam Sherwani (b) Barkha Dutt (c) Neerja Chaudhary (d) Gauri Lankesh

Answer: (d)

Related Facts:

- On October 5, 2017, Gauri Lankesh was posthumously selected for the Anna Politkovskaya Prize for the year 2017.
- Along with her, 31-year-old Pakistani peace activist Gualalai Ismail was elected as co-winner.
- This award is given by the UK-based organization Reach All Women in War (RAW in War) since 2007, to mark the anniversary of Anna Politkovskaya and to honour her and the women like her in the world.
- Anna Politkovskaya was a Russian investigative journalist who was killed in 2006 in Moscow for her courage to speak out against the human rights violations and exposing corruption in Chechnya.
- On September 6, 2017, Kannada journalist Gauri Lankesh was shot dead at his house in Bangalore.
- Gauri became the first Indian woman journalist to win this award.



Reference:

<http://www.hindustantimes.com/india-news/gauri-lankesh-becomes-first-indian-journalist-to-win-anna-politkovskaya-award/story-JC3APi30op5wAPGDVlypFM.html>

International Business Person of the Year Award

Question: In September 2017, who amongst the following has won International Business Person of the Year Award in London?

(a) Ajay Kumar (b) Hemant Biswal (c) Narendra Singh (d) Birendra Sasmal

Answer: (d)

Related Facts:

- Indian origin entrepreneur of Ghana Birendra Sasmal has been awarded with the 'International Business Person of the Year' award.
- He was awarded this award at the Asian Achievers Awards ceremony held in London in September, 2017.
- Sasmal is the Chief Executive Officer of IT Company the Subah Group.
- He has been given this award for efforts to bring new IT solutions in Africa.
- Sasmal has brought the company to new heights in the entire IT, telecom and manufacturing sector of West Africa.



Reference:

<https://newsroompost.com/350213/indian-entrepreneur-birendra-sasmal-wins-uk-biz-award/>

Man Booker Prize, 2017

Question: Who has been awarded The Man Booker Prize for Fiction, 2017?

- (a) Richard Flanagan for 'The Narrow Road to the Deep North'
(b) Marlon James for 'A Brief History of Seven Killings'
(c) Paul Bettany for 'The Sell Out'
(d) George Saunders for 'Lincoln in the Bardo'

Answer: (d)

Related Facts:

- On 17 October 2017, **Lincoln in the Bardo by George Saunders** is named winner of the 2017 Man Booker Prize for Fiction.
- He was presented with a trophy from HRH The Duchess of Cornwall and a £50,000 cheque by Luke Ellis, Chief Executive of Man Group.
- Saunders also receives a designer bound edition of his book and a further £2,500 for being shortlisted.
- Lincoln in the Bardo is the first full-length novel from George Saunders, internationally renowned short story writer.
- The 58-year-old New York resident, born in Texas, is the second American author to win the prize in its 49-year history.
- He was in contention for the prize with two British, one British-Pakistani and two American writers.
- **Lola, Baroness Young, 2017 Chair of judges, comments:** 'The form and style of this utterly original novel, reveals a witty, intelligent, and deeply moving narrative. This tale of the haunting and haunted souls in the afterlife of Abraham Lincoln's young son



paradoxically creates a vivid and lively evocation of the characters that populate this other world. Lincoln in the Bardo is both rooted in, and plays with history, and explores the meaning and experience of empathy.'

- Lincoln in the Bardo is published by Bloomsbury, making it the third consecutive year the prize has been won by an independent publisher, following Oneworld Publications' success in 2015 with Marlon James and 2016 with Paul Beatty.
- Bloomsbury has won the prize three times before, with Howard Jacobson (2010), Margaret Atwood (2000) and Michael Ondaatje (1992).
- Saunders' win comes in the month that 1989 Booker Prize-winning author Kazuo Ishiguro was named as this year's Nobel Prize in Literature recipient.
- Man Group, an active investment management firm, has sponsored the prize since 2002.

Reference:

<http://themanbookerprize.com/news/lincoln-bardo-wins-2017-man-booker-prize>

Rashtriya Khel Protsahan Puruskar -2017

Question: Who has recently been awarded 'Rashtriya Khel Protsahan Puruskar -2017' for influential work done in the field of sports?

- (a) Reliance Foundation Youth Sports
- (b) Tata Sports Youth Foundation
- (c) Birla Sports Youth Foundation
- (d) Wipro Youth Sports Foundation



Answer: (a)

Related Facts:

- On August 29th, 2017, on the occasion of 'National Sports Day', President Ramnath Kovind honored the Reliance Foundation Youth Sports with the prestigious Rashtriya Khel Protsahan Puruskar -2017'.
- The award was given by the ministry of sports affairs to Reliance Foundation Youth Sports who has been influential in transforming India into a multi-sports nation.
- Founder and the Chairman of Reliance Foundation Youth Sports, Nita Ambani received the award on behalf of the Foundation.
- It is notable that Nita Ambani is the first woman and the third individual to become a member of the International Olympic Committee (IOC).

Reference:

<http://www.rfyouthsports.com/football/news/188-reliance-foundation-conferred-with-rashtriya-khel-protsahan-puruskar>

Women Transforming India Awards 2017

Question: How many women have been awarded with the Women Transforming India Award-2017?

- (a) 10 (b) 15 (c) 12 (d) 6

Answer- (c)

Related Facts:



- On August 29th, 2017, celebrating the outstanding achievements of women in India, NITI Aayog, in partnership with MyGov and the United Nations, announced winners of the Women Transforming India Awards, 2017.
- The awards were given to the recipients by the Union Minister Smriti Irani.
- It is the second edition of the Awards, celebrates the critical role of women in empowering themselves and their communities.
- The awardees were selected after a rigorous process by an eminent jury.
- Jury comprises P.T. Usha, track and field Olympian; Pooja Thakur, Wing Commander, Indian Air Force; Nirupama Rao, Former Foreign Secretary and Ambassador, Arvind Panagariya, Vice Chairman, NITI Aayog; Amitabh Kant, CEO, NITI Aayog and Yuri Afanasiev, UN Resident Coordinator.
- Launched on International Women's Day on 8 March, the contest aimed to gather lesser-known stories of women leading change.
- **The following 12 winners of this award include 6 top and 6 runners-up, are as follows:**

TOP 6 CONTESTANTS:

- Laxmi Agarwal: Attacked in 2005 in broad daylight at the age of 15, Laxmi Aggarwal is today a champion of violence against women. She has filed public interest litigations in India's highest court to restrict the sale of acid.
- Safeena Husain: The founder and executive director of Educate Girls, a non-profit organization working for girls' education, Safeena Husain has worked to bring education to some of India's most backward districts.
- Kamal Kumbhar: Broke free from the shackles of poverty and a suffocating marriage to create a micro-enterprise network, enabling women like herself to realise their dreams of a brighter tomorrow.
- Subasini Mistry: After losing her husband at a young age, Subasini Mistry saved for two decades to build a hospital for the needy.
- Arunima Sinha: Is the first female amputee to scale the highest mountain in the world.
- Jamuna Tudu: Along with her band of women activists, Jamuna Tudu has conserved 50 hectares of forest land around her village in Jharkhand, taking on encroachers with little more than bows and arrows and courage.

6 RUNNERS-UP:

- Rajlakshmi Borthakur: Determined to save her child's life, Rajlakshmi Borthakur researched epilepsy for more than three years and developed a simple wearable device, a smart glove, that can predict epileptic seizures before they happen
- Harshini Kanhekar: is India's first woman firefighter.
- Sunita Kamble: As a goat doctor in the severely drought affected region, Sunita Kamble worked with her team to protect the community's livestock and create alternative and sustainable livelihood opportunities for women.
- Kiran Kanojia: Survivor of a horrific accident, Kiran Kanojia, is a champion blade runner, constantly pushing the limits on her quest for the next challenge.
- Shima Modak: For almost a decade, Shima Modak has been working relentlessly for the welfare of the distressed. Albeit with very little financial assistance, Shima has helped improve the future of children in her community by taking free education to the doorstep of the vulnerable.
- Kanika Tekriwal: A self-made aviation entrepreneur and cancer survivor, Kanika Tekriwal launched her company, JetSetGo in 2013. JetSetGo, India's first marketplace for

chartered jets is an interactive technology-driven platform enabling users to charter aircrafts and helicopters around India.

Reference:

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=170334>

<http://www.in.undp.org/content/india/en/home/presscenter/pressreleases/2016/09/09/women-transforming-india-awards-2016.html>

OPERATIONS & CAMPAIGN

Bi-lateral Naval Exercise between India and Indonesia

Question: At which of the following places Bi-lateral naval exercise CORPAT (Coordinated Patrol) between India and Indonesia will be held in October 2017?

(a) India (b) China (c) Indonesia (d) Myanmar

Answer: (c)

Related Facts:

- From 24 October – 05 November 2017, the 30th edition of CORPAT (Coordinated Patrol) and 3rd Bilateral exercise between the Indian Navy and the Indonesian Navy.
- In pursuance with India's 'Act East Policy', Indian Naval Ship Sukanya under the command of Commander SA Deodhar, NM has been reached at Belawan Indonesia to participate in the exercise.
- The exercise is aimed to foster closer maritime ties with countries located on the rim of the Indian Ocean.



Reference:

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=171888>

Search Operation CASO

Question: In which city of North-Kashmir recently a search operation CASO was started by Government Security forces?

(a) Hajin (b) Gulmarg (c) Pahalgam (d) Badgam

Answer: (a)

Related Facts:

- On October 4th, 2017, Security forces today launched a cordon and search operation (CASO) in Hajin, Bandipora district, North Kashmir.
- This operation is being jointly organized by Army, Jammu and Kashmir Special Campaign Group (SOG) and Central Reserve Police Force at Hajin in Bandipora district.
- The operation CASO was launched following inputs about the presence of militants in the area. CASO was launched after a border Security force (BSF) soldier, Rameez Ahmad Paray was killed and four of his relatives were injured by suspected in the district.
- Earlier, in September, this search operation has been run in many areas and villages of Bandipora in 2017.



Reference:

<http://kashmirilife.net/forces-launch-cordon-and-search-operation-in-bandipora-villages-151844/>

‘Donate Your Space for Road Safety’ campaign

Question: Recently, the ‘Donate Your Space for Road Safety’ campaign was launched by which State’s the Department of Transportation?

- (a) Uttar Pradesh Transport Department (b) Karnataka Transport Department
(c) Rajasthan Transport Department (d) Chhattisgarh Transport Department

Answer: (c)

Related Facts:

- On October 11, 2017, Shailendra Agrawal, Chief Secretary and Commissioner of Rajasthan Transport Department, launched ‘Donate Your Space for Road Safety’ campaign.
- This campaign will be operated by Rajasthan Transport Department in collaboration with Taramani Foundation.
- Under this campaign one place from corporate institutes, offices, cafés, colleges, hospitals, schools etc. will be donated.
- Specially designed creative’s related to road safety (Banners, Posters, and Messages) will be installed.



Reference:

<http://www.khaskhabar.com/local/rajasthan/jaipur-news/news-transport-departments-donate-your-space-for-four-road-safety-campaigns-news-hindi-1-263276-KKN.html>

Exercise, ‘Pralay Sahayam’

Question: Recently, on the banks of which Lake the multi-agency exercise, ‘Pralay Sahayam’ was organized with the aim of coordinating relief and rescue operations in the state of urban flood situation?

- (a) Bembnad Lake (b) Pulicat Lake (c) Hussein Sagar Lake (d) Chilka Lake

Answer: (c)

Related Facts:

- On September 23rd, 2017, a multi-agency exercise was conducted on the banks of Hussain Sagar Lake as the final event of ‘Pralay Sahayam’ in Hyderabad.
- Its aim is to establish synergy between the efforts of various agencies and to build trust among the people in relation to the abilities to suppress disasters.
- These joint operations were carried out by the State Government agencies, Police, State Fire & Emergency Services, NDRF, CISF and the Armed Forces.
- The Indian Air Force and the Army Aviation employed the Mi-17 helicopters, Advanced Light Helicopter (ALH) and Chetak Helicopter for aerial evacuation, demonstrating special skills in hovering and winching.
- The hapless stranded occupants of these dwellings were rescued in joint operations carried out by the State Government agencies, Police, State Fire & Emergency Services, NDRF, CISF and the Armed Forces.



Reference:

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=171060>

International textiles and apparel fair VASTRA 2017

Question: 21-24 Where was the sixth edition of the International Textile and Apparel Fair Textile-2015 organized between September, 2017?

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

Answer: (d)

Related Facts:

- Between 21-24 September, 2017, 6th Edition of the 4-day international textiles and apparel fair VASTRA 2017, was inaugurated in Jaipur, Rajasthan.
- The Union Minister for Textiles and Information & Broadcasting, Smt. Smriti Zubin Irani inaugurated the fair.
- It was organized jointly by Rajasthan State Industrial Development and Investment Corporation Ltd. (RIICO) and the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI).
- More than 50 countries and 13 Indian States are participating in VASTRA 2017.

Reference:

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintHindiRelease.aspx?relid=67256/>



‘My Home-My Neighborhood’ (Ghar Bi Saaf-Pados Bhi Saaf)

Question: ‘My Home-My Neighborhood’ (Ghar Bi Saaf-Pados Bhi Saaf) will be started in all the cities and cities of the country by a roll-out action plan from which date?

(a) September 25, 2017 (b) September 30, 2017 (c) October 2, 2017 (d) November 14, 2017

Answer: (c)

Related Facts:

- On September 24th, 2017, Minister of Housing & Urban Affairs Shri Hardeep Singh Puri inaugurated the ‘My Home-My Neighborhood’ (Ghar Bi Saaf-Pados Bhi Saaf) campaign) at New Delhi.
- The purpose of this campaign is to manage the waste in cities in a proper manner.
- ‘My Home-My Neighborhood’ (Ghar Bi Saaf-Pados Bhi Saaf) campaign has six components:
 - Segregation of waste at source
 - Compost making from wet waste within the premises/neighborhood/area
 - Recycling of dry waste
 - Freeing the neighborhood from open defecation and open urination
 - Motivating the residents of neighborhood against throwing garbage in open spaces; and
 - Adopting a nearby park or open place for collection and waste segregation.
- This neighborhood action plan leads to substantial reduction in the quantum of solid waste sent to landfill besides enabling better performance of Waste-to –Compost and Waste-to-Energy plants. Apart from this, there will be facility to make fertilizer and energy from waste. Neighborhood is the residential society, colony, clan, market etc.
- The wholehearted Action Plan will be launched from October 2, 2017 in all the cities and cities of the country. He also inaugurating modern litter picker machines imported by South Delhi Municipal Corporation during ‘Swacchata Hi Sewa’ campaign.

Reference:

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintHindiRelease.aspx?relid=67289>



Child Rescue Campaign at Railway Stations

Question: 'Operation Muskaan', an initiative to rescue/rehabilitate missing children is launched by-

(a) Railway Ministry (b) Home Ministry (c) Ministry of Finance (d) Ministry of Tourism

Answer (b)

Related Facts:

- On September 25th, 2017, a campaign was launched by Railway Protection Force (RPF) to rescue distressed children.
- This campaign is currently operating successfully at 35 railway stations.
- Railway Protection Force to implement its Child Rescue Campaign in 47 additional Railway Stations taking total to 82 Railway Stations.
- All A1 Category stations numbering 75 will be covered under this campaign.
- The Government Railway Police and *Railway Protection Force* are required to take preventive measures and also take action in case children in need of care and protection are found in trains and Railway Premises.
- 'Operation Muskaan', is an initiative of the Union Ministry of Home Affairs to rescue/rehabilitate missing children.
- Special Kiosks/Child Help Desks are set up at the designated stations which are manned round the clock by RPF staff and the staff of Childline/NGO nominated by the Ministry of Women and Child Development, Government of India.
- This entire exercise is being undertaken as per the Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) for Railways to ensure care and protection of children in contact with Railways jointly developed by Ministry of Railways, National Commission for Protection of Child Rights (NCPCR) and Ministry of Women and Child Development.



Reference:

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=171073>

Resolution Supporting India's Bid for Permanent U.N. Security Council

Question: Recently by which country's parliament a resolution to support India's permanent membership in the UN Security Council was passed?

(a) Canada (b) America (c) Germany (d) Russia

Answer- (b)

Related Facts:

- On September 26, 2017, in House of Representatives (House of Representatives) two MPs introduced a resolution in the House of Representatives to support India being made a permanent member of the United Nations Security Council (UNSC).
- Frank Pallone, founder of the Congressional Caucus on India and Indian Americans and Ami Bera, vice ranking member on the House Foreign Affairs Committee; the Congressmen from the Democratic Party, introduced the resolution.
- Through this resolution, the House will become the supporter of India's claim in the official record.



Reference:

<https://www.defencenewsindia.com/us-congressmen-introduce-resolution-in-house-backing-indias-uns-c-bid/?nonamp=1>

No Child Labour (PENCIL) Portal

Question: Recently the 'pencil' portal was launched by the central government. It is related-

(a) Education (b) Child wage (c) Adult education (d) Medical education

Answer: (b)

Related Facts:

- On September 26th, 2017, The Union Home Minister Shri Rajnath Singh launched the Platform for Effective Enforcement for No Child Labour (PENCIL) Portal at the National Conference on Child Labour organised by the Ministry of Labour and Employment, Government of India.
- The PENCIL is an electronic platform that aims at involving Centre, State, District, Governments, civil society and the general public in achieving the target of child labour free society.
- The SOP is aimed at creating a ready reckoner for trainers, practitioners and monitoring agencies to ensure complete prohibition of child labour and protection of adolescents from hazardous labour ultimately leading to Child Labour Free India.
- The PENCIL Portal (pencil.gov.in) has various components, namely;
 - Child Tracking System,
 - Complaint Corner,
 - State Government,
 - National Child Labour Project and Convergence.
- It is notable that the Central Government has passed the Child Labor (Prohibition and Regulation) Amendment Act, 2016, which was implemented from September 1, 2016.
- According to this amendment act, the employment of children under the age of 14 years is Prohibited (not allowed) under the law for any occupation and for the children between 14-18 years, the employment is not allowed in occupations that are harmful to their physical and mental health.
- Government had initiated the *National Child Labour Project*(NCLP) Scheme in
- Its aim was to exclude children from all forms of child labor, rehabilitate them and to join them in the main stream of education.
- On this occasion he quoted the example of special drives undertaken under 'Operation Smile', where 70,000-75,000 children could be saved.
- Appreciating the Ministry of Labour and Employment's efforts in releasing SOPs for enforcement agencies, he told that these agencies will help in the better implementation of the schemes.



