

Website-  **edristi.in**

₹
50.00

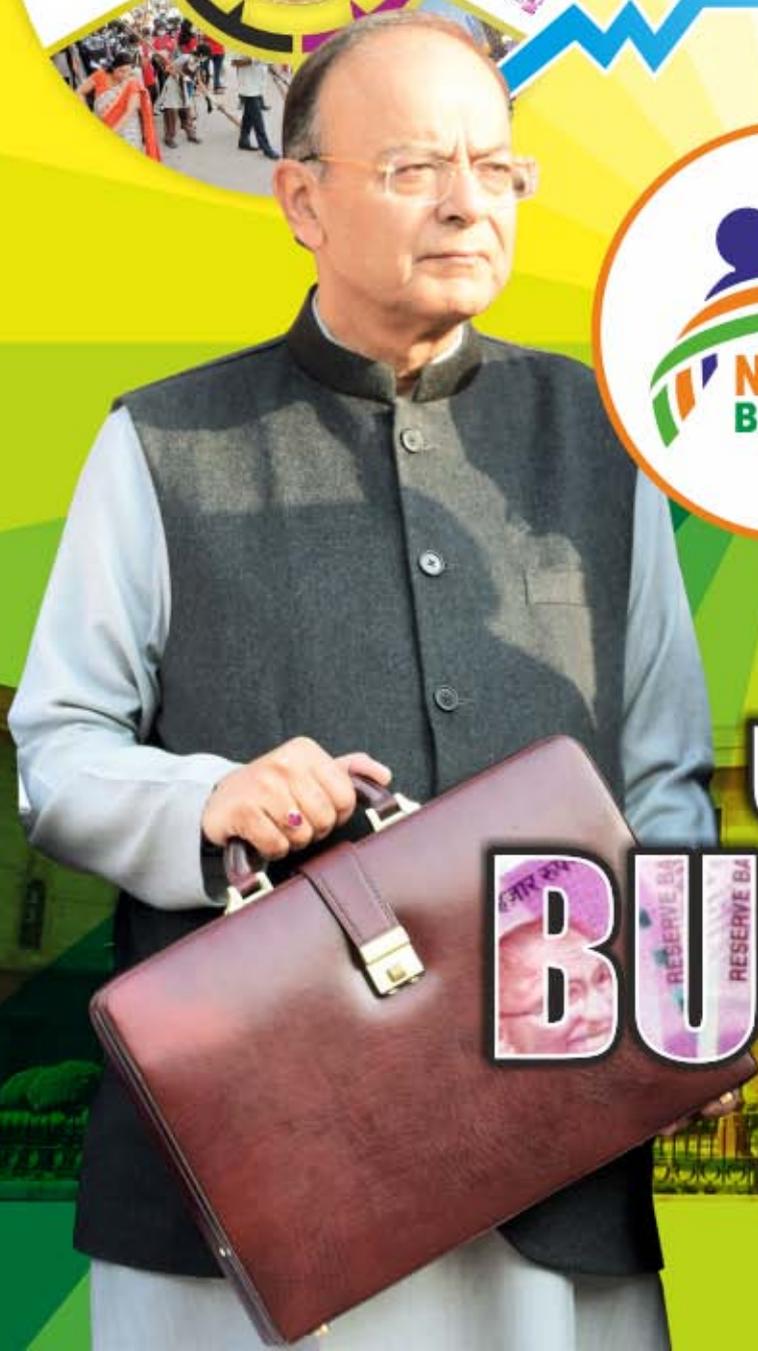
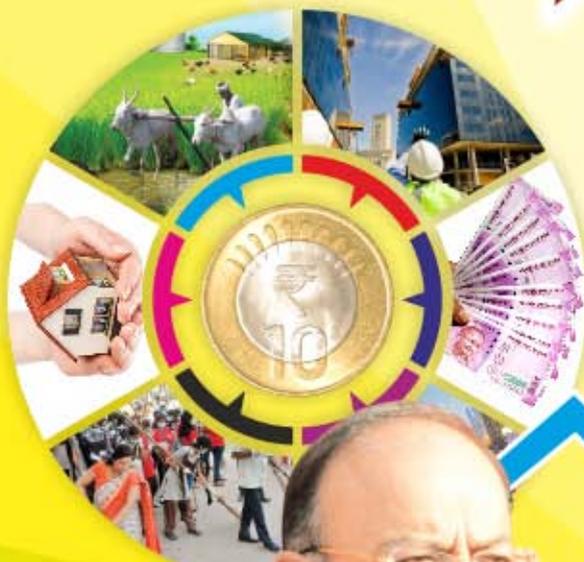
NAVATRA

Monthly Magazine on Current Events

Year - 1 >>> Issue - 6 >>> February, 2018

ECONOMIC SURVEY

2017-18



UNION BUDGET 2018-19

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 January to 31st January) 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.

Contents

Preface	1
NATIONAL	9
Central Budget, 2018-19	9
Economic Survey, 2017-18	12
Barmer Refinery Project	14
Approval for India's proposal for starting Haj pilgrimage from the sea route	15
All India Survey Report on Higher Education, 2016-17	16
Company (Revised) Act, 2017 notified by the Central Government	16
Amendment in Uttar Pradesh Building and Other Construction Workers (Planning and Service- Condition Regulation) Rules-2009	17
Indian Forests (Amendment) Bill, 2017	18
Uttar Pradesh Rice Export Promotion Scheme	18
Uttar Pradesh Electronics Manufacturing Policy-2017	19
Identification of the Aadhaar from face authentication	20
Fifth bilateral meeting between India and Malaysia	20
Negotiable Instruments (Amendment) Bill, 2017	21
NABARD (Amendment) Bill, 2017	22
Padma Awards 2018	23
Bharat Parv	24
International Dam Safety Conference	25
Announcement of the program for 2018 election for the Legislative Assemblies of Meghalaya, Nagaland and Tripura	26
Saksham-2018	26
Rashtriya Sanskriti Mahotsav-2018	27
Readiness for the Future of Production Report 2018	27
Raisina Dialogues-2018	28
65th Meeting of Central Advisory Board of Education (CABE)	29
Launching of country's first agri-commodity options	29
Incredible India Digital Calendar- 2018	30
22nd National Youth Day	31
Responsibility of social audit to Women Self-Help Groups	32

First Round Table Conference of Health Ministers held on Food Safety and Nutrition	32
ASEAN INDIA PRAVASI BHARATIYA DIVAS CEREMONY	33
22nd National Youth Festival-2018	34
Draft of the First National Register of Citizens.....	34
INTERNATIONAL	35
2018 Environmental Performance Index (EPI)	35
Global Leaders Survey	35
World Future Energy Summit.....	36
ECONOMICS	37
Natural gas rates in Uttar Pradesh	37
Launching of Savings (Taxable) Bonds, 2018	37
100th Annual Conference of the Indian Economic Association	38
Auction of FM Channels.....	38
First advance estimates of national income released	39
Electoral Bonds Scheme.....	40
Forbes released the 'Best Country for Business-2017' ranking	41
World Economic Outlook Update, January 2018	41
The Inclusive Development Index 2018.....	42
25th GST Council Meeting.....	43
SBI approves rising of long-term fund	44
SCIENTIFIC.....	44
DEFENSE/SCIENCE SHORT NOTES	44
The Country's second largest roof top Solar Power Plant	44
The Fastest Indian Supercomputer so far Unveiled	45
Approval of Purchase of Guided bomb and Barrack missiles	45
Successful test of Agni-5 missile.....	46
PSLV-C40/Cartosat-2 Series Satellite Mission	46
SPORTS.....	47
TENNIS	47
The Oracle Challenger Series, Newport Beach-2018.....	47
Australian Open 2018.....	48
Tata open 2018.....	49
Shenzhen Open, 2018.....	49
Hopmancup-2018.....	50

Sydney International Tennis Championship, 2018.....	50
CRICKET	51
Syed Mushtaq Ali T-20 Trophy, 2018.....	51
Ranji Trophy, 2017-2018.....	51
T-10 Cricket league-2017	52
Ashes series, 2017-18	53
BADMINTON	54
Indonesia Masters-2018	54
Iceland International, 2018.....	54
42nd Junior National Badminton Championship-2017	55
Premier Badminton League, 2018.....	56
BILLIARDS, SNOOKER & SQUASH	56
74th CCI Western India Open Squash Championship.....	56
Kolkata Open International Invitation Snooker Championship, 2018.....	57
GOLF	57
2018 Hero WPGT	57
SPORTS MISCELLANEOUS	58
Change in Test Cricket Rules	58
IPL 2018: Auction of Players.....	58
Samba de Ouro Trophy- 2017	59
Hockey World Cup umpire Panel	60
Woman Power Cup Handball Super League, 2018.....	60
North Korea will send delegation to Winter Olympic Games.....	61
SPORTS PERSONALITY.....	61
Election of Representative for women boxers.....	61
Harry Kane breaks 22-year-old record.....	62
Indian cricketer left behind Brian Lara in the all-time Test rankings list	62
Ricky Ponting	63
Two Indian umpires in the ICC Panel of Under-19 World Cup	63
Brazilian footballer retire from international football.....	64
SHORT NOTES.....	64
PERSONALITIES.....	64
T. Krishna Kumari.....	64
Ursula K. Le Guin	65

Ajay Singh.....	65
New Economic adviser to the Uttar Pradesh Government.....	65
S.R. Mardi.....	66
Shashikant Bhagwat.....	66
Carrie Gracie.....	66
AR Rahman.....	67
T. S. Tirumurti.....	67
Rajesh Ranjan.....	68
Anwar Jalalpur.....	68
New Chairman of WBCSD.....	68
Prof. M.V. Pylee.....	69
PETA's 'Person of the Year'.....	69
New Director General of the Narcotic Control Bureau (NCB).....	70
Ashok Kumar Mattoo.....	70
M. Subbarayudu.....	70
Anandiben Patel.....	71
Sukhchain Singh Cheema.....	71
Banwari Lal Joshi.....	72
New Election Commissioner.....	72
Rajiv Bindal.....	72
Vasant Davkhare.....	73
Chandi Lahiri.....	73
Kashinath.....	73
Narayan Sadashiv Pharande.....	74
Doorstep Delivery.....	74
Raghunath Jha.....	75
Pt Buddhadev Dasgupta.....	75
Nand Kishore Trikha.....	76
T.V. Rajeshwar.....	76
New Head of IOA Finance Commission.....	76
Doodhnath Singh.....	77
New chairman of ISRO.....	77
New MD and CEO of NPCI.....	78
Peter Sutherland.....	78

New DGP of Uttar Pradesh.....	79
Vineet Chaudhary	79
N C Goyal.....	79
New Director of SFIO	80
PLACES	80
Proposal for creation of Development Block Sahason and Shringverepur Dham.....	80
Matunga Railway Station Enters the Limca Book of Records, 2018.....	80
Bihar gets approval to play in National Cricket	81
Oldest Buddhist stele.....	81
Majuli Island.....	82
India's first Coal-to-Gas Conversion Plant.....	83
South Australia's largest solar thermal power plant	83
Violence during food looting.....	84
6th Open Defecation Free State of the Country	84
AWARDS & HONORS.....	84
13th Navlekhan Award, 2017.....	84
Gallantry Awards 2018	85
Prime Minister's Shram Award for 2016	85
26th GD Birla Award for Scientific Research for the year 2016	86
ICC awards-2017.....	87
Crystal Award	88
75th Golden Globe Award-2018.....	89
OPERATIONS & CAMPAIGN	89
Operation Sahayam	89
COMMISSION & COMMITTEE	90
SIT constituted to investigate anti-Sikh riots	90
PLANNING & PROJECT	90
CCEA grant its approval to continue to MPLADS ahead of 12th Plan.....	90
New sugar mills and Co-generation Plant in UP.....	91
Chief Minister Samagra Gram Vikas Yojna.....	92
Uttar Pradesh Metro Rail Corporation	93
Span Bridges in Rajasthan.....	93
Bhavantar Bharpayee scheme.....	94
Jammu & Kashmir Student's Exchange Programme	95

Intermodal Terminal in Uttar Pradesh.....	96
TREATY & AGREEMENTS	97
Agreement between India-Italy	97
Agreement between Rajasthan Police and SBI	97
Agreement between India and America	98
Signing of Financing agreement for STRIVE Project	99
Agreement between Konkan Railway, IIT Bombay	99
Agreement between Meghalaya government and IOA.....	100
Agreement between India and Transport for London.....	100
Agreement between India and Belgium	101
American tax treaty signed by Infosys.....	102
Agreement between India and Canada	102
Agreement between India and Sri Lanka.....	103
Agreement between Punjab National Bank and NSFDC.....	103
CONFERENCE.....	104
First North Indian Science Congress-2018.....	104
International Conference on 'Inclusion of Persons with Disabilities in the Election Process'	105
International Military Cooperation Departments meeting of SCO	106
3rd meeting of the Council for Trade Development and Promotion	106
10th Global Forum for Food and Agriculture.....	106
National Congress on Cervical Cancer	107
International Workshop on Disaster Resilient Infrastructure (IWDRI).....	107
Economic Democracy Conclave.....	108
24th Conference of Speakers of the Commonwealth	108
International Dharma-Dhamma Conference	108
Fourth ASEAN-India Ministerial Meeting on Agriculture and Forestry	109
18th All India Whips' Conference	109
All India DGP / IG Conference-2018	110
ASSOCIATIONS & ORGANIZATIONS.....	110
Eagle International Institute Acquired.....	110
Bharti Airtel Millicom Agreement	111
Acquisition of Foodpanda	111
Tungabhadra Steel Products Limited.....	112
LAW & JUSTICE.....	112

The National Capital Territory of Delhi Laws (Special Provisions) Second (Amendment) Bill, 2017....	112
Uttar Pradesh person with disabilities regulation, 2017	113
Voluntary to Play National Anthem in Cinemas	114
YEAR, DAY & WEEK	114
World Leprosy Day	114
World Hindi Day	115
Telecommunication Inter-Connection Regulation, 2018 released by the TRAI	115
National Consumer Day	116
National Mathematics Day	116
National Voters' Day	117
NATIONAL GIRL CHILD DAY	117
World Braille Day	118
70th Indian Army Day	118
National Youth Day	119
BOOKS.....	119
Election Atlas of India	119
MISCELLANEOUS	120
Exchange of list of nuclear installations between India and Pakistan	120
Heritage Cabinet	120
Approval to include Sanskrit in the syllabus Madrassa	121
Ban on Iranian Companies	121
Vijayawada Book Festival.....	122
Oxford's first Hindi word of the year – 2017	122
End of Haj subsidy	123
Mera Hoardings app	123
Virtual ID	123
Tropical cyclone in Madagascar	124

NATIONAL

Central Budget, 2018-19

Question- Consider the following statements in regards to the Central Budget, 2018-19 presented on February 1st, 2017-

- (i) Fiscal Deficit pegged at 3.5 % for year 2017-2018, projected at 3.3 % for 2018-19.
- (ii) Proposal Tribal students to get Ekalavya Residential School in each tribal block by 2019.
- (iii) Proposal to change the name of Central Board of Trade and Customs (CBEC) to central indirect tax and customs board.
- (iv) Institutional Farm Credit raised to 11 lakh crore in 2018-19 from 8.5 lakh crore in 2014-15.

Which of the aforesaid statements is/are correct?

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

Answer- (a)

related Facts:

- On February 1st, 2018, Union Finance Minister Arun Jaitley presented the Union Budget for the year 2018-19.
- **The Important points of budget 2018-19 are as follows:**
- Budget guided by mission to strengthen agriculture, rural development, health, education, employment, MSME and infrastructure sectors.
- The Finance Minister has announced several new schemes and measures, mentioning the commitment of the government to double the income of the farmers till 2022.
- Through this budget a series of structural reforms will propel India among the fastest growing economies of the world. Country firmly on course to achieve over 8 % growth as manufacturing, services and exports back on good growth path.
- MSP for all unannounced kharif crops will be one and half times of their production cost like majority of rabi crops: Institutional Farm Credit raised to 11 lakh crore in 2018-19 from 8.5 lakh crore in 2014-15.
- 22,000 rural haats to be developed and upgraded into Gramin Agricultural Markets to protect the interests of 86% small and marginal farmers.
- "Operation Greens" launched to address price fluctuations in potato, tomato and onion for benefit of farmers and consumers.
- Two New Funds of Rs1 57500,000 crore announced for Fisheries and Animal Husbandry sectors; Re-structured National Bamboo Mission gets Rs.1290 crore.
- Loans to Women Self Help Groups will increase to Rs.75, 000 crore in 2019 from 42,500 crore last year.



- Higher targets for Ujjwala, Saubhagya and Swachh Mission to cater to lower and middle class in providing free LPG connections, electricity and toilets.
- Outlay on health, education and social protection will be 1.38 lakh crore.
- Tribal students to get Ekalavya Residential School in each tribal block by 2022.
- World's largest Health Protection Scheme covering over 10 crore poor and vulnerable families launched with a family limit up to 5 lakh rupees for secondary and tertiary treatment.
- Fiscal Deficit pegged at 3.5 % for 2017-2018, projected at 3.3 % for 2018-19.
- Central Government TB During the period of their treatment, all patients suffering from Rs. 500 per month have been given an additional amount of Rs. 600 crores for providing nutrition assistance.
- Proposal to establish of 24 new government medical colleges and hospitals by upgrading existing district hospitals in the country.
- This is to ensure at least one medical college and at least one government medical college in every state of the country for every 3 parliamentary areas.
- For the year 2018-19, a target of `3 lakh crore has been set under 'Money Scheme'. Central government will contribute 12 percent of the salaries of new employees in EPF for all sectors for next 3 years.
- Proposal of expenditure of 7148 crores in textile sector year 2018-19.
- Proposal for allocation of Rs 5.97 lakh crore on infrastructure in the year 2018-19. Railway expenditure of Rs. 1, 48,528 crore has been fixed for 2018-19.
- 4,000 km during the year 2017-18 has started the electric railway network.
- 11 thousand crore with the cost of 90 km of local railway network in Mumbai Until long lines will be doubled.
- Apart from an additional 150 km at the cost of 40 thousand crores the suburban rail network is being planned.
- 5.97 lakh crore allocations have been made for infrastructure.
- NITI Aayog to initiate a national programme on Artificial Intelligence (AI)
- Centres of excellence to be set up on robotics, AI, Internet of things etc
- Disinvestment crossed target of Rs 72,500 crore to reach Rs 1, 00,000 crore
- 100 percent deduction proposed to companies registered as Farmer Producer Companies with an annual turnover up to Rs. 100 crore on profit derived from such activities, for five years from 2018-19.
- Deduction of 30 percent on emoluments paid to new employees Under Section 80-JJAA to be relaxed to 150 days for footwear and leather industry, to create more employment.
- No adjustment in respect of transactions in immovable property where Circle Rate value does not exceed 5 percent of consideration.
- Proposal to extend reduced rate of 25 percent currently available for companies with turnover of less than 50 crore (in Financial Year 2015-16), to companies reporting

turnover up to Rs. 250 crore in Financial Year 2016-17, to benefit micro, small and medium enterprises.

- Standard Deduction of Rs. 40,000 in place of present exemption for transport allowance and reimbursement of miscellaneous medical expenses. 2.5 crore salaried employees and pensioners to benefit.
- In the Public sector, three insurance companies, National Insurance Company Ltd., United India Assurance Company Ltd. and Oriental India Insurance Company Ltd. will be merged to form an insurance company.
- In Budget the President's salary has been proposed to be 5 lakh rupees, Vice President's salary of 4 lakh rupees and Governor's salary of 3.5 lakh rupees per month.
- 150 crore rupees have been allocated in the budget for the various programs being organized on the occasion of 150th birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi.
- Exemption of interest income on deposits with banks and post offices to be increased from Rs. 10,000 to Rs. 50,000.
- TDS not required to be deducted under section 194A.
- Benefit also available for interest from all fixed deposit schemes and recurring deposit schemes.
- Hike in deduction limit for health insurance premium and/ or medical expenditure from Rs. 30,000 to Rs. 50,000 under section 80D.
- Increase in deduction limit for medical expenditure for certain critical illness from Rs. 60,000 (in case of senior citizens) and from Rs. 80,000 (in case of very senior citizens) to Rs. 1 lakh for all senior citizens, under section 80DDB.
- Proposal to extend Pradhan Mantri Vaya Vandana Yojana up to March, 2020.
- Current investment limit proposed to be increased to Rs. 15 lakh from the existing limit of Rs. 7.5 lakh per senior citizen.
- In view of the possibility of export of agricultural products, proposal for setting up of state-of-the-art testing facilities in 42 mega food parks.
- Haryana, Punjab, Uttar Pradesh and NCR (National Capital Region) (NCR) announced a special plan to support the government's efforts to tackle the problem of pollution in Delhi.
- More concessions for International Financial Services Centre (IFSC), to promote trade in stock exchanges located in IFSC.
- To control cash economy, payments exceeding Rs. 10,000 in cash made by trusts and institutions to be disallowed and would be subject to tax.
- Tax on Long Term Capital Gains exceeding Rs. 1 lakh at the rate of 10 percent, without allowing any indexation benefit. However, all gains up to 31st January, 2018 will be grandfathered.
- Proposal to introduce tax on distributed income by equity oriented mutual funds at the rate of 10 percent.

- Proposal to increase cess on personal income tax and corporation tax to 4 percent from present 3 percent.

Reference:

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=176063>

<http://pibphoto.nic.in/documents/rlink/2018/feb/p20182101.pdf>

Economic Survey, 2017-18

Question: According to the Economic Survey, 2017-18 presented in Parliament on January 29, 2018, what percentage of growth rate is estimated to be of GDP growth rate for year 2017-18?

- (a) 7.5 percent (b) 6.5 percent (c) 8.0 percent (d) 6.75 percent

Answer: (d)

Related Facts:

- On January 29th, 2018, Union Finance and Corporate Affairs Minister Arun Jaitley presented 'Economic Survey- 2017-18' on the table of Parliament.
- The main point of Economic Survey, 2017-18-
- It is estimated that the growth rate of real gross domestic product (GDP) will remain 6.75 percent in 2017-18.
- GDP is estimated to be 7 to 7.5 percent in the coming fiscal year 2018-19.
- As per the first Advance Estimates (1st AE), released by Central Statistics Office (CSO), growth rate of Gross Value of Added (GVA) at constant basic prices is estimated at 6.1 per cent in 2017-18, as compared to 6.6 per cent in 2016-17.
- Similarly 'Agriculture & allied', and 'Industry' sector, are expected to grow at 2.1 per cent and 4.4 per cent respectively.
- In 2017-18, service sector is expected to grow at 8.3 per cent, as compared to 7.7 per cent in 2016-17.
- During the year 2017-18, the average inflation rate remained at the lowest in the last 6 years.
- Headline inflation as per Consumer Price Index – Combined (CPI-C) declined to 3.3 per cent in 2017-18.
- India remained the eighth largest exporter of commercial services in the world in 2016 (WTO, 2017) with a share of 3.4 per cent.
- This is double the share of India's merchandise exports in the world.
- India's services export growth returned to positive territory with 5.7 per cent growth in 2016-17 from growth of (-) 2.4 per cent in 2015-16.
- Services exports recorded a robust growth of 16.2 per cent during April-September 2017.

(Figures in Crores)	2017-18 Actual	2016-17 Revised Estimate	2015-16 Budget	2014-15 Budget
Revenue Receipts	11,80,825	11,77,822	14,23,862	15,12,771
Capital Receipts	8,85,740	8,87,838	5,85,845	4,20,964
Total Receipts	20,66,565	20,65,660	20,14,407	19,33,735
Other Expenditure	7,25,714	8,81,988	8,89,647	8,45,078
Expenditure on other than interest	19,40,880	1,17,889	11,44,593	12,01,607
Total Expenditure	17,16,694	18,99,877	20,14,407	20,46,732
Revenue Surplus	3,42,779	3,54,871	5,10,888	5,21,143
Financial Deficit	5,52,791	1,93,994	5,34,274	5,48,593
Physical Deficit	81,182	41,234	93,289	33,484

- India's service sector imports also exhibited a much higher growth of 17.4 per cent in April-September 2017.
- Net services receipts rose by 14.6 per cent during April-September of 2017-18 as compared to H1 of 2016-17.
- The Industrial Production Index (IIP), which is a volume index with base year, has shown an increase of 3.2% in the industrial production during the period April-November in year 2017-18.
- In November 2017, the IIP registered a growth of 8.4 per cent to take the April-November growth to 3.2 per cent over the corresponding period of previous year.
- The eight Core infrastructure supportive industries, viz. coal, crude oil, natural gas, petroleum refinery products, fertilizers, steel, cement and electricity that have a total weight of nearly 40 per cent in the IIP.
- All these infrastructure attained a cumulative growth of 3.9 per cent during April-November 2017- 18 over the corresponding period of previous year.
- The production growth of coal, natural gas, refinery products, steel, cement and electricity were positive
- Steel production has seen a significant increase while crude oil and fertilizer production recorded a slight decline during this period.
- Total foreign direct investment inflows increased by 8 percent, i.e., to 60.08 billion dollars during the year 2016-17, compared to 55.56 billion dollars in the previous year.
- In the year 2017-18 (April-September), the total FDI inflow was \$ 33.75 billion.
- By the end of September, 2017, the total number of mobile connections in India was 1207.04 million, of these 501.99 million were in rural areas and 705.05 million in urban areas.
- 2017-18 (April-September) the number of domestic air travelers in the country was 57.5 million.
- These recorded an increase of 16 percent compared to the same period last year.
- Describing the achievements of the energy sector Survey, the energy capacity of India has increased to 3, 30,860.6 MW by November 2017.
- During the year 2017-18 (April-October), FDI equity inflows in service sector increased by 15.0 percent.
- In the first eight months of the GST of July 1, 2017, the number of indirect tax payers increased by 50 percent.
- The increase in the direct tax collection of center has been consistent with the previous year and is expected to meet its target of 13.7 percent, while indirect taxes increased by 18.3 percent during April-November, 2017.
- India's share of 70 percent of Maharashtra, Gujarat, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu and Telangana.
- India's internal business share in the field of goods and services is 60 percent of GDP.

- Total food grain production was 275.7 million tones (fourth advance estimate) during the year 2016-17.
- According to the budget estimate 2017-18 Fiscal deficit is 3.2 percent of the gross domestic product.
- The country's foreign exchange reserves reached \$ 409.4 billion by December 2017, while it was \$ 370.3 billion in 2016-17.
- 12 January 2018, the total foreign exchange reserves went up to 413.8 billion dollars.
- As a proportion of the GDP, the expenditure on social services by the Central and the States was being made in the period of 2012-13 to 2014-15 in the range of 6 per cent.
- Expenditure on social services is 6.6 percent in the year 2017-18 (budget estimate).

Reference:

<http://mofapp.nic.in:8080/economicsurvey/Volume-I/Hindi-Volume-1-Combined.pdf>

Barmer Refinery Project

Question: What one is not true about the Barmer refinery project?

- (a) This project will be set up in Pachpadra, Rajasthan.
- (b) The cost amount of this project will be Rs. 43,129 crores.
- (c) The goal of conclusion of engineering has been kept for 5 years.
- (d) The capacity of this refinery (BS-6) will be 9 MMTPA.

Answer: (c)

Related facts:

- On January 9th, 2018; according to a press release published by the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas, Prime Minister Narendra Modi will launch the project work of Barmer Refinery in Pachpadra, Rajasthan on January 16th, 2018.
- The cost of this project will be Rs 43,129 crore.
- The goal of engineering conclusion has been kept 4 years.
- The capacity of this refinery will be 9 MMTPA.
- The equity shares of Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited (HPCL) in the refinery will be 74 per cent and Rajasthan's equity share will be 26 per cent.
- An interest free loan of Rs.1123 crore per annum for 15 years and the target of repayment of loan for the next 15 years from 16th year is fixed.
- The new refinery will produce updated BS-6 fuel.
- During the construction period, indirectly 40,000 jobs and 1000 direct employment opportunities will be created.
- This will improve in the field of social uplift, the skill development and the ability to earn education and improve the quality of life.
- In the field of economic development, it will set up other industries and subsidiary industries based on petrochemicals.
- Infrastructure like road and communication networks, schools and colleges and medical, health and service industries will be developed.
- It is known that in 2013 this project was approved by the Government of India.



- The then Congress President Sonia Gandhi laid its foundation stone in Pachpadra in Barmer on September 22, 2013 (before commencement of the code of conduct from September 27, 2013).
- Earlier, the IRR of the project was 6.32 percent, which is now 12.2 percent.
- Due to this, the financial burden on the state government has come down from Rs 56,040 crore to Rs 16,845 crore.
- This has saved the state government nearly Rs 40,000 crore.
- In lieu of land cost of 188.80 crores, the Government of India has been given equity in this project.
- For undertaking project work all necessary permissions / approvals have been obtained from the Government of India for revised project and environmental permission from the Ministry of Environment and Forests.
- 32 acres land has been acquired for the refinery plant and 250 acres for marketing terminal in Pachpadra (Barmer).
- It is worth mentioning that this will be the first BS-6 fuel refinery in the country.

Reference:

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=175491>

<http://www.thehindubusinessline.com/news/pm-to-commence-barmer-refinery-project-next-week-pradhan/article10022620.ece>

Approval for India's proposal for starting Haj pilgrimage from the sea route

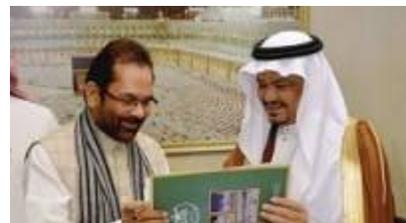
Question: Which of the following countries recently approved India's proposal to start the Haj pilgrimage route by sea?

- (a) United Arab Emirates (b) Bahrain (c) Saudi Arabia
(d) Kuwait

Answer: (c)

Related Facts:

- On January 8th, 2018, Saudi Arabia approved India's proposal for starting Haj pilgrimage from the sea route.
- Minority Affairs Minister Mukhtar Abbas Naqvi signed the bilateral annual Haj Agreement with Saudi Arabia's Haj and Umrah Minister Mohammad Saleh bin Tahir Benton, in Makkah on 2018.
- According to Minister of Minority Affairs this service will start soon.
- For the first time since this year, Muslim women will be able to go to Hajj Mehram or without male partner.
- The transport and lodging arrangements have been made for these women separately.
- Women Haj assistants will be appointed to assist these women.
- In the year 1995, the Haj pilgrimage was closed by the sea route between Mumbai and Jadhah.



Reference:

<http://www.pib.nic.in/PressReleseDetail.aspx?PRID=1515940>

All India Survey Report on Higher Education, 2016-17

Question: Which of the following Indian state has topped the Higher Education nomination in recently released All India Survey, 2016-17 on Higher Education?

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

Answer: (c)

Related Facts::

- On January 5th, 2018, 'All India Survey, 2016-17 Report' on Higher Education was released.
- This report was released by the Ministry of Human Resource Development.
- In the report, Gross Enrolment Ratio of Tamil Nadu is 46.9 percent.
- This is the highest among the Indian states.
- Chandigarh, in the category of the Union Territories, registered GER of 56.1 percent.
- Tamilnadu has also performed better in terms of male and female GER data.
- Also, GER figures of its Scheduled Castes are also better
- GER of Bihar, Assam, West Bengal and Odisha are low.
- Which are 14.4 percent, 17.2 percent, 18.5 percent and 21 percent, respectively.
- In this context, Uttar Pradesh has moderately better performance.
- Its GIR was close to the national average (24.9%).
- GER is calculated in reference to the age group of 18-23 years.
- That is, it shows the gross enrollment ratio of the age group 18-23 years in the given school year.
- Tamil Nadu's Women's 'Gross Enrollment Ratio' (GER) was 45.6 percent.
- In this context, it is at the third place after union territories of Chandigarh and Delhi.
- In the case of male GER, Tamil Nadu is at the top of the list of all states and union territories with 48.2 percent.
- After this there are Union Territories like Chandigarh and Delhi.
- Tamil Nadu is at the top of all the major states with reference to GER of Scheduled Castes with 38.3 percent.
- All India GER has increased from 23 percent in 2013-2014 to 25.2 percent in current (2016-17).
- Government is hopeful of up to 30% of all India GER till 2022
- Total enrollment of students in the year 2016-17 is 35.7 million in entire India.
- There were 19 million males and 16.7 million females.

