

INDIA STATE OF FOREST REPORT



**UTTAR PRADESH
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 February to 28th February) will benefit our beloved readers.

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

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NATIONAL

State of Forest Report 2017

Question- on February 12, 2018 State of Forest Report 2017 was released. According to this report, which of the following states has the maximum increase in forest cover?

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

Answer- (c)

Related Facts:

- On 12th February, 2018, Union Minister for Environment and Climate Change Dr. Harsha Vardhana released the ' India State of Forest Report: ISFR 2017'.
- According to this report India is among top ten nations in the world in terms of forest area.
- India is ranked 10th in the world, with 24.4% of land area under forest and tree cover, even though it accounts for 2.4 % of the world surface area and sustains the needs of 17 % of human and 18 % livestock population.
- As per the latest FAO report, India is placed 8th in the list of Top Ten nations reporting the greatest annual net gain in forest area.
- According to ISFR-2017, there is an increase of 8, 021 sq km (about 80.20 million hectare) in the total forest and tree cover of the country, compared to the previous assessment in 2015.
- Increase in the forest cover has been observed as 6,778 sq km and that of tree cover as 1, 243 sq km.
- The total forest and tree cover is 8, 02,088 sq. Km which is 39 per cent of the geographical area of the country.
- Total forest cover in the country is 7, 08,273 sq. Km. which is 21.54 per cent of the total geographical area.
- The intensive forest in the country has increased by 1.36 percent.
- Significantly, the highly intensive forest absorbs most carbon dioxide from the atmosphere.
- As per the ISFR 2017, the total mangrove cover stands at 4,921 sq km and has shown an increase of 181 sq km.
- The extent of bamboo-bearing area in the country has been estimated at 15.69 million hectare.
- It is noteworthy that recently, the Central Government has presented a bill to exclude bamboo from the category of trees in Parliament.
- Exclusion of Bamboo from the category of Tree will motivate people to grow bamboo in their own land.
- According to the ISFR-2015, the mangrove cover in India is about 3.3 percent of the world's entire mangroves, which is Spread over 4921 km in the country which is 0.15 percent of the total geographical area of the country.
- Three states – Andhra Pradesh (2141 sq km), followed by Karnataka (1101 sq km) and Kerala (1043 sq km) have shown the maximum increase in forest cover.



- “Madhya Pradesh has the largest forest cover of 77,414 sq km in the country in terms of area, followed by Arunachal Pradesh with 66,964 sq km and Chhattisgarh (55,547 sq km).
- The highest mangrove cover in India is that four states / union territories are West Bengal (2,114 sq. km), Gujarat (1,140 sq. km), Andaman and Nicobar Islands (617 sq. km) and Andhra Pradesh (404 sq. Km) respectively.
- While the four most mangrove cover districts are respectively South 24 Parganas-West Bengal (2084 sq. Km), Kutch-Gujarat (798 sq. Km), North-Andaman and Nicobar Islands (425 sq. Km) and Kendrapara-Odisha (197 sq. Km).
- In terms of percentage of forest cover with respect to the total geographical area, Lakshadweep with (90.33 per cent) has the highest forest cover, followed by Mizoram (86.27 per cent) and Andaman & Nicobar Island (81.73 per cent)”.
- The present assessment also reveals that 15 states/UT's have above 33 per cent of the geographical area under forest cover.
- Out of these States and Union Territories, seven States/UTs namely Mizoram, Lakshadweep, Andaman & Nicobar Islands, Arunachal Pradesh, Nagaland, Meghalaya and Manipur have more than 75 per cent forest cover.
- 8 states – Tripura, Goa, Sikkim, Kerala, Uttarakhand, Dadra & Nagar Haveli, Chhattisgarh and Assam have forest cover between 33 per cent to 75 per cent.
- About 40% per cent of the country's forest cover is present in 9 large contiguous patches of the size of 10, 000 sq.km, or more.
- It is worth mentioning that Uttar Pradesh's total forest cover is 2, 40,928 square km which is 7.33 percent of the country's geographical area.
- It is known that ‘India Forest Status Report’ is released on every two years by the Forest Survey of India, based on Remote Sensing based satellite imagery, on the status of forests and trees in the country.
- Referring to the enormity of the task of preparing the State of Forest Report, “Work has already started for preparing ISFR 2019”.

Reference:

<http://fsi.nic.in/isfr2017/isfr-mangrove-cover-2017.pdf>

Uttar Pradesh budget, 2018-19

Question: On February 16th, 2018, Uttar Pradesh Finance Minister Rajesh Agrawal presented the budget for the financial year 2018-19. To what percentage of gross state domestic product in the present budget, the fiscal deficit is limited?

(a) 2.46 percent (b) 2.96 percent (c) 3 percent (d) 1.46 percent

Answer: (b)

Related Facts:

- On February 16th, 2018, Uttar Pradesh Finance Minister Rajesh Agarwal presented the budget for the financial year 2018-19.
- The proposed budget of 4 lakh 28 thousand 384 crores 52 lakhs is 11.4 percent larger than the budget for the previous financial year.
- In the budget presented new schemes of 14 thousand 341 crore 89 lakh have been included.



- The fiscal deficit in the budget has been restricted to at 2.96 percent less than 3 percent of gross state domestic product.
- Similarly, the indebtedness of the state is estimated to be 29.8 percent which is less than 30 percent of the gross state domestic product.
- 29 thousand 883 crores in the budget is proposed for projects of energy sector.
- This is about 54 percent more than the provisional amount in the previous year's budget.
- 250-250 crores is proposed for the 'Startup Scheme' and 'One District-One Product' scheme.
- 11,500 crores are proposed for the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (Rural).
- While Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (urban) is proposed a grant of Rs. 2217 crores.
- 1650 crores are proposed under Smart City Mission Scheme for Lucknow, Kanpur, Agra, Varanasi, Allahabad, Aligarh, Jhansi, Moradabad, Bareilly and Saharanpur.
- **Metro Rail projects**
- Lucknow Metro has started. Plan Regarding the commencement of metro rail service in Kanpur, Meerut and Agra, D.P.R. has been prepared. Metro projects of Varanasi, Allahabad, Gorakhpur and Jhansi will be modified in line with the new policy of the Central Government.
- **Energy**
- Year 2017-2018, till December, 2017, 50 thousand 668 majro (specified region) have been electrified, which is more than two times more than the previous year. The Government aims to provide electricity to 37 lakh 55 thousand houses by March 31st, 2018.
- In addition to this, the Saubhayga Yojna of the Government of India is also being implemented in the state, under which there is the goal of providing power connections to about 1.5 crore households by March 2019.
- Compared to last year, there has an increase by 23 percent in the supply provided to rural areas this year.
- **U.P. 'Uttar Pradesh Solar Energy-Policy-2017' and 'Women's Safety and Women's Welfare by the Government**
- Marriage registration has been made mandatory by the state government.
- Beti Bachao-Beti Padoo program has been widely publicized to bring awareness about gender inequality.
- 64 Rescue van has been arranged. The capacity of call center was increased to 30 from 6 seater in 181 Woman Helpline schemes by which Helpline facilities have been provided for 24 hour telephone calls for assistance to the suffering women.
- **Cooperation**
- 100 crores arrangement is being arranged for the advance storage of fertilizers.
- A budget provision of Rs. 31 crores is proposed for computerization of Primary Agriculture Co-operative Societies.
- An arrangement of Rs.200 crores is proposed under the subsidy scheme to provide crop loan to the farmers at a lower interest rate.
- **Animal Husbandry**
- An arrangement of approximately Rs. 75 crores has been proposed for the improvement of the economic condition of small and marginal farmers of Animal Husbandry, P. Deendayal Upadhyay Small Dairy Scheme.

- A provision of Rs. 100 crores is proposed for the National Animal Health and Disease Control Program.
- For the welfare of the fishermen, an arrangement of Rs 25 crore has been proposed for the establishment of Fisheries Welfare Fund.
- 20 crore rupees are proposed under the Blue Revolution Integrated Development and Management for Fisheries Scheme.
- 20 crores for the Submission on Agro forestry scheme and establishment of tourism and biodiversity center in Kukral forest area is proposed.
- In order to computerization of land records in the state grant of Rs. 42 crores is proposed.
- A provision of Rs. 10 crore for 'Aam Aadmi Bima Yojna' is proposed for 'Prime Minister Jeevan Jyoti Bima Yojana' and Rs. 130 crore 60 lakh for Prime Minister Suraksha Bima Yojana.
- In order to fund the disaster management in the state 777 crores, a provision of Rs.777 crores is proposed for the disaster relief fund.
- It has been decided to run 170 National Mobil Medical Unit on PPP mode.
- The aim is establishing of 100 new Ayurvedic clinics in rural areas.
- A budget provision of Rs. 291 crore has been made for the 'Prime Minister Mata Vandana Yojana'.
- **Medical Education:**
- Under the 'Pradhan Mantri Swasthya Suraksha Yojana' Phase-3, the upgraded Super Specialty Departments are being set up in 4 Medical Colleges namely- Jhansi, Gorakhpur, Allahabad and Meerut and for the construction of Super Specialty Department in 2 Medical Colleges Kanpur and Agra; a total of Rs 126 crore has been arranged.
- An arrangement of Rs. 214 crore is proposed for the Shyama Prasad Rurban Mission.
- In the year 2018-2019, a provision of Rs.1, 500 crore for National Rural Drinking Water Program and Rs.120 crore for State Rural Drinking Water Program is proposed.
- An arrangement of Rs 200 crore is proposed for the Chief Minister's Housing Scheme.
- **Panchayati Raj**
- An arrangement of Rs 5000 crore is proposed for the 'Swachh Bharat Mission (Rural Scheme)' in the year 2018-2019.
- In order to encourage the excellent village panchayats in the Chief Minister Panchayat Incentive Scheme, a provision of Rs. 20 crores is proposed.
- An arrangement of Rs. 36 crores is proposed for the free boring scheme.
- An arrangement of Rs. 10 crore is proposed for the implementation of Pt Deen Dayal Grameen Vidyut Yojana.
- An arrangement of Rs. 20 crore is proposed for the Pt Deen Dayal Upadhyay Khadi Marketing Development Assistance Scheme.
- **Medical and Health**
- For the rural area, 2 thousand Ayurvedic medical officers have been deployed at primary health centers.
- First time, 595 dental surgeons have been created at Community Health Centers.

- Ram Manohar Lohia Institute of Medical Sciences has been admitted for 150 MBBS seats for the first time.
- The 500-bedded super-specialty hospital, paramedical and nursing college will be constructed in the new campus.
- 5 districts of five districts of Faizabad, Basti, Bahraich, Firozabad and Shahjahanpur are upgraded to the State Medical College, in the financial year 2018-2019, for which a provision of Rs. 500 crores has been made.
- The Government Medical Institute, Greater Noida, the academic session 2018-2019 will be started in MBBS 100 seats.
- The Burn Unit will be set up Government Medical College Kanpur, Gorakhpur, Agra and Allahabad for which a provision of Rs. 14 crore is proposed.
- **Forest and Environment**
- State and Forestry-centric State Forest Policy -2017 has been named by Forest and Environment State Government.
- **Road and Bridge**
- A budget of Rs. 11,343 crore has been proposed for the construction of roads in the state by the Road and Setu PWD Department.
- An arrangement of Rs.2, 200 crores is proposed for the construction, widening and strengthening of roads under central road fund scheme.
- **Electricity**
- Electricity for the purpose of providing home-based electricity in the state.
- A Memorandum of Understanding was signed by the Government to implement *Power for all* programme ' in the state with the Government of India.
- Saubhyaga Yojna started by government of India is being implemented in the state, under which there is the goal of providing power connections to about 1.5 crore households by March 2019.
- **Urban Development, Urban Employment and Poverty Alleviation**
- An arrangement of Rs.1, 500 crore has been proposed for Urban Development, Urban Employment and Poverty Alleviation in the budget for the Kumbh Mela 2019.
- A budget of Rs 240 crores is proposed in the budget for the various projects run by the National Ganga River Basin Authority.
- An arrangement of Rs 1,000 crore for the *Swachh Bharat Mission* is proposed.
- An amount of Rs. 20000 crore has been arranged for the *AMRUT scheme*.
- For the purpose of developing a Nagar Panchayat of each district, a provision of Rs 200 crore for Pandit Deendayal Upadhyay Adarsh Nagar Panchayat Yojana is proposed.
- **Secondary Education**
- A budgetary provision of Rs 480 crores is proposed for the secondary education campaign to improve the level of secondary education in the state.
- Arrangement of Rs. 26 crores is proposed for the administration of Deendayal Upadhyay State Model Schools.
- **Higher education**
- An amount of Rs. 167 crores for the National Higher Education Campaign and Rs. 37 crores for the establishment of model colleges is proposed.
- A provision of Rs 21 crore for 'Ahilya Bai Nihshulk *Shiksha Yojana*' is proposed.
- Budget of Rs. 106 crores has been made for the establishment of new state colleges and completion of pre-existing colleges / universities.

- **Social welfare**

- An arrangement of about 7 thousand 858 crores is proposed for the welfare and development schemes of general category and scheduled castes.
- The Chief Minister's collective marriage scheme has been started for marriage of daughters of families of all sections of living below poverty line, for which a provision of Rs. 250 crore is proposed.
- 121 crores and Rs. 82 crores respectively are proposed for the marriage of daughters of Scheduled Castes and the poor families of the general category respectively.
- A provision of Rs 500 crore is proposed for the 'National Family Benefit Scheme' in the financial year 2018-2019.
- 2,560 crores has been proposed under 'Old Age and Kisan Pension Scheme' for eligible older persons of all sections of the age of 60 years.

- **Tourism**

- Uttar Pradesh has an important place in terms of tourism.
- In order to give industry status to tourism in the state, the new tourism policy-2012 has been promulgated.
- In this policy, attractive grants have been provided, envisaging Ramayan circuit, Braj Krishna circuit, Buddhist circuit, spiritual circuit, Sufi circuit, Bundelkhand circuit and Jain circuit.
- An arrangement of Rs. 70 crores is proposed for successful implementation of the policy.
- In order to promote pilgrimage in the Braj area, the Braj Shrine Development Council has been set up and there is a provision of Rs 100 crore for the development of infrastructure facilities.

Reference:

http://budget.up.nic.in/budgetbhashan/budgetbhashan2018_2019.pdf

Up Investors Summit -2018

Question: 'Uttar Pradesh Investors Summit -2018' was organized in Lucknow on 21st - 22nd February, 2018. Consider the following statements in regards to this:

- (i) A total of 1045 MoUs were signed in this summit.
- (ii) 4.28 lakh crore will be invested in the state.
- (iii) Declaration of establishment of Defense Corridor in eastern Uttar Pradesh.
- (iv) Rail factory will be set up in Fatehpur and Jhansi.

Which of the above statements / is correct?

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

Answer- (b)

Related Facts:

- On 21st – 22nd February 2018, Uttar Pradesh Investors Summit was organized in Lucknow city by the Government of Uttar Pradesh.
- The two day event aims to showcase the investment opportunities and potential in the various sectors of Uttar Pradesh.
- Netherlands, Japan, Slovakia, Czech Republic, Finland, Mauritius and Thailand were the participant partner of the summit.



- Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated the 'Uttar Pradesh Investors Summit'. On this occasion, he launched the 'Investment Friends' Portal.
- This is the country's first industrial portal.
- The Prime Minister announced the establishment of one of the two defence industrial corridors mentioned in the budget, at Bundelkhand (Western UP).
- It noteworthy that the defense industrial corridor in Uttar Pradesh will extend to Agra, Aligarh, Lucknow, Kanpur, Jhansi and Chitrakoot.
- This will bring an investment of Rs 20, 000 crore and generate employment avenues for 2.5 lakh people.
- In the summit Railway Minister Piyush Goyal has announced that the Railways will establish a rail coach factory in Jhansi (Bundelkhand region) of Uttar Pradesh.
- Rail equipment will be set up in Fatehpur Rail Factory and modernization of coaches in Jhansi Rail Coach Reforming Factory.
- In addition, the Railway Minister announced the running of heritage train between Dudhwa National Park and Kotariya Ghat.
- In Uttar Pradesh There are only three airports in Lucknow, Varanasi and Gorakhpur. Now Kushinagar and Jawahar (Noida) are also being started for the construction of two new international airports.
- The new tourism policy -2018 was promulgated in the state recognizing Tourism as Industry.
- Reliance Industries chairman Mukesh Ambani, speaking during the event, said Reliance Jio would be present in every single village of the state by the 2018-end.
- Adani Group will invest Rs 35,000 crore in the areas of logistics, solar power, roads and agriculture in UP in the next five years.
- Aditya Birla Group Chairman Kumar Mangalam Birla said that his group will invest Rs 25,000 crore in Uttar Pradesh.
- Apart from this, Essel Group Chairman Subhash Chandra said that his group has made a MoU of Rs 18 thousand 750 crore with the state government.
- President Ramnath Kovind addressed the closing ceremony of the Summit.
- Total 1045 MoUs were signed in this summit, through which the investment of amount about Rs 4.28 lakh crores will be done in the state.

Reference:

<http://upinvestorssummit.com/htm/01/index.html>

24th International Conference & Exhibition on Terrestrial and satellite Broadcasting

Question- Where is the 24th International Conference and Exhibition 'BES Expo, 2018' being organized on Teestric and Satellite Broadcasting between February 26th-28th, 2018?

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

Answer: (d)

Related Facts:

- Between 26th -28th February, 2018, the 24th International Conference and Exhibition on Terrestrial and Satellite Broadcasting, 'BES Expo, 2018' is being organized in Pragti Maidan, New Delhi. It was inaugurated by Union Information and Broadcasting and



Textile Minister, Smriti Jubin Irani. The main theme of this three-day program is – ‘Non-Linear Broadcasting-Technology & Business Models’.

- ‘BES Expo, 2018’ has been organized by Broadcast Engineering Society (India).
- This Expo is being considered as the biggest event of broadcast technology in India.
- About 300 companies from 25 countries presented their products directly in BES Expo 2018 or through dealers and distributors in India.
- Exhibition is joined by Australia, Austria, Canada, China, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Hong Kong, India, Israel, Italy, Japan, South Korea, Netherlands, Norway, Singapore, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Taiwan, United Kingdom and American Companies.

Reference:

<https://www.besindia.co.in/#>

Foundation stone for National Technology Centre for Ports, Waterways and Coasts

Question- At which of the following National Technology Center the foundation stone for setting up of a National Technology Centre for Ports, Waterways and Coasts (NTCPWC) was laid down recently?

(a) Noida (b) Mangaluru (c) Chennai (d) Vijayawada

Answer: (c)

Related Facts:

- On February 26th, 2018, Shri Nitin Gadkari, Minister for Road Transport & Highways, Shipping and Water Resources, River Development & Ganga Rejuvenation laid the foundation stone for setting up of a National Technology Centre for Ports, Waterways and Coasts (NTCPWC), at IIT Chennai.
- The Ministry of Shipping and IIT Chennai also signed an MoU for this at the event.
- NTCPWC, being set up under the Shipping Ministry’s flagship programme Sagarmala, will act as a technology arm of the Ministry of Shipping for providing engineering and technological inputs and support for Ports, Inland Waterways Authority of India and other institutions.
- It will carry on applied research in the areas of 2D and 3D Modelling of ocean, coastal and estuarine flows, sediment transport and morphodynamics, navigation and maneuvering, dredging and siltation, port and coastal engineering-structures and breakwaters, autonomous platforms and vehicles, experimental and CFD modeling of flow and hull interaction, hydrodynamics of multiple hulls and ocean renewable energy.
- The centre will provide indigenous software and technology, make technical guidelines and standards and address port and maritime issues with models and simulations.
- The centre will not only help generate new technology and innovations but also work towards their successful commercialization.
- It will provide learning opportunities for the people working in Ministry of Shipping.
- NTCPWC is being set up at a cost of Rs 70.53 crore to be shared by Ministry of Shipping, IWAI and the Major Ports.
- Ministry of Shipping’s grant is towards capital expenditure for creating facilities like Field Research Facility (FRF), Sedimentation and Erosion Management Test Basin and Ship/Tow Simulator.



- The centre will be self sustainable in three years through industry consultancy projects for Indian and global port and maritime sector.
- The setting up of NTCPWC would give a boost to the development of indigenous technology relevant to the port and maritime sector in India.
- This would also be a major shot in the arm for the Government's 'Make in India' programme, and provide a push to its Sagar Mala programme
- Envisioned as a world class state-of-the-art centre, NTCPWC will be a hub for latest technology tools and reduce our dependence on foreign institutions.
- It will also reduce the cost of research drastically and result in cost and time savings for work in the port and maritime sector.

Reference:

<http://pib.gov.in/PressReleaseDetail.aspx?PRID=1521672>

Cabinet approves New Bill to ban Unregulated Deposit Schemes and Chit Funds (Amendment) Bill, 2018

Question: Recently, Union Cabinet chaired by the Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi has given its approval to introduce the Banning of Unregulated Deposit Schemes Bill, 2018 in parliament & Chit Funds (Amendment) Bill, 2018 in the Parliament. These bill are aimed at

-
- (a) Tackling the menace of illicit deposit taking activities in the country
 - (b) Protecting the savings of investors
 - (c) (a) and (b) both (d) Regulatory frameworks set up

Answer- (c)

Related Facts

- On February 20th, 2018, in a major policy initiative to protect the savings of the investors, the Union Cabinet chaired by the Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi has given its approval to introduce the following bills in the Parliament- (a) Banning of Unregulated Deposit Schemes Bill, 2018 in parliament & (b) Chit Funds (Amendment) Bill, 2018.
- The bill is aimed at tackling the menace of illicit deposit taking activities in the country. Companies/ institutions running such schemes exploit existing regulatory gaps and lack of strict administrative measures to dupe poor and gullible people of their hard-earned savings.
- **The salient features of Banning of Unregulated Deposit Schemes Bill, 2018 are as follows:**
- The Bill contains a substantive banning clause which bans Deposit Takers from promoting, operating, issuing advertisements or accepting deposits in any Unregulated Deposit Scheme. The principle is that the Bill would ban unregulated deposit taking activities altogether, by making them an offence ex-ante, rather than the existing legislative-cum-regulatory framework which only comes into effect ex-post with considerable time lags.
- The Bill creates three different types of offences, namely, running of Unregulated Deposit Schemes, fraudulent default in Regulated Deposit Schemes, and wrongful inducement in relation to Unregulated Deposit Schemes.



- The Bill provides for severe punishment and heavy pecuniary fines to act as deterrent.
- The Bill has adequate provisions for disgorgement or repayment of deposits in cases where such schemes nonetheless manage to raise deposits illegally.
- The Bill provides for attachment of properties/ assets by the Competent Authority, and subsequent realization of assets for repayment to depositors.
- Clear-cut time lines have been provided for attachment of property and restitution to depositors. The Bill enables creation of an online central database, for collection and sharing of information on deposit taking activities in the country.
- The Bill defines “Deposit Taker” and “Deposit” comprehensively. “Deposit Takers” include all possible entities (including individuals) receiving or soliciting deposits, except specific entities such as those incorporated by legislation.
- “Deposit” is defined in such a manner that deposit takers are restricted from camouflaging public deposits as receipts, and at the same time not to curb or hinder acceptance of money by an establishment in the ordinary course of its business.
- Being a comprehensive Union law, the Bill adopts best practices from State laws, while entrusting the primary responsibility of implementing the provisions of the legislation to the State Governments.
- **Following amendments to the Chit Funds Act, 1982 have been proposed:**
- Use of the words “Fraternity Fund” for chit business under Sections 2(b) and 11(1) of the Chit Funds Act, 1982, to signify its inherent nature, and distinguish its working from “Prize Chits” which are banned under a separate legislation;
- While retaining the requirement of a minimum of two subscribers for the conduct of the draw of the Chit and for the preparation of the minutes of the proceedings, the Chit Funds (Amendment) Bill, 2018 proposes to allow the two minimum required subscribers to join through video conferencing duly recorded by the foreman, as physical presence of the subscribers towards the final stages of a Chit may not be forthcoming easily. The foreman shall have the minutes of the proceedings signed by such subscribers within a period of two days following the proceedings;
- Increasing the ceiling of foreman’s commission from a maximum of 5% to 7%, as the rate has remained static since the commencement of the Act while overheads and other costs have increased manifold;
- Allowing the foreman a right to lien for the dues from subscribers, so that set-off is allowed by the Chit company for subscribers who have already drawn funds, so as to discourage default by them; and
- Amending Section 85 (b) of the Chit Funds Act, 1982 to remove the ceiling of one hundred rupees set in 1982 at the time of framing the Chit Funds Act, which has lost its relevance. The State Governments are proposed to be allowed to prescribe the ceiling and to increase it from time to time.

Reference:

<http://pib.gov.in/PressReleaseDetail.aspx?PRID=1521027>

World Sustainable Development Summit 2018

Question- From 15th to 17th February, 2018, at which of the following places the ‘World Sustainable Development Conference, 2018’ is being organized?

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



Answer: (c)

Related Facts:

- From 15th -17th February 2018, the 'World Sustainable Development Summit: WSDS' 2018 is being organized in New Delhi.
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated this conference on 16th February, 2018.
- The theme of the Summit this year is 'Partnerships for a Resilient Planet'; WSDS 2018 seeks to create action frameworks to resolve some of the most urgent challenges facing developing economies in the backdrop of climate change.
- WSDS is the flagship forum of The Energy and Resources Institute (TERI) and seeks to bring together on a common platform, global leaders and thinkers in the fields of sustainable development, energy and environment sectors.
- WSDS-2012 tries to create an 'action framework' to address some of the most important challenges facing the developing economies in the background of climate change.
- Over 2000 delegates are participating in the summit, including policy makers, researchers, think tanks, diplomats and corporates from around the world.

Reference:

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=176567>

Approval to rationalization of Autonomous Bodies under Department of Health & Family Welfare

Question: In which year the Jansankhya Sthirata Kosh (JSK) was established?

(a) year 2002 (b) year 2003 (c) year 2004 (d) year 2005

Answer: (b)

Related Facts:

- On February 7th, 2018, Union Cabinet chaired by Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi has approved the proposal for closure of two Autonomous Bodies.
- These two are Rashtriya Arogya Nidhi (RAN) and Jansankhya Sthirata Kosh (JSK).
- Functions of these two Autonomous Bodies are proposed to be vested in Department of Health & Family Welfare (DoHFW).
- The rationalization of Autonomous Bodies under Department of Health & Family Welfare will involve inter-ministerial consultations and review of existing bye laws of these bodies.
- The time frame for implementation is one year, Rashtriya Arogya Nidhi (RAN) was set up as a registered society to provide financial medical assistance to poor patients receiving treatment in designated central government hospitals.
- An advance is placed with the Medical Superintendents of such hospitals who then provide assistance on a case to case basis. Since the DoHFW provides funds to the hospitals, the grants can be given from the Department to the hospital directly.
- RAN functions can, therefore, be vested in DoHFW.
- Managing Committee of RAN Society will meet to dissolve the Autonomous Body (AB) as per provisions of Societies Registration Act, 1860 (SRA).
- In addition to this, Health Minister's Cancer Patient Fund (HMCPF) shall also be transferred to the Department. The timeline required for this is one year.
- It is noteworthy that Jansankhya Sthirata Kosh (JSK) was set up with a corpus grant of Rs.100 crores in the year 2003 to raise awareness for population stabilization strategies.



Ministry of Health and Family Welfare
Government of India

- Population stabilization strategies require private and corporate funding, which can be accessed through JSK.
- Hence, JSK as an Autonomous Body can be closed as it can be administered by the Department as a fund.

Reference:

<http://pib.gov.in/PressReleaseDetail.aspx?PRID=1519581>

India's biggest Global Conference on Pharma Industry and Medical Devices

Question- At which of the following places India's biggest Global Conference on Pharma Industry and Medical Devices is being organized from February 15th-17th, 2018?

(a) Bangalore (b) Kolkata (c) Hyderabad (d) Bhubaneswar

Answer: (a)

Related Facts:

- From February 15-17, 2018, the Department of Pharmaceuticals (DoP), Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers, along with Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce & Industry (FICCI), is organizing 'India Pharma & India Medical Device 2018' in Bengaluru.
- It is the 3rd International exhibition and conference on Pharmaceutical & Medical Device sector.
- The theme for the conference is 'Affordable and Quality Healthcare'.
- The event will bring key stakeholders of the pharma and medical devices sectors under one roof, with hundreds of delegates including 50 Hosted Delegates from other Nations.
- Over 300 companies and 50 startups showed their products at the grand exhibition.
- More than 90 eminent industry leaders addressed at various sessions lined over three days and more than 20 international drug and device regulators are participating in a meet with Indian regulators.
- Ministerial delegations from CIS and BIMSTEC countries will also attend the event.
- A key highlight of India Pharma & India Medical Device 2018 is a workshop by World Health Organization on 'Regulatory System Strengthening and Prequalification'.
- A conference will also be organized by NASSCOM on 'Digital Transformation through Innovation in Pharmaceutical, Medical Devices and Healthcare Industries'.
- India Pharma & India Medical Device Awards will be announced to honor excellence and innovation in the field of pharmaceuticals and medical devices.



Reference:

<http://pib.gov.in/PressReleaseDetail.aspx?PRID=1520394>

International Conference on Unani Medicine, 2018

Question: At which of the following places the 'International Conference on Unani Medicine, 2018' was organized during February 10-11?

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



Answer: (a)**Related Fact:**

- During 10-11 February, 2018, 'International Conference on Unani Medicine, 2018' was organized in New Delhi.
- This two-day international conference has been organized as a part of the 'Unani Day' celebration by Central Council (CCRUM) for Research in Unani Medicine under the auspices of the Ministry of AYUSH.
- The theme of this conference is 'Integration of Unani Medical System in 'Mainstream Health Service'.
- Apart from national representatives, representatives from different countries, such as South Africa, UK, Sri Lanka, Bangladesh, China, America, Portugal, United Arab Emirates, Slovenia, Israel, Hungary, Bahrain, Tajikistan etc participated in the conference.
- During this conference, industrial perspective was also discussed with issues related to globalization, research and standardization.
- It is worth mentioning that on the birthday of famous Unani researcher Hakim Ajmal Khan, on February 11th, 'Unani Day' is celebrated every year.
- The first 'Unani Day' was celebrated in Hyderabad last year.
- Hakim Ajmal Khan was a reputed Indian Unani physician with versatile talent, freedom fighter, educationist and was the founder of scientific research in Unani medicine.
- His 150th birth anniversary was in 2018.

Reference:

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=176478>

Major Port Authorities Bill 2016

Question: Recently Cabinet has approved the incorporation of the Official Amendments to the Major Port Authorities Bill 2016. Which one is not true in the given-

- (a) This approval was granted on 8th February, 2018.
- (b) The number of labor representatives appointed to the Authority in the port has been increased from one to two.
- (c) The number of members in the Port Authority Board will be at least two and maximum four.
- (d) Under the Major Port Trust Act, 1963, every person who was receiving retirement benefits before such date from the trustee board will continue to receive such benefits from the Board.