Reference:

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=171124>

Mudra Promotion campaigns on Pan India Basis

Question- At which of the following places the Union Minister for Railway and Coal, Shri Piyush Goyal launched a Mudra Promotion Campaign on national basis?

(a) Varanasi (b) Jaipur (c) Bhopal (d) Dehradun

Answer: (a)

Related Facts:

- On September 25th, 2017, the Union Minister for Railway and



Coal, Shri Piyush Goyal launched a Mudra Promotion Campaign on national basis.

- The campaign started on 27th September, 2017 at Varanasi, Uttar Pradesh.
- The campaign will run from 27th September to 17th October, 2017.
- This campaign will be started in various States in the presence of Union Ministers on various dates.
- Total 50 such Mudra Promotion Campaigns will be organized in different parts of the country.
- State Level Banking Committee (SLBC) of different States will actively participate and coordinate all these Campaigns.
- Mudra Promotion Campaigns will be held at various places including at Patna, Shimla, Chandigarh, Chennai, Srinagar, Indore, Ludhiana, Meerut, Jodhpur, Bhuvaneshwar, Hyderabad, Bengaluru, Lucknow, Daman, Nagpur, Panaji, Rajkot, Shillong, Bhopal, Kavaratti, Kolkata, Silvassa, Mumbai, Muzaffarpur, Aizawl, Salem, Hubli, Thiruvananthapuram, Puducherry, Jaipur, Ranchi, New Delhi, Faridabad, Gorakhpur, Jammu, Jamnagar, Mangalore, Gangtok, Pune, Imphal, Kohima, Port Blair and Itanagar.
- This campaign will end on October 17, 2017 in Itanagar, Arunachal Pradesh.
- This last 50th campaign will be concluded by Minister of State for Home Affairs Kiren Rijiju.

Reference:

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintHindiRelease.aspx?relid=67309>

Campaign for the disposal of e-waste of schools

Question: Recently, from the schools of which of the following state, the campaign for e-waste disposal has been started?

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

Answer: (c)

Related facts:

- On August 24th, 2017, a Campaign for removal of E-waste from Kerala schools has begun.
- On this occasion, Kerala Education Minister C. Ravindranath flagged off the first vehicle to collect e-waste from a school in Thiruvananthapuram.
- This campaign is a joint initiative of the Kerala Infrastructure and Technology of Education (KITE) and the Clean Kerala Company for the scientific disposal of e-waste.
- A total of 12,500 kg of e-waste was disposed on the first day through this drive.
- According to the report, over 10 million kg of e-waste is estimated to be in Kerala.
- It is aimed at disposing e-Waste from 10,000 odd schools and educational offices in the State.
- E-waste includes desktop computers, CRT monitors, laptops, disk drives, printers, UPS, cameras, television etc.
- The e-waste will be scientifically processed at recycling facility of Earth Sense Recycling Company in Hyderabad.



Reference:

http://www.ptinews.com/news/9013082_E-waste-disposal-from-schools-kicks-starts-in-Kerala—.html

COMMISSION & COMMITTEE

Reconstituted of the 'Market Committee on Fair Market Conduct' by SEBI

Question: How many members there in the 'Market Committee on Fair Market Conduct' reconstituted by SEBI?

(a) 14 (b) 15 (c) 13 (d) 11

Answer- (b)

Related Facts:

- On October 25, 2017, the market regulator, Indian Securities and Exchange Board (SEBI) reconstituted the 'Market Committee on Fair Market Conduct'.
- Former Law Secretary T.K. Viswanathan has been elected as Chairman of the Committee.
- There are 15 members in this committee, including Ashish Kumar Chauhan of Bombay Stock Exchange and Vikram Lima of National Stock Exchange.
- The committee is tasked with suggesting "short term and medium term measures for improved surveillance of the markets as well as issues of high frequency trades, harnessing of technology and analytics in surveillance".



Reference:

<https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/business/india-business/sebi-restructures-expert-panel-on-fair-market-conduct/articleshow/61218830.cms>

Commission to probe Jayalalitha's death

Question: Under whose chairmanship the Tamil Nadu government has set up an inquiry commission on former Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu Jayalalitha's death of-

(a) D.Jayakumar (b) A. Arumugasami (c) A. Shadgunam (d) P. Thangamani

Answer: (b)

Related Facts:

- On September 25, 2017, an investigation commission was formed by the Tamil Nadu Government to investigate the death of former Tamil Nadu chief minister Jayalalitha.
- Arumugasamy, retired Judge of the Madras High Court has been appointed the chairman of this Commission.
- It is notable that the Tamil Nadu Chief Minister Jayalalithaa died in Chennai on December 5, 2016.



Reference:

<http://www.thehindu.com/news/national/tamil-nadu/jayalalithaa-death-tn-announced-constitution-of-commission-of-inquiry/article19751964.ece>

150th Birth Anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi

Question- Recently, the Central Government announced to commemorate the 150th Birth Anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi, Father of the Nation, during the period from 2nd October, 2019 to 2nd October, 2020. Under whose leadership a National Committee has

been constituted for this purpose?

(a) Home Minister (b) Prime Minister (c) Culture Minister (d) Tourism Minister

Answer: (b)

Related Facts:

- On October 12th, 2017, government of India announced to commemorate the 150th Birth Anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi, Father of the Nation, during the period from 2nd October, 2019 to 2nd October, 2020.
- It has been decided to celebrate the event at both national and international levels, to propagate the message of the Mahatma.
- A National Committee (NC) headed by Hon'ble Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi has been constituted for this purpose.
- This Committee includes the Chief Ministers of all the states of the country, representatives from across the political spectrum, Gandhians, thinkers, and eminent persons from all walks of life.
- The Committee will guide and approve policies/programmes/activities for the commemoration and will also supervise implementation of the decisions taken from time to time.

Reference:

<http://www.uniindia.com/pm-to-head-panel-to-commemorate-150th-birth-anniversary-of-mahatma-gandhi/india/news/1016479.html>

Constituted a commission to examine the sub-classification of the Other Backward Classes

Question: Recently, President Ramnath Kovind set up a commission headed by which one of the following to test the sub-classification of the other backward classes (OBC's)?

(a) Justice Ashok Ganguly (b) Justice G. Rohini (c) Justice Indrani Mukherjee
(d) Justice R.C. Lohati

Answer: (b)

Related Facts:

- On October 2, 2017, President Ramnath Kovind constituted a commission to examine the sub-classification of the Other Backward Classes under the chairmanship of G. Rohini, former Chief Justice of Delhi High Court.
- The President constituted this Commission while exercising the powers conferred under Article 340 of Indian Constitution.
- Other members of the commission include
 - Member -Dr. J.K. Bajaj
 - Member (Ex-officio)-Director, Anthropological Survey of India,
 - Member (Ex-officio)-Registrar General and Census Commissioner, India
 - Secretary of the Commission-Joint Secretary, Department of SJ&E, Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment
- The terms of reference of the Commission are as under(i) to examine the extent of inequitable distribution of benefits of reservation among the castes or communities included in the broad category of Other Backward Classes with reference to such classes included in the Central List;



- (ii) to work out the mechanism, criteria, norms and parameters in a scientific approach for sub-categorisation within such Other Backward Classes; and
- (iii) to take up the exercise of identifying the respective castes or communities or sub-castes or synonyms in the Central List of Other Backward Classes and classifying them into their respective sub-categories...
- The Commission is required to present their Report to the President within a period of twelve weeks of assumption of charge by the Chairperson of the Commission.

Reference:

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=171331>

Household Finance Committee report published by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI)

Question: Recently, the report of the Family Finance Committee has been published by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI). Under whose chairmanship was this committee constituted?

(a) Jose J. Kattoor (b) Dr. Nachiket Mohr (c) Dr. Tarun Ramadorai (d) Dr. Viral V. Acharya

Answer: (c)

Related facts:

- On August 24th, 2017, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) published the report of the Household Finance Committee.
- In pursuance of the discussions in the Sub Committee of the Financial Stability and Development Council (FSDC-SC) held on April 26, 2016 a committee was set up to look at various facets of household finance in India.
- The Committee is chaired by Dr. Tarun Ramadorai, Professor of Financial Economics, and Imperial College London.
- Committee had representation from all the financial sector regulators, namely, Reserve Bank of India (RBI), Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI), the Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI) and Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority (PFRDA).
- The participation rate of Indian households in financial assets is well below the one observed in developed countries.
- With the help of this committee better participation of Indian families can be facilitated.



Reference:

https://www.rbi.org.in/Scripts/BS_PressReleaseDisplay.aspx?prid=41471

PLANNING & PROJECT

E-IPO International track packet

Question: Recently, Minister for Communications Shri Sinha launched International Tracked Packet service designed specially to meet the cross border requirements of e-Commerce sector in Asia-Pacific Region. At the beginning, the service will be available in

how many countries?

(a) 10 (b) 12 (c) 15 (d) 21

Answer: (b)

Related facts:

- On October 9, 2017, Communications Minister Manoj Sinha launched e-IPO (Indian Postal Order) in the denominations of Rs. 10/-, Rs. 20/-, Rs. 50/- & Rs. 100/-, as a pilot project in Bihar, Delhi and Karnataka on the occasion of World Post Day.
- In the next two months, the service will cover the entire country.
- e-IPO will be used for all purposes like fee payment for RTI/ educational institutions/ Court/ online registration for Cable Operators etc.
- This launch is a part of Digital India Initiative.
- Payment will be done through debit card / credit card / net banking.
- It can be purchased by visiting the e-IPO online website <https://www.epostoffice.gov.in> or it can also be purchased from the official website of the India Post <https://www.indiapost.gov.in>.
- On this occasion, the Communication Minister launched the international track packet specially designed to meet the cross border requirements in the e-commerce sector in the Asia-Pacific region.
- The service will be available to 12 countries and gradually the whole world will be covered.
- This new service has many special features like affordable price, track & trace, volume discounts, pick up facility, compensation for loss or damage and, therefore, high value for money.
- Apart from this, Shri Sinha also unveiled the revamped website of the India Post which is made more user-friendly and informative to meet the need of customers in a better way.

Reference:

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=171521>

First Piped Natural Gas (PNG) of Odisha

Question: Recently, Union Petroleum and Natural Gas minister Dharmendra Pradhan inaugurated the first PNG project of Odisha in Bhubaneswar. The goal of this project is to-

- (a) Provide 10 million PNG connections in the state by 2021.
- (b) Provide 10 million PNG connections in the state by the year 2020.
- (c) Provide 50 million PNG connections by 2019
- (d) Provide 75 lakh PNG connections in the state by the year 2020.



Answer- (b)

Related Facts:

- On October 20th, 2017, Minister for Petroleum & Natural Gas and Skill Development & Entrepreneurship Shri Dharmendra Pradhan launched supply of Piped Natural Gas (PNG) for the residents of Bhubaneswar.
- This PNG supply project is a part of 'Pradhan Mantri Urja Ganga', which will pass through five states, i.e. Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Jharkhand, Odisha and West Bengal.
- With this, GAIL started supply of environment-friendly PNG to 255 houses in Nalco Nagar located at Chandrasekharapur area here.

- GAIL also plans to provide PNG connections in the near future covering a total of 1,000 houses.
- The pipeline is presently under construction and likely to be completed by 2019.

Reference:

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=171830>

Lab on Boat

Question: Biotechnology department is planning to launch 'Lab on Boat' for biological analysis of which of the following river system?

- (a) Ganges River (b) Yamuna River (c) Brahmaputra River
(d) Godavari River

Answer: (c)

Related Facts:

- Department of Biotechnology aims at starting a 'lab on boat' on Brahmaputra River for biological analysis of the river system.
- This laboratory will be used for biological analysis of the river system.
- Through this ambitious project, it is proposed to build several laboratories and access to local research institutes on Brahmaputra and its tributaries.
- The first laboratory under the Brahmaputra Biodiversity Biology Boat (B4) initiative will cover Pasighat, Dibrugarh, Neemati, Tejpur and Guwahati in Assam.
- B4 will establish a large barge on the river with a well-equipped laboratory for the analysis of all components of the entire ecosystem of the river and its surroundings.
- The nearly 3,800 kms long river, one of the longest in the world, traverses three countries to empty itself in the Bay of Bengal.
- The project is expected to commence by the year (2017)-end.
- Anchored by IIT-Guwahati, the project is also supported by the Ministry of Development of North Eastern Region (DoNER).
- Under the Ministry of Science and Technology, there are a number of institutes and ships for research on the river, but this will be the first time that the Ministry will have a boat / barge for research on a river.
- Biotechnology Department also announced the projects of Phyto-Pharma Plants Mission and Frugal Microscopy for the north-east region.
- The Rs 50 crore Phyto-Pharma Plants Mission programme will promote cultivation and conservation in the north-eastern states.



Reference:

http://www.ptinews.com/news/9088204_Govt-plans—lab-on-boat—for-analysing-Brahmaputra-river

Umbrella Scheme

Question: Recently, the Union Cabinet approved the 'Umbrella Scheme' for modernization of which one of the following?

- (a) Education (b) Police (c) Prison (d) Rail

Answer: (b)

Related Facts:



- On September 27, 2017, the Union Cabinet chaired by the Prime Minister has given its approval for implementation of umbrella scheme of “Modernisation of Police Forces (MPF)” for years 2017-18 to 2019-20.
- The financial outlay for the scheme over the three year’s period is Rs.25,060 crore, out of which the Central Government share will be Rs.18,636 crore and the States’ share will be Rs.6,424 crore.
- **The key features of this scheme are as follows:**
- Special provision has been made under the Scheme for internal security, law and order, women security, availability of modern weapons, mobility of police forces, logistics support, hiring of helicopters, upgradation of police wireless, National Satellite Network, CCTNS project, E-prison project etc.
- Under the umbrella scheme, central budget outlay of Rs.10,132 crore has been earmarked for internal security related expenditure for Jammu & Kashmir, North Eastern States and left wing extremism affected States.
- (Scheme of Special Central Assistance (SCA) for 35 worst LWE affected districts has been introduced with an outlay of Rs.3,000 crore to tackle the issue of underdevelopment in these district.
- An outlay of Rs.100 crore has been earmarked in the North Eastern States for police infrastructure upgradation, training institutes, investigation facilities etc.
- In addition to this, Implementation of this scheme would bolster the Government’s ability to address challenges faced in different theatres such as areas affected by LWE, Jammu and Kashmir and North East effectively and undertake development interventions which will catalyze in improving the quality of life in these areas and help combat these challenges effectively at the same time.

Reference:

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintHindiRelease.aspx?relid=67355>

<https://www.narendramodi.in/cabinet-approves-umbrella-scheme-of-modernisation-of-police-forces-537150>

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=171164>

Sankalp Bus Service

Question: Sankalp bus service is recently started by which of the following State Government?

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

Answer: (a)

Related Facts:

- On October 11, 2017, Uttar Pradesh’s Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath launched the ‘Sankalp Seva’ (Bus Service) of UP Transport Corporation.
- On this occasion he flagged off 50 buses.
- To provide better facilities to the common man, all the unnerved villages of the state are being connected to the Sankalp bus service.
- It is known that transport services were available only in 59 thousand 560 villages in 98 thousand Inhabited villages of the state after the present government came to rule.



- In order to facilitate bus services to the unnerved villages, the transport corporation were entrusted with the goal of providing transport services to 38, 254 unserved villages.
- Phase-wise action has been taken to provide transport facilities to 9 563 villages for each year for this work.
- In the same sequence, till November 2017, the target of connecting 9 thousand 563 villages with transport services has been fixed for the year 2017-18.
- The 4 thousand 766 villages have been linked with transport service through the available resources in the 6 months tenure of the present government.

Reference:

http://information.up.nic.in/View_Hindinews.aspx?id=698

Shri Dharmendra Pradhan launches Piped Natural Gas (PNG) supply in Bhubaneswar

- On 20th October, 2017 minister for Petroleum & Natural Gas and Skill Development & Entrepreneurship Shri Dharmendra Pradhan launched supply of Piped Natural Gas (PNG) for the residents of Bhubaneswar.
- With this, GAIL started supply of environment-friendly PNG to 255 houses in Nalco Nagar located at Chandrasekharapur area here.
- The commencement of supply of natural gas is an important step towards the fulfillment of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi's dream of developing a gas-based economy and linking Eastern India to the country's Natural Gas Grid through the 'Pradhan Mantri Urja Ganga', which will pass through five states, i.e. Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Jharkhand, Odisha and West Bengal.
- The longest stretch of the project – 769 kms – will be built in Odisha.
- This pipeline will lead to industrial development of eastern India.
- **About GAIL (India) Limited-**
- GAIL (India) Ltd was incorporated in August 1984 as a Central Public Sector Undertaking (PSU) under the Ministry of Petroleum & Natural Gas (MoP&NG).
- GAIL (India) Limited is India's No. 1 Integrated Natural Gas company with a market share of over 75% in Natural Gas transmission.
- With over 11,000 Kms of Natural gas network, GAIL supplies India's fuel requirements across sectors like Power, Fertilizer, Industrial, automotive and even household consumers.
- Apart from natural gas transmission, distribution and processing, the Company has diversified business interests in Petrochemicals, LPG transmission, City gas projects and Exploration and Production activities.
- The company is committed to expand its current network to 18,000 km within 5 years.



Reference:-

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=171830>

Higher Education and Skill Development Guarantee Scheme

Question: When was the Higher Education and Skill Development Guarantee Scheme launched by the Delhi Government?

(a) September, 2015 (b) October, 2016 (c) September, 2017 (d) October 2, 2017

Answer- (a)

Related Facts:

- Delhi Government's High Education and Skill Development Guarantee Scheme was approved by Lt Governor Anil Bajal on October 4, 2017.
- The scheme was started 2 years ago (in September, 2015) to provide loans to students for higher education by the Delhi Government.
- Under this scheme, loans upto Rs 10 lakh will be provided to the students.
- The guarantor of this amount will be the state government.
- The purpose of the scheme is to help the students to achieve higher education.
- This year, this scheme has also been extended to the students of Delhi who want to get higher education in any part of the country.

Reference:

<https://www.ndtv.com/delhi-news/lieutenant-governor-approves-delhi-governments-education-loan-scheme-1758724>

Mukhya Mantri Swasthya Bima Yojana

Question: Recently, Jharkhand Chief Minister Raghuvar Das announced to start of the Mukhya Mantri Swasthya Bima Yojana (Chief Minister Health Insurance Scheme) in the state soon. Which of the following is not correct in this regards?

- (a) This announcement was made by the Chief Minister on October 8, 2016.
- (b) The scheme will be started from Ranchi district on November 15, 2017.
- (c) The entire scheme will be implemented from December 28, 2017.
- (d) 57 lakh families will beneficiary under this scheme.