Reference:

<http://pibphoto.nic.in/documents/rlink/2018/jan/p20181501.pdf>



Company (Revised) Act, 2017 notified by the Central Government

Question: According to which section of the Company Act, 2013, there has been a ban on issuance of shares on the exemption?

(a) Article 54 (b) Article 53 (c) Article 197 (d) Article 247

Answer: (b)

Related facts:



- The company (Amendment) Act, 2017 (Amendment Act) was enacted by the Central Government on January 3rd, 2018.
- The provisions of this Act shall be effective from the date of the determination of notification in the Official Gazette by the Government.
- Some provisions of this amended Act will have a significant effect on the functioning of bankruptcy and bankruptcy code, 2016 (Code).
- As per Article 53 of the Companies Act, 2013, there has been a ban on issuance of shares on the exemption.
- Under the amended act, now the companies can provide shares to the lender on the exemption when converted loan will be converted into a debt restructuring plan or under any constitutional proposal under contract.
- Under Article 197 of the Companies Act, 2013, the company will have to get its permission in the General Body on payment of managerial salary of more than 11 percent of the gross profit.
- According to the amended act company will have to get their approval before paying such type of managerial salary on payment of a mistake in payment to a bank or a public financial institution or non-convertible debenture holder or other secured lenders.
- It is known that this approval has to be taken before the General Assembly.
- The assesses of the value registered under Article 247 of the Companies Act, 2013 has been banned from assessing any direct or indirect interest property or assessment of asset during assessment or assessment of property after assessment.
- In the revised act, the Registered Value Assessor has now been banned from assessing the assets of interest, directly or indirectly, three years before his appointment, or three years after the assessment of the property.

Reference:

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=175458>

Amendment in Uttar Pradesh Building and Other Construction Workers (Planning and Service-Condition Regulation) Rules-2009

Question: UP Building and other Construction Workers (Employment and Service-Condition Regulation) (Second Amendment) Rules, 2017 proposed which of the following decrement in the period of contribution, from 5 years as provided under rule 281 of original regulation,2009?

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

Answer: (a)

Related Facts:

- On January 2nd, 2018, Uttar Pradesh Cabinet approved the amendment to the Uttar Pradesh Building and other Construction Workers (Planning and Service-Condition Regulation) Rules-2009 for providing easy access of financial aid to the registered construction workers for the construction of home.
- The period of contribution of workers in rule 281 of the Basic Rules, 2009 has been reduced through the Uttar Pradesh Building and other construction workers (Planning and Service condition Regulation) (Second Amendment) Rules, 2017.
- Under this, the period of contribution of workers has been reduced from minimum five years to one year.



- This will enable more workers to avail the benefits of financial assistance for housing construction / purchase.
- In view of limited manpower in the labor department, ensuring transparency and objectivity in the survey, and in view of massive cess liability construction, it was decided to conduct GIS survey to mark such constructions by the UP Building and other Construction Workers Welfare Board.
- The approach to making more clear arrangements in these rules amendment has been done in Rule 283 of the Basic Rules, 2009, through the Building and Other Construction Workers (Planning and Service-Condition Regulation) (Third Amendment) Rules, 2017.
- To assess the amount of equipment through the said amendment, for marking such constructions. GIS or any other modern technique has been arranged to conduct surveys and cover by the rules.

Reference:

http://information.up.nic.in/View_Hindinews.aspx?id=884

Indian Forests (Amendment) Bill, 2017

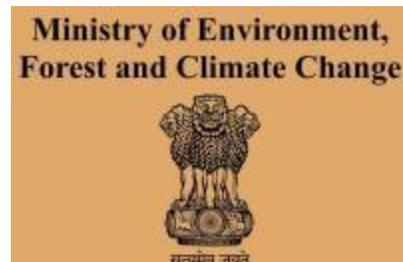
Question: The purpose of the Indian Forests (Amendment) Bill, 2017, is to amend the Act?

- (a) Indian Forest Act, 1927 (b) Indian Forest Act, 1956
 (c) Indian Forest Act, 1982 (d) Indian Forest Act, 1986

Answer: (a)

Related Facts:

- On December 27th, 2017 Parliament passed the Indian Forest (Amendment) Bill, 2017.
- This bill was introduced in the Lok Sabha on December 18, 2017 by Minister of Environment, Forest and Climate Change Dr. Harshvardhan.
- The purpose of this Bill is to amend the Indian Forest Act, 1927.
- This Act consolidates legislation related to transsection of forest products from one place to another and duty collected on them.
- In this Act, palm, bamboo, Duth, Shrub and cane incorporated in the definition of tree.
- Since the bamboo is included in definition of tree under in the act, therefore it requires getting permission to move it from one state to another.
- After amendment in this Act, there will be no need to seek permission for cutting and transporting bamboo growing in non-forest areas and for its economic use.
- It is known that according to the classification of botany, bamboo comes in the category of grass.



Reference:

<http://www.prsindia.org/billtrack/the-indian-forest-amendment-bill-2017-5001/>

Uttar Pradesh Rice Export Promotion Scheme

Question: Which of the following is not true in regards to of Uttar Pradesh Rice Export Promotion Scheme?

- (a) This plan will be applicable from 7th November, 2017 to 6th November, 2022.
 (b) Exemption on Mandi Fee and Development Cess will be provided to direct and indirect

exporters under the scheme.

(c) Minimum standard of rice recovery from rice has been kept at 40% to prove the export obligation of Basmati rice.

(d) In order to prove the export obligation in terms of non-basmati rice exports, the minimum standard for rice recovery has been fixed at 50 percent.

Answer: (c)

Related Facts:

- On December 13th, 2017; in the meeting of the Uttar Pradesh Cabinet, it was decided to implement Uttar Pradesh Rice Export Promotion Scheme for the next five years (2017-2022).
- This scheme will be applicable from November 7th, 2017 to November 6th, 2022.
- Under the scheme, the discount on market fee and development cess will be given to direct and indirect exporters.
- To prove the export obligation of Basmati rice, the minimum standard of rice recovery from paddy has been kept at 45 percent.
- To prove the export obligation in terms of non-basmati rice exports, the minimum standard of rice recovery has been fixed at 50 percent.
- Direct exporters will be recognized by the registration done in APEDA (Organization of Government of India), they will not have to register separately in the state.
- Indirect exporters will have to register as per the procedure prescribed by the government.
- If the purchaser directly purchases from the farmer or from a farmer producer, then he is entitled to 2.5 percent discount and purchases through the grocers, then 2 percent discount is offered.



Reference:

http://information.up.nic.in/View_Hindinews.aspx?id=836

Uttar Pradesh Electronics Manufacturing Policy-2017

Question: Under Uttar Pradesh Electronics Manufacturing Policy, 2017; the goal of attraction of what amount of investment has been set in the E-S.S.D.M sector?

(a) 10,000 crores (b) 15,000 crores (c) 20,000 crores (d) 22, 000 crores

Answer: (c)

Related Facts:

- On December 5th, 2017, Uttar Pradesh Cabinet approved the 'Uttar Pradesh Electronics Manufacturing Policy, 2017'.
- Under this policy, the decision was taken by the State Cabinet to declare the whole Noida, Greater Noida and Yamuna Expressway Industrial Development Authority area as 'Electronics Manufacturing Zone' for establishment of units of prestigious electronics sector of the country and abroad.
- Apart from this, a decision has also been taken to encourage financial incentives to set up Electronic System Design and Manufacturing (ESDM) parks in the private sector.



- As per the 'Uttar Pradesh Electronics Manufacturing Policy', other promotions, such as capital and interest subsidy, tax reimbursement, stamp duty exemption and exemption in the value of land are acceptable except incentives provided by the Government of India like other states.
- Under this policy, electronics units will also be allowed 3.0+ 1.0 (purchable) floor area ratio and welfare facilities such as dormitories, canteen and dispensaries etc. for the workers.
- According to the requirement of units of Electronic Sector to be set up in Electronic Manufacturing Zone in the state, provision of reimbursement of training fee for the training of higher skill in the country and abroad has been made to the native residents of Uttar Pradesh.
- These training include Embed System design, VLSI Design, PCB Design and Manufacturing, Chip Manufacturing, T.F.T. Manufacturing, and so on.
- The goal of this policy is to achieve E.S.D.M. To attract investment of Rs.20,000 crores in the area and to create employment for minimum 300,000 persons by 2022.

Reference:

http://information.up.nic.in/View_Hindinews.aspx?id=836

Identification of the Aadhaar from face authentication

Question: From which date, the Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI) has decided to ensure identification of Aadhaar Card holder through Face Authentication (face recognition) technique?

- (a) 1 March, 2018 (b) 1 April, 2018 (c) 1 May, 2018
(d) 1 July, 2018

Answer: (d)

Related Facts:

- From July 1, 2018, the Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI) has decided to ensure identification of the Aadhaar Card holder through Facial Authentication (Face recognition) technology.
- According to the UIDAI, it is to be used only in combination with existing options of biometric authentication such as fingerprint or iris scan.
- Apart from the elderly, fingerprint or iris is not clear from some others, so there is a problem in their identification.
- Such a technique will be used mainly to help them in such a situation.
- India is that UIDAI has recently implemented virtual identification for security and privacy of Aadhaar numbers.



Reference:

<http://www.bgr.in/news/uidai-to-introduce-face-authentication-for-aadhaar-from-july-1-2018/>

Fifth bilateral meeting between India and Malaysia

Question- Where did the fifth bilateral meeting between India and Malaysia be held recently to cooperate in traditional medicine systems?

- (a) Ipoh (b) Penang (c) New Delhi (d) Mumbai



Answer: (c)

Related Facts:

- On January 10th, 2018, 5th Bilateral Technical Meeting on cooperation in the field of Traditional Systems of Medicine between Govt. of India and Malaysia was held at New Delhi.
- This meeting was a part of agreement signed between both countries in 2010.
- The Meeting was presided by Sh. Pramod Kumar Pathak, Joint Secretary, Ministry of AYUSH from Indian side and Deputy Director General Health (Medical), Ministry of Health Malaysia.
- **The Meeting had discussed the following agenda:-**
 - (a) Establishment of Ayurveda Chair in University of UTAR, Malaysia
 - (b) Professional training in Panchakarma therapy for Malaysian experts in India
 - (c) The evaluation of safety and efficacy of combination Ayurvedic/ traditional products for clinical trials.
 - (d) Safety evaluation of Ayurvedic products based on Good Laboratory Practices (GLP)
 - (e) Bilateral MoU between National Medicinal Plants Board (NMPB), Ministry of AYUSH and Malaysia for Cooperation in the field of Medicinal Plants.
 - (f) Registration of Homeopathic Practitioner and their capacity building module in Malaysia.
- In the meeting, the Malaysian side gave information about the recent development in the field of traditional medicine in their country.
- Traditional and Supportive Medicine Council has been formed in Malaysia to conduct various activities related to traditional systems.
- Malaysian side showed interest in Indian medicine and Panchkarma method
- AYUSH Ministry underlined issues related to registration of AYUSH doctors and products in Malaysia.
- In the meeting, the Malaysian side was informed that there is a strong system of regulation in the country for AYUSH products, practices and providers that can be shared with the Malaysian side for reference purposes.

Reference:

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=175526>

Negotiable Instruments (Amendment) Bill, 2017

Question- On January 2nd, 2018, the Central Government introduced the Negotiable Instruments (Amendment) Bill, 2017 in Lok Sabha. Consider the following statements related to this:

- (i) The proposed bill provides for the removal of unnecessary delays in disposal of check bounce case.
- (ii) According to the proposed bill, the concerned court can issue an order to interim compensation to the complainant from the issuer of check.
- (iii) The amount of check issued in the interim compensation amount cannot exceed 30 percent.

Which of the above mentioned statements / statements are correct?

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



Answer: (b)

Related Facts:

- On January 2nd, 2018, Minister of State for Finance Shiv Prasad Shukla presented the Negotiable Instruments (Amendment) Bill 2017; in Lok Sabha, on the behalf of Union Finance Minister Arun Jaitley.
- In this there has been a provision to remove unnecessary delays in disposal of check bounce case.
- According to the Bill brought for amendment in the Negotiable Instruments Act, 1881, the concerned court can issue the order for the issuer to provide interim compensation to the complainant.
- The court may order interim compensation in the case of short hearing and summons, despite the receipt by the issuer expressing of his own innocence.
- The interim compensation amount cannot exceed 20 percent of the check amount.
- If the issuer is acquitted in the case, then the court may ask the complainant to return the received interim compensation with interest.

Reference:

<http://www.prsindia.org/uploads/media/Negotiable%20instrument/Negotiable%20Instruments%20Amendment%20Bill%202017.pdf>

NABARD (Amendment) Bill, 2017

Question: After the approval of the Rajya Sabha on January 2nd, 2018, the Parliament passed the NABARD (Amendment) Bill, 2017. Consider the following statements related to this?

- (i) The Bill seeks to increase the authorized capital of NABARD from Rs 5000 to Rs 30,000 crore.
- (ii) The proposed bill has been made by the central government to acquire the central bank's stake in NABARD.
- (iii) There is a provision to include micro and medium enterprises in the proposed bill.

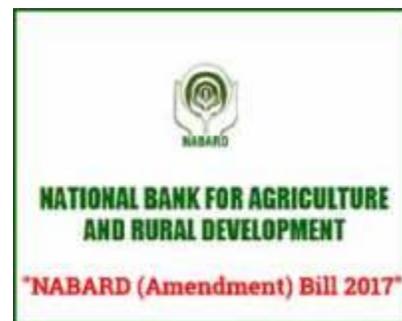
Which of the above statements is true?

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

Answer: (d)

Related facts:

- On January 2, 2018; after the approval of the Rajya Sabha, Parliament passed the 'NABARD (Amendment) Bill, 2017'.
- This bill has been passed already by the Lok Sabha in August, 2017.
- This Bill attempts to make NABARD more powerful by amending the NABARD Act, 1981.
- Some of the key provisions of this bill are as follows:
- Under the NABARD Act, 1981, the authorized capital could be up to Rs 100 crore, which can be increased by the Central Government to the extent of Rs 5000 crore by the advice of Reserve Bank of India. There is a provision to make this capital upto Rs. 30,000 crores in the current bill, which can be extended by the central government with the advice of RBI.
- The central government's minimum stake in NABARD has been fixed at 51 percent.



- According to the NABARD Act, 1981, there was a provision to keep the combined share of the central government and the Reserve Bank at a minimum of 51 percent in NABARD.
- The proposed bill provides for the central government's takeover of the Reserve Bank's stake in NABARD. At present, the share of the Reserve Bank is 0.4 percent, which is equivalent to about 20 crore rupees.
- The share of Government of India in NABARD is 99.6 per cent and after acquisition it will be a wholly owned Central Government entity.
- Under the provisions of the year 1981, NABARD provides only loans for small scale industries and cottage and village industries.
- There is a provision in the proposed bill to include micro and medium enterprises in this group.

Reference:

<http://www.prsindia.org/billtrack/the-national-bank-for-agriculture-and-rural-development-amendment-bill-2017-4726/>

Padma Awards 2018

Question: Which of the following statement is/ are not true in regards to Padma Awards 2018 announced on January 25th, 2018?

- (a) This year total 85 Padma Awards have been conferred out of which 14 awardees are women.
- (b) 3 personalities have been awarded posthumous.
- (c) These awardees include 16 persons from the category of Foreigners/NRI.
- (d) Mahendra Singh Dhoni (Sport- Cricket) has been selected for Padma Shri.



Answer: (d)

Related Facts:

- On January 25th, 2018, Padma Awards 2018 were announced by Ministry of Home Affairs.
- This year the President of India has approved conferment of 85 Padma Awards including two duo cases (in a duo case, the award is counted as one) as per list below.
- The list comprises 3 Padma Vibhushan, 9 Padma Bhushan and 73 Padma Shri Awards.
- 14 of the awardees are women and the list also includes 16 persons from the category of Foreigners/NRI/PIO/OCI.
- There are 3 posthumous awardees.
- These awards are conferred by the President of India at ceremonial functions which are held at Rashtrapati Bhawan usually around March/ April every year.
- Shri Illaiyaraja from Tamil Nadu and Shri Ghulam Mustafa Khan from Maharashtra in the field of Art-Music and Shri Parameswaran Parameswaran from Kerala in the field of Literature and Education will receive the Padma Vibhushan.
- Personalities who have been selected for Padma Bhushan are as follows:
 1. Shri Pankaj Advani (Karnataka)- Sports- Billiards/Snooker
 2. Shri Philipose Mar Chrysostom (Kerala)- Others-Spiritualism
 3. Shri Mahendra Singh Dhoni (Jharkhand)-Sports-Cricket
 4. Shri Alexander Kadakin from Russia (Foreigner/Posthumous)- Public Affairs

5. Shri Ramachandran Nagaswamy (Tamil Nadu)- Others-Archaeology
6. Shri Ved Prakash Nanda from USA (OCI)- Literature and Education
7. Shri Laxman Pai (Goa)- Art-Painting
8. Shri Arvind Parikh (Maharastra)- Art-Music
9. Ms. Sharda Sinha (Bihar)- Art-Music

Some important Personalities who have be chosen for Padma Shri are as follows:

1. Shri Damodar Ganesh Bapat (Chhattisgarh)- Literature and Education-Journalism
2. Ms. Saikhom Mirabai Chanu (Manipur)- Sports-Weightlifting
3. Shri Somdev Devvarman (Tripura)- Sports-Tennis
4. Shri Jose Ma Joey Concepcion III (Foreigner) (Philippines)- Trade and Industry
5. Shri Doddarange Gowda (Karnataka)- Art-Lyrics
6. Shri Anwar Jalalpuri (Posthumous) from Uttar Pradesh- Literature and Education
7. Shri Ramli Bin Ibrahim (Foreigner) from Malaysia- Art-Dance
8. Shri Pran Kishore Kaul (Jammu and Kashmir)- Art
9. Shri Narayan Das Maharaj (Rajasthan)-Others-Spiritualism
10. Shri Pravakara Maharana (Odisha)- Art-Sculpture
11. Ms. Nouf Marwaai (Saudi Arabia)- Others- Yoga
12. Shri Sisir Purushottam (Maharashtra)- Art-Cinema
13. Shri Murlikant Petkar (Maharastra)- Sports-Swimming
14. Shri M R Rajagopal (Kerala)- Medicine-Palliative
15. Shri S S Rathore (Gujarat)- Civil Service
16. Shri Kidambi Srikanth (Andhra Pradesh)- Sports-Badminton
17. Shri Romulus Whitaker (Tamil Nadu)- Others-Wildlife
18. Shri Manas Bihari Verma (Bihar)- Science and Engineering

Reference:

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=175910>

Bharat Parv

Question: As part of the Republic Day 2018 celebrations, the ‘Bharat Parv’ event is being organized by the Government of India at the Red Fort, Delhi from-

- (a) 26th to 28th January, 2018 (b) 26th to 31st January, 2018
 (c) 27th to 31st January, 2018 (d) 26th to 27th January, 2018

Answer: (b)

Related Facts:

- From 26th to 31st January, 2018, as part of the Republic Day 2018 celebrations, the ‘Bharat Parv’ event is being organized by the Government of India at the Red Fort, Delhi .
- The prime objective of organizing the event is to generate a patriotic mood, promote the rich cultural diversity of the country and to ensure wider participation of the general public.
- Smt. Rashmi Verma, Secretary, Ministry of Tourism will inaugurate the event at 5.00 pm on 26th January, 2018 (Republic Day) and it would be open for public till 10.00 pm.
- From 27th to 31st January, 2018, the event will be open from 12 Noon to 10.00 pm.
- The event is open for public and entry is free. However, identity proof is to be carried for entry to the event.



- The Ministry of Tourism has been designated as the nodal Ministry for the event.
- The Cultural Performances include choreographed Folk/ Tribal Dances and Music arranged through the North Zonal Cultural Centre as well as performances by cultural troupes from the different States / UTs of the country.
- The Food Court will have stalls set up by the States/ UTs, National Association of Street Vendors of India (NASVI) showcasing street food from different regions as well as by the Institutes of Hotel Managements and ITDC.
- The Craft Mela with 50 stalls will showcase the diverse handicrafts of the country, arranged by the State Governments and Ministry of Textiles through the office of the Development Commissioner of Handicrafts.
- There will be Theme State Pavilions where each State would showcase their strengths along with tourism products.
- DAVP is also setting up an exhibition on the theme “Naya Bharat Hum Karke Rahenge”.
- A live ‘Cookery Demonstration Area’ is being set up in the food court to promote cuisines of different States of India.

Reference:

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=175877>

International Dam Safety Conference

Question- Where is the ‘International Dam Safety Conference’ was organized on January 23-24, 2018?

- (a) Trivandrum (b) Thiruvananthapuram (c) Ranchi
(d) Bengaluru



Answer: (b)

Related facts

- On January 23-24, 2018, International Dam Safety Conference – 2018 at Thiruvananthapuram.
- Shri Pinarayi Vijayan, Chief Minister of Kerala inaugurated the conference.
- Shri Arjun Ram Meghwal, Union Minister of State for of Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation preside over the inaugural function.
- Central Water Commission organized the event in association with Kerala Water Resources Department (KWRD), Kerala State Electricity Board, National Institute of Technology Calicut and College of Engineering, Trivandrum.
- Significantly, Dam safety conferences are organized as an annual event under the Dam Safety Rehabilitation and Improvement Project (DRIP) project being run by the Ministry of Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation (MoWR, RD & GR) in the seven states of Jharkhand, Karnataka, Kerala, Madhya Pradesh, Odisha, Tamil Nadu, and Uttarakhand.
- It was Launched in the year 2012 with a financial outlay of Rs. 2100 Crores.
- Notable that 550 delegates from more than 20 countries participated in the forthcoming conference to be held in Trivandrum (Kerala).

Reference:

<http://www.pib.nic.in/PressReleseDetail.aspx?PRID=1517399>

Announcement of the program for 2018 election for the Legislative Assemblies of Meghalaya, Nagaland and Tripura

Question- On January 18th, 2018, the Election Commission announced the election program for the states of Meghalaya, Nagaland and Tripura. When will the counting of votes in all 3 states will be held?

(a) March 5, 2018 (b) March 3, 2018 (c) March 18 2018 (d) February 28 2018

Answer- (b)

Related Facts:

- On January 18th, 2018, the Election Commission announced the program for elections in the North-Eastern states of Tripura, Nagaland and Meghalaya.
- 60 member's Tripura assembly elections will be issued on January 24th, 2018.
- On 18th February, 2018 votes will be cast.
- While the notification for elections in Nagaland and Meghalaya with 60-member assembly will be issued on January 31, 2018.
- On 27th February, 2018 votes will be cast in both the states.
- The counting of votes will be counted on March 3rd, 2018 in all the three states.
- It is noteworthy that the term of the Meghalaya, Nagaland and Tripura assemblies ends on March 6, March 13, and March 14 respectively.
- The three assemblies have strength of 60-60 members.



Reference:

<https://www.jansatta.com/national/meghalaya-tripura-nagaland-assembly-election-2018-date-live-updates-meghalaya-tripura-nagaland-vidhan-sabha-chunav-date-to-be-announced-by-ec-today/551826/>

Saksham-2018

Question: Consider the following statements related to Saksham-2018–

(1) Saksham-2018 is being organized by the Power Ministry.

(2) Its purpose is to promote electrical conservation.

Which of the above is/are correct?

(a) Only 1 (b) Only 2 (c) 1 and 2 both (d) Neither 1 nor 2

Answer- (d)

Related Facts:

- On January 16th, 2018, Saksham (Sanrakshan Kshamta Mahotsav) a month long month mahotsav started at Siri Fort Auditorium in Delhi.
- Saksham (Sanrakshan Kshamta Mahotsav) is an annual flagship event of Petroleum Conservation Research Association (PCRA) under the aegis of Ministry of Petroleum & Natural Gas, Govt. of India.
- Oil & Gas PSUs along with other stakeholders like State Governments also actively participate in this.



- Mahotsav is objected to create focused attention on fuel conservation through people centric activities and to sensitize the masses about the conservation and efficient use of petroleum products leading to better health and environment.
- The month long campaign aims to intensify efforts for making citizens aware about the conservation and effective utilization of petroleum products.
- Beside this, PCRA has also planned to observe Cycle Day on 21st January throughout the country & Cyclothon event at Indore, Bhubaneswar, Mumbai etc. to spearhead the message of fuel conservation, reduction of vehicular emission by reducing congestion and improving traffic flow.

Reference:

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=175569>

Rashtriya Sanskriti Mahotsav-2018

Question: Where is the 7th edition of ‘Rashtriya Sanskriti Mahotsav-2018’ being organized from 14-20 January 2018?

(a) Tamilnadu (b) Rajasthan (c) Karnataka (d) Uttar Pradesh

Answer: (c)

Related Facts:

- During 14th -20th January 2018, Rashtriya Sanskriti Mahotsav-2018 is being organized in Bangalore, Hubli-Dharwad and Mangaluru (Karnataka).
- It is the 7th edition of the Mahotsav.
- The Mahotsav is being organizing under the Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat matrix.
- The Union Minister of State for Culture (I/C) and Environment, Dr. Mahesh Sharma inaugurated the Mahotsav on 14th January 2018.
- It is noteworthy that The Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat programme was launched by the Prime Minister on 31st October, 2016 to promote engagement amongst the people of different states/UTs so as to enhance mutual understanding and bonding between people of diverse cultures, thereby securing stronger unity and integrity of India.
- *The State paired with Karnataka is Uttarakhand.*
- The Mahotsav will cover a profusion of art forms from classical and folk, music and dance, theatre to literature and the visual arts and would offer the chance to experience the best in established and emerging virtuosity.
- A handloom and handicrafts-utsav is part of the proposed event.
- The gastronomic culture of several partnering states will be showcased through a food festival.



Reference:

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=175601>

Readiness for the Future of Production Report 2018

Question- Which position has India got in the category of structure of production in the Readiness for the Future of Production Report 2018 released by the World Economic Forum (WEF)?

(a) 53rd (b) 30th (c) 45th (d) 36th



Answer: (b)

Related Facts:

- On January 12th, 2018, the World Economic Forum (WEF) released 'Readiness for the Future of the Production Report' -2018.
- Japan has topped the ranking in the Structure of Production category in the report under the estimation of the results of the preparation of future production.
- According to the Reports, the structure of production in Japan is best rated.
- South Korea, Germany, Switzerland, China, Czech Republic, America, Sweden, Austria and Ireland are among the top ten countries.
- It has been ranked 30th in India. India comes under the legacy countries.
- Similarly, America is in top position in the Drivers of Production category.
- This category includes Singapore, Switzerland, U.K. And the Netherlands as second, third, fourth and fifth respectively.
- India is ranked 44th in this category.
- In the report, India has been placed in lower-middle income economies groups.

Reference:

http://www3.weforum.org/docs/FOP_Readiness_Report_2018.pdf

<https://www.weforum.org/reports/readiness-for-the-future-of-production-report-2018>

Raisina Dialogues-2018

Question: Where is the 3rd edition of 'Raisina Dialogue' being organized between 16-18 January 2018?

(a) Agra (b) Mumbai (c) New Delhi (d) Rajkot

Answer: (c)

Related Facts:

- From January 16th-18th, 2018, the third edition of 'Raisina Dialogue', 2018, is being organized at Taj Palace Hotel, New Delhi.
- The main theme of this conference – 'Managing Disruptive Transitions: Ideas, Institutions & Idioms'.
- Israel Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu inaugurated this conference.
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi and External Affairs Minister Sushma Swaraj joined the inaugural session of the program.
- Raisina Dialogue (Dialogue) is an important international dialogue of India.
- The conference is hosted by the Observer Research Foundation in collaboration with the Government of India, Ministry of External Affairs
- It is noteworthy that the Observer Research Foundation is an independent think-tank based in New Delhi.
- The Raisina Dialogue is a multilateral conference committed to addressing the most challenging issues facing the global community. Every year, global leaders in policy, business, media and civil society are hosted in New Delhi to discuss cooperation on a wide range of pertinent international policy matters.
- The Dialogue is structured as a multi-stakeholder, cross-sectoral discussion, involving heads of state, cabinet ministers and local government officials, as well as major private sector executives, members of the media and academics.



- The South Block-based External Affairs headquarters, which is located on the hill, is named after it as the Raisina Dialogue.
- The main purpose of the Raisina Dialogue is to explore the possibilities and opportunities of Asia's better coordination with Asian integration and the rest of the world.
- At this international conference, more than 150 speakers from 90 countries and more than 550 delegates are participating in the international conference, including former Afghan President Hamid Karzai, Former Canadian Prime Minister Stephen Harper and former Swedish Prime Minister Carl Bildt.
- In addition, Army Chief General Vipin Rawat, Navy Chief Admiral Sunil Lamba, Head of America's Pacific Command, Admiral Harry Harris and UK Joint Force Commander General Chris Deverell will also address one sessions of the Dialogue.

Reference:

<http://www.orfonline.org/raisina-dialogue/>

65th Meeting of Central Advisory Board of Education (CABE)

Question: Where did the 65th meeting of Central Education Advisory Board concluded between 15-16 January 2018?

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

Answer: (d)

Related Facts:

- From January 15th-16th, 2018, 65th meeting of the Central Education Advisory Board Science Concluded in New Delhi.
- Union HRD Minister Prakash Javadekar presided over the meeting.
- A number of decisions were taken at the meeting, in part flowing from the agenda, and in part stemming from concerns raised by the State Governments.
- **The following resolutions were adopted:-**
- It would be our endeavour to launch 'Operation Digital Board' in all schools in five years. This will be undertaken jointly by Centre, State, CSR, and community.
- This will improve the quality of education. Students will be empowered with 360 degree information with interesting learning experience and teacher accountability will also increase.
- Commitment to ensure Quality, Equity, Accessibility, Accountability and Affordability in education by pro-active action and plan.
- Commitment to promote Swacch Bharat, Ek Bharat Shrestha Bharat, Padhe Bharat, Sugamya Bharat and physical education.
- Commitment to promote human value education, life skill education, experiential learning to bring out good human beings out of the education system.



Reference:

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=175640>

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintHindiRelease.aspx?relid=70170>

Launching of country's first agri-commodity options

Question: With which of the following agricultural genus country's first agri-commodity options has been launched?

(a) Mustard (b) Wheat (c) Guar Seed (d) Chana

Answer: (c)

Related Facts:

- On January 14, 2018, Finance Minister Arun Jaitley launched the Launching of country's first agri-commodity options.
- This first agri-commodity option is in Guar Seed.
- This is a new initiative that will benefit the farmers.
- Through this, farmers will be able to get better value on their products.
- This initiative has been launched by National Commodity and Derivatives Exchange Limited (NCDEX).
- NCDEX Agri-Options in Guar Seed aim to provide farmers better engagement in the commodity markets.
- NCDEX also launched Mandi.com, a mobile app for farmers where they can learn more about Options and the commodity markets.
- After MCX, NCDEX is the second exchange of genus option to start the business.
- Earlier, in October 2017, MCX started the option of gold. The NCDEX Agricultural Option aims to provide better interaction to farmers in the commodity markets Guar Seed.
- On this occasion, NCDEX also launched a mobile application market for the farmers. Through this app, you can get more information about the farmers' choice and commodity market.