**Answer: (a)****Related Facts:**

- On 7th February, 2018, Union Cabinet chaired by the Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi has approved the incorporation of the Official Amendments to the Major Port Authorities Bill 2016, which is pending in the Parliament.
- The Amendments are based on the recommendations of the Department-related Parliamentary Standing Committee.
- Following changes are being incorporated:
- The number of the Labour representatives to be appointed in the Port Authority Board among the serving employees of the Port has been increased from one to two.

- The Member representing the interest of the employees shall hold office for a term of three years and shall not hold office for more than two consecutive terms and his Board membership is co-terminus with his retirement.
- The number of Independent Members in the Port Authority Board would be minimum two to maximum four.
- Every person who was receiving any retirement benefit from the Board of Trustees under the Major Port Trust Act, 1963 immediately before such date, shall continue to receive the same benefit from the Board.
- The Board of each Major Port shall be entitled to create specific master plan in respect of any development or infrastructure established or proposed to be established within the port limits and the land appurtenant thereto and such master plan shall be independent of any local or State Government regulations of any authority whatsoever.
- After commencement of the Act, for PPP projects, the concessionaire shall be free to fix the tariff based on market conditions.
- All moneys received by or on behalf of the Board under the provision of this Act shall be credited to such general account or accounts of the Ports which the Board may from time to time generally open with any Nationalised Bank or any Scheduled Bank as per the guidelines of Ministry of Finance, Government of India.
- Presiding Officer and Members of the Adjudicatory Board shall be appointed by the Central Government on the recommendations of the Selection Committee.
- Central Government shall have the power to remove the Presiding Officer or any member of the Adjudicatory Board from the office following the prescribed manner.
- A saving clause has been kept under repeal and saving so that the existing benefit enjoyed by Mumbai and Kolkata Port in respect of municipal assessment of property under the Bombay Port Trust Act, 1879 and the Calcutta Port Trust Act, 1890 would continue.

Reference:

<http://pib.gov.in/PressReleaseDetail.aspx?PRID=1519585>

‘Healthy States, Progressive India’ report released by the NITI Aayog

Question- On 9th February, 2018, the NITI Aayog released a comprehensive health index report titled ‘Healthy States, Progressive India’. According to the report, which of the following states has been given top position in the overall levels of performance of big States?

(a) Punjab (b) Kerala (c) Tamil Nadu (d) Karnataka

Answer: (b)

Related Facts:

- On 9th February, 2018, the NITI Aayog released a comprehensive health index report titled ‘Healthy States, Progressive India’.
- In this report, states and Union Territories have been kept in different categories on the basis of annual progress on health front and overall performance compared to each other.
- The States are categorized on the basis of incremental Index score range: ‘Not Improved’ (incremental Index score ≤ 0), ‘Least Improved’ (incremental Index score between 0.01



and 2), 'Moderately Improved' (incremental Index score between 2.01 and 4), 'Most Improved' (incremental Index score >4.0)

- This report was jointly released by the Chief Executive Officer of the NITI Aayog, Amitabh Kant, Secretary of Health and Family Welfare Preeti Sudan and Junaid Kamal Ahmad, Country Director of world bank.
- Technical Assistance to NITI Aayog was provided through the entire duration by The World Bank, along with authorship of this report.
- The report states that States and Union Territories have been kept in three categories of larger, smaller and union territories.
- The Health Index is a weighted composite index, which has three indicators of three different categories (domain) (a) health results (70 percent) (b) governance and information on major states and (c) major inputs and processes (18 percent) is based.
- Kerala ranks on top in terms of overall performance.
- Kerala is at the bottom in terms of incremental progress mainly as it had already achieved a low level of Neonatal Mortality Rate (NMR) and Under-five Mortality Rate (U5MR) and replacement level fertility, leaving limited space for any further improvements.
- Kerala is followed by Punjab and Tamil Nadu as second and third respectively.
- While Jharkhand, Jammu and Kashmir and Uttar Pradesh have been ranked in the top three states in terms of progress at the annual level.
- Jharkhand, Jammu & Kashmir, and Uttar Pradesh showed the maximum gains in improvement of health outcomes from base to reference year in indicators such as NMR, U5MR, full immunization coverage, institutional deliveries, and people living with HIV (PLHIV) on antiretroviral therapy (ART).
- Among Smaller States, Mizoram (73.70) followed by Manipur (57.78) are the best overall performers.
- In annual incremental performance, Manipur (up 7.18 points) and Goa (up 6.67 points) ranked the highest.
- In the health sector and with overall performance, Lakshadweep's performance in the Union Territories has been the best in case of the highest progress at the annual level.
- The linking of the Health Index with incentives under the National Health Mission by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare underlines the importance of such an exercise. It re-emphasizes the move towards performance based financing for better outcomes.
- The average number of days taken by the State to transfer money to the implementation agency ranged between 0 (Daman & Diu and Lakshadweep) and 287 (Telangana) days.

Reference:

<http://niti.gov.in/writereaddata/files/Healthy-States-Progressive-India-Report.pdf>

New Delhi World Book Fair 2018

Question-During 6-14 January, 2018, the 26th 'New Delhi World Book Fair-2018' was organized at Pragati Maidan, New Delhi. What was the theme of the fair this year?

- (a) Friendship (b) Manushi
(c) Environment and Climate Change (d) Digital India

Answer: (c)

Related Facts:

- From 6-14 January, 2018, 26th 'New Delhi World Book Fair '2018 was organized at Pragati Maidan, New Delhi.



- The theme of the fair this year was 'Environment and Climate Change'.
- This nine-day book fair was organized by the National Book Trust (NBT) in collaboration with the Indian Trade Promotion Organization (ITPO).
- The European Union participated as a guest this time at the fair.
- Iran, Mexico, Japan, Nepal, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, United Arab Emirates, and Britain, including the 27 countries included in the European Union, participated in the fair.
- Apart from this, UNESCO and other international agencies took part in the fair.

Reference:

http://www.newdelhiworldbookfair.gov.in/16_history-of-ndwbf_ndwbf.ndwbf_page

First PIO Parliamentary Conference

Question- Where was the first PIO Parliamentary Conference organized recently?

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

Ans: (b)

Related facts:-

- On January 9, 2018, the 'First PIO Parliamentary Conference' was held in the Overseas Indian Center, New Delhi.
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated this one-day conference.
- The purpose of this conference is to strengthen the relations with these countries through the contact with the overseas Indians.
- In this conference, 141 MPs and mayors from 23 countries participated.
- In which 124 MPs from Britain, Canada, Fiji, Kenya, Mauritius, New Zealand, Sri Lanka and other countries participated.
- While 17 mayors from other countries including the US, Malaysia, Switzerland, Guyana, Trinidad and Tobago participated.
- There were two main points discussed in this event. In which the theme of the first session was- Indian-origin MP's settled overseas: "The journey of struggle" and in the second part special discussion taken place on 'Resurgent India': Contributions of Indian-origin MPs residing overseas.
- It is worth mentioning that on 9th January every year, 'Pravasi Bharatiya Divas' is celebrated to highlight the contribution of people of Indian origin, based overseas, to the development of India.
- This day is celebrated on January 9, 1915 to commemorate Mahatma Gandhi's return to India from South Africa.



Related Links:-

<http://indianexpress.com/article/india/141-mps-mayors-from-indian-diaspora-to-join-first-pio-event-nri-parliamentarian-conference-pravasi-bharatiya-kendra-5013106/>

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>

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/PressReleaseDetail.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

INTERNATIONAL Corruption Perceptions Index- 2017

Question- What is India position in 'Global Corruption Perception Index, 2017' released by Transparency International on February 21st, 2018?

(a) 80th (b) 85th (c) 81st (d) 75th

Answer- (c)

Related Facts:

- On February 21st, 2018 Transparency International released the 23rd Annual Corruption Perception Index, 2017.



- The index, which ranks 180 countries and territories by their perceived levels of public sector corruption according to experts and businesspeople, uses a scale of 0 to 100.
- In this regard 0 is for highly corrupt and 100 is for very clean.
- This year, the index found that more than two-thirds of countries score below 50, with an average score of 43.
- New Zealand (Score-89) is at the top in this year index.
- New Zealand is followed by Denmark (Score-88), Finland (Score-85), Norway (Score-85) and Switzerland (Score-85) jointly at third position and Singapore (Score-84) and Sweden (Score-84) jointly at sixth place.
- In this index, Somalia (score 9) is at 180th rank (last), the most corrupt country.
- In the index prior to Somalia there are South Sudan (Score-12) 179th rank, Syria (Score-14) 178th rank, Afghanistan (Score-15) 177th rank, Yemen (Score-16) and Sudan (Score-16) jointly at 175th
- India is at 81st position in the index-2017 jointly tied with Ghana, Morocco and Turkey (Turkey). The index score of these 4 countries is 40.
- In last year's index, India was at the 79th position with a score of 40 jointly with Belarus, Brazil and China.
- Bhutan (Score-67) 26th, China (Score-41) 77th, Sri Lanka (Score-38) 91st, Pakistan (Score-32) 117th, Nepal (Score-31) 122th and Bangladesh (Score-28) are at 143rd
- In this index other developed countries of the world are ranked as United Kingdom (Score-82) 8th, Germany (Score-81) 12th, US (Score-75) 16th, and Japan (Score-73) 20th.
- It is known that this index is being released annually since 1995.
- Transparency International is an international non-governmental organization which emphasizes corruption prevention etc.
- Its headquarters is in Berlin, Germany.

Reference:

https://www.transparency.org/news/feature/corruption_perceptions_index_2017

8th International Theater Olympics

Question-At which of the following places the 8th International Theater Olympics concluded?

- (a) Red Fort, Delhi (b) Gateway of India, Mumbai (c) India Gate, Delhi
(d) Indira Gandhi Stadium, Delhi

Answer: (b)

Related Facts:

- On February 17th, 2018 the Vice President of India Shri M. Venkaiah Naidu inaugurated the 8th international Theatre Olympics 2018 at the majestic Red Fort in New Delhi.
- It is being held in India for the first time.
- The Vice President also released the festival logo.
- The 51-day-long event will be theatrical extravaganza is being hosted in India by the National School of Drama under the aegis of Ministry of Culture.
- The theme of the 8th Theatre Olympics is "Flag of Friendship".
- It aims to bridge borders and bring people of different cultures, beliefs and ideologies together through the medium of theatrical art.



- This Olympics will be held in 17 Indian cities.
- There are 25000 artists participating from around the world.
- During this time, 450 shows, 600 Ambience exhibitions and 250 Power Packet Youth Forum will be held.
- It will end on April 8th, 2018 at the historic Gateway of India in Mumbai.
- National School of Drama was established in the year 1959.
- 30 countries are participating in this.
- It is known that the theater Olympics was established in 1993 in Delphi, Greece.

Reference:

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=176624>

Global Democracy Index-2017

Question- What place has India got in the 'Global Democracy Index 2017' issued by the Economist Intelligence Unit of the UK's Media Institute 'The Economist' Group?

(a) 32nd (b) 42nd (c) 30th (d) 53rd

Answer: (b)

Related Facts:

- On January 31st, 2018, the 'Global Democracy Index' was released by the Economist Intelligence Unit of the UK's Media Institute 'The Economist Group'.
- This index, has been prepared on with groups of 60 signals in 165 independent countries and 2 regions (Territories), is based on the five scales – 'Election Process and Pluralism', 'Freedom of citizens', 'System of Government', 'Political Participation' and 'Political Culture'.
- Norway topped the index.
- Iceland and Sweden remained second and third respectively.
- After this, New Zealand, Denmark, Ireland, Canada, Australia, Finland and Switzerland are among the top ten countries in the index.
- In the Global Democracy Index, India is ranked 42nd with 7.23 score.
- While last year, India was ranked 32nd with a score of 7.81 in this index.
- In the report, India has been included in the category of countries with defective democracies.
- In this year's report, the freedom of the media has also been studied in different countries.
- According to the report the media in India is partly free.
- Accordingly, India has become, especially Chhattisgarh and Jammu and Kashmir, dangerous for the journalists.
- The administration has reduced the freedom of the media.
- Many newspapers have been closed and mobile internet services have been banned at a great deal.
- Many journalists have also been murdered in the year 2017.
- America, Japan, Italy, France, Israel Singapore and Hong Kong are also listed on the list of defective democracies.
- In the category of complete democracy, only 19 countries have been ranked.
- Pakistan 110th, Bangladesh 92th, Nepal 94th and Bhutan remained at the 99th place with the mixed arrangements.



- Countries like China, Myanmar, Russia and Vietnam are in the category of dictatorship system.
- North Korea is at the bottom 167th place and Syria is ranked 166th.
- The global index of democracy has dropped from 5.52 points in the year 2016 to 5.48 in 2017.

Reference:

<http://www.livemint.com/Politics/SBf9tTUhoG29zuJ3rKrqpO/India-slips-to-42nd-place-on-EIU-Democracy-Index-US-at-21st.html>

Janadriyah Festival

Question- India was accorded the 'Guest of Honour' status by which of the following countries at the Janadriyah Festival organizing from February 7th-24th 2018?

- (a) United Arab Emirates (b) Saudi Arabia (c) Oman
(d) Israel

Answer: (b)

Related Facts:

- Janadriyah Festival, the prestigious annual 'National Heritage and Cultural Festival' of Saudi Arabia is being organizing from February 7th-24th, 2018. India has been accorded the 'Guest of Honour' status in this Festival.
- On February 7th, 2018 was inaugurated by King Salman in the presence of Hon'ble External Affairs Minister Smt Sushma Swaraj.
- Giving due recognition to the strategic partnership, close ties and historical linkages between the two countries Saudi Arabia has given the said status to India.
- The India Pavilion mounted on the occasion is based on the theme "Saudi ka Dost Bharat". The Pavilion showcases the core values and traditions of India and presents a kaleidoscope of India's vibrant culture through a colourful dance and music extravaganza. The section on 'Tradition' has on display, traditional strengths like Yoga, Ayurveda, textiles and tourism. While 'Modern Section' coined as 'Opportunities in India' showcases the digital revolution, achievements in Space and defence technologies as well as Flagship programmes like 'Digital India', Make in India' etc.



Reference:

<http://mea.gov.in/press-releases.htm?dtl/29442/India+Guest+of+Honour+country+at+the+Janadriyah+Festival+in+Saudi+Arabia>

International Intellectual Property Index, 2018

Question: What position India has got in the sixth International Intellectual Property Index-2018, released by the US Global Intellectual Property Center of Chamber of Commerce?

- (a) 42nd (b) 44th (c) 46th (d) 35th

Answer: (b)

Related Facts:

- On February 8, 2018, the 6th Annual International Intellectual Property Index, 2018 (International IP Index, 2018) was published by the U.S. Chamber of Commerce's Global Intellectual Property Center.

- The theme of this year's index is 'Create'.
- In order to create this index, 40 indicators were divided into 8 categories and the main index based on the number of points earned by each of the countries has been made.
- This index covers 50 countries, whilst last year this index had 45 countries.
- This year the index includes five new countries (Economies) – Costa Rica, Ireland, Jordan, Morocco and the Netherlands.
- **Countries receiving first ten places and their points-**
1. USA-37.98 2. UK-37.97 3. Sweden -30.99 4. France- 36.74 5. Germany -36.54
6. Ireland-35.98 7. Netherlands-35.33 8. Japan-34.58 9. Singapore-33.45
10. Switzerland -33.42
- **Countries received the last five places and their points-**
50. Venezuela-6.85 49. Algeria-9.53 48. Egypt-10.10 47. Pakistan-10.41
46. Argentina-11.55
- India is ranked 44th with 12.03 points in the International Intellectual Property Index, 2018.
- Whilst last year India was ranked 43th in this index.
- In the BRICS countries, China is at 25th, Russia-29th, Brazil -33rd and South. Africa is ranked 39th.