Answer- (a)

Related Facts:

- On October 6, 2017, Jharkhand Chief Minister Raghuvar Das announced the start of the Chief Minister's Health Insurance scheme shortly in the state.
- The scheme will be started from Ranchi district on November 15, 2017.
- This plan will be implemented in full state till December 28, 2017.
- 57 lakh families benefiting under the National Food Security Act of the State will get the benefit of this scheme.
- Under the scheme provision of 50,000 rupees secondary care, 2 lakh rupees special care and besides an additional Rs 30,000 for health of elderly persons.
- Under this scheme, poor beneficiaries will not have to spend any expenditure on their health check and treatment.
- The government will provide a card to the beneficiaries.



Reference:

<https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/ranchi/health-insurance-scheme-to-be-launched-in-jharkhand-on-november-15/articleshow/60981580.cms>

Approval of 8 projects under Namami Gange program

Question: Recently, the National Mission for Clean Ganga has approved eight projects under Namami Gange program. What is the estimated cost of these projects?

(a) More than 700 crores (b) Up to 500 crores (c) Up to 350 Crore (d) More than 50 crores

Answer: (a)

Related Facts:

- National Mission for Clean Ganga has approved eight projects under Namami Gange program worth Rs. 700 crore.
- Of these, four pertain to sewage management in Uttar Pradesh, Bihar and West Bengal.
- Three are related to treatment of drains through bio-remediation at an estimated cost of Rs 4.29 crore and one of inventorization and surveillance of river Ganga.
- Project for pollution inventorization, assessment and surveillance on river Ganga has an estimated cost of Rs 42.9 crore.
- Its purpose is to monitor the environmental regulation and water quality in the River Ganges.
- In Uttar Pradesh, sewage treatment related works at an estimated cost of Rs 213.62 crore have also been approved that includes construction of two STPs (28 MLD + 05 MLD) in Farrukabad and one 2 MLD STP at Bargadiya drain in Fatehpur.

Reference:

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintHindiRelease.aspx?relid=67552>

Narmada Kali Sindh Link Project

Question-Narmada Kali Sindh Link is related to which state?

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

Ans: (c)

Related facts:-

- On October 10, 2017, in the important meeting of the Narmada Control Board, chaired by Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chauhan administrative approval was given for the construction of various projects of cost of Rs. 14,600 crore (estimated) in the Narmada Valley.
- These approved projects include the proposed ambitious Narmada Kali Sindh Link Project for Malvanchal.
- It is known that some time before, Chief Minister had announced the construction of this project for the Malvanchal.
- This project will be built in two phases.
- This project will irrigate 2 lakh hectares of agricultural land of 366 villages of Dewas, Shajapur, Sehore and Rajgarh districts.
- Irrigation in 30 thousand hectares land will take place by another project Narmada Shipra Link Multi-purpose Project approved for Malvanchal in Dewas, Ujjain, Nagda, Maksi, Shajapur, Badia and Tarana areas.
- Apart from this, the Narmada Control Board also approved the Morand and Ganjal Joint Irrigation Project. This will irrigate 52 thousand 205 hectares of land in Hoshangabad, Harda and Khandwa districts.
- Micro Irrigation Projects of Nalwadi Udhvahan, Kollod Udhvahan, Pati Udhvahan, Kodwar Udhvahan, Pipri Udhvahan, Bhuralay Udhvahan, Pamkhedi Udhvahan has also been approved by Narmada Control Board



Related Links:-

<http://mpinfo.org/News/TodaysNews.aspx?newsid=20171010N4&LocID=1&PDt=10/10/2017>

Cabinet approves SANKALP & STRIVE Schemes

Question: To promote which of the following mission, Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA) recently approved 'Sankalp' and 'Strives' schemes?

- (a) Swachh Bharat Mission (b) Make in India Mission (c) Digital India Mission
(d) Skill India Mission

Answer: (d)

Related Facts:

- On 11th October, 2017, the Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA) chaired by the Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, has approved two new World Bank supported schemes of Rs. 6,655 crore – Skills Acquisition and Knowledge Awareness for Livelihood Promotion (SANKALP) and Skill Strengthening for Industrial Value Enhancement (STRIVE).
- SANKALP is Rs 4,455 crore centrally sponsored scheme including Rs. 3,300 crore loan support from World Bank.
- Whereas STRIVE is a Rs. 2,200 crore – central sector scheme, with half of the scheme outlay as World Bank loan assistance.
- SANKALP and STRIVE are outcome focused schemes marking shift in government's implementation strategy in vocational education and training from inputs to results.
- The two schemes shall address this need by setting up national bodies for accreditation & certification which shall regulate accreditation and certification in both long and short term Vocational Education and Training (VET).



Reference:

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintHindiRelease.aspx?relid=67617>

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=171608>

Third National Wildlife Action Plan

Question: Third National Wildlife Action Plan for wildlife conservation by the Ministry of Environment has recently been inaugurated. This National Wildlife Action Plan is for –

- (a) 2017-2031 (b) 2017-2030 (c) 2017-2032 (d) 2017-2029

Answer: (a)

Related Facts:

- On October 2nd, 2017, Ministry of Environment inaugurated the third National Wildlife Action Plan for wildlife conservation.
- India's National Wildlife Action Plan (NWAP) is of fifteen years, for the period 2017-2031.
- For the first time the third National Wildlife Action Plan recognized the concerns related to the impact of climate change on wildlife.
- The scheme was launched on the occasion of Inauguration of the Global Wildlife Programme.
- GWP Initiative was started in year 2015.
- From the GWP conference, India will be aware of better practices for reducing wildlife habitat management and human wildlife conflict situations.
- Fifteen year work plan was initiated in February, 2016.



- This plan was drafted by a 12-member committee chaired by JC Kala, a former secretary to the ministry.
- The Center will provide sufficient and continuous funds for the implementation of the scheme.
- The corporate social responsibility fund will also be used.

Reference

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=171329>

Single Click Pension Delivery scheme

Question: Which state government has introduced single click pension delivery scheme recently?

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

Answer: (b)

Related Facts:

- Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chauhan launched the Single Click Pension Delivery Scheme on October 1, 2017 (International Old Age Day).
- Under this scheme the pension money will go directly into the account of the beneficiaries.
- This scheme will benefit more than 35 lakh pensioners of the state.
- On this occasion, the Chief Minister honored the 'Shataayu' award to the elderly who have completed the age of 100 years.
- All the senior citizens were awarded with Shawl, Shrifal and 1000 rupees under this award.



Reference:

http://www.business-standard.com/article/news-ani/mp-cm-launches-single-click-pension-delivery-scheme-117100100291_1.html

Pandit Deendayal Upadhyay Unnat Krishi Shiksha Scheme

Question: Which state government has recently started Pandit Deendayal Upadhyay Unnat Krishi Shiksha Scheme?

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

Answer: (d)

Related Facts:

- On October 1, 2017 Uttarakhand Chief Minister Trivandrum Singh Rawat launched the Pandit Deendayal Upadhyay Unnat Krishi Shiksha Scheme in Peethsain, Uttarakhand.
- Under this scheme, the state government will provide assistance to increase the income of farmers in the mountains region and to make them enable for mixed farming.
- State Government will soon set up Rural Development and Migration Commission in District headquarters Pauri. In this regard, the state government has issued the order.
- SS Negi has been appointed Vice Chairman of this Commission.
- Apart from this, plan to remove turpentine oil from pine leaves in Uttarakhand will be implemented shortly.
- Turpentine oil will be exported to foreign countries besides the country.



- Turpentine oil will be bought at the rate of Rs 5 per kg from the local people.
- In order to produce walnut at a large level in the hill areas, the government will soon provide four lakh plants to the farmers free of cost.

Reference

<http://www.amarujala.com/uttarakhand/pauri/131506868153-pauri-news>

Pandit Deendayal Upadhyay Special Salvation Campaign

Question: Which state government has recently launched the second phase of Pandit Deendayal Upadhyay Special Salvation Campaign?

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

Answer: (a)

Related Facts:

- The second phase of the Pandit Deendayal Upadhyay Special Salvation Campaign was inaugurated in Jaipur by Chief Minister Vasundhara Raje on September 27, 2017.
- This campaign is being operated by the state government for the welfare of the people of the state.
- Under this campaign, the state government will work to make about 15 lakh *divyang* of the state capable and self-sufficient.
- State Government's plan is to set up a special university for the devotees.
- The third phase of the campaign will start from 13th December, 2017.
- In the third phase of the campaign, with the support of the MLA fund, to provide motorized tricycle to the Hindus, the Prime Minister's Security Insurance Scheme will be used to connect all the eligible Divya people.
- On this occasion, the Chief Minister was given Disability Certificate and accessories to the special qualifications in the state's first Unique Disability ID Card and five other special qualifications.



Reference:

<http://vasundhararaje.in/hi/cm-pandit-deendayal-upadhyay-vishesh-yogyajan-shivir-27092017.html>

Artificial Intelligence-powered chat assistant

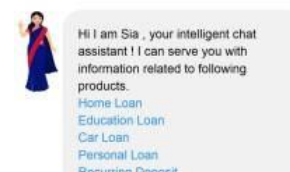
Question: Which bank amongst the following has recently introduced Artificial Intelligence Chat Assistant 'Sia' (SIA)?

(a) SBI (b) PNB (c) ICICI Bank (d) Canara Bank

Answer: (a)

Related Facts:

- On September 25, 2017, Public Sector Bank State Bank of India (SBI) introduced a chat assistant named 'SBI Intelligent Assistant' (SIA) to address customers enquires like a bank representative.
- This chat assistant will be available on mobile, IVR, SNS and social media platforms.
- 'Sia' also works in regional languages.
- Developed by Payjo, an artificial intelligence (AI) banking platform, "SIA" is equipped to handle nearly 10,000 enquiries per second or 864 million in a day — which is nearly 25 per cent of the queries processed by Google each day.



Reference:

<http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/business/india-business/sbi-launches-chatbot-to-help-customers-in-banking-activities/articleshow/60827414.cms>

NIDHI- EIR Scheme

Question: How much amount of fellowship per month will be given to selected youth under the NIDHI-EIR (National Initiative for Developing and Harnessing Innovations in Residence), for the next one year?

- (a) Up to 10-20 thousand (b) Up to 15-20 thousand (c) Up to 20-30 thousand
(d) Upto 30-35 thousand

Answer: (c)

Related Facts:

- On August 28th, 2017, Uttar Pradesh's Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath launched the NIDHI- EIR (National Initiative for Developing and Harnessing Innovations in Residence).
- Under the scheme, 11 students from front-ranking engineering colleges of the state have been selected, whose ideas are very unique.
- Under the Nidhi-IER scheme, these youngsters will be given Rs. 20,000-Rs. 30,000 per month as fellowship till the next year.
- Apart from this, they can also be provided seed support money (Collateral Free loan) so that they can successfully execute and run their start ups and financially strengthen themselves which in turn will provide economic impetus to the nation.
- **Among the projects of these students was Go Glass aimed at:**
- Preventing the accidents caused by sleep of drivers of roads and trains.
- Energy Efficient Economical Motor Bike, Sensor Based Smart Waste Management System, Hybrid Electrical Bicycles for preventing pollution.
- IOT technology based system to monitor glitches in solar plants, automated cleaning system of solar panels without use of water, security and safety with use of artificial intelligence and;
- Making of software and hardware for identification of face and getting the benefits of items used by consumers to them.



Reference:

<https://twitter.com/myogiadityanath/status/902193051409539072>

Climate-Smart Snow Leopard Landscape Management Plan

Question: Which country has recently launched the first Climate-Smart Snow Leopard landscape management plan for the protection of Snow Leopard in the world?

- (a) India (b) Nepal (c) Tajikistan (d) Uzbekistan

Ans: (b)

Related facts:-

- On August 23rd, 2017, Nepal started the Climate-Smart Snow Leopard Landscape Management Plan.
- This conservation plan has begun a day ahead the second international snow leopard summit and ecosystem meeting to be held in Bishkek of Kyrgyzstan.



- This is the first climate-smart landscape management plan for snow leopard conservation in the world.
- The purpose of this scheme is to preserve the endangered snow leopards and their habitats.
- This endangered species is also found in India.
- The species of Snow Leopard has been listed in endangered category species by IUCN- International Union for Conservation of Nature.

Reference:

<http://wwf.panda.org/?309190/Nepal-leads-the-way-in-snow-leopard-conservation-at-global-summit>

Health Ministry launches two new contraceptives

Question: The main objective of the Mission Parivar Vikas family planning initiative is to bring down the Total Fertility Rate to 2.1 by which year?

(a) Year 2019 (b) Year 2020 (c) Year 2023 (d) Year 2025

Answer- (d)

Related Facts:

- On September 5th, 2017, the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare has launched two new contraceptives, an injectable contraceptive MPA under the 'Antara' programme and a contraceptive pill, 'Chhaya'.
- These launching of the public health system is to expand the basket of contraceptive choices to meet the emerging needs of couples.
- The contraceptives, at present are available for free in Medical Colleges and District Hospitals.
- These have so far been launched in 10 states that includes Maharashtra, Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, Karnataka, Haryana, West Bengal, Odisha, Delhi and Goa.
- The contraceptives are safe and highly effective, the 'Antara' injectable being effective for three months and the 'Chhaya' pill for one week.
- The Ministry had recently launched a new software, Family Planning Logistics Management Information System (FP-LMIS), designed to provide robust information on the demand and distribution of contraceptives to health facilities and ASHAs.
- In addition, Mission Parivar Vikas, a central family planning initiative has also been launched by the Ministry.
- The key strategic focus of this initiative is on improving access to contraceptives through delivering assured services, ensuring commodity security and accelerating access to high quality family planning services.
- The mission is being implemented in 146 high focus districts with the highest total fertility rates in the country.
- These districts are in the seven high focus, high Total Fertility Rates (TFR) states of Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, Jharkhand, Chhattisgarh and Assam, which constitute 44% of the country's population.
- The main objective of the Mission Parivar Vikas family planning initiative is to bring down the Total Fertility Rate to 2.1 by the year 2025.



Reference:

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=170537>

National Nutrition Strategy

Question: Who amongst the following, recently, formulated the National Nutrition Strategy?

- (a) Ministry of Consumer Affairs (b) Ministry of Health and Family Welfare
(c) Ministry of Housing and Urban Poverty Alleviation (d) NITI Aayog

Answer- (d)

Related Facts:

- On September 5th, 2017, Leader of the Green Revolution Dr. M.S Swaminathan and Padma Shri Dr. H Sudarshan launched the National Nutrition Strategy, along with Vice Chairman Dr. Rajiv Kumar and Member Dr. Vinod Paul.
- NITI Aayog has drafted the National Nutrition Strategy to address this and to bring nutrition to the centre-stage of the National Development Agenda.
- This Strategy is formulated through an extensive consultative process, lays down a roadmap for effective action, among both implementers and practitioners, in achieving our nutrition objectives.
- The nutrition strategy envisages a framework wherein the four proximate determinants of nutrition – uptake of health services, food, drinking water & sanitation and income & livelihoods – work together to accelerate decline of under nutrition in India.
- Nutrition Strategy Framework envisages clean India and a malnourished free India associated with healthy India.
- The aim of the strategy is ensure that States create customized State/ District Action Plans to address local needs and challenges.
- Globally there is a well recognized rationale of 16:1 for 40 low and middle-income countries, for investing in Nutrition.
- The recently published NFHS-4 results reflect some progress, with a decline in the overall levels of under nutrition in both women and children.



Reference:

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=170549>

Himachal Pradesh Public Financial Management Capacity Building Program

Question: Recently, the Himachal Pradesh Public Financial Management and Capacity Building Program was inaugurated by Chief Secretary of the State V.C. Pharka. What is the total estimated cost of this project?

- (a) 35 million US \$ (b) 40 million US \$
(c) 45 million US \$ (d) 55 million US \$

Answer: (c)

Related Facts:

- On August 31st, 2017, Himachal Pradesh Chief Secretary V.C. Pharka launched the Himachal Pradesh Public Financial Management and Capacity Building Program.
- The programme duration is 5 years and it will be implemented between 2017 and 2022.
- The programme size is USD 45 million.
- Himachal Pradesh, the recipient of this project, is the first state in the country.



- Himachal Pradesh has received this project by virtue of better coordination with World Bank and better standards achieved earlier.
- Out of this USD 45 million, USD 36 million will be financed by the Bank, and the remaining amount will be funded out of State Budget.
- Under the project, it is necessary for the State to achieve the goals for achieving the desired amount.
- For this, emphasis should be on better management of funds, appropriate audit and proper utilization for public finance management.
- This project will help in management of public finance in correct way.

Reference:

<http://himsamachar.com/cs-launches-public-financial-management-capacity-building-programme/>

YUVA – a skill development programme

Question: YUVA – a skill development programme under Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana, is an initiative by which of the following State's Police Establishment?

(a) Rajasthan Police (b) Delhi Police (c) Maharashtra Police (d) Karnataka Police

Answer: (b)

Related Facts:

- On August 29th, 2017, The Union Home Minister Shri Rajnath Singh inaugurated the YUVA – a skill development programme under Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana.
- The programme is an initiative by Delhi Police under Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana.
- The 'YUVA' initiative aims to connect with youth by upgrading their skill as per their competencies.
- Delhi Police has tied up with National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC) and Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) for providing mass job linked skill training for the selected youth.
- Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) will provide job linked training through its Sector Skill Councils who are connected to industry and thereby provide job guarantee.
- 2,269 candidates have been selected for the programme.
- These candidates will be trained by 36 training partners in 45 skills in the next three months.
- A total of 32 police station buildings have been identified where Skill Development Centers would be opened at the earliest.



Reference:

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=170332>

TREATY & AGREEMENTS

Agreement between SEBI and CMA

Question: Recently, the Union Cabinet gave approval to signing of MoU on mutual cooperation and technical assistance between the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) and with which the following country's Capital Market Authority (CMA)?

(a) Saudi Arabia (b) Egypt (c) Kuwait (d) UAE

Answer: (c)

Related Facts:

- On October 11, 2017, the Union Cabinet approved the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding between the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) and Capital Market Authority (CMA), Kuwait for mutual co-operation and technical assistance.
- The MoU is likely to promote further development of economic links and cooperation between the two regulators. It aims at creating conditions for an effective development of securities markets in the two countries. It would also contribute towards strengthening the information sharing framework between the two. It is expected to add value to overseas mutual cooperation and regulation activities of SEBI and CMA, Kuwait.



Reference:

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=171616>

Loan Agreement between Government of India and the Asian Development Bank

Question: Recently, India signed a loan agreement with Asian Development Bank (ADB) for the financial reform of which state?