Reference:

<http://pib.gov.in/PressReleaseDetail.aspx?PRID=1516662>

Incredible India Digital Calendar- 2018

Question- The subject matter of the newly released Wall & Desk Calendar for 2018 is-

(a) India's journey (b) India for all (c) For all India's sightseeing
(d) Look India

Answer: (b)

Related Facts:

- On January 12th, 2018, in line with the Government's Digital India initiative, Minister of State for Tourism (Independent Charge) and Minister of State for Electronics & Information Technology, Shri K.J. Alphons launched the "Incredible India Digital Calendar-2018".
- He also released the Incredible India Wall & Desk Calendar for 2018.
- The Incredible India Digital calendar application enables users to know about the events & festivals happening in India on the go.
- The Incredible India Digital Calendar contains all exclusive features of any Digital Calendar making it a perfect travel planner on the go.
- This digital calendar can also be used as a personal planner.
- The Digital Calendar can be downloaded on Android and iOS platforms. Android: <https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=com.app.calincindia&hl=en> iOS: <https://itunes.apple.com/in/app/incredible-india-calendar/id1332321017?mt=8>



- It also has information on festivals and events happening in the country and will also allow user to create and manage personal events, get regular notifications on the upcoming festivals and events, allow set up of customize reminders for individual events, share the events with friends and contacts, etc.
- Each leaf of Incredible India wall calendar 2018 has been crafted using illuminating paints that would glow in the dark.
- Anyone going through the calendar will get a glimpse of how drastically different yet equally beautiful India can be before and after sun down.
- Incredible India Desk calendar 2018 profiles 12 different kinds of travellers and suggests the appropriate destinations for them.

Reference:

<http://www.pib.nic.in/PressReleaseDetail.aspx?PRID=1516493>

22nd National Youth Day

Question: Where are the '22th National Youth Festival' organized in the middle of January 12, 2018?

- (a) Bhopal (b) Raipur (c) Greater Noida (d) Gandhinagar

Answer: (c)

Related Facts:

- From 12th-16th January 2018, the '22nd National Youth Festival' was organized in Gautam Buddha University, Gautam Buddha Nagar, Greater Noida (UP).
- This was being organizing first time in the National Capital Region (NCR).
- The theme of this five-day festival is 'Siddha from Sankalp'.
- This is being organized by the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports in collaboration with the Government of Uttar Pradesh.
- 5000 volunteers from the National Service Scheme and Nehru Yuva Kendra Sanghatana across the country are participated in this festival with local youth.
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated the festival on January 12, 2018 through video conferencing.
- This festival is the largest youth festival of its kind in the country, which was first organized in 1995 in Bhopal (MP).
- India is that the 21st National Youth Festival was organized in Rohtak, Haryana whose theme was 'Youth for Digital India'.



Reference:

<http://www.ddinews.gov.in/people/national-youth-day-being-celebrated-today>

Responsibility of social audit to Women Self-Help Groups

Question: Which of the following is the first state in the country to give women the responsibility of social audit of Panchayats?

(a) Uttarakhand (b) Jharkhand (c) Chhattisgarh (d) West Bengal

Answer: (c)

Related Facts:

- On 9th January, 2018, according to the report published by the Chhattisgarh Public Relations Department, the Chhattisgarh government has entrusted the responsibility of social audit of Panchayats also to the women self-help groups in the state.
- Chhattisgarh is the first state in the country to do this.
- In Chhattisgarh state, women get 50 percent reservation in three-tier Panchayati Raj institutions.
- Women groups are also being trained to participate in social audit of Panchayats.
- In the first phase, 14 thousand 435 women self-help groups have been trained for this work in the last three months at the state level.
- This training program began in October 2nd, 2017, concluded on January 6th, 2018.
- Under the MNREGA and Indira Awas Yojana, women self-help groups have been provided training in physical verification, social accountability, audit of plans, discussion on approved works, and necessary documentation of social audit and writing of the report.
- Trained women are able to communicate in local and regional languages.



Reference:

<http://dprcg.gov.in/post/1515492063/> Raipur : Women do social audit

First Round Table Conference of Health Ministers held on Food Safety and Nutrition

Question: Where was the first Round Table Conference of Health Ministers held on Food Safety and Nutrition recently?

(a) New Delhi (b) Bangalore (c) Pune (d) Ahmedabad

Ans: (a)

Related facts:-

- On January 9th, 2018, the first Round Table Conference of Health Ministers on Food Safety and Nutrition was organized in New Delhi.
- Union Health and Family Welfare Minister J.P. Nadda presided over the conference.
- This conference was organized by the Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI).
- Union Health Minister of State Ashwani Kumar Choubey and Health Ministers of Uttar Pradesh, Gujarat, Uttarakhand, Telangana, Puducherry and Delhi also joined the Round Table Conference.
- On this occasion, the Union Health Minister released the Framework for Clean Street Food Hobbs and Food Festivals.
- This will help in the development of the capacity of street food vendors.



- In addition to this, Health Minister also released the Healthy India Food Calendar of FSSAI. This is the first calendar of its kind, in which the main festivals of India and the related food are shown. The new website of FSSAI has also been launched.
- During this Round Table Conference, a team of researchers presented estimates of financial loss due to diseases. According to estimates, India gets a 0.5 percent (28 billion dollars) loss in GDP is due to diseases.
- During this conference, State Health Ministers announced the acceptance of a seven-point charter which is as follows:
 1. Develop stringent food safety standards and prepare safe food practice codes.
 2. Creating a positive regulatory environment.
 3. Establish a reliable national food testing system.
 4. To remove the lack of micronutrients and to develop excellent food habits.
 5. Bring behavioral changes in the citizens for safe and nutritious food.
 6. Develop self-certification culture in food business.
 7. Developing effective institutions with appropriate financial support.
- It is known that the Central Government has decided to transform 1.5 lakh health sub-centers in the form of 'Health and Welfare' centers in the country.
- Diabetes, hypertension, cancer etc. will be examined at these centers.
- The main goal of National Health Policy-2017 is to bring, an ease in the availability and consumption of safe and nutritious food and reduction in deaths from diabetes and cardiovascular diseases.

Related Links:-

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=175484>

ASEAN INDIA PRAVASI BHARATIYA DIVAS CEREMONY

Question: Where was the 'ASEAN-INDIA PRAVASI BHARTIYA DIVAS' ceremony organized during Jan 6-7, 2018?

(a) Thailand (b) Singapore (c) UK (d) America

Ans: (b)



Related facts:-

- During January 6-7, 2018, 'ASEAN-INDIA PRAVASI BHARTIYA DIVAS' was held in the Marina Bay Sands Expo and Convention Center, Singapore.
- Theme-Ancient Route, New Journey: Diaspora in the Dynamic ASEAN INDIA Partnership.
- Nitin Gadkari, Union Minister for Road Transport & Highways, Shipping and Water Resources, River Development & Ganga Rejuvenation, inaugurated the function.
- Foreign Minister Sushma Swaraj also attended the function.
- It is worth mentioning that this program is organized every year to strengthen the contact of the foreign Indian community with the government to re-connect them with their roots and celebrate their achievements and contribution.

Related Links:-

<https://www.pbdssingapore2018.org/>

22nd National Youth Festival-2018

Question: During 12th-16th January 2018, at which of the following places '22nd National Youth Festival' will be organized?

(a) Jodhpur (b) Jaipur (c) Hyderabad (d) Guwahati

Answer: (b)

Related Facts:

- From 12th to 16th January 2018, the 22nd National Youth Festival Will be organized in Jaipur, Rajasthan.
- Over 5000 Youth from various parts of the country will participate in this festival.
- It s note worthy that the 21st National Youth Festival was organized in Rohtak, Haryana.



Reference:

<https://hindi.news18.com/news/rajasthan/jaipur-22nd-national-youth-festival-will-be-held-in-jaipur-1184805.html>

Draft of the First National Register of Citizens

Question: Which of the following states has published draft of the First National Citizen Register (NRC)?

(a) Gujarat (b) Delhi (c) Assam (d) Himachal Pradesh

Answer: (c)

Related Facts:

- On December 31st, 2017, draft of First National Citizen Register (NRC) has been published by Assam Government.
- Significantly, the Supreme Court had directed the state to release the draft of the NRC till December 31, 2017 or earlier.
- Under this first draft, out of a total of 31.3 million people in the state, names of 1.9 crore people have been included.
- On this occasion, Registrar General of India (RGI) Shailesh told that the names of all the remaining people will be verified at different stages.



Reference:

<https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/india/assam-publishes-first-draft-of-nrc-with-1-9-crore-names/articleshow/62320193.cms>

INTERNATIONAL

2018 Environmental Performance Index (EPI)

Question- which position has India got in the 'Environmental Performance Index (EPI) - 2018' jointly released by Yale and Columbia University on January 23rd, 2018?

(a) 141th (b) 170th (c) 177th (d) 150th

Answer: (c)

Related Facts:

- On January 23, 2018, the Environmental Performance Index (EPI) -2018 was released.
- This bi-annuity index has been jointly prepared by Yale and Columbia University in collaboration with the World Economic Forum.
- This index covers 180 countries on the basis of 24 performance indicators of 10 categories of environmental health and ecological vitality.
- In Environment Performance Index-2018 Switzerland (Score-87.42) has been ranked top.
- Switzerland is followed France (score-83.95), Denmark (score -81.60), Malta (score-80.90) and Sweden (score -80.51) respectively.
- Five Countries got ranked lowest are as follows: Burundi (180), Bangladesh (179), Congo (178), India (177) and Nepal (176).
- In the list of 180 countries inEPI-2011, India remained at 177th position (Score-30.57).
- While India ranked 141 in the list last year (2016).
- In the neighboring countries of India, Sri Lanka has been ranked 70th, China 120th, Bhutan 131th and Pakistan 169th.
- This way India is behind its neighboring countries in this index.
- Among BRICS countries Russia is at 52nd, Brazil 69th, China 120th and South Africa 142nd.
- In other major countries index contains the United Kingdom at 6th, Spain 12th, Germany 13th, Italy 16th, Israel 19th, Japan 20th, Australia 21st and United States 27th.



Reference:

<http://admin.indiaenvironmentportal.org.in/files/file/epi2018policymakerssummaryv.pdf>
<http://www.thehindu.com/sci-tech/energy-and-environment/india-ranks-177-out-of-180-in-environmental-performance-index/article22513016.ece>

Global Leaders Survey

Question: In the survey, titled Global Leaders Survey conducted by Swiss Company Gallup International Association (GIA) what is the position of the Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi amongst the top 12 of the global leaders?

(a) Fourth (b) Third (c) Fifth (d) Second

Answer: (b)

Related Facts:

- In January 2018; Swiss company Gallup International Association (GIA), released a list of the world's top 12 leaders under Global Leaders Survey.
- Germany's Chancellor Angela Merkel ranked first in the



list.

- She is followed by the President of France, Emmanuel Macron; second place holder.
- India's Prime Minister Narendra Modi is at the third place in the list of the top 12 leaders in the world.
- 30 percent of the global community considers Narendra Modi favorable while 22 percent considers him to be unfavorable. His total score is 8.
- In this list, Britain's Prime Minister Theresa fourth, China's President Xi Jinping fifth, Russian President Vladimir Putin sixth, Saudi Arabia's King Salman bin Abdul Aziz al-Saq seventh, Israel's Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu eighth, Iran's President Hassan Rohani 9th, Turkish President Tayyip Erdoğan tenth, US President Donald Trump 11th and Pope Francis is at the 12th position.

Reference:

<http://www.gallup-international.com/surveys/global-leaders-2/>

World Future Energy Summit

Question: Where was the 'World Energy Future Summit' (WFES) organized from January 15-18, 2018?

(a) Moscow (b) Muscat (c) Abu Dhabi (d) Paris

Answer: (c)

Related Facts:

- During January 15th-18th, 2018, the 'World Future Energy Summit: WFES' -2018 was held in Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates.
- WFES is a signature event of a global initiative, Abu Dhabi Sustainability Week, hosted by Masdar.
- On the first day of the ISA Forum, 17th January, 2018 the Ministerial Plenary of ISA Energy Ministers was held.
- The ISA Ministerial was attended by seven Energy Ministers of ISA Member countries.
- On receipt of 15 ratifications, the International Solar Alliance (ISA) Framework Agreement entered into force on the 6th December, 2017 thereby making ISA a de jure treaty based international intergovernmental organization.
- So far 19 countries have ratified and 48 countries have signed the ISA Framework Agreement.
- Shri Raj Kumar Singh, Minister of State (IC) for Power and New & Renewable Energy, Government of India led the Indian delegation and congratulated ISA for organizing the ISA Forum as its first overseas outreach activity.
- It is notable that Renewable Energy has become cheaper and is set to replace conventional energy, which is a healthy development, and added that India has one of the fastest growing Renewable Energy programmers in the World and the country would achieve its target of 175 GW of installed Renewable Energy capacity well before 2020.
- Shri Singh announced setting up of a \$ 350 million solar development fund by the Government of India for solar projects financing.

Reference:

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=175707>



ECONOMICS

Natural gas rates in Uttar Pradesh

Question: In the meeting of the Uttar Pradesh cabinet concluded recently what was the rate of percentage of natural gas decided in the state?

(a) 15 percent (b) 10 percent (c) 8 percent (d) 5 percent

Answer: (d)

Related Facts:

- On January 9th, 2018; in the cabinet meeting of UP under Uttar Pradesh Augmented Tax Act, 2008; it was decided to fix the rate the natural gas reasonably to 5 percent.
- This will facilitate the purchase of natural gas used in the manufacture of taxable goods by the manufacturing units registered under Uttar Pradesh Value Added Tax Act, 2008 as well as the manufacturing units registered under Uttar Pradesh Goods and Services Tax Act, 2017.



Reference:

http://information.up.nic.in/View_Hindinews.aspx?id=900

Launching of Savings (Taxable) Bonds, 2018

Question: Recently, on which date 7.75% savings (taxable) bond, 2018 commenced, launched by the Government of India?

(a) January 31, 2018 (b) January 10, 2018 (c) January 25, 2018 (d) January 15, 2018

Answer- (b)

Related Facts:

- On January 4, 2018, Government of India has announced to launch of 7.75% Savings (Taxable) Bonds, 2018 commencing from 10th January 2018 to enable resident citizens/HUF to invest in a taxable bond, without any monetary ceiling.
- **The main features of the Bonds are:**
- **Who can invest:** The Bonds are open to investment by individuals (including Joint Holdings) and Hindu Undivided Families.
- NRIs are not eligible for making investments in these Bonds.
- **Subscription:** Applications for the Bonds in the form of Bond Ledger Account will be received in the designated branches of agency banks and SHCIL in all numbering about 1600.
- **Issue Price:** The Bonds will be issued at par e. at Rs.100.00
- The Bonds will be issued for a minimum amount of Rs.1,000/- (face value) and in multiples thereof. Accordingly, the issue price, will be Rs.1,000/- for every 1,000/- (Nominal).
- The Bonds will be issued in demat form (Bond Ledger Account) only.
- **Period:** The Bonds will be on tap till further notice and issued in cumulative and non-cumulative
- **Limit of investment:** There will be no maximum limit for investment in the Bonds.
- **Tax treatment:**



- Income-tax: Interest on the Bonds will be taxable under the Income-tax Act, 1961 as applicable according to the relevant tax status of the bond holder.
- Wealth tax: The Bonds will be exempt from Wealth-tax under the Wealth Tax Act, 1957.
- **Maturity and rate of interest:** The Bonds will have a maturity of 7 years carrying interest at 75% per annum payable half-yearly. The cumulative value of Rs. 1,000/- at the end of seven years will be Rs. 1,703.
- **Transferability:** The Bonds are not
- The Bonds are not tradeable in the Secondary market and are not eligible as collateral for loans from banking institutions, non-banking financial companies or financial institutions.
- **Nomination:** A sole holder or a sole surviving holder of a Bond, being an individual, can make a nomination

Reference:

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=175293>

100th Annual Conference of the Indian Economic Association

Question: Where is the 100th Annual Conference of the Indian Economic Association (IEA) being organized during 27-30 December, 2017?

- (a) Gujarat (b) Andhra Pradesh (c) New Delhi
(d) Karnataka

Answer: (b)

Related Facts:

- During 27-30 December 2017, the 100th Annual Conference of the Indian Economic Association is being organized in Acharya Nagarjun University, Nagarjun Nagar, Guntur, Andhra Pradesh.
- On December 27th, 2017, President Ramnath Kovind inaugurated this conference.
- The comprehensive main theme of this four-day conference is 'India's Development Experience'.
- This is the oldest and largest institution of professional economists and policy makers in India, founded in 1917 by Prof. C.J. Hamilton.

Reference:

<http://indianeconomicassociation.com/download/RegistrationBrochure100AnnualConference.pdf>



Auction of FM Channels

Question: Auction of how many FM channels was approved in 236 cities by the Central Government recently?

- (a) 550 (b) 585 (c) 650 (d) 683

Answer: (d)

Related Facts:

- On December 20th, 2017, the Central Government approved the auction of 683 FM channels in 236 cities.
- This decision was taken at a meeting of the Union Cabinet chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi.



- The government has already completed auction of two batches of private FM channels.
- Now the government's plan is to conduct auction of third batch to cover many cities including Jammu and Kashmir and the North-Eastern states.
- It is known that at present where the target population is less than 1 lakh, there are no private FM radio channels.
- In the third phase, FM radio channels will be auctioned in 29 states and 6 Union Territories (except Dadra and Nagar Haveli).
- After the auction, private FM radio broadcasts can be started in these States / UTs.
- The auction is likely to earn an estimated revenue of more than Rs 1100 crore.
- Under the FM policy guidelines, auction of the first and second batch of private FM radio channels was conducted in the third phase in 2015 and 2016, respectively.
- In the first batch, 97 channels were sold in 56 cities and 66 channels were sold in 48 cities in the second batch.

Reference:

<http://www.pib.nic.in/PressReleaseDetail.aspx?PRID=1513764>

First advance estimates of national income released

Question- Recently according to the 'First Advance Estimates of National Income' issued by 'Ministry of Statistics and Program Implementation', what percentage of India's GDP growth rate is estimated to be in the year 2017-18?

(a) 6.5 percent (b) 7.4 percent (c) 7.2 percent (d) 7.5 percent

Answer: (a)

Related Facts:

- On January 5th, 2018, for the year 2017-18 the first advance estimates of the National Income by the National Statistical Organization (CSO) were released.
- It is important that under this 'Ministry of Statistics and Program Implementation' this organization is a responsible institution for the compilation of national accounts.
- In addition, it compiles the Index of Industrial Production, annual survey of industries and organizing economic calculation and Consumer Price Index.
- According to the recent estimates of the CSO, GDP growth in the year 2017-18 is down by 0.6 percent from 7.1 percent in the year 2016-17.
- Estimated growth of real GVA at the original prices in the year 2017-18 is 6.1 percent compared to 6.6 percent in the year 2016-17.
- Sectors that registered more than 7 percent are 'Public administration, defense and other services', 'services related to business, hotels, transport, communication and broadcasting', 'electricity, gas, water supply and other utility services, and' financial, Real estate and professional services'.
- In the year 2017-18, the increase in 'agriculture forestry and fishing', 'mining and quarrying', 'manufacturing and construction' is estimated at 2.1 percent, 2.9 percent, 4.6 percent and 3.6 percent, respectively.
- Whereas in the previous year (2016-17) the growth rate of these sectors is 4.9 percent, 1.8 percent, 7.9 percent and 1.7 percent, respectively.



- Thus, due to poor performance of agriculture and manufacturing sector, the growth rate of GDP will be at the lower level of 6.5% in the current year 2017-18.
- This will be the lowest growth rate in the current working Central Government.
- The increase in per capita income is estimated at 5.3 percent this year (in 2017-18) compared to 5.7 percent for the year 2016-17.

Reference:

<http://pib.gov.in/PressReleaseDetail.aspx?PRID=1515693>

Electoral Bonds Scheme

Question-On January 2nd, 2018, the Central Government has notified the notification of 'Electoral Bonds Scheme'. Consider the following statements related to this:

- (i) Under this scheme, any citizen or company of the country can purchase election bonds ranging from one thousand rupees to one crore rupees from the Reserve Bank to fund the registered political parties.
- (ii) Only those parties will be able to receive donations from electoral bonds which have received at least one percent of the votes in the previous Lok Sabha or state assembly elections.
- (iii) Political parties will be able to get this election bond deposited in their fixed bank accounts.

Which of the above mentioned statements is / is correct?

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

Answer: (c)

Related Facts:

- On January 2, 2018, the Central Government has issued the notification of 'Electoral Bonds Scheme'.
- It is notable that Finance Minister Arun Jaitley had announced the release of election bonds to make political funding transparent in the country in the budget speech of 2017-18.
- Under this scheme, any citizen or company of the country can purchase election bonds from one thousand rupees to one crore rupees from select branches of State Bank of India (SBI) to fund donations to registered political parties.
- These election bonds will be of one thousand rupees, ten thousand rupees, one lakh rupees, ten lakh rupees and one crore rupees.
- The names of those who purchase electoral bonds will not be made public.
- The information that to which party he will give to this bond will be secretive, its information will also be kept secret.
- Political parties will be able to get this election bond deposited in their fixed bank account. The information of which it will have to give to the Election Commission.
- Only those parties will be able to get the donation from electoral bonds, which have received at least one percent of the votes in the previous Lok Sabha or Vidhan Sabha elections.
- The political parties will have to tell the Election Commission how much election funding has been received by them from the election bond.



- These electoral bonds will be available for sale in January, April, July and October for 30 days in the general election year.
- In these normal years, this bond will be available for sale only for 10 days in the said four months. The period of the bond will be 15 days.

Reference:

<https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/politics-and-nation/with-electoral-bonds-on-table-take-the-full-steps/articleshow/62359803.cms>

Forbes released the ‘Best Country for Business-2017’ ranking

Question: Recently, the prestigious magazine Forbes released the ‘Best Country for Business-2017’ Ranking. Which of the following countries topped the list?

(a) New Zealand (b) United Kingdom (c) Netherlands (d) Sweden

Answer: (b)

Related Facts:

- On December 19th, 2017, Forbes released the ‘Best Country for Business-2017’ ranking.
- The list includes 153 countries.
- The United Kingdom topped the list.
- U.K. was followed by New Zealand, Netherlands and Sweden respectively in the list.
- India’s ranking in this list is 62nd.
- **The following countries are in this list –**
- The status of India’s neighboring countries in the list released by Forbes is as follows- Sri Lanka -77th rank, Pakistan -102nd rank, Bhutan -103rd rank, Nepal -109th rank and Bangladesh 117th rank.
- Among BRICS countries 74th rank has been given to Brazil, 58th to Russia, 66th to China and South Africa remained at 48th place.
- It is noteworthy that Britain was at the fifth place in the rankings of the previous year.
- America is at 12th rank in this list.
- While Germany, Finland and Norway are ranked 13th, 14th and 15th, respectively.
- Ranking of Japan and France is 21st and 22nd, respectively.



Reference:

<https://www.forbes.com/best-countries-for-business/list/>

World Economic Outlook Update, January 2018

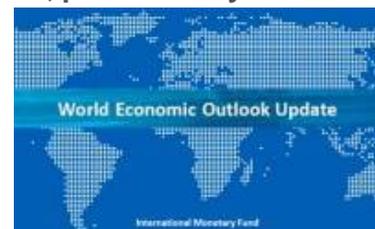
Question- What is the percentage of India’s growth rate as estimated for the year 2017 according to the World Economic Outlook Update, January 2018, published by the International Monetary Fund (IMF)?

(a) 7.1 percent (b) 6.7 percent (c) 7.4 percent (d) 7.2 percent

Answer: (b)

Related Facts:

- On January 22nd, 2018, the International Monetary Fund (IMF) published World Economic Outlook Update, January



2018.

- *Global output is estimated to have grown by 3.7 percent in 2017, which is 0.1 percentage point faster than projected in the fall and ½ percentage points higher than in 2016.*
- *Global growth forecasts for 2018 and 2019 have been revised upward by 0.2 percentage point to 3.9 percent.*
- In this report, India's growth rate has been pegged at 6.7% in the year 2017.
- While, it is estimated to be 7.4 percent in 2018 and 7.8 percent in 2019.
- In BRICS countries, the highest growth rate of 7.4% in 2018 and 7.8% in 2019 has been estimated for India.
- India is followed by China (6.6% and 6.4%), Russia (1.7% and 1.5%), Brazil (1.9% and 2.1%) and South Africa (0.9%) respective year of 2018-2019.
- Indian economy is expected to grow faster than other major emerging economies.
- The growth rate of advanced economies has been estimated at 2.3 percent in 2017, which is estimated to be 2.3 percent in 2018 and 2.2 percent in the year 2018-2019.
- According to the Reports, the US growth rate is estimated to be 2.3 percent in 2017, which is estimated to be 2.7 percent in 2018 and 2.5 percent in 2019.
- The euro zone's growth rate has been pegged at 2.4 percent in 2017, which is estimated to be 2.2 percent in 2018 and 2.0 percent in 2019.
- The growth rate of emerging markets and developing economies has been estimated at 4.7 percent in 2017, which is estimated to be 4.9 percent in 2018 and 5.0 percent in 2019.

Reference:

<http://www.imf.org/en/Publications/WEO/Issues/2018/01/11/world-economic-outlook-update-january-2018>

The Inclusive Development Index 2018

Question- At which of the following places India was listed in the list of emerging economies of 'Inclusive Development Index (IDI) -2018' released by the World Economic Forum (WEF) on January 22, 2018.

(a) 60th (b) 62nd (c) 55th (d) 68th

Answer- (b)

Related Facts:

- On January 22nd, 2018, the Inclusive Development Index - 2018 was released by World Economic Forum (WEF).
- This index covers the world's 103 economies (countries).
- In the index 29 developed and 74 developing economies have been listed.
- In this Index Norway (Score-6.8) was ranked a top in 29 advanced economies.
- Norway is followed by Iceland (Score: 6.07) Second, Luxembourg (Score: 6.07) Third, Switzerland (Score-6.05) Fourth and Denmark (Score-5.81) fifth.
- Other developed economies include Australia 9th, Germany 12th, Canada 17th, France 18th, United Kingdom 21st, United States 23rd and Japan 24th.
- Lithuania (Score-4.86) is at the top in 74 developing economies.
- Hungary (score -4.74) second, Azerbaijan (score -4.69) third, Latvia (Score-4.61), fourth and Poland (score -4.67) are at fifth position in the list of developing economies of the index.



- India (score 3.09) has been ranked 62nd in the Inclusive Development Index (IDI) of developing economies.
- While last year India was ranked 60th.
- In its neighboring countries, Nepal is 22nd, Bangladesh is 34th, Sri Lanka is 40th and Pakistan is 47th.
- In other developing BRICS economies Russia is ranked 19th in, China is 26th, Brazil is 37th and South Africa is 69th.

Reference:

<https://www.weforum.org/reports/the-inclusive-development-index-2018>

25th GST Council Meeting

Question- Where was the 25th meeting of the GST Council was held on January 18, 2018?

(a) Manipur (b) Jammu-Kashmir (c) Bangalore (d) New Delhi

Answer: (d)

Related Facts:

- On January 18th, 2018, the 25th meeting of the GST Council under the chairmanship of Union Finance Minister Arun Jaitley was held in New Delhi.
- The following Policy Changes have been recommended by the GST Council in its 25th meeting held today:
 - The late fee payable by any registered person for failure to furnish FORM GSTR-1 (supply details), FORM GSTR-5 (Non-resident taxable person) or FORM GSTR-5A (OIDAR) is being reduced to fifty rupees per day and shall be twenty rupees per day for NIL filers. The late fee payable for failure to furnish FORM GSTR-6 (Input Service Distributor) shall be fifty rupees per day.
 - Taxable persons who have obtained voluntary registration will now be permitted to apply for cancellation of registration even before the expiry of one year from the effective date of registration.
 - For migrated taxpayers, the last date for filing FORM GST REG-29 for cancellation of registration is being extended by further three months till 31st March, 2018.
 - The facility for generation, modification and cancellation of e-way bills is being provided on trial basis on the portal nic.in. Once fully operational, the e-way bill system will start functioning on the portal ewaybillgst.gov.in
 - Certain modifications are being made to the e-way bill rules which are to be notified nationwide for inter-State movement with effect from 01.02.2018 and for intra-State movement with effect from a date to be announced separately by each State but not later than 01.06.2018.
 - The report and recommendations submitted by the Committee on Handicrafts were also accepted by the GST Council.



Reference:

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=175727>

SBI approves rising of long-term fund

Question: Recently, of how much amount of long-term fund raising program, was approved by the Executive Committee of the Central Board of Directors of SBI?

(a) \$ 1.5 billion (b) \$ 2 billion (c) \$ 2.5 billion (d) \$ 3 billion

Answer: (b)

Related Facts:

- In January 2018, the Executive Board of the Central Board of State (SBI) approved the program to raise the long-term fund for a two billion dollar amount.
- Under this clearance, the country's largest bank State Bank of India plans to raise \$ 2 billion by issuing bonds in US Dollar or any other convertible foreign currency.
- This amount will be mobilized in one or more installments.
- According to the bank, this amount will be collected during the financial year 2017-18 and 2018-19.



Reference:

<http://www.thehindubusinessline.com/money-and-banking/sbi-plans-to-raise-2-bn-via-overseas-bonds/article10019382.ece>

SCIENTIFIC

DEFENSE/SCIENCE SHORT NOTES

The Country's second largest roof top Solar Power Plant

Question- Recently in which state has the country's second largest rooftop solar power plant installed by Gail India Ltd.?

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

Answer: (d)

Related Facts:

- On January 1st, 2017, GAIL India Ltd. planted the country's second largest solar power plant at Petro Chemical Complex in Uttar Pradesh.
- The capacity of this plant is 5.76 MW Peak (MWp).
- Installed on the warehouse roof, this plant is spread over an area of 65 thousand square meters.
- The plant aims to generate electricity more than 79 lakh units for the need of the nation's largest gas based Petrochemical Plant.
- It is worth mentioning that on May 12, 2016, a 11.5 MW production capacity Rooftop Solar Power Plant was launched in Amritsar, Punjab which is currently the second largest rooftop solar power plant in the world.



Reference:

<https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/industry/energy/oil-gas/gail-commissions-indias-second-largest-rooftop-solar-plant-in-up/articleshow/62325948.cms>

The Fastest Indian Supercomputer so far Unveiled

Question- Recently, the fastest Indian supercomputer so far unveiled by the Ministry of Earth Sciences. What is its name?

(a) Aditya (b) Pratyush (c) Surya (d) Param Yuva-2

Answer: (b)

Related Facts:

- On January 8th, 2018, Honorable Union Minister for S&T, Earth Sciences, and Environment, Forest and Climate Change Dr. Harsh Vardhan dedicated India's fastest and first multi-petaflops supercomputer to the nation at IITM Pune.
- The Pratyush Support Portal (<http://pratyush.tropmet.res.in/>) was launched by Dr. M. Rajeevan , Hon'ble Secretary, MoES .
- The supercomputer named as 'Pratyush' meaning the Sun.
- It is established at the Indian Institute of Tropical Meteorology (IITM), Pune, will be a national facility for improving weather and climate forecasts and services under the umbrella of the Ministry of Earth Sciences (MoES), Govt. of India.
- With the augmentation of this new 'Pratyush" high performance computing (HPC) facility of 6.8 Peta Flops (PF), India's ranking will move from the 368 th position to around the top 30 in the Top 500 list of HPC facilities in the world.
- India will also be placed at the 4 th position after Japan, UK and USA for dedicated HPC resources for weather/climate community.
- The new HPC of 6.8 PF computational power is installed at two MoES Institutes: 4.0 Peta Flops HPC facilities at IITM, Pune and 2.8 Peta Flops facility at NCMRWF, Noida.
- It will be used in more efficient monitoring of all natural disasters like tsunami, cyclonic storms, earthquakes etc. apart from a better prediction of monsoon in the country.
- Apart from this, the quality of air, the fishery industry, lightening, the observation of hot and cold waves and it will be used for flood and drought preparation.
- Actually 'Pratush' is a composite link for all computers, capable of calculating up to a maximum of 6.8 Petaflops.
- It is important that one Petaflop is equal to one million billions of floating point calculations per second and it is a unit to understand the calculation capacity of the supercomputer.