Reference:

http://www.theglobalipcenter.com/wp-content/uploads/2018/02/GIPC_IP_Index_2018_ExecSummary.pdf

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>

ECONOMICS

Funds for Divisional level Animal Health Fairs approved

Question: How much amount has been sanctioned in the current financial year by Uttar Pradesh government for PT. Deen Dayal Upadhyay Animal Health Fair?

- (a) 2 Crore 15 Lakh (b) 2 Crore 50 Lakh (c) 3 Crore 25 Lakh
(d) 4 Crore 20 Lakh

Answer: (b)

Related Facts:

- On February 13th, 2018, the amount of Rs.2 Crore 50 Lakh was sanctioned by Uttar Pradesh government in the current financial year for PT. Deen Dayal Upadhyay Animal Health Fair.
- Under the Scheme, Animal Health Fair at the districts of all the divisional headquarters of the state used to be organized at divisional level Pandit Deendayal by the Department of Livestock.
- At this fair, free medical treatment of cow and buffaloes, neutrophication Castration, vaccination, animal-infertility treatment etc. are provided by experts as well as information about new technology for animal husbandry is provided to the cattle-holders.
- On the same day, Uttar Pradesh government sanctioned Rs. 1.62 crore for the State Ground Water Conservation Mission.



Reference:

<http://information.up.nic.in/attachments/files/5a82e593-68c4-49c2-b828-76080af72573.pdf>

Estimates of economic growth of HSBC

Question: According to recently issued estimates of the growth by Hong-Kong Shanghai Banking Corporation, the growth percentage of Indian economy is likely to remain at which percentage for 2019-20?

- (a) 7.6 percent (b) 7.8 percent (c) 8.0 percent (d) 7.5 percent

Answer: (a)

Related Facts:

- In January 2018, Hong-Kong Shanghai Banking Corporation (HSBC) released the growth prospects of the Indian economy.
- According to this, the growth rate of India's GDP is likely to increase from 6.5 percent to 7.0 percent of current fiscal in 2018-19.
- It is likely to become 7.6 percent in 2019-20.
- In the recent possibilities, the development of India by HSBC has been described in two short-term parts.
- The first part includes slowdown and gradual improvement during the short term of 2018 and 2019.



- These improvements have been achieved as gradual improvement after the interruption related to the implementation of GST.
- The second part is of bright growth prospects in mid-term (2020 and later).
- The benefits of recent structural reforms are visible in this section.
- According to HSBC, the growth rate of the Indian economy is estimated at 6.5 percent in the year 2017-18.
- According to HSBC, inflation will continue to remain around 4% targeted by RBI as soon as the effect of the transient factors decreases.
- HSBC has estimated inflation at an average of 3.4 percent during the financial year 2018.
- However, at the end of the financial year in March, it is estimated to be 4.3 percent.

Reference:

<http://www.moneycontrol.com/news/business/economy/gdp-growth-in-india-to-accelerate-over-coming-year-hsbc-2473413.html>

Sixth Bi-monthly Monetary Policy Statement, 2017-18

Question- On February 7th, 2018, the Governor of Reserve Bank of India Dr Urjit Patel and Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) released the sixth bi-monthly monetary policy statement, 2017-18. According to what percentage of the policy repo rate has been retained?

(a) 6.25 percent (b) 6.50 percent (c) 6.75 percent (d) 6.0 percent

Answer: (d)

Related Facts:

- On February 7th, 2018, Governor of Reserve Bank of India, Dr. Urjit Patel and Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) released sixth bi-monthly monetary policy statement, 2017-18.
- Reserve Bank of India has kept policy rates, reserve cash ratio, net demand and periodic liabilities unchanged in the sixth bi-monthly monetary policy statement.
- Policy repo rate under the liquidity adjustment facility (LAF) kept unchanged at 6.0 per cent.
- Earlier, on December 6th, 2017, the fifth bi-monthly policy had been issued, in which policy rates were kept unchanged.
- It is known that in the third bi-monetary policy statement, 2017-18 issued on August 2nd, 2017 the RBI had reduced the policy repo rate from 6.25 percent to 6.0 percent by decreasing basis points by 25.
- The Statutory Liquidity Ratio (SLR) of scheduled commercial banks is kept unchanged at 19.50 percent.
- Keeping the Cash Reserve Ratio (CRR) of scheduled commercial banks unchanged, it retained 4 percent of Net Demand and Time Liabilities (NDTL).
- As a result, the Reverse Repo Rate under the liquidity adjustment facility is 5.75 and the Marginal Standing Facility Rate (MSF) and Bank Rate is 6.25 percent.
- The real gross value added (GVA) growth as per the first advance estimates (FAE) released by the Central Statistics Office (CSO) is estimated to decelerate to 6.1 per cent in 2017-18 from 7.1 per cent in 2016-17.
- Turning to the growth outlook, GVA growth for 2017-18 is projected at 6.6 per cent.



Reference:

https://www.rbi.org.in/Scripts/BS_PressReleaseDisplay.aspx?prid=43078

Increase in the number of air travelers in the year 2017

Question: What percentage of air travelers have increased in year 2017?

- (a) 23.18 percent (b) 17.31 percent (c) 20.34 percent
(d) 18.5 percent

Answer: (b)

Related Facts

- For the first time in the year 2017 number of air travelers on domestic routes Crossed 10 million.
- 11 million 71 lakh 76 thousand passengers travelled on domestic routes in the year 2017 which is a record of air travel.
- This is the first time that this figure has reached 100 million in a calendar year.
- Earlier in the year 2016, the number of air passengers was 9 crore 98 thousand 88 thousand.
- This year, in the year 2017 the number of air passengers increased by 17.31 percent.
- Earlier, in 2016, the number of people traveling by plane in the country increased by 23.8 percent and 20.34 percent in 2015.
- In the year 2014 it was 9.70 percent.



Reference:

<http://dgca.nic.in/reports/Traffic-ind.htm>

Merger of IDFC Bank & Capital first

Question- According to the recent announcement on which date of merger of IDFC Bank and Capital First will take effective?

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

Answer: (b)

Related Facts:

- On January 13th, 2018 merger of 'IDFC Bank' and 'Capital First' was announced.
- 'Capital First' is a non-banking finance company engaged in retail business Supported by private equity firm Bargh Pincus.
- Vaidyanathan will be the MD and CEO of the new company and Rajiv Lal will be the non-executive chairman of IDFC Bank.
- Under the terms of merger, IDFC Bank will issue 139 shares in exchange for each 10 shares of Capital First.
- This interchanging of shares is called 'stock swap'.
- Merger will help in the expansion of IDFC Bank Deposit and business.
- It is important that IDFC was trying to acquire a strong retail franchise.
- In this sequence, earlier he tried unsuccessfully to merge with 'Shriram Group'.
- Merger of IDFC Bank and Capital First will be effective from 1st April, 2018.



Reference:

<http://www.livemint.com/Politics/CpCkiZEWtXfB1jlmq5xUBK/IDFC-Bank-agrees-to-acquire-Warburgbacked-lender-Capital-Fi.html>

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>

SCIENTIFIC

DEFENSE/SCIENCE SHORT NOTES

GARUDA SHAKTI EXERCISE

Question: Between which of the following two countries the Military joint training exercises ‘Garuda Shakti exercises ‘ is being organized between February 19th-March 4th, 2018?

India and Thailand (b) India and Sri Lanka (c) India and Russia (d) India and Indonesia

Answer: (d)

Related Facts:

- On February 19th, 2018, 6th edition of the Annual Garuda Shakti exercises between the Special Forces of the Indian Army and the Indonesian Army was started at Bandung, Indonesia.
- The joint exercises would be held till 04 March 2018.
- E. Ambassador Pradeep Kumar Rawat, Ambassador of India to Indonesia, attended the opening ceremony and along with Major General TNI Surawahadi, DANPUSENINF, and Brigadier Joko Putranto, Chief of Staff, Division 1 Konstrad, inspected the guard of honour and addressed the participants from both the armies.
- The 6th Edition of this Joint Exercise will include experience sharing in counter-terrorism operations, close quarter combat, and other areas of special operations.
- This joint exercise between Indian and Indonesian Special Forces highlights the increasing trust and cooperation between the two Armies.
- It is noteworthy that the fifth edition of this exercise was organized in India.
- It is known that as a part of military diplomacy between the two countries, alternating joint training exercise ‘Garuda Shakti’ has been organized since 2012.



Reference:

http://www.mea.gov.in/Portal/CountryNews/9088_6TH_GARUDA_SHAKTI_EXERCISE_HELD_IN_BANDUNG_BETWEEN_SPECIAL_FORCES_OF_INDIA_AND_INDONESIA_.pdf

Successful Test of Dhanush ballistic Missile

Question: On February 23rd, 2018, India successfully tested a nuclear capable Dhanush ballistic missile from a naval vessel near Odisha coast. It is a –

- (a) Surface to Air Missile (b) Air to Surface Missile
(c) Surface to Surface Missile (d) Air to Air Missile

Answer: (c)

Related Facts:

- On February 23rd, 2018, India successfully tested a nuclear capable ballistic missile from a naval vessel near Odisha coast.
- This test was conducted by the Army's Strategic Force Command (SFC) under regular user testing.
- Dhanush, the India's 350 km range Surface-to-Surface ballistic missile.
- It is remarkable that the bow is the naval version of the surface-to-surface earth missile.
- It is a single-phase, ballistic missile based on a ship-based, mini-range powered by liquid fuel.
- During the trial, this missile came true on all the parameters of velocity, height and guidance.
- During the test, radar systems were monitored on the entire projection path.
- Developed under the 'Integrated Guided Missile Development Program' by the Defense Research and Development Organization (DRDO), the length of the Dhanush missile is 8.53 meters, diameter 0.9 meters and weighing 4.4 tonnes.
- It is capable of carrying both traditional and nuclear weapons.
- This 500 kg Capable of carrying a payload.
- Dhanush is a missile that includes a platform (Dhanush) and a missile (arrow).
- It has been included in the Indian Navy.
- Earlier, it was successfully tested on November 2015.



Reference:

<http://www.newindianexpress.com/nation/2018/feb/23/indian-navy-successfully-test-fires-nuclear-capable-ballistic-missile-dhanush-from-sea-1777841.html>

Night Trial of Prithvi-II Missile

Question- On February 21st, 2018, India successfully conducted a night trial of Prithvi-II missile from the Integrated Test Range, Chandipur in Balasore district of Odisha. It is a-

- (a) Surface to Air (b) Air to Surface (c) Surface to Surface (d) Air to Air

Answer: (c)

Related facts:

- On February 21st, 2018, India successfully conducted a night trial of the indigenously built nuclear-capable Prithvi-II missile from Chandipur in Balasore district of Odisha.
- Prithvi- II missile was launched by a mobile launcher from the launch site.
- This test of Prithvi- II was done by the Army's Strategic Force Command (SFC) under regular user testing.



- It is noteworthy that Prithvi-II is a surface-to-surface missile and its ranging capacity is 350 km is.
- It was developed under Defense Guided Missile Development Program by the Defense Research and Development Organization (DRDO).
- Its length is about 9 meters and it is a single step fluid propellant-powered missile.
- This is capable of carrying the warhead of 500 to 1000 kg.
- Army's Strategic Force Command had deployed Prithvi-II in 2003.
- Earlier, it was successfully tested on February 7th, 2018.

Reference:

<https://www.ndtv.com/india-news/india-test-fires-prithvi-ii-off-odisha-coast-1815595>

Flight of Hawk-i

Question: Recently, Hindustan Aeronautics Limited has achieved a milestone with the first flight of Hawk-i. The name of the indigenous technology used in the hawk-i?

- (a) Real Time Operating System (RTOS)
- (b) Real Time Landing System (RTLS)
- (c) Real Time Operating and Landing System (RTOLS)
- (d) None of these

Answer: (a)

Related Facts:

- On February 7th, 2018; the announcement has been on first 'Hawk-Eye Flight' developed by Hindustan Aeronautical Limited.
- This 'Hawk-i Flight' is based on indigenous Real Time Operating System (RTOS) technology.
- It is important that 'Hawk-i' is the first indigenous RTOS developed in India.
- It has been certified by the 'Center for Military Airworthiness and Certification'.
- RTOS is actually system software.
- It provides a standard run-time environment for real-time application performance in a safe and reliable manner.
- RTOS is a major technology for concurrent execution of multiple applications.
- This is the optimum use of hardware resources for the increasing complexity of the modern Avionics Software of the highest importance.
- At present Avionic systems in India have been developed using commercial RTOS obtained from foreign suppliers.
- The import of this technology is very expensive.
- In addition, it offers very limited flexibility in incorporating new features and optimizing new hardware platforms.
- Imported RTOS is also vulnerable towards cyber attacks. So that the fears of falling prey to safety and safety of avionic systems is threatened.
- HAL-RTOS can be developed as a standard real time operating system for developing the country's future avionics system.
- In this context, recent achievement is an important event for Indian military aviation.

Reference:

http://www.hal-india.com/Maiden%20Flight%20of%20Hawk-i%20with%20Indigenous%20RTOS%20Developed%20by%20HAL/ND_220



New Earth observation satellite

Question: Recently, Aerospace Exploration Agency of which of the following countries has successfully launched the new Earth observation satellite 'Advanced Satellite with new system architecture for observation -2'?

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

Answer: (c)

Related Facts:

- On January 18th 2018, Japan's Aerospace Exploration Agency (JAXA) successfully launched the new Earth observation satellite 'Advanced Satellite with New System Architecture for Observation -2' (ASNARO-2).
- This satellite was launched from the Utsunomiya Space Center located in the south-west of Kagoshima province of Japan.
- This satellite has X-band radar, capable of taking high-potential picture.
- This satellite will work on its observation in the orbit of Earth for a period of five years.
- It was launched through the Epsilon-3 rocket.
- This rocket was designed to carry a small satellite into space at a lower cost.

Reference:

<http://www.news18.com/news/tech/japan-successfully-launches-new-earth-observation-satellite-1635297.html>



World's Most Powerful Rocket

Question: Which one of the given is the world's most powerful rocket launched recently by an American company?

(a) Falcon Heavy (b) Space x (c) Teslar (d) Zip2

Answer: (a)

Related Facts:

- On February 7th, 2018, the world's most powerful rocket 'Falcon Heavy' was launched by the American company 'Space X'.
- This mission is a major achievement of Space X Company in the space scenario because no such powerful rocket launch has ever happened.
- The biggest contribution in making this mission successful is of the billionaire Elon Musk, businessman and founder of the 'Space X' company.
- Musk's dream is to settle the human habitation on Mars.
- It is noteworthy that earlier, Company space X had made an unsuccessful attempt to launch the rocket.
- 'Falcon Heavy' was launched from the John F. Kennedy Space Center, NASA's American Space Association, located in Cape Canaveral, Florida.
- The Rocket was launched from the same 'LC-39A' platform of the Kennedy Space Center from which the 'Apollo mission' was launched.
- It is important to mention that through the Apollo Mission, journey on the moon by the first person was started.
- The specialty of 'Falcon Heavy' is that a sports car of Tesla Company has also been sent with it.
- This car will be the first car to reach the orbit of space.
- It is mention worthy that Elon Musk is the chairman of 'Tesla' company too.