(a) Odisha (b) West Bengal (c) Jammu Kashmir (d) Arunachal Pradesh

Answer: (b)

Related Facts:

- On October 24th, 2017, the Asian Development Bank and the Government of India signed a \$300 million loan.
- This loan is to continue a series of fiscal reforms in the State of West Bengal to improve the quality of public service delivery. The Program aims to further deepen the reforms with focus on expenditure rationalization, improvement in revenue administration, and facilitation of more private investment in the state. Mr. Sameer Kumar Khare, Joint Secretary, Department of Economic Affairs, Ministry of Finance and Mr. Kenichi Yokoyama, ADB Country Director for India, signed the loan on behalf of the Government of India and ADB respectively. The program agreement was signed by Mr. Parwez Ahmad Siddiqui, Secretary, Finance Department, Government of West Bengal.



Asian Development Bank

Reference:

<https://www.adb.org/news/300-million-loan-promote-further-fiscal-reforms-west-bengal>

Agreement between India and Japan

Question: Who amongst the given is the country's largest importer of LNG (natural gas) in the world?

(a) China (b) Japan (c) India (d) France

Answer: (b)

Related Facts:

- On October 11, 2017, the Union Cabinet chaired by Prime Minister of India has approved the signing of the Memorandum of Cooperation (MoC) between India and Japan on establishing a liquid, flexible and global LNG Market.
- The MoC will promote bilateral relationship between India and Japan in the energy sector.
- This will strengthen our energy security and lead to more competitive prices for consumers.
- The MoC provides a framework to cooperate in facilitating flexibility in LNG contracts, abolition of Destination Restriction Clause and also explore possibilities of cooperation in establishing reliable LNG spot price indices reflecting true LNG demand and supply.
- Japan is the world's largest importer of LNG in the world.
- India is fourth in the list of LNG importers' countries.
- It is to be noteworthy that under Japan-India Energy Partnership Initiative signed in January 2016, the two sides had agreed to work together in promoting well-functioning energy markets and affirmed to promote a transparent and diversified Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) market through the relaxation of Destination Restriction Clause.



Reference:

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintHindiRelease.aspx?relid=67613>

V.V. Giri National Institute of Labor

Question: Recently, at which place, the MoU was signed between V.V. Giri National Labour Institute (VVGNI) and Tata Institute of Social Sciences (TISS)?

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

Answer: (b)

Related Facts:

- On October 6, 2017, a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between V.V. Giri National Labour Institute (VVGNI) and Tata Institute of Social Sciences (TISS), Guwahati was signed in Guwahati.
- Director General of V.V. Giri National Labor Institute Dr. H. Srinivas and Deputy Director of Tata Institute of Social Sciences, Dr. D.K. Srivastava signed on this memorandum.
- This MoU was signed in the presence of Minister of State for Labor and Employment Santosh Gangwar.
- Collaborative activities under the MoU will focus on organising joint training programmes for different social partners as well as research on various issues related to labour.



Reference:

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=171448>

Agreement between India-Ethiopia

Question: Which of the following statement is true about the International Solar Alliance?

- (a) It is a solar based organization of countries amid of Cancer and Capricorn Line.
- (b) Including India, organization consists of 121 countries.
- (c) (a) and (b) both are correct. (d) (a) and (b) both are wrong.

Answer: (c)

Related acts:

- On October 5, 2017, President of India Ramnath Kovind and Ethiopian counterpart Mulatu Teshome signed a bilateral agreement to promote business and communications in the capital, Addis Ababa.
- India announced a line-of-credit loan of USD 195 million for Ethiopia's energy development. On this occasion, President Kovind released the book 'India-Ethiopia 70 Years of Diplomatic Relations'. India thanked Ethiopia's involvement in the International Solar Alliance. The International Solar Alliance is an organization of 121 countries based on solar energy. The initiative was launched by Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi at the India Africa Summit, and a meeting of member countries ahead of the 2015 United Nations Climate Change Conference in Paris in November 2015.
- Organization is providing a forum for the countries located in the highest solar radiation area amid of Cancer-Capricorn Line to work in the field of solar energy.



Reference:

<http://indiatoday.intoday.in/story/india-ethiopia-sign-agreements-on-trade-communication/1/1062312.html>

Agreement between SEBI and FSC

Question: Recently, the Union Cabinet approved for signing of the Memorandum of Understanding between the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) and the Financial Services Commission (FSC), Gibraltar? MoU relates to which of the following sector?

- (a) Financial Services Commission, to provide financial assistance to Gibraltar
- (b) Education sector
- (c) For mutual cooperation and technical assistance
- (d) For assistance in the field of aeronautics

Answer: (c)

Related Facts:

- On October 11, 2017, the Union Cabinet approved the signing of the Memorandum of Understanding regarding mutual cooperation and technical assistance between the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) and Financial Services Commission (FSC), Gibraltar.
- Through this MOU, both the regulators are expected to develop economic relations and mutual cooperation between them.
- Its aim to create conditions for the effective development of the securities markets in both countries.



Reference:

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=171620>

Agreement between Dabur and Amazon

Question: Which e-commerce company recently launched the 'Global Sailing Program' to make Indian products available to global markets?

(a) Amazon (b) Flipkart (c) Tata Click (d) Alibaba

Answer: (a)

Related Facts:

- On September 26, 2017, Indian FMCG Company Dabur signed an agreement with America's e-commerce company Amazon to sell herbal and Ayurvedic products in US, Canada and Mexico.
- At present, Dabur will sell 30 products to Amazon, which will add up to 80 new products in 6 months.
- 30% of Dabur India's income comes from the global market.
- Amazon has launched Global Sailing Program to sell Indian products in every parts of the world.
- Recently, Dabur has created an online market place with the help of Amazon, on which the sale of herbal and Ayurvedic products will be done. Apart from Dabur, Patanjali, Himalaya etc. will also be able to sell their products.



Reference:

<http://economictimes.indiatimes.com/industry/cons-products/fmcg/dabur-ropes-in-amazon-to-boost-foreign-business/articleshow/60847913.cms>

MoC between India and Japan

Question: Recently, the Union Cabinet has approved the signing of "Memorandum of Cooperation (MoC)" between India and Japan on the "Technical Intern Training Program (TITP)". Under TITP program for how much time period, Indian technical interns will be send to Japan on the job training?

(a) 2 to 3 years (b) 3 to 4 years (c) 3 to 5 years (d) 4 to 6 years

Answer- (c)

Related Facts:

- On October 11th, 2017, the Union Cabinet chaired by Prime Minister has approved the signing of "Memorandum of Cooperation (MoC)" between India and Japan on the "Technical Intern Training Program (TITP)".
- This MoC was signed during the visit of Hon'ble Minister for Skill Development & Entrepreneurship during October, 16-18, 2017 at Tokyo.
- Under TITP program Indian technical interns will be send to Japan for on the job training for a period of three to five years.
- It is expected that the MoC will pave the way for bilateral cooperation between the two countries in the area of skill development.



Reference:

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/hindirelease.aspx?relid=67631>

Agreement between MobiKwik and IRCTC

Question: MobiKwik is a-

(a) Oil Company (b) Digital Payment Firm (c) E-Commerce Company



(d) Textile Company

Answer: (b)

Related Facts:

- On October 3, 2017, digital payment firm MobiKwik announced a partnership with the IRCTC Rail Connect app.
- With this partnership, Mobiles customers will be allowed to book railway tickets using Formers Payment Gateway.
- MobiKwik payment gateway currently pays for more than 3000 e-commerce websites and apps.
- This partnership has been started to introduce a mobile EG-to-user interface to simplify the payment system for all, which can be used to pay payment through channels like Debit Card, Credit Card, Net Banking, ATM Card and Wallet.
- The IRCTC app's ability to execute more than 1 lakh tickets per day.

Reference:

<http://www.thehindubusinessline.com/economy/logistics/mobikwik-irctc-rail-connect-partner-for-ticket-bookings/article9885536.ece>

NSDC signed an agreement for the Ecosystem of skill development

Question: With which of the following foreign universities, NSDC recently signed an agreement for skill development in India?

- (a) Cambridge University (b) Howard University
(c) University of California (d) Deakin University

Answer: (d)

Related Facts:

- On September 22, 2017, New Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer of National Skill Development Corporation, Manish Kumar and Kerrie Parker of Deakin University Australia, signed a Memorandum of Understanding.
- The collaboration will be on projects for conducting Data Analytics and Impact Evaluation Studies in the skills ecosystem.
- Deakin University will be a knowledge partner for NSDC towards developing an Impact Assessment (IA) and Monitoring & Evaluation (M&E) framework for its projects.
- The MoU is for a duration of five years

Reference:

<http://indiatoday.intoday.in/story/australias-deakin-university-inks-pact-with-nsdc/1/1053861.html>



Cabinet approves MoU between India and Belarus

Question: Recently, Union Cabinet has given its ex-post facto approval for a Memorandum of Understanding between India and Belarus for cooperation in which of the following the field?

- (a) Medical (b) Space (c) Agriculture
(d) Vocational Education and Training

Answer: (d)

Related Facts:

- On 12th September, 2017, the Union Cabinet chaired by the Prime Minister Narendra Modi has given its ex-post facto approval for a Memorandum of



Understanding between India and Belarus for cooperation in the field of Vocational Education and Training (VET).

- The MoU was signed during the State visit of H.E. Mr. Alexander Lukashenko, President of Belarus to India.
- This is for the first time MoU for cooperation in area of vocational education, training and skill development has been signed with Eurasian country.
- **The areas of cooperation are as under:**
- The Belarusian side shall provide comprehensive transfer of know-how of emerging technologies, training and evaluation methodologies, content development for regular / distance learning / e-learning/training of master trainers, competency building of the assessors in area of their competency and network building & industry linkage;
- Vocational education services for Indian citizens for skill development in the field of construction, electric-power production and distribution, manufacturing industry, trade, auto service and household goods repair and maintenance, transport, communication, hotels and restaurants as well as other fields being in high demand in India;
- Retraining, up-skilling, internship for Vocational Education and Training managers, teachers and trainers of India by the Belarusian Side;
- Advisory services in order to enhance planning, management and delivery of Vocational Education and Training and Skill Development.
- **Major impact:**
- The MoU would bring in Belarus experience and expertise for overall improvement in skill eco system of the country.
- Implementation of proposal includes innovation and improvement in the existing vocational education and skill development through Research and Development in the field.
- The financial arrangement for the co-operative activities undertaken within the framework of this MoU shall be mutually agreed upon by the Parties on a case-by-case basis, subject to the availability of funds.

Reference:

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=171618>

Signing of MoU between Indian Army and Jamia Millia Islamia University

Question: To which context a Memorandum of Understanding was signed recently between the Indian Army and Jamia Millia Islamia University recently?

- (a) For the financial assistance of the army
- (b) For the academic and technical assistance
- (c) To assist the retired soldiers in setting up the intelligence wing
- (d) To assist the soldiers in military operations

Answer- (b)

Related Facts:

- On September 28th 2017, Indian Army and Jamia Millia Islamia University (JMIU), recorded their mutual intent for academic collaboration, technical advancement and progression of Army Personnel, in a MoU.
- MoU was signed between Lt Gen Ashwani Kumar, Adjutant General, IHQ of MoD (Army) & Prof Talat Ahmad, Vice-Chancellor, Jamia Millia Islamia University (JMIU).



- The University agreed to recognise the in-service courses run by the Army.
- This would facilitate admission of defence personnel in second or third year Graduation/Post Graduation/Doctorate programme through the medium of distance learning.
- This would enable the soldiers to enhance their academic qualification for a better future.

Reference:

<http://pib.gov.in/mobile/mbHErel.aspx?relid=67395>

Letter of Intent between India and Norway

Question: Through the Norway India Partnership Initiative (NIPI), Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Government of India signed a Letter of Intent with the Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Government of Norway to extend the cooperation within which of the following sectors?

(a) Information Technology (b) Health (c) Tourism (d) Tax evasion

Answer: (b)

Related facts:

- Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Government of India signed a Letter of Intent with the Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Government of Norway to extend the cooperation within health sector through the Norway India Partnership Initiative (NIPI).
- This Letter of Intent is for a period of three years from 2018-2020.
- The cooperation shall focus on global health issues of common interest.
- The partnership shall also include areas related to reproductive, maternal, new-born, child, adolescent health and health system strengthening.
- The cooperation will continue to focus on innovative, catalytic and strategic support, taking the Indian Government's Intensification Plan for Accelerated Maternal and Child Survival in India as the starting point.
- This partnership shall build on experiences from NIPI phase I and II.
- The Governments of Norway and India had agreed in 2006 to collaborate towards achieving MDG 4 to reduce child mortality based on commitments made by the two Prime Ministers. \
- The partnership was based on India's health initiative, the National Health Mission (NHM).
- Partnership aimed at facilitating rapid scale-up of quality child and maternal health services in four high focus states – Bihar, Odisha, Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan.
- The Governments of India and Norway decided to extend the partnership to coincide with the second phase of National Health Mission plan (NHM) for a period of five years (2013-17).
- Besides the four states already supported by NIPI, Jammu & Kashmir was added as a fifth state with NIPI being the lead partner for RMNCH+A activities.



Reference:

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintHindiRelease.aspx?relid=67386>

Bilateral MoU between India and Afghanistan

Question: Recently, the Union Cabinet approved the bilateral MoU between India and Afghanistan on Technical Cooperation on Police Training and Development. For which period MoU will remain in force from the day of its signing?

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

Answer: (c)

Related Facts:

- On September 27th, 2017, The Union Cabinet chaired by the Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, has given its approval for signing a MoU between India and Afghanistan on Technical Cooperation on Police Training and Development.
- The MoU will help in capacity building of Afghanistan National Police and improving the security apparatus in the region.
- It has been approved for a period of 5 years from the date of signing.
- It shall be extended for a further period of 5 years on the condition that are not further changes and or revision.
- It is noteworthy that India and Afghanistan have already signed an “Agreement on strategic partnership” in October, 2011.



Reference:

http://www.pmindia.gov.in/hi/news_updates/%E0%A4%AE%E0%A4%82%E0%A4%A%E0%A5%8D%E0%A4%B0%E0%A4%BF%E0%A4%AE%E0%A4%82%E0%A4%A1%E0%A4%B2-%E0%A4%A8%E0%A5%87-%E0%A4%AA%E0%A5%81%E0%A4%B2%E0%A4%BF%E0%A4%B8-%E0%A4%AA%E0%A5%8D%E0%A4%B0%E0%A4%B6/

Agreement between India and Ethiopia

Question: For the cooperation in which of the following fields recently Union Cabinet has approved to sign the agreement between India and Ethiopia?

(a) Agriculture (b) Power (c) Information, communication, media (d) Tax evasion

Answer : (c)

Related Facts:

- On September 25th, 2017, the Union Cabinet chaired by the Prime Minister Narendra Modi has given its approval to sign the Agreement between India and Ethiopia on “Cooperation in the field of Information, Communication and Media”.
- It aims to harness the growing power of Information, Communication and Media for information dissemination and enhancing outreach between the two countries for inclusive development.
- It would also provide an opportunity for both the nations to share best practices and new innovations in the field of Information, Communication & Media.
- The Agreement will encourage cooperation between mass media tools such as radio, print media, TV, social media etc. to provide more opportunities to the people of both the nations and create public accountability.



- The Agreement, through an institutional framework will facilitate exchange of delegations, personnel between the two nations, providing them opportunities to learn from each other's best practices, bringing in equity and inclusiveness.

Reference:

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=171171>

MoU between India and Belarus in the oil and gas sector

Question-Recently, the central cabinet has given its ex-post facto approval for a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) signed between India and Belarus in the sector of oil and gas. For which period MoU will remain in force from the day of its signing?

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

Answer-(b)

Related Facts:

- On September 27th, 2017, the Union Cabinet chaired by Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi has given its ex-post facto approval for a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) signed between India and Belarus in the oil and gas sector.
- The MoU was signed on 12th September, 2017 during the visit of President of Belarus to India.
- Under the MoU, both sides will work towards establishing cooperation in the areas of upstream and downstream activities, capacity building, technology transfer, enhanced oil recovery and development of mature fields in India.
- It is envisaged to enhance the economic and commercial cooperation between the two sides in oil and natural gas sector.
- The MoU shall remain in force for three years from the day of its signing.
- The MoU will promote bilateral relationship between India and Belarus.



Reference :

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintHindiRelease.aspx?relid=67350>

Cabinet apprised of the MoU between India and Switzerland

Question: On 4th October, 2017 the Union Cabinet has apprised a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between India and-

- (a) Switzerland (b) Russia (c) USA (d) China

Answer: (a)

Related Facts:

- On 4th October, 2017 the Union Cabinet chaired by the Prime Minister Narendra Modi has been apprised of the Memorandum of Understanding between Ministry of Railways, Government of India and the Federal Department of the Environment, Transport, Energy and Communications of Swiss Confederation on Technical Cooperation in Rail Sector.
- The MoU was signed on 31st August, 2017.
- The MoU will enable technical cooperation in the following areas:-
 1. Traction Rolling stock
 2. EMU and train sets
 3. Traction Propulsion Equipments



4. Freight and Passenger Cars
5. Tilting Trains
6. Railway Electrification Equipments
7. Train scheduling and operation improvement
8. Railway Station modernization
9. Multimodal transport
10. Tunneling technology

Reference:

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=171372>

Cabinet approves the Extradition Treaty between India and Lithuania

Question: On 4th October, 2017 India has signed the Extradition Treaty with-

- (a) Russia (b) Ethiopia
(c) China (d) Lithuania

Answer: (d)

Related Facts:

- On 4th October, 2017 the Union Cabinet chaired by the Prime Minister Narendra Modi has given its approval for the signing and ratification of the Extradition Treaty between India and Lithuania.
- The Treaty would provide a legal framework for seeking extradition of terrorists, economic offenders and other criminals from and to Lithuania.
- The Treaty would help in extradition of fugitive criminals including terrorists for criminal prosecutions from Lithuania who may have committed crimes against India. It will bring the criminals to justice, with a view to ensure peace and tranquility to public at large.
- **India-Lithuania Relations**
- Diplomatic relations were established with Lithuania on 25 February 1992. The Ambassador of India in Warsaw is concurrently accredited to Lithuania. Lithuania opened its Embassy in New Delhi on 01 July 2008.
- According to Lithuanian statistics, bilateral trade was USD 117.9 million during 2009 and USD 184 mn in 2010. In 2011, bilateral trade reached USD 203 mn.
- In the first quarter of 2013, bilateral trade reached Euro 23 mn.
- An Indian Baltic Chamber of Commerce (IBCC) was formed in Vilnius in 2009 while an India-Lithuania Forum was inaugurated in September 2010.