Reference:

http://moes.gov.in/writereaddata/files/supercomputer_inauguration.pdf

Approval of Purchase of Guided bomb and Barrack missiles

Question: Recently two defense deals worth over Rs 1700 crore were sanctioned by Defense Minister Nirmala Sitharaman. Under this clearance target-guided bombs will be procured from which of the following countries?

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

Answer: (b)

Related Facts:



- On January 2nd, 2018, two defense deals worth over Rs 1700 crore were approved by Defense Minister Nirmala Sitharaman.
- These deals include the purchase of target-guided bomb and barrack missiles.
- 240 target-guided bombs will be procured from Russia, which will cost Rs. 1254 crores.
- In the second deal, 131 Barrack missiles of cost Rs. 460 crores will be procured from Israel's M / s Rafael Advanced Defense Systems Limited.
- These Barrack missiles are surface to air missiles designed to be used as a shipborne anti-missile defence system against anti-ship missiles.

Reference:

<http://indianexpress.com/article/india/precision-bombs-barak-missiles-nirmala-indian-navy-air-force-sitharaman-5009052/>

Successful test of Agni-5 missile

Question: On January 18th, 2018, Nuclear-capable inter-continental ballistic missile ‘Agni-5’ was successfully tested from of Dr. A.P. J. Abdul Kalam (Wheeler Island). It has the strike range of –

- (a) Over 3000 km (b) Over 5000 km (c) Over 2500 km
(d) Over 6500 km

Answer: (b)

Related Facts:

- On January 18th, 2018, Nuclear-capable inter-continental ballistic missile ‘Agni -5’ was successfully tested from Dr. APJ Abdul Kalam Island (Wheeler Island) of Odisha.
- ‘Agni 5’ is a surface-to-surface missile with strike range over 5000 km.
- It is designed and manufactured by the Defense Research and Development Organization.
- 50 meter long, 50 ton weigh fire-5 tropical missile.
- This was the fifth successful test of this missile.
- Earlier, on April 19th, 2012, the first test was done, on September 15th, 2013, second test and on January 31st, 2015 third test and the fourth successful test was done on December 26th, 2016.
- It is noteworthy that with successful test of ‘Agni -5’ missile on April 19th, 2012, India has joined exclusive ICBM with US, France, Russia and China countries.



Reference:

<http://www.thehindu.com/news/national/india-successfully-test-fires-agni-5-ballistic-missile/article22462182.ece>

PSLV-C40/Cartosat-2 Series Satellite Mission

Question: On January 12th, 2018, from which of the following launch vehicle the Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO) has successfully launched 31 satellites, including its 100th satellite CARTOSAT-2?



(a) PSLV-C41 (b) PSLV-C40 (c) PSLV-C39 (d) PSLV-C35

Answer: (b)

Related Facts:

- On January 12, 2018, the Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO) successfully launched 31 satellites, including its 100th satellite CARTOSAT-2 from Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle PSLV-C40.
- Mission was launched at 09:29 Hrs (IST) from Satish Dhawan Space Center Sriharikota (Andhra Pradesh).
- PSLV 740 kg through C-40 a satellite of the weighted cartosat-2 series and successfully launched 26 Nano and 4 micro satellites.
- The total weight of all 31 satellites is 1323 kg.
- Of the 31 satellites, three are Indian and 28 (3 micro satellites and 25 nano satellites) are from six countries: Canada, Finland, France, South Korea, UK and the USA.
- This is the second opportunity when ISRO successfully launched 31 satellites simultaneously.
- Earlier, ISRO had successfully launched 31 satellites from PSLV-C 38 on June 23rd, 2017.
- Cartosat Satellite is also known as 'Eye in the Sky' because it is designed to take pictures from space.
- It was the 40th successful mission, of PSLV while it was its 42nd flight.

Reference:

<https://www.isro.gov.in/launcher/pslv-c40-cartosat-2-series-satellite-mission>

SPORTS

TENNIS

The Oracle Challenger Series, Newport Beach-2018

Question: With which of the following Leander Paes won the men's doubles title of Oracle Challenger Series 2018, concluded at Newport Beach?

- (a) James Cerretani (b) Taylor Fritz (c) Dennis Kudla
(d) Mahesh Bhupathi

Answer: (a)

Related Facts:

- Professional tennis competition Oracle Challenger Series of ATP Challenger Tour-2018 concluded in Newport Beach, United States. (22-28 January, 2018)
- **Competition Results:**
- **Men's Singles**
Winner-Taylor Fritz (America)
Runner up-Bradley Klahn (America)
- **Women's Singles**
Winner- Danielle Rose Collins (America)
Runner up- Sofya A. Zhuk (Russia)



- **Men's Doubles**

Winner-Leander Paes (India) and James Cerretani (America)

Runner up-Treat Huey (Philippines) and Dennis Kudla (America)

Reference:

<http://oraclechallengerseries.com/newport-beach-tournament-info/>

Australian Open 2018

Question: Roger Federer won the title of the Australian Open Grand Slam, 2018, on 28 January 2018. How many times he won the Australian Open title?

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

Answer- (c)

Related Facts

- 'Australian Open', 2018, the first tennis Grand Slam event of year 2018 concluded at Melbourne, Australia. (15-28 January, 2018)

- **Competition Results:**

- **Men's Singles**

Winner-Roger Federer (Switzerland)

Runner up- Marin Cilic (Croatia)

- **Women's Singles**

winner- Caroline Wozniacki (Denmark)

Runner up- Simona Halep (Romania)

- **Men's doubles**

winner-Oliver Marche (Austria) and Matt Pewick (Croatia)

Runner up- *Juan Sebastian Cabal and Robert Farah* (both Colombia)

- **Women's doubles**

winner- Timea Babos (Hungary) and Kristina mladenovic (France)

Runner up- Ekaterina Makarova and Elena Vesnina (both Russia)

- **Mixed doubles**

winner- Gabriela Dabrowski (Canada) and Matt Pewick (Croatia)

Runner up- Timea Babos (Hungary) and Rohan Bopanna (India)

- This was Federer's 20th Grand Slam title, the highest among men.

- He is behind Germany's Steffi Graf (22), America's Serena Williams (23) and Australia's Margate Court (24) are.

- Federer also equaled the record for winning the Australian Open for the sixth time (Novak Djokovic and Roy Emerson).

- Federer has made a place in the final of the record 30 Grand Slam Tournaments.

- Federer became the oldest player (36 years, 5 months, 20 days) to reach the Australian Open final after 1972.

- This is Caroline Wozniacki (Denmark) first Grand Slam title.

- Wozniacki became the world's number one player with this win.

Reference:

<https://ausopen.com/tournament-schedule>



Tata open 2018

Question: Which player won the title of the Tata Open, 2018, which was completed in January 2018?

- (a) Kevin Anderson (b) Giles Simone (c) Robin Haase
(d) Pierre-Hugues

Answer: (b)

Related Facts

- Tata Open, 2018 concluded in Pune, Maharashtra (1-6 January, 2018)
- **Competition result:**
- **Men's Singles**
Winner-Giles Simone (France)
Runner up-Kevin Anderson (South Africa)
- **Men's doubles**
winner-Robin Haase and Matve Middelkoop (both Netherlands)
Runner up- Pierre-Hugues and Giles Simone (both France)
- It is known that this is India's only ATP World Tour event.
- Tata Open, 2018 (Maharashtra Open Tennis Tournament) was formerly known as the Chennai Open.



Reference:

<https://www.atpworldtour.com/en/tournaments/pune/891/overview>

Shenzhen Open, 2018

Question: Who amongst the following won the women's title in the Women's Tennis Championship Shenzhen Open, 2018?

- (a) Katrina Sanyakova (b) Simona Halep
(c) Irina-Camelia Begu (d) Barbora Krejckikova

Answer: (b)

Related Facts:

- WTA Tour Session, Professional Women's Tennis Championship Shenzhen Open, 2018 concluded in Shenzhen, China. (December 30, 2017-6 January, 2018)
- This is the 6th edition of this tennis competition.
- **Competition Results-**
- **Women's Singles**
Winner – Simona Halep (Romania)
Runner up-Katrina Sanyakova (Czech Republic)
- **Women's Doubles**
Winner-Simona Halep and Irina-Camelia Begu (both Romania)
Runner up-Katrina Sanyakova and Barbora Krejckikova (Both Czech Republic)



Reference:

http://www.shenzhenopentennis.com/2018/eng/news_016.php

Hopmancup-2018

Question: Which of the following country won the title of 2018 Hopmancup, concluded on January 6, 2018?

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

Answer: (b)

Related Facts:

- 30th edition of prestigious Tennis team's tournament Hopmancup, 2018 concluded in Perth, Australia 30 December, 2017 – 6 January, 2018)
- Switzerland won the title by defeating Germany 2-1.
- **Individual results are as follows:**
- **Men's singles**
winner-Roger Federer (Switzerland)
Runner up- *Alexander M. Zverev* (Germany)
- **Women's singles**
winner-Angelique Kerber (Germany)
Runner up-Belinda Bansis (Switzerland)
- **Mixed Doubles:**
winner-Roger Federer and Belinda Bansis (Both Switzerland)
Runner up- Alexander Zverev and Angelique Kerber (Germany)



Reference:

<https://hopmancup.com/results/completed-matches/>

Sydney International Tennis Championship, 2018

Question: Who won the title of the men's singles category at the Sydney International Tennis Championship, 2018?

(a) Andy Murray (b) Daniil Medvedev (c) Alex de Minaur
(d) Daniel Evans

Answer: (b)

Related Facts:

- Sydney International Tennis Tournament-2018, concluded in Sydney (January 7-13, 2018).
- This is the 125th edition of this competition.
- Competition Result:-
- **Men's Singles –**
- Winner:-Danil Medvedev (Russia)
- Runner up: Alex de Minaur (Australia)
- **Woman's Singles –**
- winner: Angelique Kerber (Germany)
- Runner-up: Ashleigh Barty (Australia)
- **Men's doubles –**
- winner: Lucas Kubot (Poland) and Marcelo Melo (Brazil)
- Runner up: Jan-Lennard Struff (Germany) and Victor Troicki (Serbia)
- **Women's Doubles –**



- Winner: Gabriela Dabrowski (Canada) and Xu Yifan (China)
- Runner up: Latisha Chan (Chinese Taipei) and Andrea Sestini Hlaváčková (Czech Republic)

Reference:

<http://www.atpworldtour.com/en/scores/archive/sydney/338/2018/results?matchType=doubles>

CRICKET

Syed Mushtaq Ali T-20 Trophy, 2018

Question: Who was the Man of the Match in the recently concluded Syed Mushtaq Ali T20 Trophy, 2017-18 final?

- (a) Ankit Lamba (b) Deepak Chahar (c) Mandeep Singh
(d) Pradeep Sangwan

Answer: (d)

Related Facts:

- 9th edition of Syed Mushtaq Ali T-20 Trophy, 2017-18 concluded under the host of Kolkata. (21-26 January, 2018)
- Two-Two teams from the East, West, North, South and Central Zone participated in the tournament.
- These teams had qualified through 2017-18 Zonal T20 league.
- Finals Venue: Eden Gardens, Kolkata.
- In the final, Delhi defeated Rajasthan by 41 runs and won the trophy for the first time.
- Chasing the target of 154 runs given by Delhi, the entire team of Rajasthan become all out for 112 runs in 19.1 overs.
- Delhi captain was Pradeep Sangwan (4 overs, 14 runs, 2 wickets) was selected as the Man of the Match for the final.
- Rajasthan captain was Aniket Choudhary.



Reference:

<http://www.cricbuzz.com/live-cricket-scorecard/19977/delhi-vs-rajasthan-final-syed-mushtaq-ali-trophy-2018>

Ranji Trophy, 2017-2018

Question: Which team won the title of the recently concluded Ranji Trophy, 2017-2018 championship?

- (a) Vidarbha (b) Gujarat (c) Delhi (d) Mumbai

Answer: (a)

Related Facts:

- India's first-class cricket domestic championship Ranji Trophy, 2017-18 concluded. (October 6, 2017 to January 1, 2018)
- Vidarbha won the title for the first time by defeating Delhi by nine wickets in the final match of the 84th edition, played at Holkar Cricket Stadium, Indore.
- Vidarbha captain was Faiz Fazal and Delhi's team captain was Rishabh Pant.
- Rajneesh Gurbani of Vidarbha was selected as the Man of the Match in the final match.



- In the final match, Rajneesh Gurbani of Vidarbha completed his hat-trick with three consecutive wickets.
- He is the second bowler to complete the hat-trick in the Ranji Trophy final match.
- Prior to this, in the year 1972-73, B. Kalyansundaram of Tamil Nadu completed hat-trick against Bombay. The highest wicket in the championship was taken by Jalaj Saxena (44 wickets in 14 innings) of Kerala. 28 teams participated in the Ranji Trophy, 2017-2018.
- Karnataka's Mayank Agarwal (1160 runs in 13 innings) scored the highest runs in the championship.
- The first semi-final of the championship was played between Delhi and Bengal and the second semi-final between Vidarbha and Karnataka.
- Gujarat won its first Ranji title in the last Ranji Trophy, defeating Mumbai in the 2016-17 final. It is known that this championship is the most won by Mumbai (41 times).

Reference:

<http://www.espncricinfo.com/series/8050/scorecard/1118703/delhi-vs-vidarbha-final/>

T-10 Cricket league-2017

Question: Who won the title of the first T-10 Cricket league that was held in Sharjah recently?

- (a) Punjabi Legends (b) Kerala Kings (c) Pakhtoons
(d) Maratha Arabians

Answer: (b)

Related Facts:

- First T-10 Cricket league concludes in Sharjah, United Arab Emirates (December 14-17, 2017)
- In the final match played at Sharjah Cricket Stadium on 17 December 2017, Kerala Kings won the T-10 Cricket League title by defeating Punjab Legend by 8 wickets.
- Man of the Match-Ian Morgan (Kerala Kings).
- Icon Player and Captain of the Kerala Kings team Ian Morgan and Icon Player and Captain of the Punjabi Legends team was Shoaib Malik.
- Playing from Pakhtoons, Shahid Afridi completed his first hat-trick against Maratha Arabians in the first over.
- A total of 6 teams participated in this tournament.
- This league has been set up by Business Tycoon Nawab Shahtaz Shaji UI Mulk, who is also chairman of the league as well as the chairman of the country's holdings.
- The league president is the owner of the ARY Group and the media Mughal Salman Iqbal. This league has been started by T10 Sports Management.
- The ownership of this league is also under T-10 Sports Management.
- The League receives acceptance from the Emirates Cricket Board.
- This is the first T-10 format approved league internationally.



Reference:

<https://cricket.yahoo.com/news/t10-cricket-league-5-reasons-142201800.html>

Ashes series, 2017-18

Question: which one of the following statements is not correct about Ashes series, 2017-18, recently held between Australia-England?

- (a) Australia won the series 4-0.
- (b) This series was held in England.
- (c) Steve Smith was chosen 'Man of the Series'.
- (d) Steve Smith, who made the most runs in an Ashes series, became the second Australian captain to do so.



Answer: (b)

Related Facts:

- The 70th Ashes Series, 2017-18 concluded in Australia (November 23rd, 2017 to January 8, 2018).
- Australia won the series by 4-0.
- The first Test match of the series was played in Brisbane, second in Adelaide and third was in Perth. Australia won all three matches.
- The fourth Test match played in Melbourne was a draw, while Australia won the fifth test match in Sydney, with an innings of 123 runs.
- Australian cricket team captain Steve Smith for the series and the captain of the England cricket team, Joe Root remains.
- Pat Cummins (Australia) was selected for 'Man of the Match' in the last Test match.
- Australian captain Steve Smith was named 'Man of the Series'.
- Most runs in the series Steve Smith (687 runs in 7 innings) scored.
- Australian fast bowler Pat Cummins has taken the most wickets in the series (23 wickets in 9 innings).
- Steve Smith, the other Australian captain in any Ashes series, was the other Australian captain.
- Earlier as captain former player Sir Don Bradman had scored a total of 810 runs in 9 innings, the highest run ever made by the Australian captain in any Ashes series.
- In the fourth Test played in Melbourne, Steve Smith scored 102 not out in the second innings; which is in the long format of the cricket was his fourth consecutive century in Tests.
- Earlier, former player Donald Bradman had scored four consecutive centuries in four Tests at the ground.
- It is known that the Ashes series is a series of Tests played between England and Australia.
- So far, a total of 70 Ashes series have been organized, in which Australia has 33 and England has won 32 series and 5 Series draws.

Reference:

<http://www.news18.com/cricketnext/news/ashes-steve-smith-equals-don-bradmans-record-with-mcg-ton-1618641.html>

<http://www.news18.com/cricketnext/news/smith-ends-with-second-highest-run-tally-in-an-ashes-series-only-behind-bradman-1625969.html>

BADMINTON

Indonesia Masters-2018

Question: Which player amongst the given defeated Saina Nehwal in the finals of the Indonesia Masters Badminton tournament in Jakarta on January 28, 2018?

(a) Tai Tzu Ying (b) P. V. Sindhu (c) Li Soo (d) Sin Seung Chan

Answer: (a)

Related Facts:

- Grand 500 badminton competition 'Indonesia Masters' of BWF World Tour concluded in Jakarta, Indonesia.
- **Competition Result:**
- **Men's Singles**
Winner-Anthony Siniska Ginning (Indonesia)
Runner up-Kajumasa Sakai (Japan)
- **Women's Singles**
Winner-Tai Tzu-Ying (Chinese Taipei)
Runner up-Saina Nehwal (India)
- This is the seventh consecutive win over Ying (world number one player) Saina.
- Ying has defeated Saina nine times in the last ten matches.
- Saina won the Ying at the Swiss Open for the last time in 2013.

Reference:

<http://bwfbadminton.com/results/3140/daihatsu-indonesia-masters-2018/draw/ms>



Iceland International, 2018

Question: Which of the following player defeated India's Bodhit Joshi in the men's singles final of the Iceland International Badminton Competition, held on 28th January, 2018?

(a) Adam Hall (b) Alexander Dunn (c) Sam Parsons
(d) Agnes Korosi

Answer: (c)

Related Facts:

- 'Iceland International', 2018 badminton competition of BWF Tour, the 2018 international series' concluded in Reykjavik, Iceland. (25-28 January, 2018)
- **Major Competition Results:**
- **Men's Singles:**
Gold Medal-Sam Parsons (England)
Silver Medal- Bodhit Joshi (India)
Bronze Medal – Siddharth Pratap Singh (India)
- **Women's Singles:**
Gold Medal- Saili Rane (India)
Silver Medal-Vaishnavi Reddy Jaka (India)



- **Men's Doubles**
Bronze Medal – Adarsh Kumar and Jagdish Yadav (both India)
- **Mixed Doubles:**
Gold Medal – Rohan Kapoor and Kuhu Garg (both India)

Reference:

<http://bwf.tournamentsoftware.com/sport/winners.aspx?id=6D470E9C-B7DF-4412-A7C4-61190AD43714>

42nd Junior National Badminton Championship-2017

Question: Who won the boy's single (U-19) and Girl's singles (U-19) title in the 42nd Junior National Badminton Championship held in December 2017?

- (a) Aryaman Tandon, Vaidehi Chaudhary
- (b) Rahul Bhardwaj, Vaidehi Chaudhary
- (c) Aryaman Tandon, Akarshi Kashyap
- (d) Rahul Bhardwaj, Akarshi Kashyap

Answer: (c)

Related Facts:

- 42nd Junior National Badminton Championship, 2017, concluded in Guwahati, Assam. (December 14-18, 2017)
- **Competition Results-**
- **Boy's Single (U-19)**
- Winner-Aryaman Tandon
- Runner up Rahul Bharadwaj
- **Girl's Singles (U-19)**
- Winner- Akarshi Kashyap
- Runner up- Vaidehi Chaudhary
- **Boy's Doubles (U-19)**
- Winner-P. Vishnuvardhan Gaur and Shri Krishna Sai Kumar Podiley
- Runner up D. Sanjay Srivatsa and Siddhartha Alengo
- **Girl's Double (U-19)**
- Winner-Rutaparna Panda and U.K. Mithula
- Runners up Simran Singh and Ritika Thacker
- **Mixed Doubles (U-19)**
- Winner – G. Krishna Prasad and U.K. Mithula
- Runners up- Shri Krishna Sai Kumar Podiley and Rutaparna Panda
- **Boy's Single (U-17)**
- Winner-Messnam Meraba
- Runners up, Amit Rathore
- **Girl's Single (U-17)**
- Winners- Akarshi Kashyap (Chhattisgarh)
- Runner up Malvika Bansod
- **Boy's Doubles (U-17)**
- Winner-Navneet Bockka and P. Vishnuvardhan Gaur
- Runner up Dhruv Rawat and Akash Yadav



- **Girls' Double (U-17)**
- Winner-Trisha Hegde and Drithi Yatish
- Runner up-Kayura Mopti and S. Kavipriya

Reference:

<http://badmintonindia.org/download/results/FINAL%20RESULTS-42ND%20JUNIOR%20NATIONALS-%20GUWAHATI-2017.pdf>

Premier Badminton League, 2018

Question: Hyderabad Hunters won the title of Premier Badminton League, 2018 by defeating which of the following team?

(a) Chennai Smashers (b) Awadh Warriors (c) Bangalore Blasters (d) Mumbai Rockets

Answer: (c)

Related Facts:

- 4th edition of premiere badminton league (PBL) concluded in various cities of India. (December 23, 2017-14 January, 2018)
- Sponsor-Vodafone
- Total eight participant teams Hyderabad Hunters, Ahmedabad Smash Masters, Delhi Dashers, Bengaluru Blasters, Chennai Smashers, Awadh Warriors, North Eastern Warriors and Mumbai Rockets.
- Final was held in Hyderabad on January 14, 2018.
Winner Team-Hyderabad Hunters (4-3)
Runner up Team – Bangalore Blasters



Reference:

<http://www.pbl-india.com/fixtures>

BILLIARDS, SNOOKER & SQUASH

74th CCI Western India Open Squash Championship

Question: Who won the men's title in the 74th CCI Western India Open Squash Championship held in December, 2017?

(a) Gaurav Nandrajog (b) Aditya Jagtap (c) Abhishek Pradhan (d) Ravi Dixit

Answer: (b)

Related Facts:

- 74th CCI-Western India Open Squash Championship, 2017, concluded in Mumbai (December 16-21, 2017)
- **Competition Results:**
- **Men's Singles:**
- Winner-Aditya Jagtap
- Runner up-Gourav Nandrajog
- **Women's Singles:**
- Winner-Aparajita Balamurukan
- Runner up- Urvashi Joshi



Reference:

<http://www.tournamentsoftware.com/sport/winners.aspx?id=084557A4-6E57-468E-8679-1B7F37CC6154>

Kolkata Open International Invitation Snooker Championship, 2018

Question: Aditya Mehta defeated whom of the following in the finals of the Kolkata Open International Invitation Snooker Championship, 2018?

(a) Saurabh Kothari (b) Alfie Burden (c) Lakshman Rawat (d) Brajesh Damani

Answer: (b)

Related Facts:

- 4th Kolkata Open International Invitation and Pro-Am Snooker Championship, concluded in 2018, Kolkata. (3-8 January, 2018)
- Organizer- Hindustan Club, Kolkata
- **Competition Results:**
- **Winner**-Aditya Mehta (Indian Oil Corp.)
- Runner up- Alfie Burden (England)
- **Pro-M competition results:**
- **Winner**-Shree Cement (Alfie Burden and Rajesh Tulsian)
- Runner up- Zenith Cement (Lucky Vatani and Sunil Saraogi)
- This is Aditya's third Kolkata Open title since its inception.



Reference:

<http://www.cuesportsindia.com/myweb/tournament18/results/kolkataopen-main.htm>

<http://www.cuesportsindia.com/myweb/tournament18/results/kolkataopen-proam.htm>

GOLF

2018 Hero WPGT

Question: On January 25th, 2017, which of the following women's golfer won the title of 2nd Leg of the 2018 Hero WPGT in Mumbai?

(a) Sharmila Nicollet (b) Neha Tripathi (c) Tvesa Malik
(d) Gursimar Badwal

Answer: (a)

Related Facts:

- Second Leg of 2018 Hero WPGT concluded at Presidency Golf Club, Mumbai. (January 25, 2018)
- Woman Golfer Sharmila Nicollet defeated Neha Tripathy in the play-off, winning the second leg of WPGT.
- Sharmila has won the title last time in August, 2016 in Hyderabad.



Reference:

<https://golfingindian.com/sharmila-wins-second-leg-of-hero-wpgt/>

SPORTS MISCELLANEOUS

Change in Test Cricket Rules

Question: Recently, some major changes were made by the ICC in Test cricket. Which of the following options is not right in regards to these changes?

- (a) Test cricket will be of 4 days instead of 5 days.
- (b) 90 overs per day will be replaced by 98 overs per day.
- (c) The first session of the game will be 2 hours and 30 minutes instead of 2 hours.
- (d) A four-day Test match will have an additional half hour of every day game.



Answer- (c)

Related Facts:

- In December 2017, the International Cricket Council (ICC) announced some major changes in experimental changes in Test cricket.
- Under this change, the term of test cricket will be reduced from 5 days to 4 days.
- 98 overs will be bowled in a day, instead of 90.
- The start of the experiment was in day-night test match played in Port Elizabeth Test between South Africa and Zimbabwe on December 26.
- A four-day Test match will have an additional half hour of every day game.
- The first two sessions of play will be two hours 15 minutes each, instead of two hours, with a 20-minute tea break instead of a lunch break after the first session.
- The follow-on can be enforced with a lead of 150 runs, compared to 200 runs in five-day games.

Reference:

<http://www.thehindu.com/sport/cricket/new-rules-for-south-africas-4-day-test-with-zimbabwe/article22272413.ece>

IPL 2018: Auction of Players

Question: On 27-28 January, 2018, for the 11th edition of IPL 2018, foreign player Ben Stokes remained the most expensive (Rs 12.5 crore) player in the auction. Which of the following Indian players got most expensive bid?

- (a) KL Rahul (b) Rishabh Pant (c) Manish Pandey (d) Jaydev Unadkat

Answer: (d)

Related Facts:

- The auction of players for the 11th edition of Indian Premier League, 2018, concluded in Bangalore. (27-28 January, 2018)
- England's Ben Stokes remained the most expensive player in the auction this year too.
- Team Rajasthan Royals bought him for Rs 12.50 crore.
- Jaydev Unadkat was the most expensive Indian player bought by Rajasthan Royals for Rs 11.50 crore.
- Followings are the most expensive five players respectively:
- Ben Stokes, 12.50 crores, Team-Rajasthan Royals



- Jaydev Unadkat, Rs 11.50 crores, Team-Rajasthan Royals
- Manish Pandey, Rs 11 crores, Team-Sunrise Hyderabad
- KL Rahul, Rs. 11 crore rupees, Team-Kings Eleven Punjab
- Chris Lynn, Rs 9.60 crore, Team-Kolkata Knight Riders
- Four Afghan players have the IPL 2018 season for the first time.
- Mujeeb Zadran (Kings XI Punjab), Mohammad Nabi and Rashid Khan Sunrises Hyderabad and Spinner Zahir Khan were bought by Rajasthan Royals made debut for the first time.
- On the second day of auction, Nepal's leg-spinner Sandeep Lamichhane
- has bought for the base price of Rs 20 lakh by the Delhi Daredevils team.
- Sandeep will be the first Nepali cricketer to play in the IPL.
- This time the 'Right to Match Card' (RTM) was used in the auction first time.
- 'Right to Match Card' is given to all the franchises.
- This card can buy back your player sold during the auction.
- When the auction is over to buy the player, it has to match the bids sold.
- They have to match the bids sold at the end of the auction to buy the player.
- It means at the same price the player's price is worth, the franchisee can get his old player.
- Shikhar Dhawan, the most expensive player to return to his team through
- Dhawan was acquired by Kings Eleven Punjab for 5 crore 20 lakhs, but Hyderabad used the RTM card to include Dhawan back in his team.
- IPL 2018 will be held in different cities of India from April 7th, 2018 to May 27th, 2018.
- Administrator- BCCI
- Cricket format- T-20 tournament format- Double round robin and playoffs knockout
- IPL Governing Council had included total 580 players for the auction, out of which 361 were Indian players.

Reference:

<http://www.tolnews.com/afghanistan/four-afghan-cricketers-snapped-ipl-teams>

Samba de Ouro Trophy- 2017

Question: Which player amongst the following is selected for the Samba de Ouro Trophy for year 2017?

- (a) Neymar (b) Marcio Santos (c) Marcello Vieira
(d) David Lewis

Answer: (a)

Related Facts:

- On January 1st, 2017 Brazilian football player Neymar da Silva Santos Jr (surname-Neymar) was selected for the Samba de Ouro Trophy, 2017.
- This trophy is awarded to Brazil's best player in Europe.
- Neymar won this trophy for the third time.
- This trophy will be given to this Brazilian player at Paris (France) in February.
- It is known that the winners of the trophy are selected under the votes of journalists, ex-players and the Internet fan survey.



Reference:

<http://zeenews.india.com/hindi/sports/neymar-became-brazils-best-player-in-europe/362385>

Hockey World Cup umpire Panel

Question: Which two Indians have been included in the panel of umpires in the Hockey World Cup (Men) in the 2018?

- (a) Munappa, Javed Shaikh (b) Raghu Prasad, Javed Shaikh
(c) Raghu Prasad, Altaf Raza
(d) Balvinder Singh, Muhammad Alam

Answer: (b)

Related Facts:

- On December 19th, 2017, the International Hockey Federation (FIH) announced the participation of Raghu Prasad and Javed Sheikh of India in the panel of umpires in the men's Hockey World Cup being held in Bhubaneswar next year.
- On this occasion FIH also announced 25 match officials from 19 countries of all five continents.
- Match officials were also appointed for the Women's Hockey World Cup to be held in London in 2018.
- It is known that Bhuvneshwar, Odisha (India) got the World Cup (male) hosting in 2018
- The women's hockey World Cup will be held in London's Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park from July 21st to August 5, 2018 and the men's Hockey World Cup will be held from November 28 to December 16, 2018.

Reference:

<http://www.fih.ch/events/world-cup/world-cup-2018/hockey-world-cup-bhubaneswar-2018-m/news/latest-news/fih-announces-officials-for-odisha-hockey-men-s-world-cup-bhubaneswar-2018/>



Woman Power Cup Handball Super League, 2018

Question: Uttar Pradesh Challengers won Woman Power Cup Handball Super League, which won the title of 2018, by defeating whom of the following?

- (a) Haryana Panthers (b) Awadh Warriors (c) Delhi Fighters
(d) Himachal Pradesh Snatchers

Answer: (a)

Related Facts:

- Woman Power Cup Handball Super League, 2018 concluded in Karanel Singh Stadium, Delhi. (12-14 January, 2018)
- For the first time Handball Super League was held in India.
- World organized by Cannes Sports World with the Handball Federation of India.
- Participant teams (6) Jammu and Kashmir Snow Eagles, Himachal Pradesh Snatchers, Delhi Fighters, Punjab Pirs, Haryana Panthers and Uttar Pradesh Challengers.
- Finals held at Karnail Singh Stadium, New Delhi (January 14, 2018)
- Winner- Uttar Pradesh Challengers (19-17)
Runner up- Haryana Panthers
- It is known that only Indian players were involved in this competition.