- At the time of launch, 'Falcon Heavy' has a speed of 11 kilometers per second (Escape Velocity).
- The 'Falcon Heavy' rocket is 70 meters long and can established 64 tons of weight in space orbit.
- In terms of capacity Falcon Heavy is at second place after 'Saturn-V Aircraft'.
- It is significant that in the 60's and 70's, 'Saturn-V Aircraft' was used only during Apollo Expeditions.

Reference:

<http://www.bbc.com/news/science-environment-42950957>

Successfully Test Fires of Prithvi-II Missile

Question- On February 7th, 2018, the Integrated Test Range, Chandipur, successfully tested the Prithvi-II missile. Its strike range is

(a) 500km (b) 250km (c) 350km (d) 550km

Answer- (c)

Related Facts:

- India successfully tested the indigenously built nuclear-capable Prithvi Missile-II guided missile. (February 7, 2018)
- Tactical Force Command (SFC) of the Indian Army tested the missile through the mobile launcher from launch pad-III of the Integrated Test Range at Chandipur (complex-3).
- This surface-to-surface medium range missile has a strike range of 350 km.
- The missile weighs about 4,600 kg and it is capable of carrying 500 to 1,000 kilogram of traditional and nuclear warheads.
- Developed under the joint collaboration of Defence Research and Development Organization (DRDO) and Bharat Dynamics Limited, the missile was first test-fired on 27 January 1996.
- It is powered by liquid propulsion twin engines.
- Inducted in the Indian Army in year 2003 Prithvi Missile-II is a single-level liquid fueled which was developed by the DRDO under Integrated Guided Missile Development Program (IGMDP).



Reference:

<https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/defence/nia-nabs-one-more-in-connection-with-let-probe-gets-six-days-custody/articleshow/62818459.cms>

Successful Test fire of Agni-I

Question- On 6th February, 2018 Agni-1 missile was successfully tested from Abdul Kalam Island in Balasore. What is its strike range?

(a) 500km (b) 600km (c) 700km (d) 1000km

Answer- (c)

Related Facts:

- On 6th February, 2018, India successfully test-fired its short-range nuclear capable ballistic missile Agni-1 from a test range off the Odisha coast.



- The missile was launched from a mobile launcher at Pad 4 of the Integrated Test Range (ITR) at the Dr Abdul Kalam Island, formerly known as Wheeler Island.
- Strike range of the missile is over 700 km.
- Weighing around 12 tones, the 15-metre-long Agni-I can carry payloads up to 1,000 kg.
- The missile is also capable of carrying nuclear warheads.
- The indigenously developed surface-to-surface missile was launched as a part of a periodic training activity by the Strategic Forces Command (SFC) of the Army to consolidate operational readiness.
- The sophisticated Agni-I missile is propelled by a solid rocket propellant system and is equipped with a specialized navigation system that ensures it reaches the target with a high degree of precision. Agni-I, which became the part of the Armed Forces in 2004, is the first and only solid engine based missile.
- This is the 18th edition of the Agni-I missile.
- The Agni-I was developed by the Advanced Systems Laboratory (ASL) in collaboration with the Defence Research Development Laboratory (DRDL) and the Research Centre Imarat (RCI).
- The missile was integrated by the Bharat Dynamics Limited, Hyderabad.
- It is worth noting that recently India successfully tested the Agni-5 missile.
- India's Missile Fleet (Agni Series) currently has Agni-I, Agni-II, Agni-III and Agni-IV.
- Their strike range is between 700 km- 3500 km.

Reference:

<https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/india/three-security-personnel-injured-in-ied-blast-in-chhattisgarh/articleshow/62800181.cms>

Karanj

Question- On January 31st, 2018, the third Scorpene class submarine constructed indigenously was launched. The development of this class of submarines is being done by the Indian government with a joint effort of which of the following countries?

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

Answer: (d)

Related Facts:

- On 31st January 2018, the third Scorpene class submarine constructed by Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders Limited for the Indian Navy, was launched by Mrs Reena Lanba, President Navy Wives Welfare Association.
- After the recitation of Sanskrit shlokas from the Atharva Veda and traditional ceremonies, launching was performed.
- She also named this submarine as 'Karanj' and wished her good fortune.
- Admiral Sunil Lanba, Chief of the Naval Staff was the chief guest on the occasion.
- This historic event reaffirms the giant strides taken by Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders Ltd (MDL) in the ongoing 'Make In India' programme, which is being actively implemented by the Department of Defence Production (MoD).
- The contract for the construction and Transfer-of-Technology for six Scorpene submarines in series, has M/s Naval Group (formerly DCNS) of France as 'Collaborator' and are being built by MDL.



- The submarine 67.5 m Long, 12.3 m Weighing and 1565 tons weighing.
- The submarine was then towed to Mumbai Port Trust, for separation from the pontoon.
- The old Karanj had served the nation for 34 years from 1969 to 2003 including participation in 1971 war.
- Last year, on 14 December 2017, INS Kalvari, the first Scorpene class submarine was commissioned into the Indian Navy, by Hon'ble Prime Minister.
- Khanderi, the second Scorpene class submarine was launched in January 2017, and is currently undergoing the rigorous phase of sea trials and is also scheduled to be delivered shortly.
- Karanj will now undergo rigorous trials and tests, both in harbour and at sea before it is commissioned into the Navy.
- The state-of-the-art technology utilised for construction of the Scorpene class submarines has ensured superior stealth features such as advanced acoustic silencing techniques, low radiated noise levels, hydro-dynamically optimized shape and the ability to launch a crippling attack on the enemy using precision guided weapons.

Reference:

<http://www.thehindubusinessline.com/news/national/indian-navy-launches-third-scorpene-class-submarine-karanj/article22607007.ece>

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>

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

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 Margaret 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 Krejcikova

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 Krejcikova (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/>

CRICKET

India South Africa Test Series, 2018

Question: Who amongst the following was selected as the 'Player of the Series' in the series of 3 Test matches played between India-South Africa concluded recently?

(a) Virat Kohli (b) Mohammed Shami (c) Kagiso Rabada (d) Vernon Philander

Answer: (d)

Related Facts:

- Indian cricket team's Tour to Africa (5th January-24th February, 2018)
- 3 Tests, 6 ODIs and 3 T-20 matches will be played in the tour.
- Series of three Test matches concluded. (January 5-27, 2018)
- South Africa won the Test Series (Freedom Trophy) 2-1.
- Player of the series- Vernon Philander (S. Africa) scored 94 runs and 15 wickets in the series.
- Most runs in the series – Virat Kohli (286 runs).
- Vernon Philander and Kagiso Rabada of S. Africa and Mohammad Shami of India won the most 15-15 wickets.
- First Test (5-8 January, 2018), Newlands Cricket Ground (Cape Town)
- Jaspreet Bumrah made his international Test debut.
- Riddhiman Saha becomes the first Indian cricketer to catch 10 catches in a Test.
- From January 13th-17th, 2018, Second Test held at Super Sport Park (Centurion).
- Mohammed Shami of India achieved 100th wickets in the Test match.
- Cheteshwar Pujara became the first Indian batsman to be run out in both innings of a Test match.
- Lungi Angadi became the 23rd African bowler to join the club, taking 5 wickets in his first Test match.
- From January 24th -27th, 2018 Third Test held at Wanderers Stadium, (Johannesburg).
- Indian bowler Jaspreet Bumrah (5/54) got the first five wicket haul for the first time in a Test match.
- Virat Kohli as captain becomes the Indian cricketer who scored the most runs (3,456) in Test matches.
- South Africa's Diane Elgar became first opener batsman to be not-out twice in the Test matches since 1992.
- Earlier, in the year 2015, he was remained not out on 118 against England.
- Carry the bat or carry one's bat in cricket means the opener who does not have a not out after the end of the entire innings.
- This was the first test series of three matches or more, in which all the 40 wickets in the series ($3 \times 40 = 120$ wickets) fell.
- Earlier on three occasions 118 wickets fell in the three test matches series.
- The highest 157 wickets fall in the four matches' series.
- Fall of 197 wickets in the five-match series is the best record.
- Mohammed Shami in the second innings of the third Test match took 5 wickets for 28 runs, his best figure in Test cricket.
- This is the third win of the Indian team in 20 Test matches in South Africa.



- Indian team played 5 Tests at the Wanderers Stadium in Johannesburg, with two wins and three draws.
- On December 1st, 2017, India defeated Sri Lanka in the Test series and equaled England and Australia's world record of winning consecutive 9 Test series matches.
- Indian team's captain was Virat Kohli and South African team's Captain was *Faf du Plessis*.
- Indian team has failed to win the 10th consecutive Test series.
- Victory in Johannesburg is the 21st win of Virat Kohli as Indian captain.
- With this win he came at second place in the list of India's most successful Test captains after Sourav Ganguly.
- Dhoni is at top of this list with 27 Test wins.

Reference:

<http://www.espncriinfo.com/ci/engine/series/1122269.html>

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.espncriinfo.com/series/8050/scorecard/1118703/delhi-vs-vidarbha-final/>

FOOTBALL

Senior Women National Football Championship- 2017-18

Question: Which of the following Teams has won the title of Senior Women National Football Championship, 2017-18 held in February, 2018?

(a) Tamil Nadu (b) Manipur (c) Punjab (d) Railways

Answer: (a)

Related Facts:

- 23rd Edition Senior Women National Football Championship, 2017-18 concluded in Odisha. (28 January-14 February, 2018)
- 29 teams participated in this championship.
- Final match concluded at Barabati Stadium, Cuttack (Odisha) On February 14th, 2018
- The team of Tamil Nadu won the championship title for the first time by defeating Manipur's team 2-1.
- Indumathi Kathiresan (Tamil Nadu team) was chosen as the 'Best Player of the Final and Tournament'.



Reference:

https://www.the-aiff.com/upcoming-fixtures.htm?tnmt_id=115

CHESS

Tata Steel Chess Tournament, 2018

Question: Who amongst the following won the title of Tata Steel's Chess Tournament Challenger Group concluded recently?

- (a) Viswanathan Anand (b) Magnus Carlsen (c) Sergei Karjakin
(d) Santosh Vidit Gujarati

Answer: (d)

Related Facts:

- The international Chess competition 'Tata Steel Chess Tournament, 2018' concluded in the Wijk Aan Zee, Netherlands. (January 12-28, 2018)
- The competition was played in Masters, Challengers and Amateur categories.
- Competition Results:
- **Masters Group (New line winner)**
- **Winner**– Magnus Carlsen (Norway), registered win for the record sixth time.
- Second Place – Anis Giri (Netherlands)
- **Challengers Group**
- **Winners**-Santosh Vidit Gujarati (India)
- Second-Anton Korobov (Ukraine)
- **Amateur Group**
- **Winner**-Stefan Kuipers (Netherlands)
- Second place-Liam Vorlijk (Netherlands)
- With this win Vidit qualifies for the Tata Steel Masters Tournament, 2019.
- Viswanathan Anand from India finished fifth in the Masters Group with 8.0 points.



Reference:

<https://www.tatasteelchess.com/>

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>

<http://bwfbadminton.com/results/3094/iceland-international-2018/2018-01-28>

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

Indian Hockey Team's Sponsors

Question: Which of the following states government has recently decided to sponsor the Indian men's and women's hockey team?

(a) Punjab (b) Karnataka (c) Odisha (d) Uttar Pradesh

Answer: (c)

Related Facts

- On February 15th, 2018, the Odisha government decided to sponsor the Indian men's and women's hockey team.
- This announcement is made by Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik.
- Odisha Government will sponsor the team for next five years.
- For the first time any initiative of this kind has been started by a state government.
- On this occasion, the Chief Minister also unveiled the team's New Jersey which has the logo of the Government of Odisha.
- It is noteworthy that Odisha is regarded as the cradle of hockey and has produced greats like Dilip Tirkey, Ignace Tirkey and Lazarus Barla in the past.
- In the current Indian team, players such as Birendra Lakra, Amit Rohidas, Dipsan Tirkey and Namita Toppo are from Odisha.
- Hockey World Cup will be held in Odisha in November-December this year.



Reference:

<https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/sports/hockey/top-stories/odisha-to-sponsor-indian-hockey-teams-for-next-five-years/articleshow/62931034.cms>

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.tolonews.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>

SPORTS PERSONALITY

Indian player to make fastest century in T-20

Question: Who amongst the following is the Indian player to make fastest century in the T20?

(a) Rohit Sharma (b) Rishabh Pant (c) Yusuf Pathan (d) KL Rahul

Answer- (b)

Related Facts:

- On January 14th, 2018, Delhi's wicketkeeper-batsman Rishabh Pant set a new record by making a century in 32 balls in Syed Mushtaq Ali T-20 North Zone match against Himachal Pradesh. He became the first Indian to have the fastest century in T-20.
- Earlier, this record was in name of Rohit Sharma's, who had scored a hundred in 35 balls in the T-20 match against Sri Lanka in 2017.
- In relation to making the century in the lowest balls in T-20 match, Pant is only behind Chris Gayle of the West Indies.
- Gayle scored a century in only 30 balls against Pune Warriors during the Indian Premier League (IPL) 2013.



Reference:

<https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/sports/cricket/news/rishabh-pant-blasts-second-fastest-century-in-t20-history/articleshow/62494844.cms>

First Indian woman to win a medal in international skiing competition

Question: Who is the first Indian woman player to win a medal in international skiing competition?

- (a) Nutan Thakur (b) Aanchal Thakur (c) Shreya Thakkar
(d) Rajni Kothari

Answer: (b)

Related Facts:

- Internationally organized skiing competition 'Alpine Ejder 3200 Cup' concluded in Turkey. (6-9 January, 2018)
- On January 9th, 2018, India's Aanchal Thakur won the bronze medal in the Slalom (Skiing race on spiral path) race category.
- She is first Indian player to win a medal in the international skiing competition
- Alpine Ejder 3200 Cup was organized by the International Ski Federation (FIS).
- It is known that Aanchal Thakur is a resident of Burua village of Manali district of Himachal Pradesh.



Reference:

<http://www.firstpost.com/sports/aanchal-thakur-creates-history-by-winning-indias-first-medal-in-an-international-skiing-competition-4296171.html>

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

Answer: (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>

SHORT NOTES

PERSONALITIES

Sridevi

Question- Recently the famous Bollywood actress Sridevi passed away. She was awarded with –

- (a) Padma Bhushan (b) Padma Shri (c) Yash Bharti
(d) Yash Chopra Memorial Award

Answer: (b)

Related Facts:

- On 24th February, 2018, Famous Bollywood Actress Sridevi passed away in Dubai (UAE). She was 54 years old.
- Her childhood name was Shree Amma Yanger Ayyapan.
- She started his Hindi film career with the film '*Solva Sawan*' as the lead actor.
- She also worked in Hindi, Telugu, Tamil, Kannada and Malayalam films.
- '*Chandni*', '*Lamhe*', '*Mr. India*', '*Nagina*', '*Trick*', '*Himmatwala*', '*Tohfa*', and '*Mawali*' etc. are some of her hits films.
- After a long interval, she re-entered in 2012 in Bollywood film industry with the film '*English Vinglish*'.
- In the year 2017, his last film '*Mom*' was released.
- In the year 2013, she was awarded the Padma Shri by the Central Government.

Reference:

<http://variety.com/2018/film/global/sridevi-bollywood-actress-dead-dies-1202709919/>



Nilabh Mishra

Question: Nilabh Mishra passed away recently. He was-

- (a) Educationist (b) Journalist (c) Literature (d) Environmentalist

Answer: (b)

Related Facts:

- On 24th February, 2018, senior journalist Nilabh Mishra passed away in Chennai. He was 57 years old.
- He was the Editor-in-Chief of the National Herald. He also took over the editing of Outlook Hindi.
- Notable that the National Herald was an English newspaper published from Delhi and Lucknow.
- This newspaper was started by Pt. Jawaharlal Nehru in the year 1938.