Reference:

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=171374>

Agreement between Karnataka Agriculture Department and Microsoft India

Question: The headquarters of Microsoft India Company is located at-

- (a) Bangalore (b) Hyderabad (c) Gurgaon (Gurugram) (d) Jaipur

Answer: (c)

Related facts:



- On August 24th, 2017, a MoU was signed between the Karnataka Agriculture Department and Microsoft India.
- The Karnataka Agricultural Department has made this agreement to help farmers, administrators and other stakeholders understand market behavior in advance and develop a unique 'agricultural price forecast' model by using latest IT tools.
- This proposed initiative is the first of its kind in the country.
- It is a 'multi-variate' (comprising two or more variables) which is different from the conventional supply demand equation and takes into account various factors.
- It will investigate many related factors including weather, rainfall and external factors affecting the effect of the market.
- The Microsoft India Company was founded in the year 1990.
- The headquarters of this company is located in Gurgaon (currently Gururgram).

Reference:

<http://www.thehindu.com/news/national/karnataka/karnataka-ropes-in-microsoft-to-help-farmers/article19550756.ece>

Memorandum of Understanding between Hyperloop Transportation Technologies (HTT) and Andhra Pradesh government

Question: A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed between the Andhra Pradesh Government and American company Hyperloop Transportation Technologies (HTT) for the operation of hyperloop superfast transport facility. Between which of the two cities this transport facility will be available?

- (a) Hyderabad and Visakhapatnam
- (b) Vijayawada and Visakhapatnam
- (c) Vijayawada and Amravati
- (d) Amravati and Rajamundri

Answer: (c)

Related Facts:

- On September 7, 2017, a Memorandum of Understanding was signed between Andhra Pradesh Government and Hyperloop Transportation Technologies (HTT), US for the operation of Hyperloop Superfast Transport Facility.
- It will be the first hyperloop project of the country.
- Its operation will be done in the cities of Vijayawada and Amravati.
- The journey between the two cities will take only six minutes.
- Earlier It took 1 hour.
- American company will create HyperLoop Transportation Technologies HyperLoop Connect. This work will be done under Public Private Partnership.
- In the first phase of the project, HTT will conduct a six-month long feasibility study from October. The project will start from October 2017. After that the work of forming a hyperloop tube will start.
- Hyperloop is being considered as the main medium of public transport for the future.
- In this, a tube-like structure is created, inside which the pod or the container is traveled.

Reference:

<http://gadgets.ndtv.com/transportation/news/hyperloop-transportation-technologies-andhra-pradesh-vijaywada-amravati-1747127>



CBDT signs 4 more unilateral Advance Pricing Agreements (APAs) with taxpayers

Question: What is the total number of advance pricing agreements made by the Central Board of Direct Taxes?

(a) 172 (b) 162 (c) 175 (d) 178

Answer: (c)

Related Facts:

- In August, 2017, the Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT) has signed four more unilateral advance pricing agreements (APAs) with Indian taxpayers.
- All these four advance pricing agreement is connected to telecommunications, banking, manufacturing and education sectors.
- The bilateral advance pricing agreement has been done for international transactions between an Indian company and a UK-based company.
- This is the 8th advance pricing agreement made with the United Kingdom and the overall 13th advance pricing agreement.
- The remaining 5 advance pricing agreements have been with Japan.
- With these four signings, the total number of APAs entered into by the CBDT has reached 175.
- These 175 agreements include 162 unilateral and 13 bilateral advance pricing agreements.
- In the current financial year, a total of 23 advance pricing agreements (21 unilateral and 2 bilateral) have been signed.
- The scheme endeavours to provide certainty to taxpayers in the domain of transfer pricing by specifying the methods of pricing and setting the prices of international transactions in advance.
- The progress of the APA Scheme strengthens the Government's mission of fostering a non-adversarial tax regime.
- The APA Scheme was introduced in the Income-tax Act in 2012 and the 'Rollback' provisions were introduced in 2014.



Reference:

<http://indianexpress.com/article/business/cbd-t-signs-4-more-advance-pricing-agreements-4828958/>

MoU between Ministry of Railways and Swiss Confederation (Switzerland)

Question: Who is the Chairman of the Railway Board at present?

(a) Ashwani Lohani (b) A.K. Mittal (c) R.K. Singh (d) Vinay Mittal

Answer: (a)

Related Facts:

- On August 31st, 2017, two MoUs have been signed between Ministry of Railways and Swiss Confederation.
- The first MoU is between Ministry of Railways and Federal Department of the



Environment, Transport and Communications of the Swiss Confederation for technical cooperation in Rail Sector.

- This was signed by Shri Ashwani Lohani, Chairman Railway Board and Dr. Andreas Baum, Swiss Ambassador to India.
- The MoU aims at cooperation in the areas of Traction Rolling stock, EMU and Train sets, Traction Propulsion Equipments, Freight and Passenger Cars, Tilting Trains, Railway Electrification Equipments, Train scheduling and operation improvement, Railway Station modernization, Multimodal transport and Tunneling technology.
- The second MoU is between Konkan Railway Corporation Limited (KRCL) and Swiss Federal Institute of Technology (ETH) Zurich.
- This was signed by Shri Sanjay Gupta, CMD/KRCL and Prof. Sarah Springman, Rector, ETH Zurich.
- This will help Konkan Railway in establishing the George Fernandes Institute of Tunnel Technology (GFITT) at Goa especially for assimilation and dissemination of knowledge in the field of tunneling.
- GFITT aims to not only train KRCL's own manpower for its Tunneling Projects but also wishes to generate qualified and trained personnel for the benefit of other Government organisations, private sector and even foreign organisations to bridge the huge gap in levels of knowledge and qualified manpower required to meet the key segment of infrastructure development in India.

Reference:

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=170403>

Agreement between TRAI and MCMC

Question: Telecommunication Regulatory Authority (TRAI) was established in-

(a) Year 1985 (b) Year 1989 (c) Year 1995 (d) Year 1997

Answer- (d)

Related Facts:

- On August 22nd, 2017, the Indian Telecommunication Regulatory Authority (TRAI) signed a letter of intent (LoI) with the Malaysian Communications and Multimedia Commission (MCMC).
- The purpose of this agreement is to jointly conduct capacity building exercises in the field of broadcast and telecommunication regulation.
- This agreement will help regulators to work closely to enhance mutual cooperation and bilateral relations.
- Presently, RS Sharma is Chairman of Indian Telecommunication Regulatory Authority.
- Indian Telecommunication Regulatory Authority (TRAI) was established in February, 1997.
- Its headquarters is in New Delhi.



Reference:

http://www.trai.gov.in/sites/default/files/PR_No.65of2017.pdf

Loan Agreement between NTPC and ICICI Bank

Question: Recently, National Thermal Power Corporation Limited signed a term loan agreement with ICICI Bank for a term of –

120

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



(a) 5 year-old (b) 10 year-old (c) 15 years old (d) 20 year-old

Answer: (c)

Related Facts:

- On August 29th, 2017, National Thermal Power Corporation Limited (NTPC) signed a 15 year term loan agreement with ICICI Bank. Under this agreement, ICICI Bank will provide a loan of Rs. 3000 crore to NTPC. It will be used by NTPC for its own capital expenditure.

Reference:

<http://economictimes.indiatimes.com/industry/energy/power/ntpc-signs-rs-3000-crore-term-loan-agreement-with-icici-bank/articleshow/60292345.cms>

Cabinet approval Memorandum of Understanding by the Election Commission of India

Question: Recently, the Union Cabinet gave approval to the proposal of the Election Commission of India to enter into Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on cooperation in the field of electoral management and administration with the Election Management Bodies of other countries/International Agencies. Which of the following Election Management Bodies is not the part of it?

- (a) National Electoral Council of Ecuador
- (b) Central Election Commission, Nepal
- (c) Central Election Commission, Albania
- (d) Independent Election Commission, Afghanistan



Answer: (b)

Related Facts:

- On August 30th, 2017, The Union Cabinet chaired by Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi has approved the proposal of the Election Commission of India to enter into Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on cooperation in the field of electoral management and administration with the Election Management Bodies of other countries/International Agencies.
- Election Commission had proposed in this context.
- These are as follows:**
 - The National Electoral Council of Ecuador;
 - The Central Election Commission of Albania;
 - The Election Commission of Bhutan;
 - The Independent Election Commission of Afghanistan;
 - The National Independent Electoral Commission of Guinea;
 - The Union Election Commission of Myanmar; and
 - The India International Institute of Democracy and Election Management (IIIDEM) and the International Institute for Democracy and Electoral Assistance (International IDEA).
- These MoUs contain standard articles/clauses which broadly express promotion of cooperation in exchange of knowledge and experience in the field of organizational and technical development of electoral process; support in exchanging information, institutional strengthening and capacity building, training of personnel, holding regular consultations etc.
- The Election Commission, a constitutional body, conducts the largest electoral exercise in the world.

Reference:

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintHindiRelease.aspx?relid=66826>

CWC Signs MoUS with NIT Calicut and NIT Rourkela

Question: Recently, with which of the following two NIT institutes, the Central Water Commission signed a Memorandum of Understanding to support dam rehabilitation efforts of various implementing agencies and CWC.

- (a) NIT Durgapur, NIT Calicut (b) NIT Calicut, NIT Rourkela (c) NIT Agartala, NIT Rourkela
(d) NIT Patna, NIT Srinagar

Answer: (b)

Related Facts:

- On August 30th, 2017, Central Water Commission (CWC) has signed MoUs with NIT Calicut and NIT Rourkela to support dam rehabilitation efforts of various implementing agencies and CWC.
- Ministry of Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation has taken on board selected premier academic and research institutes, for capacity building in the areas of dam safety through World Bank assisted Dam Rehabilitation and Improvement Project (DRIP). The scope includes strengthening the testing laboratories, enhancing analytical capabilities, exposure visits to best global institutions and on ground exposure to dam safety concerns to the faculty of these institutions.
- CWC had signed MoUs with IIT Madras and IISc Bengaluru in January 2017 and Ministry is supporting these institutes for the procurement of specified equipment and software for enhancing their testing and modeling capabilities.
- DRIP is assisting rehabilitation of 225 dams in seven States which are experiencing different levels of distress.
- This project is assisted by the World Bank.



Reference:

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=170344>

CONFERENCE

Vigilance Awareness Week

Question: Which of the following statements is not true in regards to 'Vigilance Awareness Week' celebrated by the Central Vigilance Commission in year 2017?

- (a) Vigilance awareness will be celebrated from October 30 to November 4, 2017.
(b) This week is celebrated for the awareness of public servants and citizens on the need for continuous honesty and against corruption.
(c) On this occasion, all public servants and citizens will be encouraged to take a pledge of integrity.
(d) For the year 2017, its theme is 'Public participation in promoting honesty and eradication of corruption'.

Answer- (d)

Related Facts:



- The Central Vigilance Commission (CVC) has decided that this year the Vigilance Awareness Week would be observed from 30th October to 4th November, 2017.
- The theme of the week would be “My Vision-Corruption Free India”.
- The Vice President of India Shri M. Venkaiah Naidu will be the Chief Guest at the Inaugural Function to be held on 30th October 2017.
- Thereafter, all public servants and citizens will be encouraged to take a pledge of integrity.
- “Awareness Gram Sabhas” are being organized for dissemination of awareness in Gram Panchayats (in rural and semi-urban areas) to sensitise citizens on the ill-effects of corruption.
- Last year, 70,000 such Gram Sabhas were organized during the Vigilance Awareness Week.
- A new feature is the establishment of ‘Integrity Clubs’ in schools and colleges as children are the future assets of the country and it is important to cultivate moral values in them.
- The reason behind to celebrate Vigilance awareness week is to ‘eradicate corruption’ and ‘commitment of integrity’ to the top.

Reference:

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=171955>

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintHindiRelease.aspx?relid=67853>

<http://mofpi.nic.in/sites/default/files/doc101717-10172017005051.pdf>

Third Global Investors India Forum

Question: What was the theme of, the 3rd Global Investors’ India Forum organized in India?

- (a) Ideate, Innovate, Implement and Invest In India
- (b) Safe, Innovate, implement and long term investment in India.
- (c) Invest, Innovate, implement and improve Business in New India
- (d) Improve the ease of doing business and investment in New India

Answer: (a)

Related facts:

- On October 26-27, 2017, the 3rd Global Investors’ India Forum was organized in New Delhi.
- Its theme was ‘Ideate, Innovate, Implement and Invest in India’.
- It was organized by The Associated Chamber of Commerce & Industry of India.
- The objective of the Global Investors India Forum is to provide active support for guidance in India’s Foreign Economic Affairs, which includes direct foreign investment (FDI), ease of doing business, strategic cooperation and recommendation of policy.
- This year this forum is focusing, under the concept of ‘New India’, on the role of service sector, road transport (India’s northeast and south East Asia), agriculture and food processing and government involvement in public sectors and tax reform etc.



Reference:

<http://www.assochem.org/eventdetail.php?id=1479>

International Conference on Consumer Protection

Question: Where was the International Consumer Protection Conference organized for East, South and Southeast Asians in October, 2017?

(a) India (b) China (c) Thailand (d) South Korea

Answer: (a)

Related Facts:

- On October 26-27, 2017, India is organizing an International Conference on Consumer Protection for South, South East and East Asian Nations in New Delhi.
- The Conference was inaugurated by the Prime Minister, Narendra Modi.
- The theme of this conference is "Empowering Consumers in New Markets".
- Secretary General, UNCTAD, Dr. Mukhisa Kituyi was also present in the conference.
- The purpose of this conference is to provide consultation and suggestion for conserving consumers' satisfaction and rights so that it can be further improved.
- This conference is organized in the supervision of UNCTAD.

Reference:

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=171928>



First Meeting of BIMSTEC Task Force on Traditional Medicine

Question: AYUSH Ministry of Government of India organized the first meeting of the BIMSTEC Task Force on traditional medicine. Which of the following countries is not included in BIMSTEC?

(a) Nepal (b) Bhutan (c) Bangladesh (d) China

Answer: (d)

Related Facts:

- On October 25th, 2017, Ministry of AYUSH, Government of India hosted First Meeting of BIMSTEC Task Force on Traditional Medicine on 24-25 October, 2017 at Parvasi Bhartiya Kendra, New Delhi.
- The Meeting was inaugurated on 24 October 2017 by Vaidya Rajesh Kotecha, Secretary, Ministry of AYUSH.
- The Meeting discussed the following important agenda-
- Implementation of Strategies of BIMSTEC Task Force on Traditional Medicines (BITFM);
- Priority Areas for technical and research collaboration among the Member States on Traditional Medicine;
- Regional strategy on the protection of Genetic Resource associated with Traditional Medicine Knowledge and Intellectual Property Rights and develops a work plan;
- Human Resource Development and Capacity Building among the BIMSTEC Member States;
- New Initiative, proposals and programmes for cooperation on Traditional Medicine among the BIMSTEC Task Force on Traditional Medicine.
- The Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation (BIMSTEC) is an International Organisation involving a group of countries in the South Asia and South East Asia namely, Bangladesh, India, Myanmar, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Bhutan and Nepal.



Reference:

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=171936>

Western Air Command, Station Commanders' Conference

Question: At which place Western Air Command, Station Commanders' Conference was recently organized?

(a) Pune (b) Mumbai (c) Chennai (d) New Delhi

Answer: (b)

Related Facts:

- On 23 and 24 October, 2017, Western Air Command, Station Commanders' Conference was held at New Delhi.
- Air Chief Marshal BS Dhanoa was the chief guest of the conference.
- Emphasis was given on the need to enhance mission capability of all platforms and weapon systems and need for development and upkeep of operational infrastructure and continuous orientation of human resource so as to absorb induction of new technologies for a smooth transition of the IAF into a potent Aerospace power.



Reference:

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=171885>

International Puppet Festival

Question: In which one of the following cities international puppet festival will be organized from October 26 and October 31, 2017?

(a) New Delhi (b) Kolkata (c) Jaipur (d) Agra

Answer: (b)

Related Facts:

- From October 26-31, 2017, International puppet festival will be held in Kolkata city.
- West Bengal's Principal Secretary Tourism and Home Affairs Minister Atri Bhattacharya will inaugurate the festival.
- Artists from the United Kingdom, Germany, Peru, Portugal, Italy, Lithuania, Brazil, Singapore and India will participate in this ceremony.
- Kolkata will host such a ceremony for the first time.
- The aim of the puppet festival is to regenerate the feelings associated with puppets.
- This function will be held in Mohorkunj Kolkata.



Reference:

<http://indiatoday.intoday.in/story/kolkata-to-host-international-puppet-festival/1/1067720.html>

India International Science Festival 2017

Question: At which of the following places third India International Science Festival, 2017 is being organized?

(a) New Delhi (b) Ahmedabad (c) Chennai (d) Kolkata

Answer: (c)

Related Facts:

- During 13-16 October, 2017, the 3rd edition of IISF 2017 was



organized at Chennai.

- The festival was inaugurated jointly by the ministers of science and technology from Nepal, Bangladesh, Afghanistan and Portugal.
- The theme of the festival was 'science for the common man'.
- An important event of the IISF-2017 is the Science Village program which is linked with the Pradhan Manthri Sansad Adarsh Gram Yojana to reach out to the rural masses and propagate science to the extent of seeking scientific solutions to the diverse challenges facing our society, particularly rural India.
- Each Member of Parliament nominated 5 students from class 9th – 11th and 1 teacher to attend the festival from their adopted village.
- Other expo, conferences, workshops, programs etc. were being organized on different dates under this festival.

Reference:

<https://scienceindiafest.org/>

IHGF – Delhi Fair Autumn 2017

Question: The world's largest handicrafts and gifts fair being organized between October, 12-16, 2017, in-

(a) Greater Noida (b) Jaipur (c) Guwahati (d) Udaipur

Answer: (a)

Related Facts:

- From October 12-16, 2017, the world's largest handicrafts and gifts fair 'IHGF-Delhi Fair Autumn' -2017 is being organized.
- The fair is being held at India Expo Centre & Mart, Greater Noida.
- Union Information and Broadcasting and Textile Minister Smriti Irani inaugurated the fair.
- On this occasion, she appreciated the role of Handicrafts Export Promotion Council in promoting the export of handicrafts.
- It is important that handicraft exports have witnessed a year-on-year growth of 13.15% in 2016-17 and has touched Rs. 24,392 crores.

Reference:

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=171660>



First-ever AYUSH conference

Question: Where will the first International AYUSH Conference and Exhibition be organized between November 9-11, 2017?

(a) Dhaka (b) Dubai (c) Abu Dhabi (d) Colombo

Answer: (b)

Related Facts:

- International AYUSH Conference and Exhibition 2017' will be organized at Dubai, United Arab Emirates (UAE) from November 9-11, 2017.
- The theme of the conference will be 'Lifestyle diseases: Prevention and management through AYUSH'.
- Science India Forum is organizing this conference with the help of AYUSH Ministry.