- Poonam Kadav (The only women player to play from Maharashtra), played on behalf of Uttar Pradesh Challengers received the trophy.

Reference:

<http://www.jammulinksnews.com/newsdetail/145101/Jammu-Links-News-Handball-Womens-Power-Cup-League-from-Jan-12>

North Korea will send delegation to Winter Olympic Games

Question: In which of the following country Winter Olympics, 2018 will be organized?

- (a) Germany (b) France (c) South Korea (d) Russia

Answer: (c)

Related Facts:

- On January 9th, 2018, North Korea decided to send its sports delegation to the Winter Olympic Games to be held in South Korea next month.
- Between the two countries, meeting was held in non-army zone in Panmunjom village on the border of both the countries two years later, where after the meeting, the said decision was taken.
- After the meeting, North Korea decided to send a high level delegation (including players, sports fans, artists, observers and journalists) in winter sports.
- South Korea will consider temporarily removal of the ban on the people of North Korea coming to the Winter Olympics in their country next month.
- It is known that after North Korea's nuclear and missile tests, South Korea had put a one-sided ban on its officials coming here.
- It is notable that the Winter Olympics, 2018, will be held in South Korea (Pyeongchang City) during 9-25 February 2018.
- It will be the 23rd Winter Olympics.
- During this meeting, South Korea also proposed to military talks and get together of families with North Korea.



Related Links:-

<http://www.bbc.com/news/world-asia-42600550>

SPORTS PERSONALITY

Election of Representative for women boxers

Question: Who was recently elected the representative of women boxers at the Executive Council of the National Boxing Federation (BFI)?

- (a) Seema Punia (b) L. Sarita Devi (c) MC Marycom
(d) Sarita Fogat



Answerer: (b)

Related Facts:

- In the elections held on January 10th, 2018 former World and Asian champion L. Sarita Devi was elected as the representative of women boxing at the National Boxing Federation (BFI) Executive Council.
- In the election held during the national championship in Rohtak, Haryana, L. Sarita Devi received 22 votes among captains of 31 team.
- She defeated the Seema Punia of Railway Sports Promotion Board.
- It is known that in this election, Seema Punia was the only candidate against Sarita L Devi.
- Sarita Devi won the bronze medal in the Asian Championships last year.

Reference:

<http://www.hindustantimes.com/other-sports/l-sarita-devi-elected-women-boxers-representative-in-boxing-federation-of-india/story-4pmpGf55StoiGDpHmFaLfk.html>

Harry Kane breaks 22-year-old record

Question: Harry Kane, broke a 22-year-old record for most Premier League goals in a calendar year after making a hat-trick against South Hampton on behalf of Tottenham Hotspur? Kane belongs to-

(a) England (b) France (c) Germany (d) Romania

Answer: (a)

Related Facts:

- On December 26th, 2017, Harry Kane, broke a 22-year-old record for most Premier League goals in a calendar year after making a hat-trick against South Hampton on behalf of Tottenham Hotspur.
- Harry Kane is a player of England.
- There are 8th hat-trick – 6 in the Premier League – and 39th Premier League goal and 56th overall of 2017, in the name of Kane.
- While Shearer's record of 36 goals came in 42 appearances and was set in 1995.
- He moved past Barcelona's Lionel Messi to become Europe's top scorer in 2017.
- He also surpassed Barcelona's footballer Lionel Messi, who scored the most goals in Europe in 2017.
- Kane scored 56 goals in 2017, while Messi scored 54 goals.
- India is that this football player of England has won the title of Golden Boot twice in the Premier League.



Reference:

<http://www.independent.co.uk/sport/football/premier-league/harry-kane-alan-shearer-premier-league-goals-record-calendar-year-lionel-messi-european-top-scorer-a8128696.html>

Indian cricketer left behind Brian Lara in the all-time Test rankings list

Question: Which of the following Indian player got 26th in the all-time Test ranking of batsmen issued by ICC on January 28, 2018?



- (a) Ajinkya Rahane (b) Virat Kohli
(c) Ravichandran Ashwin (d) Rohit Sharma

Answer: (b)

Related Facts:

- The ICC Player Rankings of the all-time MRF TIREs of Test batsmen were updated by the International Cricket Council (ICC). (January 28, 2018)
- Indian captain Virat Kohli moves past West Indies legend Brian Lara (911 points) in the all-time ICC Rankings for Test Batsmen at 31st position.
- He started third and final match of the Test series against Africa started with 900 ratings points.
- Virat earned 12 points following contributions of 54 and 41 in his side's 63 runs victory.
- Australia's Sir Don Bradman topped with 961 points in this ICC's all-time list.
- Australia Steve Smith is second on the list with 947 points.
- Kohli left behind Brian Lara (911), Kevin Pietersen (909), Hashim Amla (907), Shivnarine Chanderpaul (901) and Michael Clarke (900) for the 31st to 26th position respectively.
- Sunil Gavaskar is the former Indian player in the top spot in ICC's Best ever Test Championship rating (batting).
- Gavaskar is ranked 23rd in the list with 916 rating points.

Reference:

<https://www.icc-cricket.com/media-releases/604735>

Ricky Ponting

Question: Who amongst the following is currently the head coach of the Australian cricket team?

- (a) Tom Moody (b) Darren Lehmann (c) Graeme Hick
(d) Troy Cooley

Answer: (b)

Related Facts:

- Former Australia captain Ricky Ponting has been appointed co-coach of Australian cricket team for the tri-series T20 against New Zealand and England which will be held in February, 2018.
- Ponting will be the assistant to the coach of Australian cricket team Darren Lehmann.
- The Ponting was also the assistant coach in the series against Sri Lanka last year.
- Lehmann's regular staff colleagues are Graeme Hick, David Saker and Brad Haddin, who will start preparing for the Australian team's South Africa round in February-March.
- It is known that in January 2018, Ricky Ponting was named as the Chief Coach of the Delhi Daredevils team of the Indian Premier League.



Reference:

<http://www.bbc.com/sport/cricket/42617830>

Two Indian umpires in the ICC Panel of Under-19 World Cup

Question: Which of the following two Indian umpires were recently announced by the International Cricket Council (ICC) to be included in the list of 14-member Umpires of Under-19 World Cup?



- (a) Vineet Kulkarni, Suresh Shastri
- (b) Anil Chaudhary, Sundaram Ravi
- (c) Anil Chaudhary, C.K. Nandan
- (d) Ameesh Saheba, C.K. Nandan

Answer: (c)

Related Facts:

- On January 3rd, 2018, the International Cricket Council (ICC) announced the inclusion of two Indian umpires in the 14-member umpire list of the Under-19 World Cup, starting from January 13th, 2018.
- The names of these Indian umpires are Anil Chaudhary and C.K Nandan.
- ICC match referees of emirate elite panel Jeff Crowe, Devdas Govind Ji and David Jukes of International Panel will be the match referee.
- India and Australia won the title of Under-19 Cricket World Cup three-three times each.

Reference:

<https://www.indiatoday.in/pti-feed/story/two-indian-umpires-in-icc-panel-for-under-19-world-cup-1121115-2018-01-03>

Brazilian footballer retire from international football

Question: Which of the following Brazilian footballer recently announced the retirement?

- (a) Neymar (b) Ronaldinho (c) Diego (d) Gabriel Jace

Answer: (b)

Related Facts:

- Former Brazilian footballer and Barcelona midfielder Ronaldinho announced the retirement from international football. (January 17, 2018)
- Ronaldinho's brother, who is also his agent, gave this information on January 16th, which Ronaldinho confirmed on Instagram next day.
- Ronaldinho scored 33 goals in 97 matches for the Brazil national team.
- This includes a wonderful goal from the 40-foot distance against England in the 2002 World Cup.
- Ronaldinho was also the winner of FIFA's Ballon d'Or (Best Footballer) Award in 2005.



Reference:

<https://www.thesun.co.uk/sport/football/5358911/ronaldinho-retires-aged-37/>

SHORT NOTES

PERSONALITIES

T. Krishna Kumari

Question: T. Krishna Kumari passed away recently. She was-

- (a) Dancer (b) Singer (c) Writer (d) Actress

Answer- (d)

Related Facts:



- On January 24th, 2018, South Indian famed actress T. Krishna Kumari passed away. She was 84 years old.
- She had acted in more than 230 Telugu, Tamil and Kannada films.

Reference:

<http://www.thehindu.com/entertainment/movies/krishna-kumari-tribute-an-actress-of-mettle/article22508237.ece>

Ursula K. Le Guin

Question- Recently award-winning U.S. science fiction and fantasy author Ursula K. Le Guin passed away. She was which of the following countries?

(a) Israel (b) America (c) Japan (d) UK

Answer: (b)

Related Facts:

- On 22nd January 2018, award-winning U.S. science fiction and fantasy author Ursula K. Le Guin died. She was 88 years old.
- Le Guin was famous for his global bestselling book 'Earthsea' series.



Reference:

<http://www.thehindu.com/todays-paper/tp-life/fantasy-writer-ursula-k-le-guin-is-dead/article22516453.ece>

Ajay Singh

Question: Recently, senior officer of the Indian Administrative Service Ajay Singh was appointed as the new Chief Secretary of which of the following states?

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

Answer: (d)

Related Facts:

- On January 11th, 2018, senior official of the Indian Administrative Service, Ajay Singh was appointed the new Chief Secretary of Chhattisgarh State.
- He is the IAS officer of 1983 batch.
- At this post, he will replace Vivek Dhand.



Reference:

<http://www.thehindu.com/news/national/other-states/chhattisgarh-gets-new-chief-secretary/article22423977.ece>

New Economic adviser to the Uttar Pradesh Government

Question- Who amongst the given is currently appointed as new economic adviser in UP Government?

(a) Sanjay Agrawal (b) Dr. K.V. Raju (c) T. Aparna
(d) Dr. Sanjay Prasad

Answer: (b)



Related Facts:

- On January 9th, 2018, the famous economist Dr. K.V. Raju was appointed the new economic adviser to the Uttar Pradesh government.
- He will advise the state on agriculture and economic issues.

Reference:

<http://indiangrapevine.com/index.php/Home/display/Dr-Raju-becomes-new-Economic-Advisor-of-UP-Government>

S.R. Mardi

Question: Recently, senior IPS officer S.R. Mardi was appointed as the new Director General of Police (DGP) of which of the following states?

(a) Haryana (b) Himachal Pradesh (c) Gujarat (d) Uttarakhand

Answer: (b)

Related Facts:

- On January 8th, 2018, senior IPS officer S.R. Meri was appointed as the new Director General of Police (DGP) of Himachal Pradesh.
- He is the IPS officer of 1986 batch of Himachal cadre.
- Currently he is the Director General of Police (Homeguards and Civil Defense).
- At this post he will replace Somesh Goyal.

**Reference:**

<http://indiatoday.intoday.in/story/sr-mardi-to-be-new-himachal-dgp/1/1126445.html>

Shashikant Bhagwat

Question: Shashikant Bhagwat has passed away recently. He was-

(a) Environmentalist (b) Educationists (c) Scientist (d) Senior Sports Journalist

Answer: (d)

Related facts:

- On January 8th, 2018; senior sports journalist Shashikant Bhagwat passed away. He was 61 years old.
- He remained associated with the Marathi newspaper 'Sakal' for many years and retired from the same.
- Apart from this he also served as the President of the Pune Workers' Journalist Association and the Pune Press Association.

**Reference:**

<http://indiatoday.intoday.in/story/senior-sports-scribe-shashikant-bhagwat-no-more/1/1125920.htm>

Carrie Gracie

Question- BBC Editor Carrie Gracie resigned from the post in which of the following countries, on the basis of failing to end wage inequality among men and women employees in the



organization?

(a) India (b) Bangladesh (c) America (d) China

Answer: (d)

Related Facts:

- On January 8, 2018, BBC Editor Carrie Gracie resigned from the post of the BBC in support of the failure of the male and female employees to end the inequalities in the organization.
- According to Carrie Gracie, two men among BBC's four international editors receive at least 50 percent more salary than women counterparts.

Reference:

<http://www.bbc.com/news/uk-42598775>

AR Rahman

Question- Recently Grammy Award winner, renowned musician AR Rahman was appointed as the brand ambassador of which of the following states?

(a) Himachal Pradesh (b) Uttarakhand (c) Arunachal Pradesh
(d) Sikkim

Answer: (d)

Related Facts:

- On January 8th, 2018 Grammy Award winner the famous musician AR Rahman was appointed as the brand ambassador of Sikkim.
- Chief Minister Pawan Kumar Chamling announced his name in the inaugural ceremony of Sikkim Red Panda Winter Carnival.



Reference:

<https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/guwahati/ar-rahman-new-sikkim-brand-ambassador/articleshow/62423272.cms>

T. S. Tirumurti

Question- T. S. Tirumurti was appointed as secretary (economic relations) in which ministry?

(a) Ministry of Finance (b) Ministry of External Affairs (c) Ministry of Railways
(d) Ministry of Science and Technology

Answer: (b)

Related Facts:

- On January 5th, 2018, the Central Government, T.S Tirumurti senior officer of the Indian Foreign Service appointed as Secretary (Economic Relations) in the Ministry of External Affairs.
- Currently he is working as the High Commissioner of India in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.



- At this post he will replace Vijay Keshav Gokhale who has recently been appointed as the new Foreign Secretary of the country.

Reference:

<http://indiatoday.intoday.in/story/diplomat-t-s-tirumurti-appointed-economic-relations-secy/1/1124492.html>

Rajesh Ranjan

Question: Recently, in which country Indian Foreign Service officer Rajesh Ranjan has been appointed as the next High Commissioner of India?

(a) Australia (b) Sudan (c) Pakistan (d) Botswana

Answer: (d)

Related Facts:

- On January 2nd, 2018, the Central Government appointed Indian Foreign Service Officer Rajesh Ranjan as India's next ambassador to Botswana.
- He is the IFS officer of the 2001 batch.
- He is currently working as Director in the Ministry of External Affairs.



Reference:

http://mea.gov.in/press-releases.htm?dtl/29340/Rajesh_Ranjan_appointed_as_the_next_High_Commissioner_of_India

Anwar Jalalpuri

Question- Anwar Jalalpuri passed away recently. He was-

(a) Songwriter (b) Tabla player (c) Shire (d) Literature

Answer: (c)

Related Facts:

- On January 2nd, 2017, the famous Shayar Anwar Jalalpuri passed away. He was 70 years old.
- Jalalpuri, who is known for his life, wrote books like Rahrau se Rahnuma Tak, translations of 'Gitanjali and Bhagwadgita in Urdu.
- In addition, he also wrote dialogues of the serial 'Akbar the Great'.



Reference:

http://www.ptinews.com/news/9368081_Famous-poet-Anwar-Jalalpuri-passes-away.html

New Chairman of WBCSD

Questioner: Which of the following Indian origin businessman took charge as the new Chairman of the World Business Council for Sustainable Development (WBCSD)?

(a) Sunny Vergese (b) Deepak Malhotra (c) Sanjay Bansal
(d) T. Krishnamurthy



Answer: (a)

Related Facts:

- On January 1st, 2018, Indian-origin businessman Sunny Verghese took charge as the new President of the World Business Council for Sustainable Development.
- He is Co-founder and CEO of the Singapore-based agribusiness group Olam International Ltd.
- He is the first chairman of this organization related to agriculture sector.
- His tenure will be for two years.
- At this post, he replaced Paul Polman.

Reference:

<https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/nri/other-news/indian-origin-businessman-appointed-world-business-council-for-sustainable-development-chairman/articleshow/62429964.cms>

Prof. M.V. Pylee

Question- Recently Prof. M.V. Pylee passed away. He was-

- (a) Environmentalist (b) Educationist (c) Human rights activists
(d) Doctor

Answer: (b)

Related Facts:

- On December 30, 2017, renowned educationist M.V. Pylee passed away. He was 95 years old.
- He was Vice Chancellor of Cochin University of Science and Technology from 1977 to 1981.
- He was awarded Padma Bhushan by the Central Government in the year 2006.

Reference:

<http://www.thehindu.com/news/national/kerala/mv-pylee-passes-away/article22334858.ece>



PETA's 'Person of the Year'

Question: The People for Ethical Treatment of Animals (PETA), who fought for animal rights, named which of the following famous Bollywood actress as PETA's Person of the Year?

- (a) Deepika Padukone (b) Diya Mirza (c) Anushka Sharma
(d) Priyanka Chopra

Answer: (c)

Related Facts:

- On December 27th, 2017, PETA (People for Ethical Treatment of Animals), the organization for animal rights, named famous Bollywood actress Anushka Sharma as its 'Person of the Year'.



- She was given this title to protect dogs from firecrackers and raise the voice for the helpless horses to drag the gangs in Mumbai.
- He also launched a campaign called 'PAWsitive' to raise voice against the atrocities on animals.

Reference:

<https://www.petaindia.com/media/anushka-sharma-petas-person-year/>

New Director General of the Narcotic Control Bureau (NCB)

Question: Who amongst the given has recently been appointed as the new Director General of the Narcotic Control Bureau (NCB)?

(a) Ajay Kumar (b) Abhay (c) Rajiv Rai Bhatnagar (d) Devesh Kumar

Answer: (b)

Related Facts:

- On December 27th, 2017, the Central Government appointed senior IPS officer Abhay as the Director General of the Narcotics Control Bureau.
- His tenure will last till November 18th, 2019.
- Currently he is working in the Central Reserve Police Force.
- It is known that Rajiv Rai Bhatnagar had assumed office as Director General in the CRPF in April, 2017, since then post of Director General of NCB was vacant.



Reference:

<http://indiatoday.intoday.in/story/ips-officer-abhay-appointed-ncb-director-general/1/1118753.html>

Ashok Kumar Mattoo

Question: Recently, Ashok Kumar Mattoo passed away. He was-

(a) Politician (b) Actor (c) Game Administrator (d) Journalists

Answer: (c)

Related Facts:

- On December 27th, 2017, the famous game administrator Ashok Kumar Mattoo passed away. He was 75 years old.
- He has been the President of the Indian Amateur Boxing Federation (IABF) (now has been dissolved) from the years 1980 to 1989 and then from 1993 to 2001.
- When Hockey India was formed in 2009, he was elected its first president.



Reference:

<https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/sports/off-the-field/veteran-sports-administrator-ashok-mattoo-no-more/articleshow/62265136.cms>

M. Subbarayudu

Question: In which country was the senior official of Indian Foreign Service M. Subbarayudu appointed as the next ambassador of India?

(a) South Africa (b) Peru (c) Sudan (d) Russia

Answer: (b)

Related facts:

- On December 21st, 2017, M. Subbarayudu, senior officer of the Indian Foreign Service, was appointed India's next ambassador to Peru (Capital-Lima).
- He is a 1994 batch IFS officer.
- Presently he is posted as Joint Secretary in the Ministry of External Affairs.

Reference:

http://www.mea.gov.in/press-releases.htm?dtl/29221/M_Subbarayudu_appointed_as_the_next_Ambassador_of_India_t

Anandiben Patel

Question: Former Gujarat Chief Minister Anandiben Patel was appointed as the governor of which of the following states?

(a) Rajasthan (b) West Bengal (c) Madhya Pradesh (d) Karnataka

Answer: (c)

Related Facts:

- On January 19th, 2018, former Gujarat Chief Minister Anandiben Patel was appointed the Governor of the state of Madhya Pradesh.
- At this post, she is replacing Shri O.P. Kohli.
- It is worth mentioning that Gujarat Governor O.P. Kohli was serving as the acting governor of Madhya Pradesh.



Reference:

<http://www.thehindu.com/news/national/other-states/anandiben-patel-to-be-next-governor-of-madhya-pradesh/article22474310.ece>

Sukhchain Singh Cheema

Question- Recently, renowned wrestler and Coach Sukhchain Singh Cheema passed away in road accident. In which of the following years he had won bronze medal in Asian Games held in Tehran?

(a) 1974 (b) 1978 (c) 1982 (d) 1986

Answer: (a)

Related Facts:

- On January 10th, 2018; the famous wrestler and Coach Sukhchain Singh Cheema has died in a road accident (Patiala bypass).
- He won a bronze medal in the Asian Games held in Tehran in 1974.
- In 2004, he was awarded with Dronacharya Award.
- It is known that Sukhchain Singh Cheema was the son of Rustom-e-Hind Olympian Wrestler Kesar Singh Cheema and father of Rustom-e-Hind Olympian Parwinder Singh Cheema.



Reference:

<http://www.hindustantimes.com/other-sports/reowned-wrestler-and-coach-sukhchain-singh-cheema-dies-in-road-accident/story-lphp2XPLfrBiQr4sqWTMul.html>

Banwari Lal Joshi

Question: Recently former Uttar Pradesh Governor Banwari Lal Joshi passed away. He was the Governor of Uttar Pradesh, during-

(a) 2008-2013 (b) 2009-2014 (c) 2007-2012 (d) 2005-2010

Answer: (b)

Related Facts:

- On December 22nd, 2017, former Uttar Pradesh Governor Banwari Lal Joshi passed away. He was 82 years old.
- He was the Governor of Uttar Pradesh from July 28, 2009 to June 23, 2014.
- He was also the Lt Governor of Delhi from 2004-2007.
- Apart from this, he also served as Governor in Meghalaya and Uttarakhand.



Reference:

http://www.ptinews.com/news/9345691_Rahul-Gandhi-condoles-death-of-Banwari-Lal-Joshi.html

New Election Commissioner

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

(a) Rajiv Maharishi (b) Ravish Kumar (c) Ashok Lavasa
(d) Rajiv Kumar

Answer: (c)

Related Facts:

- On 23rd January 2018, former Finance Secretary Ashok Lavasa assumed charge as the new Election Commissioner (EC) of India.
- He is the senior IAS officer of the 1980 batch of Haryana Cadre.
- He was made Finance Secretary of India on October 31, 2017.
- His term will be of 6 years or till the age of 65, whichever is earlier.
- It is known that Sunil Arora is also another election commissioner.



Reference:

<http://www.pib.nic.in/PressReleaseDetail.aspx?PRID=1517538>

Rajiv Bindal

Question: Rajiv Bindal was elected as the new Speaker of which of the following state recently?

(a) Gujarat (b) Himachal Pradesh (c) Manipur (d) Odisha

Answer: (b)

Related Facts:

- On January 10th, 2018, senior BJP leader Rajiv Bindal was unanimously elected as the new Assembly Speaker of Himachal Pradesh.



- He will be the Speaker of the 13th Assembly of the state.

Reference:

<http://www.hindustantimes.com/india-news/nahan-legislator-rajeev-bindal-is-new-himachal-speaker/story-oWDbACqnlUuX6Pnnw4qWP.html>

Vasant Davkhare

Question: Vasant Davkhare passed away recently. He was-

- (a) Politicians (b) Actor (c) Educationists (d) Musicians

Answer: (a)

Related Facts:

- On January 4th, 2018, Senior National Congress Party (NCP) leader and former Deputy Chairman of Maharashtra Legislative Council died. He was 68 years old.
- He has been a member of the Maharashtra Legislative Council (MLC) since 1992, a total of 24 years for 5 consecutive times.



Reference:

<http://indianexpress.com/article/cities/mumbai/vasant-davkhare-ncp-leader-passes-away-at-68-5012049/>

Chandi Lahiri

Question: Chandi Lahiri passed away recently. He was

- (a) Environmentist (b) Cartoonist (c) Actor (d) Composer

Answer: (b)

Related Facts:

- On January 18th, 2018, the famous cartoonist and writer Chandi Lahiri passed away. He was 87 years old.
- He had started his career as a journalist in 1952 and became a full-time cartoonist in the next one decade.
- His cartoons reflected the socio-political situation in West Bengal and the entire country for over 50 years.
- Lahiri had also penned several books on cartoons, including 'Bangla Cartooner Itihas' (History of cartoons in Bngal).



Reference:

<https://www.indiatoday.in/pti-feed/story/cartoonist-chandi-lahiri-passes-away-1148869-2018-01-18>

Kashinath

Question- Kashinath passed away recently. He was a-

- (a) Telugu actor (b) Malayalam actor (c) Tamil actor (d) Kannada actor

Answer: (d)

Related Facts:

- Noted Kannada film actor, director and producer Kashinath passed



away. He was 67 years old.

- He was suffering from Hodgkin's Lymphoma, a type of cancer.
- Born at Kundapura in Karnataka, the actor's journey to the tinsel town began as director of 'Aparoopada Athithigalu' (1976) starring Suresh Heblikar, Anand Darwar and Mamatha.
- Two years later, he directed another movie 'Aparichita', a suspense thriller.
- Inspired by its success, Kashinath remade the movie in Hindi with a title 'Be-Shaque' starring Mithun Chakraborty, Yogeeta Bali and Amrish Puri.
- He also acted in several films.
- Kashinath has more than 40 movies to his credit.

Reference:

<http://www.thehindu.com/news/national/karnataka/veteran-kannada-actor-kashinath-passes-away/article22461418.ece>

Narayan Sadashiv Pharande

Question: Narayan Sadashiv Pharande passed away recently. He was-

(a) Environmentalist (b) Film Producer (c) Politician (d) Composer

Answer: (c)

Related Facts:

- On January 16th, 2018, Senior BJP leader and former president of Maharashtra Legislative Council Narayan Sadashiv Pharande passed away. He was 78 years old.
- He served as the Chairman of Maharashtra Legislative Council from the year 1998 to 2004.



Reference:

<http://www.tribuneindia.com/news/nation/maharashtra-senior-bjp-leader-ns-pharande-passes-away/529393.html>

Doorstep Delivery

Question: Which Government has recently introduced 'Doorstep Delivery' scheme to ensure access to 40 government services at home?

(a) Uttar Pradesh (b) Chhattisgarh (c) Delhi (d) Manipur

Answer: (c)

Related Facts:

- On January 15, 2018, Delhi's Deputy Governor Anil Baijal approved the Delhi Government's ambitious plan 'Doorstep Delivery' scheme.
- The purpose of this scheme is to ensure access to 40 government services at the residence of the National Capital Region.
- Under the scheme Delhi Government will provide 40 services to citizens, including driving license, ration card, caste certificate, marriage registration, birth and death certificate, new water or sewer connection.



- In the first phase doorstep delivery facility will be available for 40 services in 8 Government Departments.
- Under this scheme, internet kiosks will be provided by adequate safeguards to young entrepreneurs for providing current online service.
- If necessary, for the educated unemployed to set up kiosk, the Delhi government will provide soft loans.
- A suitable financial model will be prepared for this.
- Both systems will work as a complement to each other.
- Along with approval, the Lt Governor has also advised the concerned Administrative Department to finalize the proposal for setting up Internet Kiosks within a month.
- It is remarkable that this scheme was sanctioned by the Delhi Cabinet on November 16, 2017.

Reference:

<http://www.news18.com/news/politics/l-g-anil-bajjal-approves-aap-governments-doorstep-delivery-scheme-1633003.html>

Raghunath Jha

Question: Raghunath Jha passed away recently. He was-

- (a) Environmentalist (b) Politician (c) Game Administrator (d) Literature

Answer: (b)

Related Facts:

- On January 15th, 2018, senior Leader of the National Janata Dal (RJD) and Former Union Minister Raghunath Jha passed away in New Delhi. He was 78 years old.
- He was the Minister of State for Central Heavy Industries and Public Enterprises in the UPA Government led by former Prime Minister Manmohan Singh.



Reference:

<http://www.thehindu.com/news/national/other-states/former-union-minister-raghunath-jha-passes-away-in-delhi/article22441912.ece>

Pt Buddhadev Dasgupta

Question: Recently Pandit Buddhadev Dasgupta passed away. He was a –

- (a) Sitar player (b) Sntoor maestro (c) Shehanai player
(d) Sarod player

Answer: (d)

Related Facts:

- On January 15th 2018, famous sarod player Pandit Buddudev Dasgupta passed away in Kolkata. He was 84 years old.
- He learned sarod playing with Pandit Radhikamohan Moitra.
- He was honored with Sangeet Mahasamman and Bangabibhusan in 2015.
- Earlier, He was awarded Padma Bhushan by the Central Government in 2012.



Reference:

http://www.business-standard.com/article/pti-stories/sarod-maestro-pt-buddhadev-dasgupta-passes-away-118011500666_1.html

Nand Kishore Trikha

Question- Dr. Nand Kishore Trikha passed away recently. He was-

(a) Environmentalist (b) Jurists (c) Journalist (d) Scientist

Answer: (c)

Related Facts:

- On January 15th, 2018 senior journalist and media educationist Dr. Nand Kishore Trikha passed away. He was 82 years old.
- Dr. Trikha has been active for a long time in journalism teaching and media staffing organizations.
- He was associated with the Times of India group's newspaper and Navbharat Times for a long time as its editor for Lucknow edition.
- He served as the head of the journalism department of Makhanlal Chaturvedi National Journalism and Communication University, Bhopal (M.P.).
- He was also the President of the National Union of Journalists (NUJ) and a member of the Press Council of India.



Reference:

<http://www.uniindia.com/veteran-journalist-nand-kishore-trikha-passes-away/india/news/1106963.html>

T.V. Rajeshwar

Question: Former Uttar Pradesh governor T.V. Rajeshwar passed away. In what year was he honored with the Padma Vibhushan, the second civilian honor of the country?

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

Answer- (b)

Related Facts:

- On January 14th 2018, former Uttar Pradesh governor TV Rajeshwar passed away. He was 91 years old.
- He was the Governor of Uttar Pradesh from 2004-2009.
- Apart from this, he served as the Governor of Sikkim and West Bengal.
- The Central Government, he was awarded Padma Vibhushan in the year 2012.



Reference:

<http://www.uniindia.com/governor-and-cm-condoles-death-of-former-governor-tv-rajeshwar/states/news/1106021.html>

New Head of IOA Finance Commission

Question: Who amongst the following has recently been appointed as the chairman of the Indian Olympic Association's (IOA) Finance Commission?

(a) Mukesh Kumar (b) Pawan Deep Singh Kohli
(c) Anil Khanna (d) G.S. Mandar

Answer: (c)

Related Facts:

- On January 12th, 2018, senior sports administrator Anil Khanna named Chairman of the Finance Commission of the Indian



Olympic Association.

- In addition to this IOA also formed a Medical Commission and Games Technical Conduct Committee and nominated office bearers of IOA and National Sports Federations (NSFs) to the Committees. The advisory committee comprises Tarlochan Singh, GS Mander, S Regunathan and BS Landge.
- The Khanna-led Finance Commission has Sahdev Yadav, Secretary General, Indian Weightlifting Federation and DK Singh, Secretary, Uttarakhand Olympic Association, as members. Pawan Deep Singh Kohli, son of Tarlochan, was named Chairman of the Medical Commission.
- It is noteworthy that Kohli's name was embroiled in a controversy when he was appointed as the Chief Medical Officer of the Indian contingent for the 2016 Rio Olympics.

Reference:

http://www.ptinews.com/news/9396985_Anil-Khanna-to-head-IOA-Finance-Commission.html

Doodhnath Singh

Question: Doodhnath Singh passed away recently. He was a

(a) Politician (b) Literary (c) Human rights activist (d) Environmentalist

Answer: (b)

Related Facts:

- On January 12th, 2018, famous Hindi writer, poet and critic Doodhnath Singh Passed away. He was 81 years old.
- He was born on October 17, 1936 in Ballia (UP).
- He was among top writers and thinkers of Hindi.
- He was also the national president of the People's Writers Association.
- Akhira Kalam, 'Laut Aao Ghar', 'Nirala: Suicidal faith', 'Yamagatha', 'Dharmakshetra-Kurukshehra', 'Names of the next century', 'Man with a flat face' and 'youth scent' Are included.
- He was awarded the highest literary honor of Uttar Pradesh, Bharat Bharati, Madhya Pradesh's top honor, Maithilisharan Gupta samaan.