Reference:

<http://www.thehindu.com/news/national/national-herald-editor-in-chief-neelabh-mishra-passes-away/article22842767.ece>



New Commandant of INA

Question: Who recently took charge as the new commandant of Indian Naval Academy (INA)?

- (a) Vice Admiral S.V. Bhokare (b) Vice Admiral R.B. Pandit
(c) Vice Admiral Deepak Gupta (d) Vice Admiral Sunil Choubey

Answer: (b)

Related Facts:

- On 19th February, 2018, Vice Admiral R.B. Pandit; serving as the Flag-Officer-Commanding, Western Fleet at Mumbai took charge as the new Commandant of the Indian Naval Academy (INA) located in Ezhimala (Kerala).
- At this post, he replaced Vice Admiral S.V. Bhokare.

Reference:

<https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/india/vice-admiral-pandit-takes-over-as-commandant-of-ina/articleshow/62981966.cms>



First Indian woman pilot to fly fighter Aircraft

Question: Who amongst the following became the first Indian woman pilot to complete a solo flight recently?

- (a) Avani Chaturvedi (b) Bhima Kanth (c) Shubangi Swarup (d) Mohana Singh

Answer: (a)

Related Facts:

- Indian Air Force Flying Officer Avani Chaturvedi created history by flying MiG-21 Bison fighter aircraft.
- She became the first Indian woman pilot of the Indian Air Force to complete a solo flight.
- She is from the Shahdol district of Madhya Pradesh.
- It is noteworthy that for the first time on June 18th, 2016, three female fighter pilots Avni Chaturvedi, Bhawna Kanth and Mohana Singh were inducted in the Indian Air Force.



Reference:

<https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/india/avani-becomes-first-ever-indian-woman-to-fly-a-fighter-aircraft-solo-that-too-a-mig-21/articleshow/63020252.cms>

Khwaja Halim

Question: Khwaja Halim has passed away recently. He had remained as former cabinet minister of which of the following states?

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

Answer: (c)

Related Facts:

- On February 16th, 2018, former Uttar Pradesh Minister Khwaja Halim passed away. He was 75 years old.
- He was elected MLA from Aligarh on Lokdal ticket in the year 1980.
- He was also remained as a member of the Legislative Council twice.
- He was appointed Chairman of Uttar Pradesh Minority Commission in



the year 1990.

Reference:

<http://www.tribuneindia.com/news/nation/up-ex-minister-and-sp-leader-khwaja-haleem-dies-at-75/544875.html>

Muzaffar Hussain

Question: Muzaffar Hussain died recently. He was a-

(a) Literature (b) Journalist (c) Musicians (d) Historian

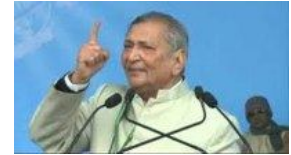
Answer: (b)

Related Facts:

- On February 13th, 2018; famous writer and journalist Muzaffar Hussain has passed away. He was 78 years old.
- He was awarded with the Padma Shri by the Central Government in the year 2002.

Reference:

<http://www.uniindia.com/noted-writer-muzaffar-hussain-dead/states/news/1137780.html>



New Chairman of Indian Council of Historical Research

Question: Recently, who amongst the following became the new chairman of Indian Council of Historical Research (ICHR)?

(a) Prof. K. Sudarshan Rao (b) Prof. Avinash Tripathi (c) Prof. Dinesh Bhargava
(d) Prof. Arvind P. Jamkhedkar

Answer: (d)

Related Facts:

- On February 15th, 2018, the famous archaeologist and historian Prof. Arvind P. Jamkhedkar became the new chairman of Indian Council of Historical Research (ICHR).
- At this post, he replaced Prof. K. Sudarshan Rao.
- It is known that the New Delhi-based ICHR was established in the year 1972.
- It is an autonomous body under the Ministry of Human Resource Development.

Reference:

<http://mes.gov.in/news.php?nId=12570>



Chief Executive Officer of Nuclear Fuel Complex

Question: Who amongst the following recently took over as the new Chief Executive Officer of Nuclear Fuel Complex (NFC)?

(a) Vinay Srivastava (b) Dinesh Srivastava (c) Vijay Mathur
(d) G Kalyanakrishnan

Answer: (b)

Related Facts:

- On January 31st, 2018, famous scientist Dinesh Srivastava took over as the new Chief Executive Officer of Nuclear Fuel Complex.
- He will also be the President of the NFC board.
- At this post he replaced G Kalyanakrishnan.



- It is mention worthy that NFC was established in year 1971.
- It is a major industrial establishment of the Department of Atomic Energy, Government of India.

Reference:

<http://www.thehindu.com/news/cities/Hyderabad/dinesh-srivastava-is-new-nfc-chief-executive/article22613809.ece>

New President of South Africa

Question: Who amongst the following has recently took charge as the new President of South Africa?

- (a) Jacob Zuma (b) Cyril Ramphosa (c) David Mabuza
(d) Derek Hanekem

Answer: (b)

Related Fact:

- On 15th February, 2018 President of the African National Congress (ANC) Cyril Ramphosa took charge as the new President of South Africa.
- At this post, he replaced Jakub Juma, who resigned from the post on 14th February, 2018.
- Earlier Cyril Ramphosa was working as the Deputy President of the country.



Reference:

<https://edition.cnn.com/2018/02/15/africa/south-africa-president-intl/index.html>

New Prime Minister of Nepal

Question: Who amongst the following has recently swore as the 41st Prime Minister of Nepal?

- (a) KP Sharma Oli (b) Sher Bahadur Deuba (c) Ram Naresh Yadav
(d) Pushpa Kamal Dahal 'Prachanda'

Answer: (a)

Related Facts

- On February 15th, 2018, CPN-UML Chairman KP Sharma Oli sworn in as the 41st Prime Minister of Nepal.
- President Vidya Devi Bhandari administered her oath of office and secrecy.
- He became the Prime Minister of Nepal for the second time.
- Earlier, from October 11th, 2015 to August 3rd, 2016 he served as Prime Minister of Nepal.
- At this post, he replaced Sher Bahadur Deuba.
- On February 15th, 2018, about two months after the party's debacle in the historic parliamentary and local elections held in the country Deuba had resigned from the post.
- He became Nepal's 40th Prime Minister on June 6th, 2017, with the support of CPN (Maoist Center).
- It is Significant that Oli has been supported by 13 other smaller parties, besides UCPN-Maoist, National Democratic Party, Nepal and Madhesi Rites Forum-Democratic.



Reference:

<http://www.myrepublica.com/news/36371/>

Zamin Hussain Khan

Question: Recently, Zamin Hussain Khan passed away. He was-

(a) Tabla Player (b) Sitar Player (c) Clarinetist Player (d) Santoor Player

Answer: (c)

Related Facts:

- On February 10th, 2018, the famous Shehnai player Zamin Hussain Khan passed away. He was 74 years old.
- He was the third son of Bharat Ratna Bismillah Khan, the master of the Shehnai.



Reference:

<http://www.newindianexpress.com/entertainment/hindi/2018/feb/10/shehnai-maestro-ustad-bismillah-khans-son-zamin-hussain-khan-dies-at-74-1771325.html>

New President of Uttar Pradesh Minority Commission

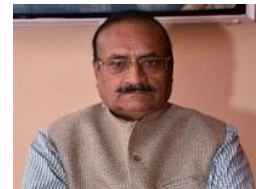
Question: Who amongst the following was recently appointed the new President of Uttar Pradesh Minority Commission?

(a) Rizvi Hussain (b) Haider Raza (c) Tanveer Haider Usmani (d) Mohsin Raza

Answer: (c)

Related Facts:

- On February 6th, 2018; on the recommendation of the state government, Governor Ram Naik appointed former MLC Tanveer Haider Usmani as the new chairman of the Uttar Pradesh Minority Commission.
- Along with this, eight members were nominated in the commission.



Reference:

<https://www.amarujala.com/city-and-states/tanveer-haider-usmani-appointed-as-chairman-of-up-minorities-commission>

Madavoor Vasudevan Nair

Question: Madavoor Vasudevan Nair passed away recently. He was-

(a) Kathakali Artist (b) Educationists (c) Scientist (d) Sitarist

Answer: (a)

Related Facts:

- On February 6th, 2018, famous Kathakali Artist, Madwur Vasudevan Nair passed away. He was 88 years old.
- He was awarded Padma Bhushan by the Central Government in 2011.
- He was also honored with the Sangeet Natak Akademi Award in 1997.



Reference:

<http://www.thehindu.com/news/national/kerala/kathakali-maestro-madavoor-vasudevan-nair-dead/article22672353.ece>

Nicos Anastasiades

Question: Nicos Anastasiades recently re-elected as the President of which of the following countries?

- (a) Poland (b) Republic of the Congo (c) Republic of Cyprus
(d) Jordan

Answer: (c)

Related Facts:

- On February 4th, 2018, Nicos Anastasiades was re-elected as the President of the Republic of Cyprus.
- His term will be of 5 years at this post.
- In this election, by getting 56 percent of the votes he defeated his rival Stavros Malas, who got 44 percent of the votes.



Reference:

<http://www.post-gazette.com/news/world/2018/02/04/Cyprus-President-Nicos-Anastasiades-has-won-re-election/stories/201802040181>

Thanglura Darlong

Question: Recently, Thanglura Darlong, senior officer of the Indian Foreign Service, was appointed as the next ambassador of India to which of the following countries?

- (a) Romania (b) Poland (c) Russia (d) Nepal

Answer: (a)

Related Facts:

- On February 2nd, 2018, the Central Government appointed Thanglura Darlong, senior official of the Indian Foreign Service, to be the next Ambassador of India to Romania.
- He is the 1988 batch IFS officer.
- Currently he is working as 'Chief Liaison Officer' (CLO) in the South Asian University (SAU), New Delhi.



Reference:

<http://www.mea.gov.in/press-releases.htm?dtl/29407/Thanglura+Darlong+appointed+as+the+next+Ambassador+of+Indi>

New president of Sahitya Akademi

Question: Who amongst the following has been recently elected as the new president of Sahitya Akademi?

- (a) Pratibha Roy (b) Bhalchand Nemade (c) Madhav Kaushik
(d) Prof. Chandrasekhar Kalbar

Answer: (d)

related Facts:

- On February 12th, 2018, famous Kannada litterateur Chandrasekhar Kambar was elected the new president of Sahitya Akademi.
- He is the third Kannada litterateur to be the President of the Sahitya Akademi.



- Earlier, Vinayak Krishna Gokak (1983) and U.R. Anantamurthy (1993) have served as president. At this post will replace Dr. Vishwanath Prasad Tiwari.
- Till Year 2013-18 Prof. Kambar was the Vice President of Sahitya Akademi.
- Hindi poet Madhav Kaushik was elected its vice-president.
- These two will have tenure of five years.
- It is known that Sahitya Akademi was established on March 12th, 1954.

Reference:

<http://sahitya-akademi.gov.in/sahitya-akademi/aboutus/about.jsp>

Parvati Ghosh

Question: Parvati Ghosh passed away recently. She was-

(a) Actress (b) Social worker (c) Classical singer (d) Litterateur

Answer: (a)

Related Facts:

- On 12th February, 2018, famous Oriya Actress Parvati Ghosh passed away. She was 85 years old.
- She started his career with the film 'Shri Jagannath'.
- After this, she acted in number of films such as 'Amari Gaan Jhia' which was followed by 'Bhai Bhai' (1956), 'Maa' (1958), 'Laxmi' (1962), 'Kaa' (1966), 'Stree' (1968) and 'Sansara' (1973).



Reference:

<http://www.newindianexpress.com/states/odisha/2018/feb/13/first-odia-woman-director-parvati-ghosh-dead-1772578.html>

Asma Jahangir

Question- Recently famous human rights activist Asma Jahangir passed away. To which of the following countries she was belonging?

(a) Maldives (b) Pakistan (c) Myanmar (d) Bangladesh

Answer: (b)

Related Facts:

- On 11th February, 2018, Pakistan's famous human rights activist Asma Jahangir passed away. She was 66 years old.
- She was the founder and first president of the Pakistan Human Rights Commission.
- She was the first woman president of the Supreme Court Bar Association of Pakistan.
- Apart from this she was co-chairman of the South Asia Forum for Human Rights and Vice President of the International Human Rights Association.
- She had also worked as UN Human Rights Envoy.



Reference:

<https://www.nytimes.com/2018/02/11/obituaries/asma-jahangir-fearless-pakistani-rights-activist-dies-at-66.html>

Brand Ambassador for Govt's Road Safety Campaign

Question: Who amongst the following recently became the brand ambassador of the government's road safety awareness campaign?

(a) Ajay Devgn (b) Abhinav Bindra (c) Akshay Kumar (d) Aamir Khan

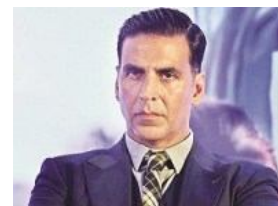
Answer: (c)

Related Facts:

- On February 6th, 2018, famous Bollywood actor Akshay Kumar was appointed as the brand ambassador of the Road safety awareness of the Government.
- In this way he will make people aware about road safety.

Reference:

<https://www.outlookindia.com/website/story/akshay-kumar-to-become-brand-ambassador-for-govts-road-safety-campaign/307915>



ICC's first independent woman director

Question: Who amongst the following became the first woman independent director of the ICC appointed recently?

(a) Nita Ambani (b) Chanda Kochhar (c) Arundhati Bhattacharya (d) Indira Nooyi

Answer: (d)

Related Facts:

- On 9th February, 2018, PepsiCo President and Chief Executive Officer (CEO) Indira Nooyi was appointed the first independent woman director of the International Cricket Council (ICC).
- She will join the board in June 2018.
- She has been appointed for 2 years.

Reference:

http://www.espnricricinfo.com/story/_/id/22376859/indra-nooyi-becomes-icc-first-independent-woman-director



Assistant Chief Naval Staff

Question: Who amongst the following has recently took charge as Assistant Chief Naval Staff?

(a) Rear Admiral S. C. Sharma (b) Rear Admiral Mukul Asthana
(c) Rear Admiral Deepak Kumar (d) Rear Admiral Jagdish Mathur

Answer: (b)

Related Facts:

- On 8th February, 2018, Rear Admiral Mukul Asthana took charge as Assistant Chief Naval Staff.
- He was appointed in the executive branch of the Indian Navy in the year 1986.
- He led the primary naval air station INS Rajli from August 2009 to December 2010.



- He was also honored with the Tenzing Norgay National Award by the President of India in the year 2006.

Reference:

http://www.business-standard.com/article/government-press-release/rear-admiral-mukul-asthana-nm-takes-over-as-assistant-chief-of-118020800692_1.html

New DGMO of the Indian Army

Question: Who amongst the following recently took charge as the new Director General of Military Operations (DGMO) of the Indian Army?

- (a) Lt. General A.K. Bhatt (b) Lt. General Anil Chouhan
(c) Lt. General BS Sahrawat (d) Lt. General A.K. Singh

Answer: (b)

Related Facts:

- On January 30th, 2018, Gen Anil Chouhan took charge as the new Director General of Military Operations (DGMO) of the Indian Army.
- He succeeds Lt General A K Bhatt who will assume charge of the Srinagar-based 15 Corps.
- Gen Chouhan had also served as military observer for UN peacekeeping mission in Angola.