- Experts from Australia, Canada, America, Singapore, Malaysia, Germany, Russia, India and Hungary, Sri Lanka's policy makers, prominent personalities and experts of AYUSH systems will participate in this conference.

Reference:

<http://indiatoday.intoday.in/story/india-to-hold-dubais-1st-ever-ayush-conference-in-nov/1/1067922.html>

Biennial trade minister level meeting held between India and Indonesia

Question: 2nd Biennial Trade Ministers Forum (BTMF) meeting was held at which of the following places between delegations of India and Republic of Indonesia.

(a) New Delhi (b) Bangalore (c) Jakarta (d) Bandung

Answer: (a)

Related Facts:

- On 25 September, 2017; The 2nd Biennial Trade Ministers Forum (BTMF) meeting was held at New Delhi between delegations of India and Republic of Indonesia.
- Both Ministers agreed for convening early meeting of the Working Group on Trade & Investment and the Working Group on Trade Facilitation & Remedies, to address the issues impeding trade and identifying means of facilitating trade and investment between India and Indonesia.
- Apart from this, both sides also agreed to hold a 'Meeting of Regulators' to resolve issues concerning the Pharma and Health sectors.
- After the deliberations, the Indonesian side agreed to conduct inspection visits for registering Dairy Products, Fresh Food of Plant Origin and Meat Processing facilities.
- In this meeting, the Minister of Commerce and Industry of India urged his Indonesian counterpart to utilise the opportunities presented by the 'Make in India', 'Invest India' and 'Start-up India' initiatives.



Reference:

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=171100>

13th Formation Day of NDMA

Question: National Disaster Management Authority was established in the year of-

(a) Year 1967 (b) Year 1985 (c) Year 1995 (d) Year 2005

Answer: (d)

Related Facts:

- On September 28th, 2017, the Union Home Minister Shri Rajnath Singh inaugurated the 13th Formation Day of National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA).
- The theme of this year's formation day is 'School Safety'.
- National Disaster Management Authority was constituted in the year 2005 under the Disaster Management Act, 2005.
- Prime Minister is the Ex-officio President of this Authority.
- Its work is to co-ordinate in the work done on the arrival of natural disasters or man-made disasters and to build capacity to deal with them.



- The main feature of this event is to include the safety of children under disaster management.
- In the past year, India had hosted the first Asian Conference for Disaster Risk Reduction in New Delhi.
- It is notable that India is hosting first 'BIMSTEC Disaster Management Exercise- 2017' from 10th-13th October this year.
- On the occasion, the Union Home Minister also released National Disaster Management Guidelines on Boat Safety and Cultural Heritage Sites & Precincts.
- A study report on "Tamil Nadu floods: Lessons learnt and best practices" was also released.

Reference:

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintHindiRelease.aspx?relid=67384>

ASEAN-India Music Festival

Question: Where was first ever ASEAN-India Music Festival was organized during October 6th-8th 2017?

(a) New Delhi (b) Gwalior (c) Jaipur (d) Agra

Answer: (a)

Related Facts:

- From October 6th-8th 2017, the first ever ASEAN-India Music Festival was organized at Purana Quila in New Delhi.
- This three-day festival was organized by the Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India in collaboration with Ministry of Culture and Seher.
- Celebrating 25th year anniversary of ASEAN-India Dialogue Relations this festival was organized.
- The theme for this commemorative year is "Shared Values, Common Destiny".
- This Music Festival aims to boost cultural influences among the peoples of the ASEAN member states and India.



Reference:

<http://www.mea.gov.in/press-releases.htm?dtl/29005/First+Edition+of+the+ASEAN+India+Music+Festival+at+Purana+Qila+New+Delhi+October+0608+2017>

14th India-EU Summit

Question: At which of the following places the 14th India-EU Summit was organized recently?

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

Answer: (c)

Related facts:

- On October 6, 2017, the 14th India-EU Summit was held in New Delhi.
- The purpose of this summit is to enhance advance cooperation in the strategic partnership of India-EU and priority areas of India's growth and development.
- The EU was represented by Mr. Donald Tusk, President of the European Council, and Mr. Jean Claude Juncker, President of the European Commission.



- India and European Union are strategic partners since 2004.
- EU is India's largest regional trading partner with bilateral trade in goods standing at US\$ 88 bn in 2016.
- The EU is also the largest destination for Indian exports and a key source of the investment and cutting edge technologies.
- India received around US\$ 83 bn FDI flows from Europe during 2000-17 constituting approximately 24% of the total FDI inflows into the country during the period.
- It is known that the 13th India-EU Summit was held on March 30, 2016 in Brussels.

Reference:

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=171462>

Pandit Deen Dayal Upadhyay Centenary Krishi Unnati Mela

Question: Recently, in which of the following districts of Uttar Pradesh Union Agricultural and Farmer Welfare Minister Radha Mohan Singh inaugurated the 'Pandit Deendayal Upadhyaya Centenary Krishi Unnati Mela organized by National Horticulture Board of Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare Ministry?

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

Answer: (b)

Related Facts:

- On September 22nd, 2017, Union Agricultural and Farmer Welfare Minister Radha Mohan Singh inaugurated the 'Pandit Deendayal Upadhyaya Centenary Krishi Unnati Mela organized by National Horticulture Board of Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare Ministry at Mathura.
- Farmers from 18 states and the entrepreneurs from various field like horticulture, agriculture, livestock, dairy, fisheries etc. participated and demonstrated and sold their products at the fair.
- The production of food grains increased from 265 million tonnes to 273.38 million tonnes in 2016-17; and horticulture production increased from 244 million tonnes to 295 million tonnes.
- The production of pulses increased to 22.40 million tonnes in 2016-17 from 16.35 million tonnes in the previous years.
- On the occasion, the Union Agriculture Minister inaugurated an eco-friendly sewerage treatment plant of 75,000 liters capacity, developed by the Indian Agricultural Research Institute using indigenous technology.
- Wastewater (sewage water) will be recycled at the plant and will be reused for irrigation.



Reference:

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=171028>

India Mobile Congress -2017

Question: Where is the first mobile internet and technology program India Mobile Congress -2017 being organized during 27-29 September, 2017?

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

Answer: (d)

Related Facts:



- During 27-29 September, 2017, the first mobile, internet and technology program India Mobile Congress-2017 was organized at Pragati Maidan, New Delhi.
- As a nodal ministry, the India Mobile Congress was organized by the Cellular Operators Association of India (COAI) under the aegis of the Department of Telecommunications.
- Meanwhile, industry associations and Internet companies of mobile and telecommunications operators conducted exhibitions and discussed the importance of global and Indian telecommunications mobile, internet connectivity and digital service sector.
- Union Minister of State for Communications (Independent Charge) Manoj Sinha inaugurated the three days India Mobile Congress-2017.
- On this occasion he told said that India is currently the second largest telecommunication market in the world with over 1.2 billion subscriber base and approximately 450 million internet users.

Reference:

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

Pan India camps in handlooms and handicrafts clusters

Question: The Ministry of Textiles proposes to organize Pan India camps in handlooms and handicrafts clusters, under the initiative “Hastkala Sahyog Shivir” during 7th October to 17th October, 2017. This initiative is dedicated to-

- (a) Shyama Prasad Mukherjee Garib Kalyan Varsh
- (b) Guruji Golwalkar Garib Kalyan Varsh
- (c) Pandit Deendayal Upadhyay Garib Kalyan Varsh
- (d) Atal Garib Kalyan Varsh

Answer: (c)

Related facts:

- The Ministry of Textiles proposes to organize Pan India camps in handlooms and handicrafts clusters, under the initiative “Hastkala Sahyog Shivir” during 7th October to 17th October, 2017.
- This initiative is dedicated to Pandit Deendayal Upadhyay Garib Kalyan Varsh, the birth centenary year of Pandit Deendayal Upadhyay.
- **The following services will be provided to the weavers and artisans in these camps:**
 - (a) Issuance of credit facilities through MUDRA scheme
 - (b) Assistance for technological upgradation under Hathkargha Samvardhan Sahayata
 - (c) Distribution of modern tool kits and equipments
 - (d) Issuance of Yarn Pass Book
 - (e) Enrollment under IGNOU/NIOS courses
 - (f) Access to Common Service Centre facilities
 - (g) Buyer-seller meets and expos
- It is proposed to organize the camps in more than 200 handloom Block Level Clusters & Weavers’ Service Centres and more than 200 handicraft clusters in collaboration with State Governments.



Reference:

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=170288>

10th India-European Union Counter Terrorism Dialogue

Question: 10th India-EU Anti-Terrorism Dialogue concludes in which of the following cities?

(a) New Delhi (b) Mumbai (c) Paris (d) Switzerland

Answer: (a)

Related Facts:

- On August 30th, 2017, the 10th India-European Union Counter Terrorism Dialogue concluded at New Delhi.
- The Indian delegation was led by Shri Mahaveer Singhvi, Joint Secretary for Counter Terrorism at the Ministry of External Affairs of India, while the European Union's delegation was led by Mr. Pawel Herczynski, Director for Security Policy, European External Action Service.
- They exchanged views and assessments on prevailing terrorist threats in their respective regions including state-sponsored, cross-border terrorism in the Af-Pak region.
- During the Dialogue, both sides strongly condemned terrorism in all its forms and manifestations and underscored the need for deepening cooperation to combat terrorism in a long term, sustained and comprehensive manner.
- Prospects for deepening counter-terrorism cooperation under the UN and FATF were also emphasized.
- The FATF is an inter-governmental organization that examines the necessary measures to find money laundering and financing of terrorism.
- The next India-European Union Counter Terrorism Dialogue will take place in Brussels in 2018.



Reference:

http://mea.gov.in/press-releases.htm?dtl/28902/10th_IndiaEuropean_Union_Counter_Terrorism_Dialogue

ASSOCIATIONS & ORGANIZATIONS

Institute of Company Secretaries of India

Question: Headquarters of Institute of Company Secretaries of India is located in-

(a) Chandigarh (b) Shimla (c) Dehradun (d) New Delhi

Answer: (d)

Related Facts:

- On October 4, 2017, Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated the Golden Jubilee Year of the Indian Institute of Company Secretaries of India at the Vigyan Bhawan, New Delhi.
- ICSI is the only recognized institution of India to develop and regulate business of corporate secretaries.
- Its headquarters is in New Delhi and its current chairman is Shyam Agrawal.
- It was established in the year 1968 as a non-profit organization.
- In the year 1980, this organization was granted statutory status by the Company Secretary Act, 1980.



- At present, it has more than 52000 members.

Reference:

http://www.pmindia.gov.in/hi/news_updates/%E0%A4%AA%E0%A5%8D%E0%A4%B0%E0%A4%A7%E0%A4%BE%E0%A4%A8%E0%A4%AE%E0%A4%82%E0%A4%A4%E0%A5%8D%E0%A4%B0%E0%A5%80-%E0%A4%A8%E0%A5%87-%E0%A4%86%E0%A4%88%E0%A4%B8%E0%A5%80%E0%A4%8F%E0%A4%B8%E0%A4%86%E0%A4%88/

National E-Governance Services Limited

Question- Recently, by whom E-Governance Services Limited was registered as an information undertaking?

- (a) Ministry of Information and Broadcasting
- (b) Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board of India
- (c) National Information Center (d) Bombay Stock Exchange

Answer: (b)

Related Facts:

- On 27 September 2017, The Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board of India (IBBI) registered National E-Governance Services Limited (NeSL) as an Information Utility (IU) under the IBBI (Information Utilities) Regulations, 2017.
- This registration is valid for five years from the date of registration.
- IU stores financial information that helps to establish defaults as well as verify claims expeditiously.
- This facilitates completion of transactions under the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code, 2016 in a time bound manner.
- It constitutes a key pillar of the insolvency and bankruptcy ecosystem, the other three being the Adjudicating Authority (National Company Law Tribunal and Debt Recovery Tribunal), the IBBI and Insolvency Professionals.
- NeSL becomes the first IU registered by the IBBI.
- NeSL has appointed Mr. G.M. Srinivasa Bhat as Compliance Officer under regulation 11 of the IBBI (Information Utilities) Regulations, 2017.

Reference:

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=171199>



Acquisition of Meridiana by Qatar Airways

Question: Qatar Airways acquired 49 percent stake in Meridiana Airlines. 'Meridiana' is the airline of which country?

- (a) Italy (b) France (c) Malaysia (d) Iran

Answer: (a)

Related Facts:

- Qatar Airways acquired 49 percent stake in Italy's second largest airline 'Meridiana'.
- Qatar Airways is the largest loader in the Middle East region.
- Prior to the acquisition, the ownership of 'Meridiana' was owned by Alisarada in Italy.
- After 49% of the acquisition, 51% stake has remained with 'Alisarada'.



- In the year 1960, Meridiana Airlines was founded by businessman and Muslim spiritual leader Aga Khan.
- Qatar Airways has a strong position in the Italian air service.
- It offers more than 40 flights a week to Doha Airbase.
- Italy's largest carrier 'Alitalia', partly owned by Qatar Airways's regional competitor, Etihad Airways.
- 'Etihad Airways' is an aerial service provider based in Abu Dhabi.

Reference:

<https://www.qatarairways.com/en/press-releases/2017/sep/completion-of-the-meridiana-agreement-by-qatar-airways-and-alisa.html?activeTag=Press-releases>

Bharat Wagon and Engineering Company

Question: In which year Bharat Wagon and Engineering Company Limited was incorporated?

(a) Year 1973 (b) Year 1975 (c) Year 1978 (d) Year 1980

Answer: (c)

Related Facts:

- On August 23rd, 2017, the Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs, chaired by the Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, has approved the proposal of Ministry of Railways to close the Bharat Wagon and Engineering Company Limited (BWEL).
- Bharat Wagon and Engineering Company Limited (BWEL) is a Central Public Sector Enterprise (CPSE) under Ministry of Railways.
- Bharat Wagon and Engineering Co. Ltd. is being wound up in view of the continues poor physical and financial performance of the company for more than 10 years, in spite of financial assistance and other support provided by Ministry of Railways combined with low probability of its revival in future.
- With this approval 626 employees of BWEL will be benefitted from the voluntary retirement scheme to be offered at 2007 pay scale.
- The Government will have to provide one time grant off 151.18 crore towards severance package and for clearing the current liabilities of the company.
- It is noteworthy that BWEL was incorporated on December 4th, 1978 as a CPSE, engaged in the manufacture and repair of wagons.
- It has two manufacturing units, at Mokama and Muzaffarpur in Bihar.

Reference:

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintHindiRelease.aspx?relid=66723>



YEAR, DAY & WEEK

85th Air Force Day

Question: When 'Air Force Day' is celebrated?

(a) October 7 (b) October 3 (c) October 8 (d) October 10

Answer- (c)

Related facts:



- On October 8, 2017, 85th 'Air Force Day' was observed.
- It is notable that the Indian Air Force was established on October 8, 1932.
- There are five commands in the Indian Air Force.
- In New Delhi, the Western Command, in Allahabad (UP) Central Command, Eastern Command in Shillong (Meghalaya), South-Western Command in Gandhinagar (Gujarat) and Southern Command in Thiruvananthapuram (Kerala).
- Air Force Training Command is located in Bangalore (Karnataka) and Maintenance Command is in Nagpur (Maharashtra).
- On this occasion, a grand function was organized at Hindan Air Base in Ghaziabad.
- Chief of the Air Force BS Dhanoa gave salute to the Air Force personnel on this day.

Reference:

<http://www.thehindu.com/news/cities/bangalore/Air-Force-marks-84-years-84th-Air-Force-Day/article15477410.ece>

World Standard Day

Question: When 'World Standard Day' is celebrated?

(a) October 12 (b) October 14 (c) October 11 (d) October 10

Answer: (b)

Related Facts:

- On October 14, 2017, World Standards Day was celebrated across world.
- The theme of this day for year 2017 is 'Standards Make Cities Smarter'.
- It is worth mentioning that this day is celebrated around the world as the foundation day of the International Standardization Organization (ISO) located in Geneva (Switzerland).



Reference:

<https://www.iso.org/world-standards-day.html>

World Post Day

Question: When 'World Post Day' is celebrated?

(a) October 8 (b) October 7 (c) October 5 (d) October 9

Answer: (d)

Related Facts:

- On October 9, 2017, 'World Post Day' was celebrated all over the world.
- The purpose of this day is to show the importance of the postage in the daily life and prove the utility.
- Every October 9, was announced as celebration of 'World Post Day' at the World Postal Union (WPU) was held in Tokyo, Japan in 1969.
- It is known that on October 9, 1874, the 'World Post Union' was established in Switzerland's capital Bern.



Reference:

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

World Rabies Day

Question: When 'World Rabies Day' is celebrated?

(a) September 26 (b) September 29 (c) September 24 (d) September 28

Answer: (d)

Related Facts:

- On 28th September, 2017, World Rabies Day was celebrated across the world.
- In the year 2017, the theme of this day was Rabies: "Zero by 30".
- This theme reflects the global goal and outline for reaching zero human mortality from rabies by the year 2030.
- The purpose of this day is to increase awareness among people about the prevention of rabies.
- It is known that this day is celebrated on the occasion of the birth day of the famous Chemist and Microbiologist Louis Pasteur of France.
- He had first developed rabies vaccine
- Rabies is a viral disease.



Reference:

http://www.who.int/rabies/WRD_landing_page/en/

United Nations Day and World Development Information Day

Question- 'United Nations Day' is celebrated on-

(a) October 23 (b) October 25 (c) October 27 (d) October 24

Answer: (d)

Related Facts:

- On October 24th, 2017, 'United Nations Day' was celebrated all over the world.
- United Nations was formed on October 24, 1945 with the signing of 50 countries on the UN Charter.
- 24 October has been celebrated as United Nations Day since 1948.
- In addition, from October 1972, the UNO is also celebrating World Development Information Day on 24th October.



Reference:

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

'World Statistics Day'

Question: When 'World Statistics Day' is celebrated?

(a) October 21 (b) October 20 (c) June 29 (d) October 24

Answer- (b)

Related Facts:

- The United Nations has declared to celebrate October 20th as World Statistics Day.
- On October 20, 2015, second 'World Statistics Day-2015' was celebrated.
- For 'World Statistics Day-2015' the theme is 'Better Data Better Lives'.



- The UN General Assembly decided with resolution 69/282 to celebrate the day every five years.
- The first World Statistics Day was celebrated on October 20th, 2010.

Reference:

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

National Ayurveda day

Question: 'National Ayurveda Day' for year 2017 was celebrated of which of the following dates?