Reference:

<https://www.bhaskar.com/uttar-pradesh/allahabad/news/UP-ALAH-LCL-famous-hindi-writer-doodhnath-singh-passes-away-5789823-PHO.html>

New chairman of ISRO

Question: Who amongst the following has recently been appointed by the Central Government as the new chairman of ISRO?

(a) Dr. Timothy Krishnamurthy (b) Dr. K. Sivan
(c) Dr. A.S. Kiran Kumar (d) Dr.V.K. Saraswat

Answer: (b)

Related Facts:

- On January 10th, 2018, the Central Government appointed noted scientist K. Sivan as the new chairman of Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO).



- At the same time, he was appointed by the Central Government as Secretary of Space Department and new Chairman of the Space Commission.
- His tenure will be of 3 years.
- Currently he is the director of Vikram Sarabhai Space Center, *Thumba, Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala*.
- At this post, he will replace A. S. Kiran Kumar.

Reference:

<http://www.thehindu.com/sci-tech/science/k-sivan-named-new-isro-chairman/article22412843.ece>

New MD and CEO of NPCI

Question: Recently who was appointed, as the new Managing Director (MD) and Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of National Payment Corporation of India (NPCI)?

(a) A.P Hota (b) Dilip Asbe (c) Deepak Kumar (d) Sanjay Bansal

Answer: (b)

Related Facts:

- On January 8th, 2018, Dilip Asbe was appointed the new Managing Director (MD) and Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of Indian National Payment Corporation (NPCI).
- Earlier, he was serving as the acting CEO of NPCI.
- At this post, he took the position of AP Hota.
- It is known that NPCI was established in the year 2008.
- Its headquarters is in Mumbai.

Reference:

<http://www.thehindubusinessline.com/money-and-banking/dilip-asbe-appointed-md-ceo-of-npci/article10020239.ece>



Peter Sutherland

Question- Peter Sutherland died recently. He was-

- (a) Former Director General of WHO (b) Former DG of WTO
 (c) Former DG of UNESCO
 (d) Former General Secretary of United Nations General Assembly

Ans: (b)

Related facts:-

- On January 7, 2018 Peter Sutherland, former Director General of the World Trade Organization, has died. He was 71 years old.
- He became the first Director General of the World Trade Organization in the year 1995.
- Earlier, he was head of the Tariff and Trade Organization-GATT.
- Apart from this, he was the youngest attorney general in Ireland.

Related Links:-

https://www.washingtonpost.com/business/former-wto-chief-un-envoy-peter-sutherland-dies-at-71/2018/01/07/1f5d3e06-f3cb-11e7-9af7-a50bc3300042_story.html?utm_term=.7354ebff7d92



New DGP of Uttar Pradesh

Question: Who amongst the following is recently appointed as the new Director General of Police (DGP) of Uttar Pradesh?

(a) Daljeet Singh Chaudhary (b) S. Javeed Ahmed (c) Praveen Singh (d) Om Prakash Singh

Answer: (d)

Related Facts:

- On December 31st, 2017, Senior IPS officer Om Prakash Singh has been appointed as the new Director General of Police (DGP) of Uttar Pradesh.
- At this post, he replaced Sukkhan Singh.
- He is a 1983 batch IPS officer.
- His tenure will remain till January 2020.
- Earlier, he was working as Director General of the Central Industrial Security Force (DG - CISF).



Reference:

<https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/politics-and-nation/om-prakash-singh-is-uttar-pradeshs-new-dgp/articleshow/62316314.cms>

Vineet Chaudhary

Question: Recently, senior IAS officer Vineet Chaudhary is appointed as the new Chief Secretary in which of the following states?

(a) Haryana (b) Rajasthan (c) Himachal Pradesh (d) Punjab

Answer: (c)

Related Facts:

- On December 31st 2017, Senior IAS officer Vineet Chaudhary has been appointed new Chief Secretary of Himachal Pradesh.
- At this post he replaced V.C. Pharka.
- Earlier he served as the Principal Adviser (Redressal of Public Grievances).



Reference:

<https://dailypost.in/news/diaries/himachal-diary/vineet-chaudhary-new-himachal-chief-secretary/>

N C Goyal

Question: Recently, senior IAS officer N.C. Goyal appointed the new Chief Secretary of which state?

(a) Himachal Pradesh (b) Delhi (c) Haryana (d) Rajasthan

Answer: (d)

Related Facts:

- On December 30th, 2017, Senior IAS Officer Nihal Chand Goyal has been appointed new Chief Secretary of Rajasthan.
- At this post, he replaced Ashok Jain.



Reference:

<http://indiatoday.intoday.in/story/nc-goel-appointed-new-chief-secretary-of-rajasthan/1/1120802.html>

New Director of SFIO

Question: Who amongst the following has recently been appointed as the new director of the Serious Fraud Investigation Office (SFIO)?

- (a) Amitdeep Bhatia (b) Amardeep Singh Bhatia
(c) Rahul Verma (d) L.Y. Dewas

Answer: (b)

Related Facts:

- On December 27th, 2017, Central Government appointed senior IAS officer Amardeep Singh Bhatia as new director of the Serious Fraud Investigation Office (SFIO).
- He is a 1993 batch IAS officer from Nagaland cadre.
- Currently he is working as the Joint Secretary in the Corporate Affairs Ministry.
- SFIO is a Fraud Investigation Agency under the Ministry of Corporate Affairs.
- It was established in January 2003.



Reference:

<https://www.indianbureaucracy.com/amardeep-singh-bhatia-appointed-director-sfio/#sthash.i0A6CbME.dpbs>

PLACES

Proposal for creation of Development Block Sahason and Shringverepur Dham

Question: Recently, the Uttar Pradesh Cabinet approved the proposal for creation which of the two new development blocks in Allahabad district?

- (a) Hundreds, BharatGanj (b) Sixty-two, Shringverpurdham (c) Shringverpurdham, Sirsa
(d) Sirsa, Lalgopolanganj

Ans: (b)

Related facts:-

- On January 9, 2018, the proposal for creation of development block Sahason and Shringverpurdham under the Uttar Pradesh Cabinet has been approved under Allahabad district.
- The approved proposal will also ensure effective monitoring and implementation of the government's prevalent schemes.
- The public will get the benefit of development work through the development blocks created and the reach of the common people is also easy to the development blocks.

Related Links:-

http://information.up.nic.in/View_Hindinews.aspx?id=900

Matunga Railway Station Enters the Limca Book of Records, 2018

Question- Recently Matunga Railway Station entered the Limca Book of Records, 2018. This station is located in-

- (a) Nagpur (b) Rewa (c) Kolkata (d) Mumbai



Answer: (d)

Related Facts:

- On January 9th, 2018, the Matunga Railway station, located in Mumbai Division of Central Railway, was announced to be selected in the Limca Book of Records, 2018.
- This is the first railway station in India where all the employees are women.
- A total of 41 women are engaged in the work of staff station operations, commerce activity, railway security force etc.
- It is notable that in the year 1992, Mamta Kulkarni was associated with the Indian Railways as the country's first female assistant station master. She is currently the Station Master of Matunga Railway Station.

Reference:

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=175519>

Bihar gets approval to play in National Cricket

Question: Recently, the Bihar Cricket Association (BCA) was approved by the Supreme Court to participate in other national level cricket competitions, including the Ranji Trophy. The bench gave this interim order, headed by which of the following judge?

- (a) A.M. Khanvilkar (b) Deepak Mishra (c) D.Y. Patil
(d) Kurian Joseph

Answer: (b)

Related Facts:

- On January 4th, 2017, the Bihar Cricket Association (BCA) was approved by the Supreme Court to participate in the other national level cricket competition, including the Ranji Trophy.
- The bench chaired by Chief Justice Deepak Mishra gave this interim order.
- The other two judges of the bench Justice A.M. Khanvilkar and Justice D.Y. Patil.
- Earlier, the Bihar cricket team was not allowed to participate in national level competitions.
- It is known that in 2000 the new state of Jharkhand made from Bihar was subscribed at that time.
- It is known that Bihar and Jharkhand had been partitioned 17 years ago and then Bihar's membership was given to Jharkhand.
- Bihar is not a full-time member of the BCCI.
- For this reason Bihar has not been able to participate in any competition since 2000.



Reference:

<http://www.thehindu.com/sport/cricket/sc-allows-bihar-to-play-national-cricket-championships/article22368171.ece>

Oldest Buddhist stele

Question- From which of the following places the oldest Buddhist stele received recently?

- (a) Nagari Province (Tibet) (b) Chengdu Province (China) (c) Nyingchi Province (Tibet)



(d) Sarnath

Answer: (a)

Related Facts

- In January, 2018 according to the reports, the ninth-century Purang inscription (stele) has been discovered in northern Tibet by Chinese archeologist.
- The inscription from the Himalayan region is the oldest Buddhist inscriptions.
- According to the Shaggan Wangdu of the Tibet Cultural Relic Protection Institute, this inscription was discovered in Nagari province located in the northern part of the Tibet Autonomous Region.
- According to most scholars, this inscription was established during 826 AD or 838 AD during the period of Tubo state. This inscription has a statue of Lord Buddha.
- Its length is 1.85 meters.
- On the left side of the inscription, there are 24 lines of ancient Tibet languages and on the right there are 19 lines of Buddhist prayer.

Reference:

<http://www.hindustantimes.com/art-and-culture/this-one-s-for-history-buffs-oldest-buddhist-stele-discovered-in-tibet/story-ZnHVJOpwbBEGF9adG2kq6N.html>

Majuli Island

Question: The area of land mass of Majuli Island, stood as in November, 2016 as per satellite imagery?

- (a) 502.21 sq km (b) 520.38 sq km (c) 524.29 sq km
(d) 556.49 sq km

Answer: (c)

Related Facts:

- On December 29th, 2017, Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Protection, Road Transport and Highways and Shipping Minister Nitin Gadkari and Assam Chief Minister Sarbananda Sonowal flagged off regular freight transport vehicles in Majuli (Assam).
- This vehicle will run between Pandu and Dhubri via National Waterway-2 (NW-2).
- On this occasion Union Minister Nitin Gadkari laid the foundation stone for protection work to save the Majuli Island of Assam from flood and erosion.
- Based on the recommendation of a committee of experts constituted by the Ministry of Water Resources, protection work was started in different phases in January 2004 for the rescue of the island from flood and erosion in Brahmaputra Board.
- These works include the construction and strengthening of embankment on the river banks, laying of RCC screens and construction of obstructions.
- Apart from this, Nitin Gadkari laid the foundation stone for construction of Brahmaputra Board office in Majuli. The estimated cost of construction of this office is Rs. 40 crores.
- Majuli Island is surrounded by the vast Brahmaputra River in the south and Kherkatia, Suti, Louit Suti and Subansiri rivers in the north.
- Based on the data received from the satellite, the area of Majuli Island land was 502.21 sq. Km in 2004. It was 524.29 sq km in November 2016.

Reference:

<http://www.pib.nic.in/PressReleseDetail.aspx?PRID=1514605>



India's first Coal-to-Gas Conversion Plant

Question: Where will India's first coal-to-gas convergence plant be set up?

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

Answer: (b)

Related Facts:

- On January 11th, 2018, Dharmendra Pradhan, Minister of Petroleum and Natural Gas announced that India's first plant to convert coal to synthetic gas is to be set up in Odisha under the supervision of state-run gas transmission utility GAIL.
- Synthetic gas produced from this plant will be cheaper than natural gas.
- He also informed that a new policy on bio-fuels was to be placed for Cabinet approval soon.



Reference:

<https://energy.economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/oil-and-gas/gail-to-set-up-indias-1st-coal-to-gas-conversion-plant/62457867>

South Australia's largest solar thermal power plant

Question- Recently, the South Australia government has approved the construction of the world's largest Solar-Thermal Power Plant. What will be its cost?

(a) 380 million pounds (b) 400 million pounds
(c) 450 million pounds (d) 350 million pounds

Answer: (a)

Related Facts:

- On January 10th, 2018, the world's largest solar thermal power plant was approved.
- The plant being constructed near Port Augusta, South Australia will be made by the US Company Solar Reserve.
- Its construction will start in 2018 and its construction cost will be approximately 650 million dollars (380 million pounds).
- The plant will create jobs options for 650 construction works and 50 other posts.
- This plant will be able to supply power to 90,000 households with full storage of energy for eight hours.
- The plant will consist of 12,000 mirrors focusing light on a 220-meter (700-foot) tower
- Sun light will heat the molten salt to 565 degree centigrade (1050°F) and will produce steam to run the turbine.
- Rotation of the turbine will generate 150 MW of electricity.
- Thus it will be the largest single-tower Solar Thermal Plant in the world.
- Plant is a major step towards becoming of southern state 100 percent renewable energetic of by 2030.



Reference:

<http://www.iflscience.com/technology/south-australia-approves-worlds-largest-singletower-solar-thermal-plant/>

Violence during food looting

Question: In which of the following countries, many people died in the violence due to food looting?

(a) Somalia (b) Burundi (c) Venezuela (d) Kronia

Answer: (c)

Related Facts:

- In January, 2018, many people have died in the violence that took place due to food looting in Venezuela.
- Venezuela is struggling with heavy food problems these days.
- The situation is that hungry people are plundering shops and hunting animals.
- The economic condition of this country is very bad due to the decreasing price of oil, rising inflation and corruption.
- About 82% of the population of this country is living in poverty.



Reference:

<https://www.channelstv.com/2018/01/12/four-killed-in-venezuela-food-looting-violence-opposition/>

6th Open Defecation Free State of the Country

Question- Which of the following states has recently become the sixth state of the country Open Defecation Free (ODF)?

(a) Uttar Pradesh (b) Manipur (c) Arunachal Pradesh
(d) Gujarat

Answer: (c)

Related Facts:

- Arunachal Pradesh became the Open Defecation Free sixth state in the country. (December 31, 2017)
- All 21 districts of this state have become free from defecation.
- Prior to Arunachal Pradesh Sikkim, Himachal Pradesh, Kerala, Haryana and Uttarakhand have been declared Open Defecation Free (ODF).
- Arunachal Pradesh is the second state in the North-East India declared ODF after Sikkim.



Reference:

<http://indianexpress.com/article/north-east-india/arunachal-pradesh/arunachal-pradesh-declared-open-defecation-free-5006360/>

AWARDS & HONORS

13th Navlekhan Award, 2017

Question- Which of the following nascent author was recently announced by the Bhartiya Jnanpith, to be given the '13th Navlekhan Award, 2017'?

(a) Vishnu Nagar (b) Alok Ranjan (c) Reshmi Bharadwaj
(d) Amiya Bindu



Answer: (b)

Related Facts:

- On December 22nd, 2017, the announcement of the '13th Navlekhan Award' for the year 2017 was announced by Alok Ranjan, a nascent author by the Indian Jnanpith.
- This award has been decided by the decisive committee constituted under the chairmanship of senior author, journalist Vishnu Nagar, and it has been decided to give Alok Ranjan's manuscript of travelogue centered on South India.
- It is worth mentioning that the Navlekhan Award is given on the manuscript of the first works of nascent author by the Jnanpith.
- Under this award, Idol of Saraswati, citation and 50 thousand rupees are provided.

Reference:

http://jnanpith.net/sites/default/files/13th_Navlekhan_Award_for_2017_goes

Gallantry Awards 2018

Question: On January 25th, 2018, Gallantry Awards-2018 was announced by the Central Government. Who amongst the following was declared the recipient of Ashok Chakra?

- (a) Major Vijayant Bisht (b) Jyoti Prakash Nirala
(c) Major Akhil Raj (d) Capt. Rohit Shukla

Answer: (b)

Related Facts:

- On January 25th, 2018, Gallantry Awards-2018 was announced by the Central Government.
- In which the Indian Air Force's Garun Commando Jyoti Prakash Nirala was elected posthumously to be awarded Ashok Chakra.
- On January 26th, 2018, on the occasion of Republic Day, President Ramnath Kovind gave this honor to his wife and mother.
- This is the highest honor given in peace.
- Kirti Chakra – Major Vijayant Bisht
- Shaurya Chakra was given to Devendra Mehta, Khairan Milind Kishore (posthumous), Akhil Raj Ravi, Nilesh Kumar Nayan (posthumous) Capt Rohit Shukla, Captain Abhinav Shukla, Capt Pradeep Shaurya Arya, Hav Mubarik Ali, Hav Rabindra Thapa, Nayak Narender Singh, L/Naik Badher Hussain and PTR Manchu.



Reference:

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=175896>

Prime Minister's Shram Award for 2016

Question- Prime Minister's Shram awards were announced by the Central Government for the year 2016 on January 25th, 2018. Consider the following statements related to this award-

1. The Prime Minister's Office (PMD) announces the Prime Minister's Shram Awards annually.
2. These rewards will be provided to 50 workers employed in the PSUs, PSUs and PSUs of private sector units and



private sector units.

3. These awards are selected from only those undertakings in which 500 or more workers are employed.

Which of the above statements is / are true?

- (a) Only (2) and (3) (b) only (1) and (3) (c) only (1) and (2)
(d) above all

Answer- (a)

Related Fact:

- On January 25, 2018, The Prime Minister's Shram Awards were announced by the Central Government for the year 2016.
- The Labor and Employment Ministry announces the Prime Minister's Shram Awards annually.
- These rewards will be provided to 50 workers working in PSUs, PSUs and private sector units of departmental enterprises, central and state governments.
- The selection for these awards is done only by those undertakings in which 500 or more workers are employed.
- Though the total number of Shram award to be provided this year is 32, which will be given to a total of 50 workers including 3 women.
- The awards include 34 workers in the public sector and 16 workers from the private sector.
- Shram Awards are provided in four categories.
- These include 'Shram Ratna Award', 'Shram Bhushan Puraskar', 'Shram Veer / Veerangna' and 'Shram Shree / Shram Devi Puraskar'.
- Any nomination for the prestigious Shram Ratna award was not found suitable this year.
- Shram Bhushan award has been announced to 12 laborers of Sell, BHEL and Tata Steel Limited.
- Under this cash prize of Rs one lakh and a charter is given.
- Naval Dockyard, Ordnance Factory, National Steel Corporation, Tata Steel, Hindalco Industries, Paradeep Phosphates Limited and the Brahmos Aerospace 18 workers 'Shram Veer / Shram Veerangna' award were announced.
- Under which 60 thousand rupees cash and a charter will be provided.
- Shram Shree / Shram Devi Award will be given to 20 workers of Cement Corporation of India, Naval Ship Repair Yard, Tata Motors, Surat Lignite Power Plant, Larsen & Toubro etc.
- 40,000 rupees cash and a charter will be provided.

Reference:

<http://pib.gov.in/PressReleseDetail.aspx?PRID=1517739>

26th GD Birla Award for Scientific Research for the year 2016

Question: Which of the following two young scientists were given the 26th GD Birla Award for Scientific Research for the year 2016?

- (a) Prof. Sanjay Mittal and Prof. Umesh V. Waghmare
(b) Prof. Deepak Kumar and Prof. Sanjay Mittal
(c) Prof. Janardhana Reddy and Prof. Umesh V. Waghmare
(d) Prof. Dinanath Shukla and Prof. Somesh Kumar



Answer: (a)

Related Facts:

- On January 16th, 2018 Congress MP and former Union minister Jyotiraditya Scindia Presented the GD Birla Award for Scientific Research, instituted by the KK Birla Foundation.
- Prof Umesh Vasudeo Waghmare and Sanjay Mittal have been named for the prestigious 26th GD Birla Award for Scientific Research for the year 2016 and year 2015 respectively.
- Waghmare is a Professor at the Theoretical Science Unit, Jawaharlal Nehru Centre for Advanced Scientific Research, Bangalore and had been named for the award for his significant contribution in the area of physics.
- Sanjay Mittal Professor is a Aerospace Engineering Department of IIT Kanpur and received the award for given a remarkable achievement in the field of mechanics.
- It is to be noted that the GD Birla Award for Scientific Research was started in year 1991 to encourage young scientists working in the field of research.
- This honor was specially started to encourage such young scientists who are doing their research while living in India and they have a special contribution in the field of science.

Reference:

<http://htsyndication.com/htsportal/ht-mumbai/article/scindia%3A-link-universities-with-manufacturing-sector/25373387>

ICC awards-2017

Question: Who has been announced as the ‘Sir Garfield Sobers Trophy’ (Best Cricketer) under the International Cricket Council’s annual awards?

- (a) Joe Root (b) Ravichandran Ashwin (c) Virat Kohli
(d) Alistair Cooke

Answer: (c)

Related Facts:

- On January 18th, 2018, the International Cricket Council (ICC) annual Awards -2017’ were announced.
- The prestigious Sir Garfield Sobers Trophy, for the best player of the year was announced to be given to Indian cricket team’s captain Virat Kohli.
- Award for Best Female Players of the Year (Rachel Hayo Finalult) will be awarded to Australia’s Ellyse Perry.
- Other awards holders are as follows:
- **Cricketer of the Year:** Virat Kohli (India)
- **Test Player of the Year:** Steve Smith (Australia)
- **ODI Player of the Year:** Virat Kohli (India)
- **Twenty20 International Performance of the Year:** Yuzvendra Chahal (India)
- **Emerging Player of the Year:** Hasan Ali (Pakistan)
- **Associate Player of the Year:** Rashid Khan (Afghanistan)
- **Umpire of the Year:** Marais Erasmus (South Africa)
- **Women’s Cricketer of the Year:** Ellyse Perry (Australia)
- **Women’s ODI Cricketer of the Year:** Amy Satterthwaite (New Zealand)
- **Women’s T20I Cricketer of the Year:** Beth Mooney (Australia)
- **Women’s Emerging Player of the Year:** Beth Mooney (Australia)



- **Spirit of Cricket:** Anya Shrubsole (England)
- **ICC Fan's Moment of the Year:** Pakistan stuns India to win the ICC Champions Trophy 2017
- India's Virat Kohli has been selected as the captain of the men's Test and ODI team of the ICC.
- Significantly, this is the second occasion when Virat Kohli was declared the best ODI player of the year.
- Prior to this, he received this honor in the year 2012.
- The Indian players included in the Test Team – Virat Kohli (Captain), Cheteshwar Pujara and R. Ashwin.
- Indian players included in the one-team team – Virat Kohli (Captain), Rohit Sharma and Jaspreet Bumrah (12th player).
- England's Heather Knight has been selected as the captain of the ICC Women's ODI team, and includes Mithali Raj and Ekta Bisht of India.
- Captain of ICC Women's Twenty20 Team West Indies Stephanie Taylor has been selected and includes Harmanpreet Kaur of India and Ekta Bisht.
- Players for the awards were selected on the basis of the performance made during the mid-term of 1 September, 2016 and December 31, 2017.

Reference:

<https://www.icc-cricket.com/media-releases/596948>

Crystal Award

Question- Which one of the following famous Bollywood actors has been included in the recently announced annual 24th Crystal Award the World Economic Forum (WEF)?

- (a) Salman Khan (b) Shahrukh Khan (c) Anupam Kher
(d) Amitabh Bachchan

Answer: (b)

Related Facts:

- On January 10th, 2018, the annual '24th Crystal Award' was announced by the World Economic Forum (WEF).
- This award will be given to famous Australian actress Cate Blanchett, musician Elton John and famous Bollywood actor Shahrukh Khan.
- All these will be awarded in the inaugural session of the annual meeting of the World Economic Forum to be held in Davos Klosters, Switzerland.
- Cate Blanchett will receive this award for his leadership in raising awareness about the refugee crisis.
- That year, the UNHCR's Global Goodwill Ambassador was appointed in 2016.
- Elton John will receive this award for his leadership in the fight against HIV / AIDS.
- The only Indian actor Shahrukh Khan will receive this award for his leadership in protecting the rights of children and women in India.



Reference:

<https://www.weforum.org/press/2018/01/world-economic-forum-announces-2018-crystal-award-winners>

75th Golden Globe Award-2018

Question: Which of the following has been given the best film award in the 'Motion Picture: Music or Humor' category at the 75th Golden Globe Awards distribution function?

- (a) Moonlight (b) Get out (c) Call Me By Your Name
(d) Lady Bird

Ans: (d)

Related facts:-

- On January 7, 2018, the Golden Globe Awards Distribution Ceremony of-2018 was held in Beverly Hilton, Los Angeles, California.
- **The prizes given in the main categories are as follows:**
- **Motion Picture: Drama:-**
- Best Film – Three Billboards Outside Ebbing, Missouri (Director-Martin McDonagh)
- Best Actor – Gary Oldman (Film-Darkest Hour)
- Best Actress-Frances McDormand (Film-Three Billboards Outside Ebbing, Missouri)
- **Motion Picture: Music or Comedy:-**
- Best Picture – Lady Bird (Director-Greta Gervig)
- Best Actor – James Franco (film-The Disaster Artist)
- Best Actress – Saoirse Ronan (Film-Lady Bird)
- **Other award:-**
- Best Foreign Language Film-In The Fed (Germany, France)
- Best Animated Movie – Coco (Director-Lee Unkrich)
- Best Director-Guillermo del Toro (Film-The Shape of Water)
- Best Screenplay – Martin McDonagh (film-Three Billboards Outside Ebbing, Missouri)
- Television Series: Best Actor in Music or Comedy category was given to Aziz Ansari of Indian Origin.
- **Note:** Oprah Winfrey is the first black woman to be awarded with Cecil B. DeMille Award was.



Related Links:-

<https://www.goldenglobes.com/winners-nominees>

OPERATIONS & CAMPAIGN

Operation Sahayam

Question- Recently, the Naval Chief Admiral Sunil Lamba reviewed the search and rescue operations being undertaken for which of the following cyclone?

- (a) Ockhi Cyclone (b) Marutha Cyclone (c) Mora Cyclone
(d) Tamil Nadu flood

Answer: (a)

Related Facts:

- On December 21st, 2017, Naval Chief Admiral Sunil Lamba reviewed the Operation Sahayam campaign in Kochi, Kerala.
- After 'Operation Sahayam' is a search and rescue operation being run by the Indian Navy in the deep sea after the Ockhi
- 'Ockhi Cyclone' is one of the deadly cyclones of the North Indian Ocean.



- This cyclone has greatly affected Sri Lanka and the Maldives with the southwestern region of India.
- This cyclone also affected Kerala, Tamil Nadu, Mumbai, Lakshadweep and Gujarat of India.
- The name 'Ockhi Cyclone' was given by Bangladesh.

Reference:

<http://www.newindianexpress.com/pti-news/2017/dec/21/navy-chief-reviews-operation-sahayam-1733879.html>

COMMISSION & COMMITTEE

SIT constituted to investigate anti-Sikh riots

Question: Recently, Under whose chairmanship, the Supreme Court formed a new three-member Special Investigation Team (SIT) to investigate 186 cases of 1984 anti-Sikh riots?

- (a) Justice Shiv Kirti Singh (b) Justice Arun Kumar Mishra
(c) Justice G. Rohini (d) Justice Shiv Narayan Dhingra

Answer: (d)

Related Facts:

- On January 11th, 2018, the Supreme Court constituted a new three-member Special Investigation Team (SIT) under the chairmanship of Justice Shiv Narayan Dhingra retired judge of Delhi High Court for the investigation of 186 cases of 1984 anti Sikh riots.
- The other two members of the SIT include retired IPS officer Rajdeep Singh and Himachal Pradesh cadre IPS officer Abhishek Dular.
- A three-member bench headed by Chief Justice Deepak Mishra decided to set up the SIT.
- SIT will submit its status report to Supreme Court within two months.



Reference:

<https://thewire.in/212953/new-sit-headed-justice-sn-dhingra-supervise-probe-186-anti-sikh-riot-cases-set/>
<http://www.thehindu.com/news/national/supreme-court-to-form-new-sit-to-probe-186-anti-sikh-riots-cases/article22411073.ece>

PLANNING & PROJECT

CCEA grant its approval to continue to MPLADS ahead of 12th Plan

Question: Recently, Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA) grant its approval to continue how long to Members of Parliament Local Area Development Scheme

(MPLADS)?

- (a) March 31, 2019 (b) March 31, 2022 (c) March 31, 2020
(d) March 31, 2023

Answer: (c)

Related Facts:

- On January 10th, 2018, the Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA) approved the Members of Parliament Local Area



Development Scheme (MPLADS) to continue ahead of 12th Plan till the period of 14th Finance Commission.

- With an annual allocation of Rs 3,650 crore and total outlay of Rs 11850 crore, for the next 3 years and for the purpose of training to be given to them / to increase the capacity of the officers at the state / district level, additional allocation of crore rupees has been provided by the Ministry under the scheme.
- Funds of MPLADS are issued to the nodal district authorities as per the provisions of the receipt of necessary documents and the guidelines of the MPLADS.
- Based on locally felt needs in the areas of national priority like drinking water, education, public health, sanitation and roads, the creation of sustainable property will benefit the entire population of the country under this scheme.
- It is known that the MPLADS scheme was launched by the Central Government in the year 1993-1994.
- Since the beginning of the scheme, a total of 1, 88,218 works of Rs. 44,929.17 crore have been approved from the MPLADS funds till August 2017.

Reference:

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=175503>

New sugar mills and Co-generation Plant in UP

Question: Recently in which of the following two districts, Uttar Pradesh cabinet decided to set up new sugar mill and co-generation plant on the undisputed land of closed sugar mills?

(a) Barabanki, Jaunpur (b) Fatehpur, Faizabad (c) Gorakhpur, Basti (d) Basti, Maharajganj

Answer: (c)

Related Facts:

- On January 9th, 2018 in the meeting of UP Cabinet it was decided to set up a new sugar mill and co-generation plant on undisputed land of the closed Pipraich sugar mill in Gorakhpur district and in the closed Munderwa sugar mill in Basti district.
- On the undisputed land of these two sugar mills, the new sugar mills of 5000 T.C.D and its corresponding co-generation plant will be established.
- The expenditure on the establishment of the above two projects will be borne by the State Government in the form of 100% loan.
- After the permission of the State Cabinet, it will operate in one year after establishing a sugar mill and co-generation plant at both places.
- Sugar mill area will promote the prosperity of the farmers of the, the overall development of the region, the creation of direct and indirect employment and the economic development of the state.
- It is known that after getting the Environmental NOC certificate by the Pipraich Sugar Mill (Naveen), within one year, after installing the distillery, its operation will be started.



Reference:

http://information.up.nic.in/View_Hindinews.aspx?id=900

Chief Minister Samagra Gram Vikas Yojna

Question: which one is not true in the options regarding the Chief Minister overall development scheme?

- (a) It was decided to implement this scheme in the meeting of Uttar Pradesh Cabinet on January 9, 2018.
- (b) Under the scheme, sustainable and integrated development of villages with the abundance of groups Bantangia, Musahar and Tharu etc. will be done.
- (c) The scheme will be implemented by Rural Development Department (Section-5).
- (d) 24 programs of 17 working departments will be run in selected revenue villages under the scheme.