Reference:

<https://www.thequint.com/news/india/lt-general-anil-chauhan-becomes-dgmo-of-army>



Chintaman Vanga

Question: Recently, senior BJP MP Chintaman Vanga passed away. He was member of the Lok Sabha from which of the following state?

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

Answer: (c)

Related Facts:

- On January 30th, 2018, Senior BJP MP Chintaman Vanga passed away. He was 67 years old.
- He was Lok Sabha MP from Palghar in Maharashtra.

Reference:

<http://www.thehindu.com/news/national/other-states/maharashtra-bjp-mp-chintaman-wanga-dead/article22593533.ece>



Chandrasekhar

Question: Chandrasekhar passed away recently. He was-

- (a) Politician (b) Actor (c) Educationist (d) Scientist

Answer- (b)

Related Facts:

- On January 27th, 2017, famous Kannada actor and director Chandrasekhar passed away Canada Gaya. He was 63 years old.



- He made his debut as a child actor in the 1969 film Namma Makkalu, directed by B R Panthulu. Edakallu Guddada Mele was a hit film at the box office.
- Chandrashekhar directed the film Poorvapara in 2004.
- His last movie as an actor was 3 Ghante, 30 Dina and 30 Seconds.

Reference:

<https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/bengaluru/veteran-kannada-actor-chandrashekhar-dies-in-canada/articleshow/62676831.cms>

Dr Gurcharan Singh Kalkat

Question- Recently Dr. Gurcharan Singh Kalkat passed away. He was

- (a) Space Scientists (b) Agricultural Scientist (c) Environmentalist
(d) Doctor

Answer- (b)

Related Facts:

- On January 27th, 2018, famous agricultural scientist Dr. Gurcharan Singh Kalkat has passed away. He was 92 years old. He was the founding chairman of Punjab State Farmers Commission (PSFC) formed in the year 2005.
- He was pioneer of the Green Revolution in the state of Punjab.
- He was awarded Padma Shri in the year 1981 and Padma Bhushan in the year 2007 by the Central Government.

Reference:

<http://indianexpress.com/article/cities/chandigarh/pioneer-of-indias-green-revolution-dr-gurcharan-singh-kalkat-passes-away-at-92-5041993/>



Hukum Singh

Question: Recently Lok Sabha member Hukum Singh passed away. From which of the following parliamentary constituency of Uttar Pradesh he was elected Lok Sabha member?

- (a) Ghaziabad (b) Hapur (c) Kairana (d) Agra

Answer: (c)

Related Facts:

- On February 3rd, 2018, senior politician and Lok Sabha member Hukum Singh passed away. He was of 79 years old.
- He was elected Lok Sabha member from the Kairana parliamentary constituency of Uttar Pradesh from the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) in 2014.
- He was a 7 times member of Uttar Pradesh Legislative Assembly during the year 1974-77, 1980-89 and 1996-2014.
- From year 1983-1985 he was the Deputy Speaker of the Assembly.

Reference:

<http://www.thehindu.com/news/national/lok-sabha-adjourned-for-the-day-after-paying-homage-to-hukum-singh/article22657296.ece>



Mukesh Khanna

Question: From which of the following post famous actor Mukesh Khanna recently resigned?

- (a) Member, Prasar Bharati Board (b) Member, Central Film Certification Board
(c) Chairperson, FTTI (d) Chairperson, Children's Film Society, India

Answer: (d)

Related Facts:

- On February 3rd, 2018, renowned actor Mukesh Khanna resigned from the post of chairman of Children's Film Society, India. His three year term was completing in April, 2018. CFSI is an autonomous body under the Ministry of Information & broadcasting, started functioning since 1955.

Reference:

<http://www.financialexpress.com/india-news/actor-mukesh-khanna-quits-as-chief-of-childrens-film-society/1049862/>



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?

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



- (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

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



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>

PLACES

NER's first regional Centre for Agriculture

Question: In which of the following states will the first Regional Agriculture Center be established in the North-East with collaboration of Israel?

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

Answer: (b)

Related Facts:

- On March 7th, 2018, a Centre for Agriculture, with collaboration of Israeli expertise, is going to be inaugurated in Mizoram.
- A delegation led by Israeli Ambassador to India, Mr Daniel Carmon on February 21st, 2018, met the Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) of the Ministry of Development of North Eastern Region (DoNER), MoS PMO, Personnel, Public Grievances & Pensions, Atomic Energy and Space, Dr Jitendra Singh. V
- Various issues of common interest including start-ups, food processing, innovation and technology were discussed during the meeting.
- This will be the first such centre in the North East region of India that is being established with Israeli collaboration.
- Set up with a cost of Rs 8-10 crore, this centre is exclusively for processing of citrus fruits.
- The project has been set up with the tripartite collaboration of Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare, Government of India, Government of Israel and State Government of Mizoram.
- Israel will provide expertise knowledge and professional support.
- Though located in Mizoram, this centre will cater to the whole north east.
- There are 22 such operational centres in India including in the states of Haryana, Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan and Punjab.
- The first centre was established in 2008 in Haryana and in the long run, Israel wants to establish one such centre in each state.
- DoNER Minister Dr Jitendra Singh said that this centre is a beginning of the larger collaboration between the two countries in this area.



- The Ministry of Development of North Eastern Region (DoNER) will coordinate wherever required.
- He further said that it will benefit the farmers of the north eastern region in the long run and will also encourage the farmers from other regions.
- It will serve as a model of learning for other countries in Indian sub-continent, he added.
- He said that the Government under the leadership of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, has given priority to the development of North Eastern region of the country.
- He said that Sikkim has been declared the first Organic State of India and Israel can look forward to this kind of collaboration there also.
- It will benefit the people of North East in the area of innovation, especially for start-ups, both sides agreed.

Reference:

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=176702>

Sweden

Question: Recently Sweden and the United Nations World Food Programme signed a Strategic Partnership Agreement of worth-

- (a) USD320 million (b) USD 325 million (c) USD 350 million
(d) USD 370 million

Sweden commits record \$370m of aid to UN World Food Programme

Answer: (d)

Related Facts:

- On February 2nd, 2018, Sweden and the United Nations World Food Programme signed a Strategic Partnership Agreement of 370 million US dollar.
- The contribution for the period 2018-2021 is the biggest ever made by a donor within a WFP Strategic Partnership Agreement.
- Sweden is the largest donor country in the world food program.
- 90 per cent of government funding to WFP (World Food Program) is earmarked for specific operations or activities.
- Capital of Sweden is Stockholm and currency is Swedish Krona.

Reference:

<http://www.financialexpress.com/world-news/sweden-commits-record-370m-of-aid-to-un-world-food-programme/1048546/>

World's longest underwater cave system

Question- In which of the following countries the world's largest flooded cave has been discovered by a group of divers recently?

- (a) Spain (b) Indonesia (c) Mexico (d) China

Answer: (c)

Related Facts:

- In January 2018, the world's longest submerged tunnel was discovered by a group of divers in Mexico.
- The length of this tunnel is 347 km is.
- According to Scientists, information about the ancient Maya civilization can be gathered in areas surrounding Mexico through this discovery.



- The Great Maya Aquifer Project (GAM) team committed to studying the mysterious waters of Mexico's Yucatan peninsula spent years exploring the caves of Sac Actun and Dos Ojos in Tulum.
- The cave system is known as Sac Actun.
- Initially, the length of this tunnel was measured 263 km, but after connecting Dos Ojos to the series of submerged tunnels located in Tulum, it became about 347 km long.
- According to scientists, this tunnel is 12 thousand years old.
- A tomb has been found in this tunnel in which human bones are stored.
- The discovery will illuminate the stories and rituals of the Mayan civilization prior to be in the possession of Spain.

Reference:

<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2018/jan/17/worlds-longest-underwater-cave-system-discovered-mexico-divers-gran-acuifero-maya>

Vedic Vigyan Kendra (Vedic Science Centre)

Question: Recently, the decision was taken to set up a Vedic Science Center in the premises of the University of Uttar Pradesh, which is a charity department?

- (a) Lucknow University (b) Kashi Hindu University
(c) Agra University (Dr. Bhimrao Ambedkar University)
(d) Awadh University (Dr. Ram Manohar Lohia Awadh University)

Answer: (b)

Related Facts:

- On January 23rd, 2018, it was decided to establish a Vedic Science Center in the premises of the Kashi Hindu University by the Uttar Pradesh Charity Department.
- This center will be teaching-study of Vedic literature and knowledge-science, Vedic tradition etc.
- 803.83 lakhs has been approved by the Expenditure Finance Committee for setting up this center.
- Central Public Works Department has been designated manufacturing unit for construction of Vedic Science Center.



Reference:

<https://www.telegraphindia.com/india/vedas-evolution-into-science-203405>

World War II Memorial Museum

Question: Recently, the Chief Minister of Arunachal Pradesh, Pema Khandu, inaugurated the newly built World War II Memorial Museum in which of the following districts?

- (a) Tawang (b) West Kameng (c) Changlang (d) East Siang

Answer: (c)

Related Facts:

- On January 21st, 2018, Chief Minister of Arunachal Pradesh, Pema Khandu inaugurated the newly built World War II Memorial Museum in Changlang district (near Myanmar border).



- This museum has been constructed by State Public Works Department with a sum of 2.25 crore provided by Central Culture Ministry.
- It is located near historic Stilwell Road.
- In this museum, the remains of World War II have been collected, in which the personal belongings of soldiers and other objects are included.
- Traditional items of the local Tangaas community have also been exhibited in the museum.
- About 833 graves, including mass graves, have been discovered.
- Assam Rifles personnel first spotted the cemetery in 1997.

Reference:

<http://www.thehindu.com/todays-paper/tp-in-school/khandu-inaugurates-world-war-ii-memorial-museum-in-arunachal/article22493647.ece>

Post Office Passport Seva Kendra (POPSK)

Question: At which of the following places the Post Office Passport Seva Kendra (60th) was inaugurated by Smt. Sushma Swaraj?

(a) Karaikal (b) Mahe (c) Yaman (d) Kavasti

Answer: (a)

Related Facts:

- On January 19th 2018, Sushma Swaraj, Hon'ble Minister for External Affairs Inaugurated the Post Office Passport Seva Kendra (POPSK) at Karaikal in the Union Territory (UT) of Puducherry.
- The POPSK will be functioning from the premises of the Post Office located at Mamathambi Maraicayar Street in Karaikal.
- This will be under the administrative jurisdiction of the Passport Office at Chennai.
- The Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) and the Department of Posts (DOP) have decided to set up Post Office Passport Seva Kendras (POPSKs) in the Head Post Offices (HPO) in the country.
- The objective of this partnership is to extend passport related services on a larger scale and to ensure wider area coverage.
- In the first two phases 236 POPSK have been announced in the country.
- The POPSK at Karaikal is the 60th POPSK to have become functional since the launch of the scheme on 25 January, 2017.
- MEA and DOP are working closely for the operationalization of passport related services at the remaining 176 POPSK.
- There is a Passport Seva Kendra (PSK) already functioning at Puducherry. The POPSK at Karaikal is the first POPSK to become operational in the UT of Puducherry.
- There will be 50 appointments released daily which will be scaled up further depending upon the utilization of the slots.
- The POPSK is expected to help the people of Karaikal and those in the near vicinity to apply for their passport without having to travel to Puducherry.



Reference:

[http://mea.gov.in/press-releases-hi.htm?dtl/29367/Inauguration of Post Office Passport Seva Kendra POPSK at Karaikal by EAM](http://mea.gov.in/press-releases-hi.htm?dtl/29367/Inauguration%20of%20Post%20Office%20Passport%20Seva%20Kendra%20POPSK%20at%20Karaikal%20by%20EAM)

Inauguration of Commercial Consulate in Assam

Question: Which of the following countries has inaugurated its consulate recently in Assam?

(a) Myanmar (b) Bhutan (c) Maldives (d) Bangladesh

Answer: (b)

Related Facts:

- On February 2nd, 2018, Assam Chief Minister Sarbananda Sonowal and Bhutan Foreign Minister Lyonpo Damcho Dorji inaugurated the Commercial Consulate of Bhutan in Guwahati, Assam.
- Bhutan has made this consulate on the occasion of completing 50 years of formal launch of diplomatic relations with India.
- Opening the Consulate General's office will not only benefit tourists, devotees, students and businessmen of Bhutan and North-East, but it will strengthen the relations between Bhutan and people of Assam and neighboring states.
- The Chief Minister of Assam thanked Bhutanese Prime Minister for accepting the invitation to join the 'Advantage Assam-Global Investor Summit'.



Reference:

<https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/india/bhutan-opens-consulate-in-guwahati/articleshow/62763736.cms>

World's largest refinery 'Off Gas Cracker' was launched by RIL

Question: Where did the world's largest refinery 'Off Gas Cracker' was recently launched by Reliance Industries?

(a) Jamnagar (b) Appearance (c) Gandhinagar (d) Vadodara

Answer: (a)

Related Facts:

- On January 2nd, 2018, Reliance Industries launched the world's largest refinery off Gas Cracker (ROGC) in Jamnagar, Gujarat.
- The refinery capacity will be 1.5 MMTPA with downstream plants and utilities.
- ROGC Complex is a major component of Reliance Industries' most innovative and world-class J3 project, which is located in the Integrated Refinery Petrochemicals Complex in Jamnagar. It is important that Reliance Industries has doubled its ethylene capacity globally and has joined the prestigious league of Top 5 Petrochemical Products.
- ROGC is a unique structure of the complex that uses 'off-gases' as a feedstock from two Reliance refineries in Jamnagar.
- This innovative approach to integration with refineries provides a permanent cost benefit.
- In relation to tax, the same feedstock cost advantage is in the Middle East and North America. ROGC has now come in respect to them. ROGC is the latest version of the current Cracker Portfolio of 'Reliance Industries'. Before this RIL had the cracker facility was only in Nagothane in Maharashtra and in Hazira, Dahej and Vadodara in Gujarat.



Reference:

<http://www.ril.com/getattachment/448b3f3b-f845-44a3-b711-5d926107ddff/RIL-commissions-the-world%E2%80%99s-largest-refinery-off-g.aspx>

World's Highest Air Purifier

Question: In which of the given countries the world's highest air purifier has been built recently?

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

Answer: (b)

Related Facts:

- In January 2018, China has built the world's highest air purifier to reduce air pollution in Xian city.
- According to the scientists involved in the trial of this purifier, this purifier has greatly improved the quality of air.
- China started work on this project in 2015.
- The height of this purifier is 100 meters (328 feet) and the width of the tower is equal to half the soccer ground.
- This tower is generating 10 million cubic meters (353 million cubic feet) of pure air per day.
- The main feature of this purifier is that it requires very low power.
- This air purifier is effective in removing Smug in the area measuring 10 square kilometers.
- It works without electricity during the day; it is used through green houses.
- Polluted air is gathered in a glass house made in the air purifiers and the air is heated with the help of solar energy.
- Later the hot air rises up in the tower and passes through the air cleansing filters.
- China's capital, Beijing, is one of the most polluted cities in the world, where smoke, equal to the smoke of 21 cigarettes enters in every person's body.



Reference:

<https://www.thebeijinger.com/blog/2018/01/16/china-has-worlds-biggest-air-purifier-and-didnt-bother-tell-anyone>

Referendum on Abortion Reform

Question: Prime Minister of which of the following countries recently announced a referendum regarding the removal of stringent laws on abortion in the country?