(a) October 16 (b) October 17 (c) October 14 (d) October 15

Answer- (b)

Related Facts:

- On October 17th, 2017, second 'National Ayurveda Day' was celebrated across the nation.
- It is decided to celebrate Dhanvantari Jayanti every year as Ayurveda Divas.
- On this occasion various programs were organized by the Ministry of AYUSH throughout the country.
- It is noteworthy that All India Institute of Ayurveda is established under Ministry of AYUSH.



Reference:

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=171768>

World Food Day

Question: 'World Food Day' is celebrated on which of the following dates?

(a) October 11 (b) October 4 (c) October 16 (d) October 12

Answer: (c)

Related Fact:

- 'World Food Day' was celebrated on October 16th, 2017, across the world.
- The theme of this day for year 2017 is 'Change the future of migrations, invest in food security and rural development'.



Reference:

<http://www.fao.org/world-food-day/2017/theme/en/>

World Student Day

Question: 'World Student Day' is celebrated on the occasion of the birth anniversary of whom amongst the following?

(a) Dr. Sarvapalli Radhakrishnan (b) Dr. A.P.J. Abdul Kalam (c) Dr. C.V. Raman
(d) Dr. Vikram Sarabhai

Answer- (b)

Related facts:

- On 15th October, 2017, 'World Student Day' was celebrated across the country.



- It is notable that this day is celebrated on the occasion of the birth anniversary of former President Missile Man Dr. A.P.J. Abdul Kalam.
- It is worth mentioning that in 2010, Dr. Kalam's 79th birthday was announced as 'World Student Day' by UNO.
- A.P.J. Abdul Kalam was born in a necessitous and little educated Tamil family on 15 October 1931, at Rameswaram district of Tamil Nadu, India and passed away on 27 July 2015, due to a massive cardiac attack during a lecture at the Indian Institute of Management, Shillong Assam.

Reference:

<https://happydays-365.com/world-students-day/world-students-day-october/>

National Women's Farmer's Day

Question: 'National Women's Farmer's Day' is celebrated on-

(a) October 14 (b) October 16 (c) October 10 (d) October 15

Answer- (d)

Related Facts:

- On October 15, 2017, 'National Women's Farmer's Day' was celebrated in all Agricultural Universities, Institutions and Agricultural Science Centers across the country.
- The aim of this day is to increase the active participation of women in agriculture.
- It is worth mentioning that in 2016, it was decided to celebrate 'October 15' every year as 'National Women's Farmer's Day' by the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare.
- Agriculture and Farmers Welfare Minister informed that keeping in view the key role of women in agriculture, in the year 1996, the Ministry established ICAR-Central Institute for Women in Agriculture in Bhubaneswar, Odisha.
- There are 680 agricultural science centers in the country.
- In the year 2016-17, 21 techniques related to women were evaluated and 2.56 lakh women were trained in agriculture-related fields like sewing, manufacturing, value addition, rural handicraft, animal husbandry, beekeeping, poultry, fisheries, etc.



Reference:

<https://twitter.com/AgriGol/status/919447999138349057>

Global Fertilizer Day

Question: 'Global Fertilizer Day' is celebrated on-

(a) October 14 (b) October 10 (c) October 17 (d) October 13

Answer- (d)

Related Facts:

- On October 13, 2017, 'Global Fertilizer Day' was celebrated all over the world.
- It is noteworthy that Global Fertilizer Day marks the anniversary of Fritz Haber's discovery (Haber-Bosch process) of ammonia synthesis in 1908, which sowed the seeds for the Green Revolution of the early 20th century.



Reference:

<https://www.tfi.org/content/global-fertilizer-day-october-13-2017>

Beti Bachao Beti Padhao (BBBP) week

Question: How long is the 'Bachao Beti Padhao' (BBBP) week organized by the Central Women and Child Development Ministry?

- (a) From 10 to 15 October, 2017 (b) From 9 to 14 October, 2017
(c) From 11 to 16 October, 2017 (d) From 8 to 13 October, 2017

Answer- (b)

Related Facts:

- Between 9-14 October, 2017, 'Beti Bachao Beti Padhao' (BBBP) week is being celebrated throughout the country. This week is being organized as the symbol of International Girl's Day on October 11, 2017. The theme of the program will be Beti Bachao Beti Padhao Week- The Daughters of New India..
- It is notable that the Central Women and Child Development Ministry is celebrating this week to popularize national and mainstream communication and BBBP among the people in favor of girls and women.
- It is notable that, the BBBP scheme was launched by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on January 22, 2015 in Panipat, Haryana.
- Its aim is to focus on the issue of decreasing childhood ratio (CSR) and limited rights of women during the life cycle.
- This scheme is being implemented in 161 districts of the country and has completed 2.5 years.



Reference:

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintHindiRelease.aspx?relid=67602>

International Day for Disaster Reduction

Question: When is 'International Calamity Reduction Day' celebrated?

- (a) October 9 (b) October 12 (c) October 8 (d) October 13

Answer- (d)

Related Facts:

- On October 13, 2017, 'International Day of Disaster Reduction' was celebrated across the world.
- In the year 2017, the theme of this day is 'Home safe house: Reducing exposure, Reducing Displacement'.
- The International Day for Disaster Reduction was started in 1989, after a call by the United Nations General Assembly for a day to promote a global culture of risk-awareness and disaster reduction.
- The day celebrates how people and communities around the world are reducing their exposure to disasters and raising awareness about the importance of reining in the risks that they face.
- Earlier this day was celebrated on the first Wednesday of the month, October each year.



- In the year 2009, a resolution was passed by the UN General Assembly to celebrate this day on 13th October.

Reference:

<https://www.unisdr.org/we/campaign/iddr>

World Arthritis Day

Question- When 'World Arthritis Day' is celebrated?

(a) October 11 (b) October 12 (c) October 5 (d) October 8

Answer- (b)

Related Facts:

- World Arthritis Day is celebrated every year on 12 October across the world.
- World Arthritis Day (WAD) was established in 1996 by Arthritis and Rheumatism International (ARI).
- WAD is a global initiative bringing people together to raise awareness of issues affecting people with rheumatic and musculoskeletal diseases (RMDs).
- Arthritis is an informal way of referring to joint pain or joint disease.
- There are more than 100 different types of arthritis and related conditions.



Reference:

https://www.eular.org/world_arthritis_day.cfm

World Sight Day 2017

Question: When the 'World Sight Day' is celebrated?

(a) October 13 (b) October 12 (c) October 15 (d) 10th October

Answer- (b)

Related Facts:

- World Vision Day was celebrated on October 12, 2017 across the world.
- On this occasion, an international photography competition was organized; with a theme 'Make Vision Count'.
- It is remarkable that this day is celebrated on the second Thursday of October every year.
- This day is celebrated to create awareness about poor vision, blindness as well as vision related problems.
- World Vision Day is an initiative of 'Vision 2020', whose aim is to prevent or treat avoidable blindness by the year 2020.



Reference:

<https://www.iapb.org/advocacy/world-sight-day/world-sight-day-2017/>

World Cerebral Palsy Day

Question: 'World Cerebral Palsy Day' is celebrated on-

(a) October 6 (b) October 4 (c) October 3 (d) October 1

Answer: (a)

Related Facts:



- On October 6, 2017, World Cerebral Palsy Day was celebrated throughout the world.
- The aim of this day is to make people aware about cerebral palsy disease.
- This brain damage can occur before the birth of children, at birth and at any time after birth.
- The more brain damage, the greater the disability of the children increases.
- The disease was first detected by British surgeon William Little in 1860 AD.
- The main causes of this disease are the disruption of the child's brain development or injury to the brain.
- Some other reasons are as follows:
- Infection in mother during pregnancy.
- No match in blood group of mother and child.
- Unusual development of the child in the womb of the mother etc.
- Currently around 17 million people are suffering from cerebral palsy all over the world.

Reference:

<https://worldcpday.org/about-us/>

World Habitat Day

Question: On which date 'World Habitat Day' is celebrated?

(a) October 2 (b) October 4 (c) October 29 (d) October 1

Answer: (a)

Related Facts:

- On October 2nd, 2017 'World Habitat Day' was celebrated throughout the world.
- In the year 2017, the theme of this day was- 'Housing Policies: Affordable Homes'
- It is noteworthy that on December 17, 1985, the United Nations General Assembly designated the first Monday of October every year as World Habitat Day.



Reference:

<https://unhabitat.org/world-habitat-day/>

International Day of Older Persons

Question: When the International day of older persons is celebrated?

(a) September 29 (b) October 2 (c) October 1 (d) October 4

Answer: (c)

Related facts:

- On October 1, 2017, every year 'International Day of Older Persons' is celebrated across the world.
- The theme of the International Day of Older Persons 2017 is "Stepping into the Future: Tapping the Talents, Contributions and Participation of Older Persons in Society."
- It is notable that the United Nations General Assembly in the year 1990 marked October 1st as 'International Day of Older Persons'.
- It is noteworthy that between 2015 and 2030, the target date for the Sustainable Development Goals, the number of older persons worldwide is set to increase by 56 per cent — from 901 million to more than 1.4 billion. By 2050, the number of people aged 60 and above will outnumber children under age 15.



- On this occasion, Union Social Justice and Empowerment Minister Thavarchand Gehlot and State Minister Krishna Pal Gurjar flagged off 'Walkathon' for senior citizens.

Reference:

<https://www.un.org/development/desa/ageing/international-day-of-older-persons-homepage/unidop2017.html>

World Maritime Day

Question: World Maritime Day is celebrated on –

- (a) September 23 (b) September 28 (c) September 29
(d) September 25

Answer- (b)

Related Facts:

- On 28th September, 2017, World Maritime Day was celebrated throughout the world.
- The theme of this day in 2017 – was the connecting ships, ports and people.
- It is notable that the International Maritime Organization (IMO) was established in the year 1959 as a special agency of the United Nations.
- Its headquarters is located in London, United Kingdom.
- The IMO Convention entered into force in 1958 and the new Organization met for the first time the following year (1959).
- It is noteworthy that the original name was the Inter-Governmental Maritime Consultative Organization, or IMCO, but the name was changed in 1982 to IMO.

Reference:

<http://www.imo.org/en/About/Events/WorldMaritimeDay/Pages/WMD-2017.aspx>



World Tourism Day

Question: 'World Tourism Day' is celebrated on-

- (a) September 26 (b) September 22 (c) September 27 (d) September 29

Answer: (c)

Related Facts:

- On 27th September, 2017, World Tourism Day was celebrated across the world.
- Theme of this day for 2017 was 'Sustainable Tourism-a Tool for Development'.
- The purpose of this day is to increase awareness on the role of tourism among the international community.
- It is notable that Last year alone, 1.235 million travellers crossed international borders in one single year.
- By 2030, this 1.2 billion will become 1.8 billion.
- The tourism industry contributes 10.2 percent of the world's GDP.
- It is estimated that every 10th person in the world works in the tourism industry.
- In India too, the livelihood of a very large number of people is linked to the tourism industry.
- In the year 2016, tourism's contribution to GDP was 9.6 percent and 9.3 percent to total employment.



- This year the 'World Tourism Day' event was held officially in Doha, Qatar.
- The President of India Shri Ram Nath Kovind presented the "National Tourism Awards, 2015-16" to various segments of the travel, tourism and hospitality industry at a function held in New Delhi.

Reference:

<http://media.unwto.org/press-release/2017-08-10/world-tourism-day-2017-celebrated-theme-sustainable-tourism-tool-developm-0>

National Sports Day

Question: 'National Sports Day' is celebrated on –

(a) August 28 (b) August 26 (c) August 30 (d) August 29

Answer: (d)

Related Facts:

- National Sports Day was observed across the country on August 29th, 2017.
- It is notable that this day is celebrated to pay tribute to legendary Indian Hockey player Major Dhyan Chand.
- His pivotal play earned for him the acclaim of a juggler with the hockey stick.
- He won gold medals in Olympics for India in the years 1928, 1932 and 1936.
- He was born on August 29th, 1905, in Allahabad and grew up in Jhansi.
- On this day President of India presented the Sports and Adventure Awards at a function held at Rashtrapati Bhavan.
- The award includes Rajiv Gandhi Khel Ratna Award, Dhyan Chand and Dronacharya Awards in addition to the Tenzing Norgay National Adventure Award and Arjuna Award.



Reference:

<https://twitter.com/narendramodi/status/902378912742641664>

International Day against nuclear tests

Question: 'International Day against nuclear tests' is celebrated on-

(a) August 29 (b) August 23 (c) August 26 (d) August 28

Answer: (a)

Related Facts:

- On August 29th, 2017, 'International Day against Nuclear Tests' is observed all over the world.
- It is notable that on 2 December 2009, the 64th session of the United Nations General Assembly declared 29 August the International Day against Nuclear Tests by unanimously adopting resolution 64/35.
- It is significant that globally, more than 2050 nuclear tests were carried out between 1945-1996.
- The international instrument to put an end to all forms of nuclear testing is the 1996 Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty (CTBT), unfortunately, this has yet to enter into force.



Reference:

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

BOOKS

The Book Making of a Legend

Question: Who is the author of the book 'Making of a Legend'?

(a) Amrita Rai (b) N.K. Lion (c) Bindeshwari Pathak (d) Taslima Nasreen

Answer: (c)

Related Facts:

- On September 26, 2017, the coffee table book 'The Making of a Legend', written on the life of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, was released globally in Washington.
- Its copies were also presented to many American MPs.
- This book is written by Bindeshwari Pathak (founder of NGO Sulabh International).
- Since taking over as Prime Minister in May 2014, this book has depicted Modi's life journey, his struggles and efforts.



Reference:

<http://indiatoday.intoday.in/story/book-on-life-of-pm-modi-launched-in-washington/1/1056919.html>

MISCELLANEOUS

First 3D Printed Wearable Battery

Question: Which country's scientists have developed the world's first 3D printed wearable battery?

(a) America (b) Japan (c) China (d) UK

Answer: (b)

Related Facts:

- On October 23, 2017, scientists of the Brunel University of London developed a 3-D printed flexible and wearable battery.
- This is a new kind of skillful search for technology used in mobile phones, electric cars and medical devices such as pacemakers and others.
- In this device, all components including Flexible Supercapacitor have been prepared by 3-D printing technology.
- This is the first time that all the components of a flexible Supercapacitor have been produced through 3-D printing.
- The size of this device is like the wrist watch.



Reference:

<https://www.brunel.ac.uk/news-and-events/news/articles/3D-printer-makes-first-wearable-%27battery%27>
<https://www.siliconrepublic.com/machines/3d-printer-wearable-battery>

World's first 3D-printed concrete bridge

Question: Which country started the world's first 3-D printed concrete bridge recently for cyclists?

(a) China (b) Japan (c) Netherlands (d) Sweden

Answer: (c)

Related facts:

- On October 17, 2017, the world's first 3-D printed concrete bridge was inaugurated in the Netherlands, mainly designed for cyclists.
- The length of this bridge is 8 meters (26 feet). Its width is about 12 feet.
- In this bridge, 800 layers of pre-stressed concrete have been used.
- This bridge is jointly constructed by students of Eindhoven University and BAM Infra, a construction company.



Reference:

<https://phys.org/news/2017-10-dutch-world-3d-printed-bridge.html>

Solar briefcase launched

Question: At which place the solar briefcase was launched by the Uttarakhand Government and the Swan Cultural Center and Foundation (a charitable institution of finance)?

(a) Kedarnath Dham (b) Badrinath Dham (c) Mussoorie
(d) Rishikesh

Answer: (a)

Related facts:

- On October 8, 2017, the Uttarakhand Government and the Swan Cultural Center and Foundation (a charitable institution of finance) launched solar briefcases in Kedarnath Dham.
- The objective of this initiative is to provide electricity in remote areas of Uttarakhand.
- On this occasion the Chief Minister of Uttarakhand said that 47 villages and 1, 40,000 families in the state still have not access getting electricity.
- There are more than 60 such villages in this state where electrification has not been done due to difficult geographical conditions.
- Solar energy is a good option for these areas.



Reference:

http://www.business-standard.com/article/news-ani/u-khand-govt-launches-solar-briefcase-to-provide-electricity-in-remote-areas-117100800577_1.html

First Metro of Pakistan

Question: The Orange Line Metro project has been started in Pakistan with the cooperation of which of the following countries?

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

Answer: (b)

Related Facts:

- On October 8, 2017, Chief Minister of Punjab Province (Pakistan),



Shahbaza Sharif inaugurated the first set of coaches and engine from China for the Pakistan's first metro project (Lahore Orange Line Metro).

- This project has been started with the help of China.
- Orange Line Metro project is expected to be completed by the end of this year.
- Completion of this project will provide modern, safe, fast and affordable transportation facilities to the passengers.
- Approximately 0.25 million passenger will travel daily through this.
- Metro will take 45 minutes to cover 27 km. from Dorogwala to Thokar Niyaz Baig.
- Civil works on the Orange Line project involves the construction of a 27.1-kilometre metro train corridor, including 25.4km of elevated U-shaped viaducts and 1.72km underground sections, 24 elevated and two underground stations, depots, stabling yards, etc.
- This metro train has been built by China's CRRC Zhuzhou Locomotive Company Limited.
- The company has installed the system to handle energy saving air-conditioning systems and volatile energy supply in five coaches engaged in the train.

Reference:

http://news.xinhuanet.com/english/2017-10/09/c_136666564.htm

Record-breaking Cycle-ride

Question: Who became the world's fastest cyclist recently?

(a) Andrew Nicholson (b) Paola Gianotti (c) Mike Hall (d) Mark Beaumont

Answer: (d)

Related Facts:

- British cyclist Mark Beaumont has set a new Guinness record by completing his epic round-the-world at the fastest speed.
- They completed his world tour in 78 days, 14 hours and 40 minutes (formerly recorded, in 123 days.)
- During this, Mark went through 16 different countries and spent approximately 28,968 km (18,000 miles).
- In the first 29 days of the journey, Mark spent 11315.29 km (7031 miles) in a month.
- This way, breaking the old record of the longest distance in a month created a new record.
- Guinness Book of World Records According to Mark Receiving old record breaking 43 days of exceptional distinction.
- In women, the record is in the name of Italy's Paola Gianotti.
- She had completed the 29,995 km. Distance in 144 days.



Reference:

<http://www.guinnessworldrecords.com/news/2017/9/british-endurance-cyclist-mark-beaumont-completes-record-breaking-circumnavigation-495072>

India's Third Bowler to make hat-trick in ODI

Question: Against which country Indian bowler Kuldeep Yadav recently took the first one-day hat-trick of his career?