Answer: (c)

Related Facts:

- On January 9th, 2018; in the meeting of the Uttar Pradesh cabinet, it was decided to implement the 'Chief Minister Samagra Gram Vikas Yojna'.
- Under the scheme, all-round development of neglected villages will be done on border areas (international / interstate) of the state.
- Under this scheme, sustainable and integrated development of villages with the abundance of groups Bantangia, Musahar and Tharu etc. will be developed.
- The implementation of the scheme will be done by the Department of Rural Development (Section-10).
- Under this scheme 24 programs of 17 working departments are operated in selected revenue village.
- In addition to the backward revenue villages the entire development of their hamlet, providence and settlements will also be done.
- Such settlements which are deprived of infrastructure such as connectivity, road, electrification, drinking water, Khadanja within the village, drainage, welfare beneficiary schemes such as pension, health, ration card, education, housing, sanitation, skill development livelihood and agricultural schemes etc. as well as being in the border area, the number of people in the disadvantaged sections is more and they will also be developed.
- Under this scheme, villages of soldiers and soldiers of paramilitary forces, who were martyred in defense of the country, will be declared as "Martyrs' Villages".
- If their villages are not connected by the connecting route, then they will be connected with a permanent link.
- These routes will be named 'Gaurav Path'.
- In these villages, the Toran gate and the statue of martyred soldier will be established.
- A committee will be constituted under the chairmanship of Chief Development for the survey/identification of the villages in time to make it available to the administration.
- The committee will also be formed at the Mandal and the district level along with the government for implementation and supervision of the schemes.
- Under the proposed scheme, such programs which will not be able to be released from the schemes implemented by the State Government / Central Government will be considered for the arrangements to be made in accordance as per the guidelines given by the funds available under MLA Fund / other funds,.



Reference:

http://information.up.nic.in/View_Hindinews.aspx?id=900

Uttar Pradesh Metro Rail Corporation

Question: Uttar Pradesh Metro Rail Corporation will be constituted on the lines of which of the following?

- (a) Kochi Metro Corporation (b) Maharashtra Rail Corporation
(c) Delhi Metro Corporation (d) Kolkata Rail Corporation

Ans: (b)

Related facts:-

- On January 2, 2018; in the meeting of the Uttar Pradesh cabinet, it was decided to set up Uttar Pradesh Metro Rail Corporation as a single special purpose vehicle.
- It will be set up on the lines of Maharashtra Rail Corporation (MH Metro).
- Implementation of Metro Rail Projects / Rail-based Mass Rapid Transit System Projects in different metros of Uttar Pradesh will now be done by this corporation.
- The formation of Uttar Pradesh Metro Rail Corporation will be reconstituted from the Lucknow Metro Rail Corporation (a 50:50 joint venture company between the Government of India and the Uttar Pradesh government).
- It is important that implementation of the projects of Rail based Mass Rapid Transit System in the form of public transport system in view of the increasing pressure of traffic in various important cities of Uttar Pradesh has been proposed.
- In this order, work of Lucknow Metro Project Phase-1 in Lucknow Metropolis is being completed intensely.
- Under this project From September 5, 2017; the Metro has been started on approximately 8.5 km long primary section, constructed from Transport Nagar to Charbagh.
- At present, Metro corridor of Noida, Greater Noida is being constructed.
- Detailed Project Report (DPR) has been prepared before, for Kanpur, Varanasi, Agra and Meerut metros.
- Recently, under the Metro Rail Policy, 2017 issued by the Government of India, The re-examination of D.P.R. of these metros is being done.
- In addition, a detailed project report (D.P.R.) of Gorakhpur and Allahabad is also being prepared.



Related Links:-

http://information.up.nic.in/View_Hindinews.aspx?id=884

Span Bridges in Rajasthan

Question: In which of the following states recently the Central Rural Development Ministry has sanctioned for construction of 26 long span bridges?

- (a) Assam (b) Rajasthan (c) Himachal Pradesh (d) Madhya Pradesh



Answer: (b)

Related Facts:

- On January 2nd, 2018, Central Rural Development Ministry has sanctioned for construction of 26 long span bridges in Rajasthan.
- This approval has been given on the recommendations of the Empowered Committee meeting in November, on the proposals sent by the State Government under the PMGSY First scheme (2017-18).
- Under this clearance, the amount of 161 crore 65 lakh rupees will be spent on the construction of bridges.
- The combined length of these bridges is 2 thousand 950 meters.
- The amount of 44 crores 56 lakhs will be spent on the construction of these bridges by the Ministry of Rural Development.
- Most of the 12 bridges will be constructed in the Baran district under approved bridge construction works.
- Apart from this, seven in Udaipur district, three in Karauli district, two in Sirohi district and one each for Sri Ganganagar and Bundi will be constructed.

Reference:

<https://www.patrika.com/jaipur-news/modi-govt-sanction-to-construct-26-long-span-bridge-in-rajasthan-2179258/>

Bhavantar Bharpayee scheme

Question: Which of the following states government has launched a Bhavantar Bharpayee scheme recently?

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

Answer: (c)

Related Facts:

- On December 30th, 2017, Haryana Chief Minister Manohar Lal Khattar launched the Bhavantar Bharpayee scheme in Ganger village of Karnal district.
- The main objective of this scheme is to assure farmers of fair prices for their produce and emphasizing on diversification of crops.
- In the first phase, under the scheme, tomato, onion, potato and cauliflower have been included.
- Compensation at the rate of Rs 400 per quintal would be given for tomato and potato.
- Whereas Rs 500 per quintal would be given for onion and cauliflower.
- If the farmers get lesser than the fixed price for these vegetables, then the government will compensate them for it.
- Haryana is the first state in the country where the minimum preserved prices of vegetables have been fixed to protect the interests of farmers.
- In order to avail the benefits under this scheme, it is mandatory for the farmer to get registered under Bhavantar Bharpayee e-Portal during harvesting.
- A Crop Cluster Development Programme was also initiated.
- Under the scheme, it is to be ensured the income of Rs. 48000 to Rs. 50000 per acre on each of the above four crops.



- In the market, on selling of the vegetables at low prices within the prescribed period, in the market, the registered farmers will be compensated by the government through the BBY e-portal on the website (www.hasmb.gov.in) for the difference in the price.
- Compared to traditional crops, micro irrigation would be adopted for tomato, onion, potato and cauliflower crops to save water by working with about 30 per cent water and save about 70 per cent.
- The state government has been establishing small mandis in each district so that farmers could sell their produce in these mandis.
- Similarly, Asia's biggest mandi of fruits and vegetables is being established in Ganaur.
- It is known that during the period of sale, if the wholesale price of crop production is less than the protected value then the farmer will be eligible for compensation of the difference in the price.
- Incentive will be due on the sales on J-Farm and fixed production per acre (whichever is less) on multiplying by the difference in price.
- The incentive amount will be transferred to Aadhaar linked bank account of the farmers' within 15 days of the sale.
- The average daily wholesale price will be determined on the basis of daily price of the mandis marked by Mandi Board.
- The implementation of the scheme effectively will be assessed from time to time by the committees, constituted at the State Level by the Chief Secretary and at the district level under the chairmanship of Deputy Commissioner.

Reference:

<http://punjabkesari.com/country/haryana/in-the-state-of-bhawantpur-compensation-scheme-started/>

Jammu & Kashmir Student's Exchange Programme

Question: On January 26th, 2018, an Exchange programme of Jammu & Kashmir Student concluded at National Bal Bhawan New Delhi. What was the name of this exchange programme?

- (a) Sadbhawana Yatra (b) Maitreyi Yatra (c) Mitrata Yatra
(d) Sahyog

Answer: (b)

Related Facts:

- On January 26th, 2018, Jammu & Kashmir Student Exchange programme 'Maitreyi Yatra' concluded.
- The Student Exchange Programme was organized by Ministry of Human Resource development.
- It was objected to integrate the youth of Jammu and Kashmir to the rest of the country and to promote brotherhood and harmony.
- This programme provides a good opportunity for the youth of J&K to be acquainted with culture, language and development story of different parts of the country.
- It is known that nearly 500 students of Jammu & Kashmir from Class IX to Class XII along with 50 supervisors visited Delhi on 18th January, 2018.
- 300 students stayed at National Bal Bhawan and 100 each stayed in two Kendriya Vidyalayas and two Navodaya Vidyalayas.



- All 500 students were paired with ten governments and one private school where each student had a buddy. J&K students spent 3 days in the paired schools.
- They also went for Delhi Darshan on 20th January, 2018 with their guiding partners. They visited Zoo, Rajghat, Red Fort and many other places of historical & cultural importance.
- The officials assured that about 500 children from Delhi Schools will be visiting J&K during summer months.
- Students performed various cultural songs of Jammu and Kashmir. Some glimpses of the Maitreyi Yatra were also shown on the closing ceremony.

Reference:

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=175917>

Intermodal Terminal in Uttar Pradesh

Question: In which of the following cities of Uttar Pradesh foundation stone for an Intermodal Terminal was laid on 25th January, 2018?

(a) Ghazipur (b) Allahabad (c) Varanasi (d) Jhansi

Answer: (a)

Related Facts:

- On January 25th, 2018, Union Minister for Road Transport & Highways, Shipping and Water Resources, River Development & Ganga Rejuvenation Shri Nitin Gadkari, laid the foundation stone for an Intermodal Terminal at Ghazipur in Uttar Pradesh.
- Shri Manoj Sinha, Minister of State for Communication (Independent Charge) and Railways and Shri Keshav Prasad Maurya, Deputy Chief Minister of Uttar Pradesh also presented on the occasion.
- The Rs 155 Cr terminal is being constructed by the Inland Waterways Authority of India as part of the World Bank aided Jal Marg Vikas Project on river Ganga or the NW-I.
- The project aims to augment the navigational capacity of the river.
- The intermodal terminal at Ghazipur will have linkage to both NW-I or River Ganga and NH-19 which is just 650 metres away.
- NH19 links Ghazipur in Uttar Pradesh with Patna in Bihar.
- The terminal will have facilities like berths, storage areas and sheds, terminal building, communications systems and electrical substation. It will have a handling capacity of 12 lac tonnes per annum.
- As part of IWAI's efforts to promote environment friendly mode of transport, Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) bunkering facility is also being planned at Ghazipur terminal. IWAI plans to run LNG fuelled vessels on NW1.
- The terminal is expected to provide between 5000 direct and indirect jobs. The first phase of the terminal construction is expected to be completed by April, 2020.



- The intermodal terminal at Ghazipur is one of the several sub projects under the Rs 5369 Crore Jal Marg Vikas project.

Reference:

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=175847>

TREATY & AGREEMENTS

Agreement between India-Italy

Question: When was the Memorandum of Understanding signed between India and Italy for cooperation in renewable energy sector?

- (a) March 15, 2017 (b) April 30, 2017 (c) September 15, 2017
(d) October 30, 2017

Answer: (d)

Related Facts:

- On January 3rd, 2018, information was given to the Union Cabinet about the MoU between India and Italy for cooperation in renewable energy sector.
- This MoU was signed on 30th October, 2017 in New Delhi.
- This agreement was signed by Secretary Anand Kumar in the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy of the Government of India and Italian Ambassador to India Lorenzo Angeloni.
- Under this agreement, the aim has been put to establish a proper basis for cooperative institutional relationship to promote technical bilateral cooperation on issues related to new and renewable energy based on mutual benefits, equality and reciprocity in both countries. .
- It has been envisaged to set up a Joint Executive Committee to review, monitor and discuss issues related to cooperation in this Memorandum of Understanding.
- The objective is to help to exchange expertise (special knowledge) and information between the two countries and to strengthen bilateral cooperation.



Reference:

<http://pib.gov.in/PressReleseDetail.aspx?PRID=1515185>

Agreement between Rajasthan Police and SBI

Question: Under the agreement between Rajasthan Police and State Bank of India, free life insurance cover of what amount will be available to all personnel and officers of Rajasthan Police under the Police Salary Package?

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

Answer: (b)

Related Facts:

- On January 3rd, 2018, the Memorandum of Understanding was signed between the Rajasthan Police and the State



Bank of India (SBI) for the Police Salary Package and the MoU documents were handed over to each other.

- On opening of Salary Account in SBI under Police Salary Package, they will be given various types of insurance cover facilities and discounts.
- Under this special package, free life insurance cover of 3 lakh rupees will be available to all personnel and officers of Rajasthan Police.
- Under this, even in the case of normal death, his nominee will be given a sum of Rs. 3 lakhs.
- Insurance of Rs. 30 lakhs will be provided upon death during an encounter or during the operation and in case of accident during the discharge of duty.
- The facility of insurance cover of 30 lakh rupees will be available even on permanent disability in an accident during discharge duty.
- Under this package, many other benefits have been included for the welfare of the police and officers and employees and their families, including the facility of retail loans, especially housing loan and others, repairs in their homes, renewal, additional construction etc., and car and two-wheeler loan, Education loans and personal loans etc.
- Rajasthan Policemen in Rajasthan, under the corporate salary package of State Bank of India, with the use of the largest ATM network in India, will get facilities for Zero balance, 50 percent relax in processing charge for personal and car loan and 100 percent discount on housing loan.

Reference:

<http://www.khaskhabar.com/local/rajasthan/jaipur-news/news-rajasthan-police-and-sbi-to-mou-for-salary-package-news-hindi-1-283729-KKN.html>

Agreement between India and America

Question: Where did the Global Entrepreneurship Summit, 2017 (GES-2017) was held in November, 2017?

(a) Jaipur (b) Ahmedabad (c) Hyderabad (d) Bangalore

Answer: (c)

Related Facts:

- On January 3rd, 2018; in the meeting of Union Cabinet the consent memorandum signed between India and the US for co-hosting the Global Entrepreneurship Summit (GES-2017) in India was approved in the previous effect.
- Responsibilities were identified from this consent memo and the requirements related to the logistics and location requirements were met between the two sides for smooth conduct of the conference.
- In this conference, a forum was provided to encourage young entrepreneurs, especially women entrepreneurs and economic opportunities for long-term disadvantaged groups.
- GES-2007 provides entrepreneurs and investors with great opportunities for meeting, networking, session, competition, strategic workshop and sector-specific programs to create innovative cooperation with global leaders.
- The Global Entrepreneurship Summit (GES-2017) was organized in Hyderabad during 28-30 November, 2017.
- In this conference, chief executives of multinationals, policy makers and government officials, besides the 1500 registered representatives from 150 countries participated.



- It is known that on June 7, 2016, a decision was taken under the joint declaration of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and the then US President Barack Obama to co-host the 8th GES in 2017 by the two countries in India.
- The conference was attended by US President's Advisor Evan Trump.

Reference:

<http://pib.gov.in/PressReleaseDetail.aspx?PRID=1515185>

Signing of Financing agreement for STRIVE Project

Question: Recently, the Government of India signed a financing agreement with the World Bank in New Delhi to get the IDA loan of what amount for the skill Strengthening Project for the Industrial Value Enhancement Operation (STRIVE)?

- (a) 250 million US dollars (b) 200 million US dollars
(c) 150 million US dollars (d) 125 million US dollars

Answer: (d)

Related Facts:

- On December 19th, 2017, the Indian government signed a funding agreement with the World Bank in New Delhi to get IDA loan of 125 million US dollars (equivalent) for the Skill Strengthening Project for Industrial Value Enhancement (Strive) Operations.
- The agreement was signed by Joint Secretary Sameer Kumar Khare in the Department of Economic Affairs, Ministry of Finance and Hisham Abdo, World Bank's Acting Country Director, in India.
- The objective of this operation is to ensure better access to professional training in line with quality and market demand.
- The results of this project include excellent performance of the Industrial Training Institutions, better efficiency of the State Governments for better training of industrial training institutes and apprenticeship training, excellent education and knowledge acquisition and better and elaborate (apprenticeship) training.
- The closing date for this project is November 30th, 2022.



Reference:

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=174566>

Agreement between Konkan Railway, IIT Bombay

Question- Recently, Konkan Railway has signed an agreement with which one of the given Indian Institute of Technology in order to assist its tunnel technique?

- (a) IIT, Madras (b) IIT, Guwahati (c) IIT, Bombay (d) IIT, Gandhinagar

Answer: (c)

Related Facts:

- On December 19th, 2017, Konkan Railway and IIT Bombay signed the Memorandum of Understanding for Technical Cooperation.
- This technical assistance will be received for 'George Fernandes Institute of Tunnel Technology' (GFITT) set up by the Konkan Railway, in Madgaon.



- It is significant that in August before that the Konkan Railway had also entered into an agreement with the Swiss University of ETH Zurich for science, technology, engineering and mathematics.
- The aim of the present agreement is to develop the 'George Fernandes Institute of Tunnel Technology' as a world-class institution in the field of tunnel and underground structure technology.
- At the same time, under this agreement, undergraduate and postgraduate students of IIT Bombay will have practical experience of research and development programs in tunnel and underground structures.
- The name of the Tunnel Technique Institute by Konkan Railway was given after former finance minister George Fernandes.
- He had an important role in the construction of the Konkan Railway.

Agreement between Meghalaya government and IOA

Question: In which of the following states will the 39th National Games be organized in year 2022?

- (a) Manipur (b) Meghalaya (c) Assam (d) Nagaland

Answer: (b)

Related Facts:

- On January 3rd, 2018, the Meghalaya government signed the "Host City Contract" with the Indian Olympics Association (IOA) for the 39th National Games 2022.
- The tripartite contract was signed between the Indian Olympic Association (IOA), Meghalaya State Olympic Association and Meghalaya Government.
- The state of Meghalaya had co-hosted the South-Asian Games in the year 2017.
- Government of Meghalaya handed over the amount of Rs. 4.5 Crore as the contract fee to the IOA to organize this event.
- The Central Government provides 30 percent of the total budget for the national game and the remaining 70 percent funds would have to be raised by the state government on its own.
- Meghalaya will be the third north-East state hosting the national games.
- Earlier, the national games were held in Manipur in 1999 and Assam in 2007.



Reference:

<http://www.theshillongtimes.com/2018/01/04/meghalaya-signs-host-city-contract-with-ioa-for-national-games-2022/>

Agreement between India and Transport for London

Question-Transport for London is a statutory body established under which of the following Act?

- (a) Greater London Authority Act, 1985
 (b) Greater London Authority Act, 1988
 (c) Greater London Authority Act, 1999
 (d) Greater London Authority Act, 2001

Answer: (c)



Related Facts:

- On January 3rd, 2018, the Union Cabinet chaired by the Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi has approved the signing and implementation of the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between Ministry of Road Transport & Highways and 'Transport for London' to improve Public Transport in India.
- 'Transport for London' is a statutory body established under the Greater London Authority Act, 1999 (UK).
- The MoU will help to improve the overall public transport system in the country, improve passenger services and promote the use of high capacity buses in India.
- It will go a long way in strengthening ties and promoting bilateral relations between India and United Kingdom.
- The MoU will help in strengthening the integrated public transport for all. This will help people from poorer strata of the society to have access to a quality public transport system.

Reference:

<http://pib.gov.in/PressReleaseDetail.aspx?PRID=1515186>

Agreement between India and Belgium

Question: Recently, a MoU was signed by India with the Belgium for cooperation in which of the following field?

- (a) Diamond industry (b) Tax evasion (c) Health sector
(d) Information Communication Technology and Electronic

Answer: (d)

Related Facts:

- On January 3rd, 2018, the Union Cabinet approved the MoU between India and Belgium for cooperation in Information Technology and Electronic Sector.
- The Memorandum of Understanding was signed on November 7th, 2017 during the visit of King Philippe of Belgium to India.
- Under this MoU, participation in research and digital agenda technology, e-governance will be done with special emphasis on the development of policy, construction and services in the field of Information Technology and Electronics.
- The MoU intends cooperation between India and Belgium including sharing of best practices in the area of ICT&E policy; Digital agenda technology and research.
- Special emphasis on developing ICT&E manufacturing and services; e-Governance and e-Public Service Delivery, participation in conferences, study visits and exchange of experts, cyber security and to resolve issues of data adequacy, market access, trade and services is to be provide.
- It is known that Belgium is the second largest trading partner of India in the European Union.

**Reference:**

<http://pib.nic.in/PressReleaselframePage.aspx?PRID=1515188>

American tax treaty signed by Infosys

Question: Recently the American tax treaty was signed by Infosys with the U.S. Internal Revenue Service (IRS) for what amount to get tax reversal?

- (a) \$ 225 million (b) \$ 250 million (c) \$ 275 million
(d) \$ 300 million

Answer: (a)

Related Facts:

- On January 2, 2018; Infosys Limited signed an Advance Price Agreement (APA) with the U.S. Internal Revenue Service (IRS).
- This agreement will be able to reverse the tax provisions of \$ 225 million in the quarter ended December 31, 2017.
- According to filing, this agreement covers (fiscal) the financial year from 2011 to 2021.
- For the quarter ending in December from the tax reversal, the consolidated net earnings per share of Infosys will increase about to \$ 0.10.
- From the APA the future predictability of Infosys's US operating tax obligations will increase.
- It is important that the background of the treaty started in 2015.
- According to the method of APA, Infosys is hopeful of reducing its overall effective tax rate to 100 basis points in the future.



Reference:

<http://www.thehindu.com/todays-paper/tp-business/infosys-signs-us-tax-pact/article22408213.ece>

Agreement between India and Canada

Question: Recently, the Union Cabinet gave approval to the Memorandum of Understanding for cooperation in which of the following fields between India and Canada?

- (a) Health and Drug areas (b) Air transport
(c) Science and Technology Sector (d) Double taxation

Answer: (c)

Related Facts:

- On January 10th, 2018, the Union Cabinet gave approval to the Memorandum of Understanding for cooperation between India and Canada in the field of Science and Technology.
- The MoU will provide a mechanism and help to foster scientific cooperation between R&D and academic institutions of India and Canada.
- **The following are the key features of this MoU:**
- An innovative model of R&D cooperation between India and Canada will be implemented under a MoU concluded by the Department of Science and Technology with the Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council (NSERC) of Canada.
- Under this MoU, the India-Canada Centre for Innovative Multidisciplinary Partnership to Accelerate Community Transformation and Sustainability (IC-IMPACTS) programme will be supported to promote India-Canada multidisciplinary research partnerships.



- The R&D projects will be aimed at accelerating social transformation by providing solutions through application of science and technology.
- The participants will include researchers from scientific organizations, academia and R&D laboratories from India and Canada.
- Identified areas of mutual cooperation include safe and sustainable infrastructure and integrated water management.
- This will help to develop institutional networking and support the establishment of connections between scientific organizations, scientists and specialists of India and Canada.
- It is known that MoU was concluded in pursuance to the inter-governmental Agreement for Scientific and Technological Cooperation between the India and Canada concluded in November 2005.

Reference:

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=175512>

Agreement between India and Sri Lanka

Question: In which of the following countries Kankesanthurai (KKS) port is located?

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

Answer: (c)

Related Facts:

- On 10 January 2018 an agreement was signed between Sri Lanka's Ministry of Finance and Export-Import Bank of India (Exim Bank) in New Delhi.
- Director-General of the Export-Import Bank, David Rasquinha and Secretary of Sri Lanka's Ministry of Finance R.S. Samaratunga signed on this agreement.
- This agreement is for Indian financial assistance of USD 45.27 million (LKR 6.9 billion) for upgrading Kankesanthurai (KKS) Harbour and to develop Sri Lanka as a centralized hub of the center.
- Kankesanthurai (KKS) is a port in northern Sri Lanka.
- It is important to note that under this upgraded project would make KKS Harbour a full-fledged commercial port.



Reference:

<https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/defence/india-gives-45-27-million-aid-to-develop-kks-harbour-in-sri-lanka/articleshow/62472575.cms>

Agreement between Punjab National Bank and NSFDC

Question: A recent agreement between Punjab National Bank and National Scheduled Castes Finance and Development Corporation was signed. What is not true in this related option?

- (a) This Agreement was made on 5th January, 2018.
- (b) This Agreement has been made to provide financial assistance for the economic empowerment of Scheduled Caste families living below the Double poverty Line.



- (c) On this Memorandum of Understanding BM Padha of PNB and NSFDC's Devanand signed.
(d) Under this agreement, PNB will act as a channelizing agent for the NSFDC's loan schemes.

Answer: (a)

Related Facts:

- On January 8th, 2018, Punjab National Bank and NSFDC (National Scheduled Castes Finance and Development Corporation) have signed a tie-up.
- This Agreement has been done to provide financial assistance for the economic empowerment of Scheduled Caste families living below the DPL-Double Poverty Line.
- BM Padha (General Manager, Priority Sector Financial Inclusion Department, PNB) and Devanand (General Manager, NSFDC) have signed on this MoU.
- Under this agreement, PNB will act as a channelizing agent for the NSFDC's loan schemes.
- Concessional Finance and Skill Training Grants will be provided to unemployed Scheduled Caste people living below the Double Poverty Line.

Reference:

<http://www.thehindubusinessline.com/money-and-banking/pnb-signs-moa-with-nsfdc/article10020461.ece>

CONFERENCE

First North Indian Science Congress-2018

Question: Where was the first North Indian Science Congress-2018 held?

- (a) Banaras Hindu University, Varanasi
(b) Baba Saheb Bhimrao Ambedkar University, Lucknow
(c) Rani Lakshmbai Central Agricultural University, Jhansi
(d) Aligarh Muslim University, Aligarh

Answer: (b)

Related Facts:

- During January 10th-11th, 2018, the first North Indian Science Congress, 2018, was organized at Baba Saheb Bhimrao Ambedkar University, Lucknow.
- It is known that this was held on the occasion of the 22nd Raising Day of this University.
- The main theme of this Congress was: Science and Technology for Sustainable Future.
- Scientists, experts, students, teachers and researchers participated in it.
- This was also attended and addressed by the Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath.
- On this occasion, the Chief Minister announced a grant of Rs. 1 crore for the Botanical Garden at University and Rs. 25 lakhs for Buddha Yoga Center.
- Apart from this, he also inaugurated the Biotechnology Block and Pandit Deendayal Upadhyay Memorial Park and also released the souvenir of the University.
- The Chief Minister also honored the scientists on this occasion.



Reference:

<http://www.bbau.ac.in/Conference/NISC2018.pdf>

http://information.up.nic.in/View_Hindinews.aspx?id=902

International Conference on ‘Inclusion of Persons with Disabilities in the Election Process’

Question- Where did the International Conference on the subject ‘Inclusion of Persons with Disabilities in the Election Process’ held recently?

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

Answer: (d)

Related Facts:

- On 24th January 2018, a one-day International Conference on the subject ‘Inclusion of Persons with Disabilities in the Election Process’ in New Delhi.
- The conference was organized by the Election Commission of India (ECI).
- Delegates at the Conference included Chairpersons/Commissioners / Senior Officials of five Election Management Bodies (EMBs) viz. Australia, Bhutan, Guinea, Moldova & Zambia.
- In addition to this Heads of two International Organisations viz. International Foundation of Electoral Systems (IFES) and International Institute for Democracy and Electoral Assistance (IDEA).
- On the occasion, the Election Commission of India also launched its Social Media Hub today, comprising Facebook and Youtube as part of its outreach programme for public at large.
- On the sidelines of the Conference, ECI signed Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) for cooperation in the field of election management with National Independent Electoral Commission (CENI) of Guinea; with Central Election Commission of Moldova and also with International Institute for Democracy and Electoral Assistance.
- The MoUs provide for an institutional framework and aim for promotion of exchanges of knowledge and experience in the field of organizational and technical development, with a view to strengthening the administration of electoral processes; exchange of information, material, expertise and technical know how relating to electoral processes and systems; training of personnel and organizational development and capacity building.
- Election Commission of India has so far signed MOUs with more than twenty Election Management Bodies (EMBs) and international organizations across the world for cooperation in election administration and management.



Reference:

<http://pib.gov.in/PressReleaseDetail.aspx?PRID=1517729>

International Military Cooperation Departments meeting of SCO

Question: Where was the meeting of International Military Cooperation Department of Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) recently held?

(a) Shanghai (b) Beijing (c) Astana (d) Biscayc

Answer: (b)

Related Facts:

- During 15-16 January 2018, the meeting of International Military Cooperation Department of Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) was held in Beijing.
- India participated in this meeting for the first time in cooperation in defense sector under the framework of SCO.
- In this meeting Major General Ajay Seth led the Indian delegation.
- India and Pakistan were inducted last year into the Shanghai Cooperation Organization, with the dominant role of China.
- This organization includes China, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Russia, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan, India and Pakistan.



Reference:

<https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/india/india-attends-its-first-sco-military-cooperation-meeting/articleshow/62521727.cms>

3rd meeting of the Council for Trade Development and Promotion

Question: In which year the Council for Trade Development and Promotion was formed?

(a) 2013 (b) 2014 (c) 2015 (d) 2016

Answer: (c)

Related Facts:

- On January 8th, 2018, the third meeting of the Council for Trade Development and Promotion was held in Vigyan Bhawan, New Delhi.
- This meeting was chaired by Union Commerce and Industry Minister Suresh Prabhu.
- The Council for Trade Development and Promotion was constituted on 03.07.15 under the chairpersonship of the Union Minister for Commerce and Industry, in pursuance to the provisions of Foreign Trade Policy statement 2015-20.
- The objective was to ensure a continuous dialogue with the governments of states and Union Territories on measures for providing an international trade enabling environment in the states and to create a framework for making the states active partners in boosting India's exports.
- The 1st and 2nd meeting of the Council were held in New Delhi on 08.01.2016 and 05.01.2017 respectively.



Reference:

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=175358>

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=175470>

10th Global Forum for Food and Agriculture

Question: Where was the 10th Global Forum for Food & Agriculture organized for food and agriculture from 18-20 January 2018?

(a) New York (b) Paris (c) Berlin (d) New Delhi

Answer: (c)

Related Facts:

- During 18-20 January 2018, 10th Global Forum for Food and Agriculture was organized in Berlin, Germany.
- The theme of this three-day forum was – ‘shaping the future of livestock- Sustainably, Responsibly, Efficiently’.
- Under this, 10th Berlin Conference of Agricultural Ministers was also organized.
- Gajendra Singh Shekhawat, Minister of State for Agriculture and Farmers Welfare, lead the Indian delegation in this global forum.
- Apart from this, bilateral meetings were also organized with the Agriculture Ministers / Heads of Germany, Uzbekistan and Argentina to increase cooperation in agriculture and related fields.
- The Global Food and Agriculture Forum (GFFA) is an international conference that considers future questions of the global agricultural-food sector.



Reference:

<http://www.gffa-berlin.de/en/>

National Congress on Cervical Cancer

Question: Where was the ‘National Congress on cervical Cancer’ held on January 18, 2018?

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

Answer: (d)

Related Facts:

- On January 18th, 2018, ‘National Congress on Cervical Cancer’ was held in New Delhi.
- Union Minister of Health and Family Welfare Ashwani Kumar Choubey inaugurated this.
- Congress was organized by the ASSOCHAM.



Reference:

<http://www.prokerala.com/news/photos/national-congress-on-cervical-cancer-326103.htm>

International Workshop on Disaster Resilient Infrastructure (IWDR)

Question: On January 15-16, 2018, where did international workshop (IWDR) concluded on disaster-resistant infrastructure?

(a) Jaipur (b) New Delhi (c) Guwahati (d) Rajkot

Answer: (b)

Related Facts:

- On January 15th-16th, 2018, the ‘International Workshop on Disaster Resistant Infrastructure’ (IWDR) was concluded in New Delhi.
- The Union Home Minister Shri Rajnath Singh inaugurated



the International Workshop.

- The two-day workshop was organised by the National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) in collaboration with United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNISDR).

Reference:

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=175629>

Economic Democracy Conclave

Question- Where did the 'Economic Democracy Conclave' concluded recently?

(a) Pune (b) Thane (c) Gandhinagar (d) Panaji

Answer: (b)

Related Facts:

- On January 14th, 2018, Economic Democracy Conclave, 2018 was organized in Thane, Maharashtra.
- President Ramnath Kovind inaugurated the conclave.
- Conclave' organised by Rambhau Mhalgi Prabodhini.

Reference:

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=175619>



24th Conference of Speakers of the Commonwealth

Question: Recently at which of the following places the 24th Conference of Speaker and Presiding Officers of Commonwealth countries was organized from 8th-13th January 2018?