(a) Sri Lanka (b) Bangladesh (c) Australia (d) South Africa

Answer: (c)

Related Facts:



- In the second match of the one-day series against Australia, Chinaman bowler Kuldeep Yadav became the third Indian (first spinner) bowler to take the hat-trick. (September 21, 2017)
- He dismissed Matthew Wade, Aston Egger and Pat Cummins.
- Earlier, in the year 1991, Kapil Dev took the second ODI hat-trick on the same Eden Gardens ground against Sri Lanka and Chetan Sharma took first hat-trick in Nagpur against New Zealand in 1987 Cricket World Cup.
- 5 Indian have taken hat-tricks so far in international cricket.
- Apart from these three, Harbhajan Singh and Irfan Pathan have also achieved this achievement in Test matches.
- Kuldeep's hat-trick is 44th overall hat-trick of ODIs.
- On July 1, 2017, Wanindu Hasaranga (Sri Lanka) became the first wrist spinner to achieve this feat by taking hat-tricks in the one-day match played in Zimbabwe's Galle.
- The first hat-trick of ODIs was taken by Pakistani bowler Jalal-ud-Din in 1982 against Australia in Hyderabad, Sindh province (Pakistan).

Reference:

http://www.espnricinfo.com/story/_/id/20776159/india-first-odi-hat-trick-1991

Ban on Pakistani Cricketer for Five Year

Question: Recently, on which Pakistani cricketer PCB has imposed a ban of five years and fine of Rs 10 lakhs?

(a) Sherjeel Khan (b) Khalid Latif (c) Mohammad Irfan (d) Nasir Jamshed

Answer: (b)

Related Facts:

- Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) imposed a five-year ban on cricketer Khalid Latif and fined Rs 10 lakh for his involvement in spot-fixing during the Pakistan Super League (PSL), 2017. (September 20, 2017)
- The PCB's three-member tribunal found Khalid guilty of violating all 6 rules of the Anti-Corruption Code of Cricket Board.
- This order was given by Arbitration headed by former High Court Judge Asgar Haider.
- Khalid was one of those 6 cricketers, who were inquired into spot-fixing case in PSL.



Reference:

<http://www.bbc.com/sport/cricket/41332472>

American Boxing legend is No More

Question: Which of the following former American boxer passed away recently?

(a) Jake LaMotta (b) Muhammad Ali (c) Floyd Mayweather (d) George Foreman

Answer: (a)

Related Facts:

- Former American boxer and comedian Jake LaMotta passed away. (September 19, 2017)
- LaMotta, also known as Raging Bull; was the famous World Middleweight champion.
- During his career, he fought 106 fights, out of which 83 won.



- Out of these he won the 30 by way of knockout.
- He was famously portrayed by Robert De Niro in the film Raging Bull in 1980.

Reference:

<http://officialjakelamotta.com/biography>

World Rivers Day

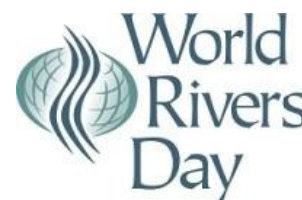
Question: On which date 'World River Day' was celebrated recently?

- (a) September 24, 2017 (b) September 25, 2017 (c) September 23, 2017
(d) September 20, 2017

Answer- (a)

Related Facts:

- On 24th September, 2017, World Rivers Day was celebrated across the world.
- It is remarkable that this day is celebrated every year on the last Sunday of September.
- On 23 December 2003, the United Nations General Assembly proclaimed the period 2005-2015 "the International Decade for Action 'Water for Life'".
- It was decided that the primary goal of the 'Water for Life' Decade was to promote efforts to fulfill international commitments made on water and water-related issues by 2015.
- Since then, this day is being celebrated every year.



Reference:

<http://riverfoundation.org.au/our-programs/world-river-day/>

VVPAT

Question: Which is the first state where VVPAT was used in EVM at all polling stations in the assembly elections?

- (a) Gujarat (b) Goa (c) Bihar (d) Uttar Pradesh

Answer: (b)

Related Facts:

- On September 28, 2017, Gujarat Chief Electoral Officer B.B Sen announced the use of VVPAT (Voter Verified Paper Audit Trail) in the EVM to complete the upcoming assembly elections at all the polling stations.
- After the state of Goa (February, 2017), Gujarat will become the second state where VVPAT was used in all the polling stations in the assembly elections.
- After voting with the EVM, a slip on the VVPAT display will be seen, on which the mark of the voter has voted for a candidate, political party or nota will be printed.
- Through it, the voter will know that his vote got for the one whom he has voted. It will be used in 50128 polling booths of 182 assembly constituencies in the assembly elections to be held in Gujarat in the end of 2017. During the hearing of a petition filed in the year 2013, the Supreme Court has said in its order that the provision of VVPAT to be made compulsory in all elections held by the EVM.



Reference:

<http://www.thehindu.com/news/national/other-states/vvp-at-to-be-used-in-gujarat-polls/article19772329.ece>

World's Highest Road Tunnel

Question: Which country has recently built the world's highest road tunnel?

(a) Kazakhstan (b) Mongolia (c) China (d) India

Answer: (c)

Related Facts:

- In September, 2017, China opened the world's tallest highway tunnel, built in Tibet region.
- This tunnel is built on the Sichuan-Tibet (G317) highway of Chola Mountains, which connects Nagakyu of Tibet with Chengdu, the capital of Sichuan.
- This tunnel, built at the height of 4000 meter by piercing the 6168 meters high Chola Mountain above sea level.
- Its construction was completed in November, 2016.
- It was constructed by China Railway in 5 years from the amount of 1.28 billion Yuan (196, 900 USD).



Reference:

<http://en.people.cn/n3/2017/0926/c90000-9273957.html>

Crash of MI-17 V5 Helicopter

Question: Recently, near which place the Indian Air Force helicopter MI-17V5 crashed?

(a) Lohit (b) Tawang (c) Tirap (d) Chegalong

Answer: (b)

Related Facts:

- On October 6th, 2017, Indian Air Force helicopter MI-17 V5 crashed after flying on a helipad north of Tawang, Arunachal Pradesh.
- The accident took place when the helicopter was carrying an advance supply of Indian Army in the Hill Asia.
- In this accident, five air force personnel and two army officers were killed.



Reference:

<http://www.thehindu.com/news/national/iaf-chopper-crashes-in-arunachal/article19807040.ece>

Increase of ex-gratia amount to the families of martyred police personnel in Uttar Pradesh

Question: What will be the ex-gratia amount given to the kin of policemen killed on duty, after recent increment in it announced by Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister?

(a) 25 lakh (b) 30 lakh (c) 45 lakh (d) 50 lakh

Answer: (d)

Related Facts:

- On 21st October, 2017 a function was organized in the Reserve Police Line, Lucknow to commemorate Police Memorial Day.
- The Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath of Uttar Pradesh also attended the function.



- On this occasion, the Chief Minister announced to increase the ex-gratia amount given to the kin of policemen killed on duty, from Rs 20 lakh to Rs 40 lakh.
- Apart from this, he also announced the increment in the amount to be given to the parents of martyred.
- After announcement this amount will be Rs. 10 lakhs, while earlier it was Rs. 5 lakhs.
- Thus, the ex-gratia amount given to the families of martyr of policemen and their parents will reach in total to 50 lakh rupees.
- The decision to upgrade the number of Appreciation signs of DGP, by 200 to 950, for all the units of Police Department, non gazetted / gazetted officers of Fire police and PAC For the excellent and commendable service; has also been taken.
- In present Sul Khan Singh is the Director General of Police of Uttar Pradesh.

Reference:

http://information.up.nic.in/View_Hindinews.aspx?id=729

Ban on Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC)

Question: Recently, US banned the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC). This organization is related with which of the following countries?

(a) Iraq (b) Iran (c) Malaysia (d) Turkish

Answer: (b)

Related Facts:

- On October 13th, 2017, the U.S. Department of the Treasury's Office of Foreign Assets Control (OFAC) designated Iran's Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC).
- This designation (ban) is pursuant to the global terrorism Executive Order (E.O.) 13224 and consistent with the Countering America's Adversaries through Sanctions Act.



Reference:

<https://www.treasury.gov/press-center/press-releases/Pages/sm0177.aspx>

Sex with minor wife is rape

Question: Recently, the Supreme Court in an important decisions, declare that sex with minor wife will be included in the category of rap. What should be the age of the Minor wife to constitute rape?

(a) Less than 16 years (b) Less than 17 years (c) Less than 18 years (d) Less than 19 years

Answer: (c)

Related Facts:

- On October 11, 2017, the Supreme Court has pronounced a landmark verdict on social issue.
- The Court ruled that a man who has sex with his minor wife is guilty of rape.
- According to the court, if a woman under the age of 18 complains about physical connection, then it will be considered a rape even if the person making the relationship is her husband.
- The court was ruling on public interest litigation (PIL) by an NGO, Independent Thought, challenging the exception made out under provisions of the Indian Penal Code.
- In this petition, section 2 of Section -375 of the IPC has been opposed.



- According to exception -2 of this section, the sexual intercourse with the wife above 15 years is not rape.
- It is known that the minimum age for establishing physical relationships with mutual consent is 18 years but this one was an exception.
- The petition said that this section should be removed as it violates Article 14, 15, 21 of the Constitution.

Reference:

<http://www.thehindu.com/news/national/sex-with-minor-wife-is-rape-says-supreme-court/article19838085.ece>

US to sell Thaad

Question- US government recently approved to sell the Advanced Terminal High Altitude Area Defense (Thad-THAAD) missile defense system to which of the following countries?

(a) United Arab Emirates (b) Saudi Arabia (c) Kuwait (d) Afghanistan

Answer: (b)

Related Facts:

- On October 7, 2017, the US government approved Saudi Arabia to sell the Advanced Terminal High Altitude Area Defense (Thad) missile defense system.
- Saudi Arabia has agreed to buy the Thad missile from the US for US \$ 15 billion.
- This agreement has been done to improve Saudi and Gulf security against Iranian and other regional threats.



Reference:

<http://www.bbc.com/news/world-us-canada-41532889>

Ration Card for Nomadic Tribes

Question: Which of the following state government has recently made announcement to provide ration card for nomadic tribes living in different parts of the state?

(a) Odisha (b) Madhya Pradesh (c) Haryana (d) Punjab

Answer: (c)

Related facts:

- In October, 2017, Haryana Chief Minister Manohar Lal Khattar announced a ration card for nomadic tribes living in different parts of the state.

- The camps will be organized to provide ration cards to them.

This initiative will provide them identity as permanent resident.

- Apart from this, the Haryana government has announced that ration will be available from the depot, only after the biometric identification of the member registered in the ration card.



Reference:

<http://indiatoday.intoday.in/story/khattar-announces-ration-cards-for-nomadic-tribe-in-haryana/1/1066635.html>

Stree Suraksha Mobile Bilingual App

Question: Which state government recently launched a bilingual app for the protection of women- Stree Suraksha Mobile Bilingual App?

(a) Karnataka (b) Assam (c) Himachal Pradesh (d) Andhra Pradesh

Answer: (c)

Related facts:

- On October 4th, 2017, Himachal Chief Minister Virbhadra Singh launched 'Stree Suraksha Mobile bilingual App' in three districts of Kangra Division — Kangra, Chamba and Una for the safety of women in the hill area.
- He launched the app online from Shimla.
- This Stree Suraksha Mobile App, a brainchild of Divisional Commissioner Kangra, Nandita Gupta, has been developed for the safety of women.
- This is available on Android Mobile and it can be downloaded from the Google Play Store.
- In regards to Women's security the state government has recently opened a 'One Stop Center' Solan.



Reference:

<http://www.divyahimachal.com/2017/10/cm-launches-app-for-women-safety/>

e-Pragati Year

Question- Recently, which State's Chief Minister declared 2017 as e-Pragati year?

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

Answer: (b)

Related Facts:

- On September 21, 2017, Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu declared 2017 as e-Pragati Year.
- e-Pragati will be implemented in all departments of the state.
- The use of new technology will bring transparency in administration and employment opportunities will arise.
- On this occasion, the Chief Minister also inaugurated the Andhra Pradesh Sports Policy, 2017.
- The Chief Minister paid homage to the great social reformer Gurazada Apparao on the evening of 150th birth centenary.



Reference:

http://www.business-standard.com/article/news-ani/andhra-cm-naidu-declares-2017-as-e-pragati-year-117092100514_1.html

Significant decline in Infant Mortality Rate (IMR)

Question: According to recently released SRS Bulletin, there has been a significant decrease in infant mortality rate (IMR) in India. India has registered how much decline in IMR per 1000 live births in 2016?

(a) 37 (b) 38 (c) 34 (d) 40



Answer: (c)

Related Facts:

- According to the SRS Bulletin released on September 29, 2017, India has registered a significant decline in Infant Mortality Rate (IMR) in year 2016.
- IMR of India has declined by three points (8% declines), from 37 per 1000 live births in 2015 to 34 per 1000 live births in 2016, compared to two points decline last year.
- Not only this, India also recorded a major drop in birth cohort, which has for the first time come down to below 25 million.
- India has registered 90000 fewer infant deaths in 2016 as compared to 2015.
- The total number of estimated infant deaths have come down from 930000 (9.3 Lakhs) in 2015 to 840000 (8.4 lakhs) in 2016.
- According to the SRS Bulletin the gender gap in India for child survival is reducing steadily.
- The gender difference between female and male IMR has now reduced to <10%, giving a major boost to the 'Beti Bachao Beti Padhao' scheme of the Government.

Reference:

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintHindiRelease.aspx?relid=67407>

Bureau of Indian standards (BIS) Act 2016

Question: A new Bureau of Indian Standard (BIS) Act, 2016 was notified on-

- (a) 22nd March, 2016
- (b) 19th June, 2017
- (c) 17th May, 2016
- (d) 15 July, 2017

Answer: (a)

Related Facts:

- A new Bureau of Indian standards (BIS) Act 2016 which was notified on 22nd March, 2016, has been brought into force with effect from 12th October, 2017.
- The Act establishes the Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) as the National Standards Body of India.
- The Act has enabling provisions for the Government to bring under compulsory certification regime any goods or article of any scheduled industry, process, system or service which it considers necessary in the public interest or for the protection of human, animal or plant health, safety of the environment, or prevention of unfair trade practices, or national security.
- The new Act also allows multiple type of simplified conformity assessment schemes including self-declaration of conformity against a standard which will give simplified options to manufacturers to adhere to the standards and get certificate of conformity.
- The Act enables the Central Government to appoint any authority/agency, in addition to the BIS, to verify the conformity of products and services to a standard and issue certificate of conformity.
- Further, there is provision for repair or recall, including product liability of the products bearing Standard Mark but not conforming to the relevant Indian Standard.



Reference:

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=171705>

“Swachhta Hi Seva” and “Shouchalayakkagi Samara” (A Crusade for Toilets)

Question: At which of the following places Vice President M. Venkaiah Naidu inaugurate “Swachhta Hi Seva” and “Shouchalayakkagi Samara” (A Crusade for Toilets) Programme?

(a) Dharwad (b) Hubli (c) Bangalore (d) Jaipur

North- (b)

Related Facts:

- On September 26th, 2017, The Vice President, Shri M Venkaiah Naidu, today inaugurated the “Swachhta Hi Seva” and “Shouchalayakkagi Samara” (A Crusade for Toilets) Programme at Hubli, Karnataka.
- Later in Konnur Village, Naragund Taluk, Gadag District, he initiated the activity of ‘Tippe Samskarane’ (Waste Processing) and a “Shudda Kudiyuva Neerina Ghataka” (Purified Drinking Water Plant).
- On the occasion, the Vice President also honoured 13 Village Panchayat Presidents and the Naragund Taluka Panchayat President, the achievers of “Shouchalayakkagi Samara”.
- He also declared the rural areas of Naragund Taluka as an ODF block.
- It is notable that the Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi, in his recent visit to Uttar Pradesh, had appreciated the naming of a toilet as “Izzat Ghar”.



Reference:

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=171138>

OBC Creamy layer Income Limit Increased

Question: Recently, the ‘creamy layer’ ceiling for OBC reservation has been raised by Central Government to-

(a) 6 lakhs (b) 7.5 lakhs (c) 8 lakhs (d) 9 lakhs

Answer: (c)

Related Facts:

- On August 23rd, 2017, the Central Government raised the ‘creamy layer’ ceiling for OBC reservation from the existing Rs 6 lakh to 8 lakh rupees per annum.
- For the first time in 1993, the ceiling limit for the OBC category was fixed at Rs 1 lakh.
- This increase has been occurred for the fourth time.
- Earlier, it was raised thrice to Rs 2.5 lakh in 2004, Rs 4.5 lakh in 2008 and Rs 6 lakh in 2013.
- Union cabinet approved a proposal for setting up of a Commission under article 340 of the Constitution to examine the issue of sub-categorization of the Other Backward Classes (OBCs).
- The Commission shall submit its report within 12 weeks from the date of appointment of the Chairperson of the Commission.



- **The proposed terms of references of the Commission are as follows:**
 - (i) To examine the extent of inequitable distribution of benefits of reservation among the castes/ communities included in the broad category of OBCs, with reference to the OBCs included in the Central list.
 - (ii) To work out the mechanism, criteria, norms and parameters, in a scientific approach, for sub-categorization within such OBCs, and,
 - (iii) To take up the exercise of identifying the respective castes/communities/ sub-castes/ synonyms in the Central List of OBCs and classifying them into their respective sub-categories.
- It is noteworthy that Nine States of the country viz., Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, Puducherry, Karnataka, Haryana, Jharkhand, West Bengal, Bihar, Maharashtra and Tamil Nadu have already carried out sub-categorization of Other Backward Classes.

Reference:

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=170173>

World's smallest Spacecraft

Question: The name of the world's small spacecraft launched in June, 2017, is –

(a) Sprite (b) Bright (c) Kite (d) Flight

Answer- (a)

Related facts:

- On June 23, 2017, six spacecrafts of the “Breakthrough-Starshot” project were launched into low-Earth orbit.
- The world's smallest spacecraft has been named ‘Sprites’.
- These spacecraft was attached to Italy's satellite ‘Max Valier’ and Latvia's satellite Venta-1 launched by ISRO's PSLV-C38.
- Weighing only 4 grams, each spacecraft has measurement of 3.5 cm × 3.5 cm (length x width).
- Despite their small size, they are still able to pack in solar panels, computers, sensors, and radios. etc.
- Significantly, the Breakthrough Starshot program is a \$ 100 million research and engineering program announced funded by Russian billionaire Yuri Milner.
- It is notable that an ambitious, decades-long project was announced in April 2016 by Stephen Hawking and Russian physicist and venture capitalist Yuri Milner.



Reference:

<https://www.theguardian.com/science/2017/jul/28/breakthrough-starshot-successfully-launch-worlds-smallest-spacecraft>