(a) Nicosia (b) Seychelles (c) Dhaka (d) Ottawa

Answer: (b)

Related Facts:

- During 8th-13th January 2018, the 24th Conference of Speakers & Presiding Officers of the Commonwealth (CSPOC) was officially organized at
- Lok Sabha Speaker Sumitra Mahajan is participating in this conference.
- Apart from this, the Speaker also chaired the Pravasi Bharatiya Divas celebrations held in Seychelles.



Reference:

<http://nationalassembly.sc/index.php/2018/01/09/24th-conference-of-speakers-presiding-officers-of-the-commonwealth-officially-open/>

International Dharma-Dhamma Conference

Question: At which of the following places the International Dharma-Dhamma Conference was organized during January 11th-13th 2018?

(a) Kushinagar (b) Lumbini (c) Rajgir (d) Sarnath

Answer: (c)

Related Facts:



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

- During 11th-13th January 2018, the fourth International Dharma-Dhamma Conference was organized in Rajgir (Bihar).
- Main Theme- 'State and Social Order in Religion Dhamma Traditions'.
- The conference was organized by Nalanda University with the support of the Center of Religion and Social Studies, India Foundation and the Ministry of External Affairs.
- The conference was inaugurated by President Ramnath Kovind.
The objective of this conference is to provide an opportunity of education to students and policy makers of India and of abroad in such a way that they can exchange ideas.

Reference:

<https://www.facebook.com/events/1148428655291751/>

Fourth ASEAN-India Ministerial Meeting on Agriculture and Forestry

Question: Where did the fourth ministerial meeting on agriculture and forestry concluded during 11-12, 2018?

(a) Bangkok (b) Colombo (c) Doha (d) New Delhi

Ans: (d)

Related facts:-

- During 11 to 12th January, 2018; Fourth ASEAN-India Ministerial Meeting on Agriculture and Forestry concluded in New Delhi.
- This meeting was co-chaired by the Minister of Agriculture and Cooperatives Thailand, Grisada Boonrach and Union Agriculture and Farmer Welfare Minister Radha Mohan Singh of the Government of India.
- It is to be noted that the fifth ASEAN India Ministerial Meeting on Agriculture and Forestry will be held in Brunei Darussalam in 2019.



Related Links:-

<http://www.icar.org.in/content/4th-asean-india-ministerial-meeting-agriculture-and-forestry-begins-new-delhi-0>

18th All India Whips' Conference

Question: Where has 18th All India Whips' Conference been organized during January 8-9 2018?

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

Ans: (c)

Related facts:-

- During 8-9 January 2018, the '18th All India Whips' Conference is being organized in Hotel Radisson Blue, Udaipur, Rajasthan.
- This conference is being organized by the Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs and Rajasthan Government.
- Union Parliamentary Affairs and Chemicals and Fertilizers Minister Ananth Kumar inaugurated the conference.



- In addition to the other issues, e-Sansad and e-Vidhan were discussed to digitize the Parliament and State Legislatures and make their works paperless.

Related Links:-

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=175448>

All India DGP / IG Conference-2018

Question- Where was the All India DGP / IG Conference convened during 6-8 January, 2018?

- (a) Jaipur (b) Udaipur (c) Tekanpur (d) Guwahati

Ans: (c)

Related facts:-

- During 6-8 January, 2018, the All India Directorate General of Police / Inspector General Conference was organized in BSF Academy, Tekanpur, Madhya Pradesh.
- The Director General of Police is an annual program in which high police officers from all over the country share security related issues and discuss them.
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi attended the conference.



Related Link:

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=175434>

ASSOCIATIONS & ORGANIZATIONS

Eagle International Institute Acquired

Question: Recently in how much amount did the Skill and Talent Development Company NIIT Limited acquired Eagle International Institute?

- (a) \$ 5.1 million (b) \$ 7.5 million (c) \$ 8.1 million (d) \$ 9.5 million

Answer: (c)

Related Facts:

- On January 3rd, 2018 Eagle International Institute (EII) was acquired by Skill and Talent Development Company NIIT Limited.
- This deal will help NIIT Limited to increase its training capacity in the field of global cloud-based enterprise application for the pharmaceutical industry.
- The total transaction amount for the acquisition (share, credit and debt obligation) was 8.1 million US dollars.
- This cash transaction includes advance and delayed payments of a period of 5 years.
- Founded in the year 1988, Eagle does business of technology training and work process consulting.



Reference:

<http://www.livemint.com/Companies/9BI02Z17HWPDY4BkO4ZZTL/NIIT-acquires-Eagle-Productivity-Solutions-for-81-million.html>

Bharti Airtel Milicom Agreement

Question: Recently, Indian telecom company Bharti Airtel acquired a hundred percent stake in Rwandan operations by partnering with which of the following African telecommunications company?

(a) Milicom (b) Rwandatel (c) MTNL (d) Inconet

Answer: (a)

Related Facts:

- On December 19th, 2017, Bharti Airtel by partnering with Milicom International acquired 100% stake in its Rwanda's operations.
- Currently it is operating under the brand name of 'Tigo Rwanda'. Under the agreement, Airtel Rwanda Limited will purchase 100% stake of Tigo Rwanda Limited.
- Under the agreement, Tigo's customers will be connected to the network of Airtel Rwanda.
- It is important that Bharti Airtel is offering services to 370 million customers in 17 countries.
- After this acquisition, Airtel Rwanda will become the second largest telecom company in the country.
- The company has acquired operation of 'Warid' in Uganda and Congo 'You Mobile' in Kenya and 'Milicom' in Ghana.



Reference:

<http://bit.ly/2ImR6Oz>

Acquisition of Foodpanda

Question: Which of the following companies has recently acquired 'Foodpanda' for expansion in the food delivery business?

(a) Meru Cab (b) Easy Cab (c) Mega Cab (d) Ola Cab

Answer: (d)

Related Facts:

- On December 19th, 2017, Chief Cab Operator 'Ola' announced the acquisition of 'Foodpanda India'.
- It is important that 'Foodpanda' is engaged in the business of delivery of food sitting home by online order.
- In the announcement of the acquisition, Ola did not disclose the amount of the deal.
- "Ola" will invest 200 million dollars to pursue this business (food delivery).
- It is important that companies like 'Uber Eats', 'Jometo' and 'Swiggy' already has this business.
- Ola had started a food business through the 'Ola cafe' in the year 2014 which was unsuccessful.
- The founder partner of 'Ola', Pranay Jivrajka took over as Interim CEO of Food Panda India.



Reference:

<https://tech.economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/internet/ola-acquires-foodpanda-india-business-to-further-invest-200-million/62131014>

Tungabhadra Steel Products Limited

Question: In which year Tungabhadra Steel Products Limited was established?

(a) Year 1958 (b) Years 1960 (c) Years 1967 (d) Years 1982

Answer: (b)

Related Facts:

- On January 10th, 2018, the Union Cabinet gave approval for the implementation of the decision of the Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA) in relation to the closure of Tungabhadra Steel Products Limited company for the disposal its of immovable assets.
- Along with this, after the adjustment of the remaining liabilities of Tungabhadra Steel Products Limited (TSP), it was also approved to remove the name of the company from the list of Registrar of Companies.
- It is known that CCEA had approved the closure of this company in December 2015 after the settlement of all outstanding dues of employees / workers and creditors.
- In addition, the Cabinet had approved the transfer of MMH plants to the Karnataka Government with 20,000 square meters of land.
- Cabinet also approved selling 82.37 acres of land of the Company at Hospet to Karnataka Government for use of the Karnataka State Housing Board.
- The land is being sold to Karnataka Government at the rate of Rs. 66 lakh per acre offered by them.
- Tungabhadra Steel Products Limited was established in the year 1960.



Reference:

<http://www.pib.gov.in/PressReleaseDetail.aspx?PRID=1516120>

LAW & JUSTICE

The National Capital Territory of Delhi Laws (Special Provisions) Second (Amendment) Bill, 2017

Question: On which date the National Capital Territory of Delhi (Special Provisions) Bill (Amendment) Bill, 2017 passed in the Lok Sabha?

(a) December 23, 2017 (b) December 26, 2017
(c) December 27, 2017 (d) December 28, 2017

Answer: (c)

Related Facts:

- On December 27th, 2017, the National Capital Territory of Delhi Law (Special Provisions) Second (Amendment) Bill, 2017 was passed by the Lok Sabha.
- The Bill seeks to amend the National Capital Territory of Delhi Laws (Special Provisions) Second Act, 2011.
- The Bill deletes the provisions and references related to the regulation and protection of street vendors.



- Under this bill, there is a provision to increase the time limit for regularization of slum dwellers and settlement of slums and other slum groups in other places.
- The Act provides that no action will be taken by any local authority till December 31, 2017 with respect to:
 - Encroachment or unauthorized development as of January 1, 2006,
 - Unauthorized colonies, village abadi areas that existed on March 31, 2002 and where construction took place up till February 8, 2007, and
 - Other areas as of February 8, 2007. The Bill extends this deadline to December 31, 2020.

Reference:

<http://www.prsindia.org/billtrack/the-national-capital-territory-of-delhi-laws-special-provisions-second-amendment-bill-2017-5015/>

Uttar Pradesh person with disabilities regulation, 2017

Question: In pursuance to the provision of which of the following Sections of the person with disability Act, 2016, the state government has drafted the Uttar Pradesh person with disabilities Regulation, 2017?

(a) Section 100 (b) Section 101 (c) Section 102 (d) Section 106

Answer- (b)

Related Facts:

- On December 26th, 2017, the Uttar Pradesh Cabinet approved the Uttar Pradesh person with disabilities regulation, 2017.
- In pursuance to the provision of which of the following Sections of the person with disability Act, 2016, the state government has drafted the Uttar Pradesh person with disabilities Regulation, 2017.
- Section 101 of this Act provides that the State Governments will be able to make rules / rules for implementing the arrangements made in the provisions of the period not exceeding 6 months from the enforcement date of the Act.
- It is known that for the overall welfare of the various categories of person with disabilities and to repeal the act of year 1995 the Government of India has promulgated "The Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act – 2016" through the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment.
- This Act is applicable in whole country from April 19th, 2017.
- This Act has made various provisions regarding the welfare of person with disabilities protection of interest and their problems etc. and these provisions have been expected to be implemented effectively by the State Governments.
- The rules have been promulgated by the Government of India for implementation of the provisions of this Act, by notification issued on June 15th, 2017 by the Central Government under section-100 of the Act.



Reference:

http://information.up.nic.in/View_Hindinews.aspx?id=868

Voluntary to Play National Anthem in Cinemas

Question: Recently which of the following Court has by improving and reviewing its order given in the year 2016, been made voluntary playing the national anthem in the theaters before starting movie?

- (a) Delhi High Court (b) Madras High Court
(c) Supreme Court (d) Allahabad High Court

Answer: (c)

Related Facts:

- On January 9th, 2018, improving its order given in the year 2016 the Supreme Court has now made playing of the National anthem voluntary now before the film's performance in the theaters.
- It is significant that on November 30th, 2016, the Supreme Court in its order made it mandatory to play the national anthem before the-film's performance in theaters.
- Playing the National Anthem in cinemas is voluntary; this order is directed by the three-member bench of Chief Justice Deepak Mishra, Justice AM. Khanvilkar and Justice Dhananjay Y Chandrachud.
- According to a three-member bench, the 12-member inter-ministerial committee formed by the Center will take a final decision regarding the National Anthem in cinemas.
- This committee will consider all aspects related to playing the National Anthem in detail.
- Simultaneously, the petitioners were also allowed to keep their report before the committee.
- It is known that a 12-member committee has been constituted to give suggestions regarding amendment in the curtailment of the National Honor Act, 1971 by the Central Government.
- This committee has to present its report for six months from its formation (December 5, 2017).



Reference:

<http://www.thehindu.com/todays-paper/playing-of-national-anthem-in-cinema-halls-made-optional/article22408357.ece>

<http://www.freepressjournal.in/analysis/why-is-national-anthem-even-optional-in-cinema-halls/1202366>

YEAR, DAY & WEEK

World Leprosy Day

Question: When is the 'World Leprosy' celebrated?

- (a) on the first Sunday of January (b) on the last Sunday of January
(c) on the first Friday of January (d) on the last Friday of January

Reply- (b)

related facts:

- On January 28TH, 2018, World Leprosy Day was celebrated across the world.
- This year, its theme was set 'Zero Disability in Boys' and Girls'.
- Significantly, this day is celebrated on the last Sunday of January every year.



- The purpose of celebrating this day is to create awareness about the help of people suffering from leprosy and to train people who care for people suffering from this disease.
- It is known that leprosy is a chronic infectious disease caused by Mycobacterium leprae.
- As a result of which there are severe unpleasant lesions on the skin and the nerves of the hands and feet are damaged.
- This disease is also known as Hansen's disease (named after Dr. Armor Hansen, a doctor who searches for bacterial disease of this disease).
- According to the WHO recommendation, effective treatment of leprosy can be done by multidrug therapy (MDT).

Reference:

<https://www.lepra.org.uk/world-leprosy-day>

World Hindi Day

Question: When is 'World Hindi Day' celebrated?

(a) January 18 (b) January 12 (c) January 10 (d) January 9

Answer: (c)

Related Facts:

- On January 10th, 2018, 'World Hindi Day' was celebrated all over the world.
- It is notable that in the year 1975 on this day the first World Hindi Conference was held in Nagpur.
- This day was celebrated on January 10th, 2006 for the first time.
- Significantly, this day is part of the National Hindi Day celebrated on September 14th.



Reference:

<http://www.thedailystar.net/city/world-hindi-day-observed-1518250>

Telecommunication Inter-Connection Regulation, 2018 released by the TRAI

Question: Recently Telecommunication Inter-Connection Regulation, 2018 was released by the Indian Telecommunication Regulatory Authority (TRAI).

When will this take effect?

(a) January 26, 2018 (b) January 30, 2018 (c) January 31, 2018
(d) February 1, 2018

Answer: (d)

Related Facts:

- On January 1, 2018, the Indian Telecom Regulatory Authority (TRAI) released Telecom Inter-Connection Regulation, 2018.
- In this regulation, TRAI has made the inter-connection agreement compulsory for telecommunications companies without any discrimination.
- According to each service sector, a penalty of Rs 1 lakh per day has been fixed on any type of violation by the TRAI.
- There are a total of 22 service sectors across the country.



- A commercial and technical system designed to be able to access the customer, network and services of any service provider to a customer through a network of a other service providers, is called 'inter-connection'.
- This will be effective from February 1, 2018.

Reference:

http://tra.gov.in/sites/default/files/Press_Release_No2_02012018.pdf

National Consumer Day

Question: When is 'National Consumer Day' celebrated?

- (a) December 24 (b) December 26 (c) December 27
(d) December 22

Answer- (a)

Related facts

- 'National Consumer Day' is celebrated on December 24, every year across the country.
- Objectives – Make Consumers aware about their rights and responsibilities.
- It is important that the Minister of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution, Shri Ram Vilas Paswan inaugurated the 'National Consumer Day' with main theme of: Emerging Digital Market: Issue and Challenges in Consumer Protection.
- It is notable that the same day the President approved the Consumer Protection Act in the year 1986.
- The purpose of this act is to protect the interests of the consumer and to protect them from different types of exploitation.
- It is worth mentioning that on March 15, 'World Consumer Rights Day' is celebrated every year.



Reference:

<http://ddinews.gov.in/national/paswan-inaugurates-national-consumer-day-2017-celebrations>
<http://bit.ly/2lp29py>

National Mathematics Day

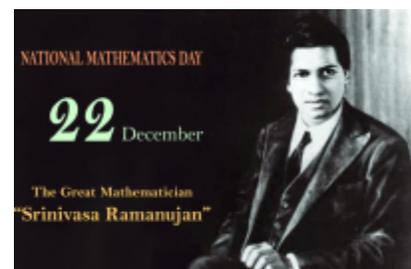
Question: When 'National Mathematics Day' is celebrated?

- (a) December 23 (b) December 20 (c) December 22
(d) December 25

Answer: (c)

Related Facts:

- On December 22nd, 2017; National Mathematics Day was celebrated across the country.
- It is worth mentioning that on December 22 every year, this day is celebrated on the occasion of birth anniversary of great Indian mathematician Srinivasa Iyengar Ramanujan.
- On the occasion of his 125th birth anniversary in the year 2012, the Central Government had announced to celebrate this day.
- He was born on December 22, 1887; in Erode town, 400 km from Madras (Chennai).



- The wonderful discoveries made by him in mathematics became the cornerstone of today's modern mathematics and science.
- For the wonderful work of Ramanujan on the number theory, he is considered as the 'magician of numbers'.
- He is also called the 'mathematician of mathematicians'.

Reference:

<http://indiatoday.intoday.in/story/srinivasa-ramanujan-national-mathematics-day-facts/1/840477.html>

National Voters' Day

Question- On January 25th, 2018, 'National Voter Day' was celebrated across the country. What is the main theme of this day?

- (a) Simple Registration, Simple Improvement
- (b) Accessible Elections
- (c) Women's participation in democracy
- (d) Empowerment of young and future voters



Answer: (b)

Related Facts:

- 8th National Voters Day was celebrated on January 25, 2018, across the country.
- The main theme of this day for the year 2018 is 'Accessible Elections'.
- On this occasion several programs were organized by the Election Commission of India across the country to make voters aware and people were sworn in as 'Voter's Day'.
- It is noteworthy that Former President Pratibha Patil launched this day on the occasion of the establishment day of the Election Commission of India (in year 1950) on January 25th, 2011.
- On this occasion EC is happy to join hands with Facebook for one of the largest voters' pledges.
- A campaign called 'Take a Pledge' is started with the social media company 'Facebook' for users 18 years of age or older with the help of which they can take an oath for voter's day.

Reference:

<http://www.pib.nic.in/PressReleaseDetail.aspx?PRID=1517538>

NATIONAL GIRL CHILD DAY

Question: When 'National Girl's Day' is celebrated?

- (a) October 11 (b) November 23 (c) January 24
- (d) January 20

Answer: (c)

Related Facts:

- On 24 January 2018, National Girl Child Day was celebrated across the country.
- It is remarkable that this day is celebrated with the aim to increase the awareness among people about all the inequalities faced by the girl child and to bring girl power in front of society.
- The central government celebrated this day for the first time in 2008.



- Significantly, the 'International Girl's Day' is celebrated by the United Nations on October 11 every year.

Reference:

<http://www.indiacelebrating.com/events/national-girl-child-day/>

World Braille Day

Question: 'World Braille Day' is celebrated on which of the following date?

(a) January 1 (b) January 5 (c) January 4 (d) January 8

Answer: (c)

Related Facts:

- On January 4th, World Braille Day is celebrated across the world every year.
- It is worth mentioning that this day is celebrated in memory of the birthday of Sir Louis Braille (France), inventor of the Braille script.
- Braille is a code language in which the bulges and indentations on the surface are used for the presentation of letters and whole letters.



Reference:

<https://www.thenews.com.pk/latest/264479-world-braille-day-education-for-the-blind-population-of-the-world>

70th Indian Army Day

Question: 70th Indian Army Day was celebrated across the country on January 15th, 2018.

Who was the first commander of the Indian Army post-Independence?

(a) General Sam Manekshaw (b) General K.M. Cariappa
(c) General Jacob Hassan (d) General Bipin Chandra Joshi

Answer: (b)

Related Facts:

- On January 15th, 2018, 70th 'Indian Army Day 'was celebrated across the country.
- Day is celebrated on January 15 very years in recognition of Lieutenant General (later Field Marshal) KM Cariappa taking over as the first Commander-in Chief of Indian Army.
- Significantly, he took over the position of the Commander-in Chief from Sir Francis Butcher, the last British Commander this day in 1949.
- On this occasion Army Chief Gen Bipin Rawat inspects the guard of honour during the Army Day Parade in New Delhi.



Reference:

<http://www.india.com/festivals-events/70th-army-day-2018-significance-about-the-day-honoring-indian-army-2843970/>

National Youth Day

Question: On January 12th, 2018, 'National Youth Day' was celebrated across the country. When did the central government announce the celebration of this day?

(a) 1986 (b) 1984 (c) 1989 (d) 2001

Ans: (b)

Related facts:-

- On January 12th, 2018, the 34th National Youth Day was celebrated across the country.
- It is notable that this day is celebrated on the occasion of the birth anniversary of social reformer, philosopher and well-known thinker Swami Vivekananda.
- Swami Vivekananda's 155th birth anniversary was celebrated on January 12, 2018.
- The Government of India had announced to celebrate this day in 1984.
- After which since 1985, the birth anniversary of Swami Vivekananda being celebrated as 'National Youth Day'. Swami Vivekananda was born on 12 January 1863 in Kolkata.
- His real name was Narendranath Dutt.
- On September 11, 1893, he represented Sanatan Dharma on behalf of India in the World religion Congress held in Chicago, US.
- He founded the Ramkrishna Mission in Belur Math, West Bengal.
- His Guru's name was Ramkrishna Paramahansa.
- Swami Vivekananda died on July 4, 1902.



Related Links:-

<http://bit.ly/2D6HaUd>

BOOKS

Election Atlas of India

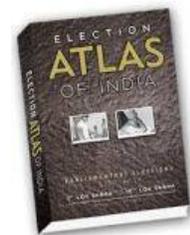
Question: Who amongst the following has written the preface of the book 'Election Atlas of India' based on the results of all Lok Sabha elections from 1952 to 2014?

(a) TN Seshan (b) Naseem Zaidi (c) Achal kumar Jyoti (d) H.S. Brahma

Answer: (b)

Related facts:

- On January 8th, 2018; the book 'Election Atlas of India', based on all the Lok Sabha results from 1952 to 2014, was released in Parliament House.
- With the help of this Atlas, all the Lok Sabha elections held in independent India will be analyzed based on maps.
- In the Election Atlas of India, factual information has been given for every election result of every Lok Sabha constituency from the first general election till now.
- The preface of this book is written by former Chief Election Commissioner Dr Nasim Zaidi.



Reference:

http://www.business-standard.com/article/news-ians/book-on-data-about-indian-elections-released-at-world-book-fair-118010801181_1.html

MISCELLANEOUS

Exchange of list of nuclear installations between India and Pakistan

Question: In which year did India and Pakistan handed over their list of Nuclear Installations to each other under the signed agreement?

(a) 1976 (b) 1998 (c) 1988 (d) 1975

Answer: (c)

Related Facts:

- On January 1st, 2018, India and Pakistan handed over the list of their Nuclear Installations to each other.
- This list was exchanged for 27th consecutive years between India and Pakistan.
- This exchange was done between the two countries on 31stDecember 1988 under the Agreement on the Prohibition of Attack against Nuclear Installations.
- This Agreement took effect on January 27, 1991.
- The agreement was signed by then Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi and then Prime Minister of Pakistan Benazir Bhutto. The exchange of list of Nuclear Installations between the two countries was first held on January 1st, 1992.



Reference:

<https://www.wefornews.com/india-pakistan-exchange-27th-list-of-nuclear-installations/>

Heritage Cabinet

Question: Which of the following state government recently decided to set up heritage cabinet?

(a) Uttarakhand (b) Odisha (c) Jammu & Kashmir
(d) Karnataka

Answer: (b)

Related Facts:

- On December 26th, 2017 Odisha government decided to set up a unique 'Heritage Cabinet'.
- Decision to set up Odisha Language Commission to preserve the relics and monuments in the state and enrich its rich culture and language was also taken.
- The cabinet meeting was held first time in Puri, instead of Bhubaneswar.
- Heritage Cabinet will be constituted under the chairmanship of Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik. Its aim is to protect ancient monuments, temples and archaeological sites in Odisha, and take steps to preserve the state's culture, language and literature.
- In addition to this, the proposal related to the separation of state tourism and culture departments by state cabinet has also been approved in this meeting.
- The name of the Culture Department was decided to do 'Odiya Language, Literature and Culture Department'.
- Prompt amendment will be made in Odisha Official Languages Act, 1954 and the provisions of penalties will be included in violation of the rules.



Reference:

<http://www.newindianexpress.com/states/odisha/2017/dec/26/odisha-government-to-set-up-heritage-cabinet-headed-by-chief-minister-naveen-patnaik-1737136.html>

Approval to include Sanskrit in the syllabus Madrassa

Question- In which of the following states the proposal to teach Sanskrit in the madarasas as an alternative subject has been approved?

(a) Karnataka (b) Kerala (c) Uttarakhand (d) Telangana

Answer: (c)

Related Facts:

- In January 2018, a lower committee of Uttarakhand Madrasa Education Board (UMEB) approved the proposal related to teaching Sanskrit as an alternative subject in the madarasas of the state.
- Committee also for teaching computer science as an alternative subject.
- The six-member committee of the Board has approved the proposal related to these two subjects.
- This proposal will be sent to the High Level committee of the Board for approval.
- A few days ago Uttarakhand Madrasa Welfare Society had approached the state government to include Sanskrit as a subject.
- This decision has been taken after the request of social institution Madrasa Welfare Society of Uttarakhand (Madrasa MWSU).
- MWSU operates 207 madrassas across the state, in which about 25 thousand students are learning.
- At present, students in the madarasas of the state are taught Mathematics, Science, Ayush and Social Science as an optional subject.



Reference:

<http://www.thehindu.com/news/national/other-states/uttarakhand-madrasas-to-teach-sanskrit/article22422556.ece>

Ban on Iranian Companies

Question: Recently, the US has banned five Iranian companies helping Iran's missile program. These five companies are the subordinate companies of Iran's Industrial Group?

(a) Mahmood Bakri (b) Shahid Bakri (c) Afzal Khomeini
(d) Ahmed Bilal

Answer: (b)

Related Facts:

- On January 4th, 2018, the US has banned five Iranian companies helping in Iran's missile program.
- Under the ban, properties of these companies will be confiscated in the US and American citizens will not be able to deal with these.
- These five companies are the subordinate companies of Iran's Shahid Bakri Industrial Group, which are related to the development of Iran's ballistic missiles.



Reference:

<https://www.rferl.org/a/iran-sanctions-ballistic-missile-program-mnichkin-u-s/28955437.html>

Vijayawada Book Festival

Question: 29th Vijayawada book festival was organized in which of the following states?

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

Answer: (a)

Related Facts:

- On January 1st, 2018, Vice President M. Venkaiah Naidu inaugurated the Vijayawada book festival held at PWD Swaraj Ground, Vijayawada, Andhra Pradesh.
- This was the 29th edition of the Vijayawada Book Festival.
- The celebration ended on January 12th, 2018.
- It was the second largest book fair in the country after the Kolkata Book Fair.
- This festival was organized jointly with the NTR Trust by the Vijayawada Book Festival Society.
- Department of Language and Culture, Andhra Pradesh Government also participated in this event.
- This year, more than 200 stalls were installed in this festival.



Reference:

<http://www.uniindia.com/vice-prez-inaugurates-vijayawada-book-festival/states/news/1092810.html>

Oxford's first Hindi word of the year – 2017

Question- What was the first 'Hindi word of the year -2017' of Oxford Dictionaries?

(a) Notebandi (b) Aadhaar (c) Yoga (d) Bahubali

Answer: (b)

Related Facts:

- On January 27th, 2018, the word 'AADHAAR' was announced by Oxford Dictionaries as the "word of the year 2017" at the Jaipur Literature Festival.
- According to the traditional definition of base – the foundation on which all the weight of an object or idea is hinged.
- But this year this word came into discussion due to Aadhaar card being made mandatory by the government.
- This word now has another meaning-the 12-digit unique identification number issued by the government to all Indians.
- It is important to remember that Oxford Hindi Word of the Year was suggested by the Hindi-speaking people from all over the world including India.
- Apart from the 'Aadhaar', some other words such as Notebandi, Swachh, Vikaas, Yoga and Bahubali were too close to becoming the Hindi word of the year.



Reference:

<http://bit.ly/2BxEKZ4>

End of Haj subsidy

Question: From which of the following year the ending of Haj subsidy was ordered by the Supreme Court through a decision passed in 2012?

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

Answer: (d)

Related Facts:

- On January 16th, 2018, the Union Minority Welfare Minister Mukhtar Abbas Naqvi announced the end of the subsidy on annual Haj pilgrimage from the current year (2018).
- It is known that in the year 2012, Supreme Court passed an order directing to end Haj subsidy by 2022.
- Supreme Court in its order cleared that subsidy is not only unconstitutional but also not in conformity with the teachings of the Quran.
- With the end of the Haj subsidy, around Rs. 450 crore per year will be saved.
- This amount will be spent on the education of minority women and girls.
- It is worth mentioning that this year; a record 1.75 lakh Muslims will visit Haj pilgrimage, which will be the largest Indian batch after Independence.
- For the first time this year, women will also go on Haj pilgrimage without male maintenance or Mehram.



Reference:

<http://www.thehindu.com/news/national/government-ends-haj-subsidy-from-this-year/article22450240.ece>

<http://www.livemint.com/Politics/u3KC2eKjfnZUcjOdwjQfSO/Government-ends-Haj-subsidy.html>

Mera Hoardings app

Question: Recently 'Mera Hoardings' app was launched. This app is related to-

(a) Sports (b) Health (c) Rail (d) Energy

Answer: (a)

Related Facts:

- On January 4th, 2018, Spain's leading badminton player Carolina Marin launched the 'Mera Hoarding' app.
- Mera Hoarding will work as an e-market place for companies of various types of hoardings planted on the road side.

Reference:

<http://indiatoday.intoday.in/story/carolina-marin-launches-mera-hoardings-app/1/1124190.html>



Virtual ID

Question- Recently, the Indian Unique Identification Authority has offered the virtual ID. How many digits will be there in this virtual ID?

(a) 12 (b) 14 (c) 16 (d) 18

Answer: (c)

Related Facts:

- In January 2018, the Indian Unique Identification Authority has offered virtual IDs to remove the apprehensions related to confidentiality of the Aadhaar.
- Any Aadhaar card holder can get their virtual ID by visiting the authorization website.
- Through this, many other functions can be done including verification of SIM without sharing Aadhaar number.
- Virtual ID will be a random 16-digit number, together with biometrics of the user.
- If any card holder creates a new virtual ID, the old ID will be automatically canceled.



Reference:

<https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/india/uidai-introduces-concept-of-virtual-id-to-address-privacy-concerns/articleshow/62444305.cms>

[Tropical cyclone in Madagascar](#)

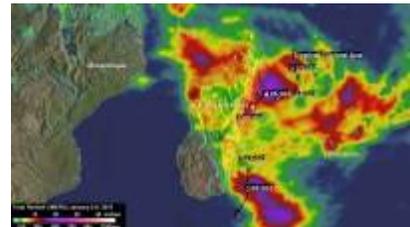
Question: Which one of following tropical cyclone knocked on Madagascar an African country based in Indian Ocean?

(a) Evan (b) Ian (Ian) (c) Ava (d) Xavier

Answer: (c)

Related Facts:

- In the first week of January, 2018, Madagascar was affected by the tropical Cyclone.
- It is significant that earlier in the first half of 2017 (March) Madagascar suffered from cyclonic storm 'Enawo' that killed 78 people.
- It is noteworthy that Cyclonic storms often come in Madagascar.
- Recent Cyclone 'Eva' hit the eastern coast of Madagascar on the morning of January 5, 2018.
- Ava's drenching rainfall caused flooding and landslides which resulted in the deaths of at least 29 people. An estimated 80,000 people on Madagascar were affected by the tropical cyclone.
- Cyclones become a reason for a severe flood in Antananarivo and the port city Tomasina and the eastern city of Tamatava.



Reference:

<https://www.nasa.gov/feature/goddard/2018/ava-southern-indian-ocean>

<https://reliefweb.int/disaster/tc-2018-000001-mdg>