(a) Norway (b) Sweden (c) Ireland (d) Australia

Answer: (c)

Related Facts:

- In January 2018, the Prime Minister of Ireland Leo Varadkar announced a referendum regarding the removal of stringent laws on abortion in the country.
- On January 30th, 2018, Leo Varadkar of Indian origin had convened a special meeting of Cabinet for detailed discussion regarding referendum on the eighth Amendment in the Constitution of Ireland.
- During this referendum, voters will be asked whether they want to uphold the amendment or take it back or they want to give full authority to legislation on abortion.
- Referendum will be held between May-June, 2018.
- It is noteworthy that an amendment in 1983 in Irish constitution recognizes the equal rights to life of a foetus and the mother during pregnancy.



- In this country of Roman Catholicism, there is strict restriction against abortion in comparison to entire Europe.
- Abortion permission is granted only in rare cases when the woman's life is in danger.

Reference:

<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2018/jan/29/ireland-to-greenlight-referendum-on-abortion-law-reform>

Poisonous Gas Leak in China

Question: Nine people died and two others were injured due to the leakage of poisonous gas in the iron and steel plant in china. In which of the following province this plant is located?

- (a) Zhejiang Province (b) southwestern Guizhou province
(c) Jinxing province (d) Sichuan province

Answer: (b)

Related Facts:

- On January 31st, 2018, Nine people have died another two people sustained non-life threatening injuries in the accident occurred due to Poisonous Gas Leak in China's southwestern Guizhou province.
- This accident occurred when several workers were conducting an overhaul of the generator boiler at a plant of the Shougang Shuicheng Iron and Steel Co. Ltd. in the city of Liupanshui in China's southwestern Guizhou province.
- There is no immediate information about the causes of the accident.



Reference:

<https://www.efe.com/efe/english/world/nine-people-die-of-gas-poisoning-at-an-iron-and-steel-plant-in-china/50000262-3510523>

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-ZnHVJOpwBEGF9adG2kq6N.html>

Awards & Honors

71st BAFTA Award

Question: Which of the following films has been awarded the best film in the 71st BAFTA Award presented 2018 on February 18th, 2018?

- (a) La La Land (b) Three Billboards outside Ebbing, Missouri
(c) The Shape of Water (d) Darkest Hour

Answer: (b)

Related Facts:

- On February 18th, 2018, the 71st BAFTA Awards, 2018 distribution ceremony was organized at the Royal Albert Hall in London.
- Martin McDonagh's film 'Three Billboards outside Ebbing, Missouri' won the most 5 awards at the ceremony.
- Guillermo del Toro's film 'The Shape of Water' was nominated in the top 12 categories, which won 3 awards.
- The main awards distributed in the ceremony are as follows:



- Best Film – Three Billboards Outside Ebbing, Missouri (Martin McDonagh-Director, Writer and Producer)
- Outstanding British Film – Three Billboards Outside Ebbing, Missouri
- Best Actor – Gary Oldman (Darkest Hour)
- Best Actress-Frances McDormand (Three Billboards Outside Ebbing, Missouri)
- Best Supporting Actor-Sam Rockwell (Three Billboards Outside Ebbing, Missouri)
- Best Supporting Actress-Allison Jenny (Eye, Tonya)
- Original Screenplay Award – Three Billboards Outside Ebbing, Missouri
- Best Director – Guillermo del Toro (The Shape of Water)
- Best Original Music Award – Alexandre Desplat (The Shape of Water)
- Best Documentary – I am Not Your Negro
- Best Cinematography-Blade Runner 2049
- Best Animated Movie-Coco
- Best British Short Animation-Poles Apart
- Best British Short Film – Cowboy Dave
- 'The British Academy of Film and Television Arts (BAFTA) is a world-class independent arts organization.
- It was established on April 16th, 1947 to recognize the outstanding creative work in the British film.

Reference:

<http://www.bafta.org/film/awards/ee-british-academy-film-awards-in-2018>

5th Yash Chopra Memorial Award-2016

Question: Who amongst the following was announced the recipient of 5th Yash Chopra Memorial award-2016 in January?

- (a) Vidya Balan (b) Anupam Kher (c) Asha Bhosale
(d) Paresh Rawal

Answer: (c)

Related Facts:

- On February 16th, 2018, famous playback singer Asha Bhosle was honored with 5th Yash Chopra Memorial Award-2016 at a ceremony held in Mumbai
- Earlier, on January 28th, 2018, her name was announced as the recipient of this Award.
- She has been given this award for his remarkable contributions to the Hindi film industry.
- This award was started by the 'TSR Foundation' in the year 2013 in memory of director Yash Chopra.
- Earlier this honor has been given to Lata Mangeshkar, Amitabh Bachchan, Rekha and Shahrukh Khan.
- She received 10 lakhs cash, one gold bracelet and Memento as the award.

Reference:

<http://www.news18.com/news/movies/asha-bhosle-to-get-yash-chopra-memorial-award-1643559.html>



Sahitya Akademi Bhasha Samman Award

Question: On January 31, 2018, who was awarded the 'Sahitya Akademi Bhasha Samman' of 2018?

- (a) Dr. Amrut Someshwar (b) Dr. Shesh Anand Madhukar
(c) Dr. Anand Prakash Dixit (d) Acharya Munishwar Jha

Answer: (b)

Related Facts:

- On January 31st, 2018, famous writer and scholar of Magahi language, Dr Shesh Anand Madhukar was conferred with the 'Sahitya Akademi Bhasha Samman Award' for the year 2018.
- He is the second author of Magahi language to receive this award.
- Under this award, he was provided with a cash prize of Rs. 1 lakh, one Memento by Dr. Vishwanath Prasad Tiwari, Chairman of the Academy.

Reference:

<http://www.tnpscstherupettaagam.com/sahitya-akademis-bhasha-samman-2018/>



FIH Hockey Stars Awards, 2017

Question: Which of the following male player was selected for the 'Best Player of the Year' in FIH's Annual Hockey Stars Awards, 2017?

- (a) Vincent Vanašch (b) Arthur van Doren (c) Tobias Hauke
(d) Pedro LamBara

Answer: (b)

Related Facts:

- Announcement of the winners of the FIH Hockey Stars Awards, 2017 held in Berlin, Germany. (February 5, 2018)
- Recipients of the award are as follows:
- 'Best Male Players of the Year' – Arthur van Doren (Belgium)
- 'Best Female Players of the Year' – Delfina Merino (Argentina)
- 'Best rising Star (male player) of the year' – Arthur van Doren (Belgium), for the second consecutive year.
- 'Best rising Star (Female player) of the year' – Maria Jose Granatto (Argentina), for the second consecutive year.
- 'Best Goalkeeper (Male) of the Year' – Vincent Vanašch (Belgium)
- 'Best Goalkeeper (women) of the Year' – Maddie Hinch (England), for the second consecutive year.
- 'Best Male Coach of the Year' – Max Caldas (Argentina) and Shane McLeod (New Zealand), joint winner.
- 'Best Female Coach of the Year' – Alyson Annan (Australia)
- 'Best Male Umpires of the Year' – John Wright (South Africa)
- 'Best Female Umpire of the Year' – Sarah Wilson (Scotland)

Reference:

<http://www.fih.ch/global-stars/hockey-stars/>



Dr. V. Shantaram Lifetime Achievement Award-2018

Question: Who was recently awarded the prestigious Dr. V. Shantaram Lifetime Achievement Award for the year 2018?

(a) Anupam Kher (b) Shyam Benegal (c) Rekha (d) David Dhawan

Reference: (b)

Related Facts

- On February 3rd, 2018, famous film producer Shyam Benegal announced to receive Dr. V. Shantaram Lifetime Achievement Award ' for year 2018.
- The award was given to him by Maharashtra Governor C.V. Rao in the closing ceremony of the Mumbai International Film Festival.
- It is notable that this award was instituted in memory of filmmaker Shantaram Rajaram Wanukure for the filmmakers to do outstanding work in the world of films.
- It is provided every year by the Mumbai International Film Festival (MIFF).
- He has also been honored with the prestigious Dadasaheb Phalke Award of 2005.
- Apart from this, the Padma Bhushan has been awarded to him by the Central Government in the year 1991.



JIO FILM FAIR AWARD-2018

Question: Who amongst the following won the award of Best Actress in 63rd Jio Film fare Award, 2018?

(a) Alia Bhatt (b) Vidya Balan (c) Anushka Sharma
(d) Deepika Padukone

Answer: (b)

Related Facts:

- 20 January 2018 at the Mumbai National Sports Club of India (NSCI) 63rd Geo Film fare Award Distribution Festival was organized. The main awards distributed in the award ceremony are
- Best Film- Hindi Medium
- Best Film (Critics) -Newton
- Best Actor – Irrfan Khan (Film-Hindi Medium)
- Best Actress – Vidya Balan (film- yours Sulu)
- Best Actor (Critics) – Rajkumar Rao (Film-Trapped)
- Best Actress (Critic) -Jaira Wasim (film-Secret Superstar)
- Sir Best Director – Ashwini Iyer Tiwari (Film- Bareilly Ki Barfi)
- Best Supporting Actor – Rajkumar Rao (Barfi of Bareilly)
- Best Supporting Actress – Mehr Vij (Film-Secret Superstar)
- Best Music Album – Pritam (Movie-Jagga Jasoos)
- Best Lyricist-Amitabh Bhattacharya (song-by mistake Mistake, film-Jagga spy)
- Best playback singer- Arijit Singh (song-stop not Ruk nain Aaa, Badraniya, Badrinia of Film-Badrinath)
- Best Playback Singer-Megha Mishra (song-nachadi fira, film-secret superstar)
- Lifetime Achievement Award- People's Choice Award for Best Short Film for Bappi Lahiri and Mala Sinha



- Best Non-Drama Director -Kolkana Sen Sharma (film-A death in the echo)

Reference:

<https://www.filmfare.com/awards/filmfare-awards-2018/winners>

OPERATIONS & CAMPAIGN

Social Media Key Influencers Campaign “The Great India Blog Train” Launched

Question: Where was the Social Media Key Influencers Campaign “The Great India Blog Train” launched recently?

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

Answer: (b)

Related Facts:



- On February 7th, 2018, Social Media Key Influencers Campaign of the Ministry of Tourism “The Great India Blog Train” involving Travel bloggers from across the world was launched by the Secretary, Ministry of Tourism Smt. Rashmi Verma at Safdarjung Railway Station, New Delhi.
- The objective of the campaign is to position luxury trains of India as a unique tourism product both in the domestic and overseas markets.
- The campaign will generate widespread publicity for the luxury trains as well as the destinations visited, by way of blogs, videos and photos published by the Bloggers/Instagrammers on their experiences of their journey.
- The Ministry of Tourism, Government of India, keeping in mind the importance of Social Media as an effective tool for destination branding and marketing, is organising a Social Media Key Influencers Campaign “The Great India Blog Train”.
- The Secretary interacted with the Bloggers on the issue of promotion of tourism and other aspects pertaining to tourism and see them off on their journey.
- These Bloggers have been invited to travel to destinations in the country on the Luxury Trains operating in different States. Needless to say this initiative would benefit the railways and the Luxury Train Operators to a large extent.
- A total of 60 bloggers from 23 countries including India are travelling on a week long journey on four luxury trains, i.e. Palace on Wheels, Maharaja Express, Deccan Odyssey and Golden Chariot, in groups of 15 bloggers on each train.
- The first group of 15 bloggers today left on the Palace on Wheels, from the Safdarjung Railway Station, New Delhi. The second group will leave Delhi on the Maharaja Express on 10th February, 2018, the third group is scheduled to leave on the Deccan Odyssey on 10th February, 2018 from the Chaatrapati Shivaji Maharaj Terminus, Mumbai and the last group of Bloggers will leave on the Golden Chariot on 19th February, 2018 from Bengaluru on a week long journey.
- The Railway Board, the State Governments of Rajasthan, Maharashtra and Karnataka and Indian Railway Catering and Tourism Corporation (IRCTC) are proactively promoting this Luxury segment both in the domestic and overseas markets and are actively supporting the campaign by hosting the Bloggers on their trains.

Reference:

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=176330>

VINBAX-2018

Question: Where did the bilateral military exercise 'VINBAX-2018' between India-Vietnam held during 29th January-3rd February, 2018, concluded?

(a) Jodhpur (b) Kochi (c) Jabalpur (d) Gwalior

Answer: (c)

Related Facts:

- The 'India-Vietnam bilateral military exercise 'VINBAX-2018' concluded in Jabalpur, Madhya Pradesh between January 29th to 3rd February 2018.
- This is the first military exercise among these two countries.
- This is a top exercise for peacekeeping operations under the United Nations Mandate.
- This exercise was jointly organized between the Indian Army and the Vietnam People's Army, among the global 15 officers of each.



Reference:

<http://idrw.org/first-ever-india-vietnam-bilateral-army-exercise-from-jan-29-in-jabalpur/>

Pulse Polio Programme for 2018

Question: Under the Pulse Polio Programme, 2018, how many children below five years of age will be given polio drops throughout the country?

(a) 15 crores (b) 16 crores (c) 17 crores (d) 20 crores

Answer: (c)

Related Facts:

- On January 27th, 2018, President of India, Shri Ram Nath Kovind, launched the Pulse Polio programme for 2018 by administering polio drops to children less than five years old, at the Rashtrapati Bhawan.
- Union Minister of Health & Family Welfare, Shri J P Nadda and Ministers of State (Health) Shri Ashwini Kumar Choubey and Smt. Anupriya Patel were present at the occasion.
- More than 17 crore children of less than five years across the country will be given polio drops as part of the drive of Government of India to sustain polio eradication from the country.
- This program has been started on the eve of National Immunization Day (January 28).
- India has started the Pulse Polio Vaccination Program in 1995 as a result of the World Health Organization (WHO) global polio eradication efforts.
- Under this program, two doses of oral polio vaccine (OPV) are given in the month of December and January every year till the end of polio to all children under the age of 5 years of age.



Reference:

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=175921>

<https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/india/president-launches-pulse-polio-programme-for-2018/articleshow/62673400.cms>

COMMISSION & COMMITTEE

Inter-Ministerial Committee (IMC) on Medicinal and Aromatic Plants

Question: An Inter-Ministerial Committee (IMC) on Medicinal and Aromatic Plants (MAPs) has been set up for which of the following Region?

- (a) South Zone (b) North Zone (c) North-West Region
(d) North-East Region

Answer: (d)

Related Facts:

- On February 22nd, 2018, an Inter-Ministerial Committee (IMC) on Medicinal and Aromatic Plants (MAPs) has been set up for the North Eastern Region (NER).
- This was decided after a meeting between Secretaries of DoNER and AYUSH.
- The IMC is to create synergy in various programmes of the Union Government to enable medicinal and aromatic plants sector become vibrant and develop the resources to its potential.
- The first meeting of IMC on MAPs is scheduled to be held on 12th of March. The meeting will be co-chaired by Secretaries of DoNER and AYUSH.
- The IMC will facilitate coordination among Ministries and Departments in various programmes being implemented on conservation, sustainable management and development of MAPs in NER for enhancing the livelihood and economic transformation.
- The Ministry of Development of North-East Region (MDoNER) will be the coordinator for the IMC of MAPs.
- The Committee will review the existing mechanism or institutional arrangements for management and development of MAPs resources of NER.
- The IMC will identify gaps in the existing mechanism or institutional arrangements, suggest a policy intervention for optimally harnessing the MAPs resources of NER and accelerating the development of MAPs sector, suggest a Plan of Action for dovetailing of the schemes and programmes of concerned Ministries and Departments.
- The IMC will also suggest actionable measures for enhancing the livelihood and economic transformation based on cultivation and sustainable management of MAPs resource in North East Region.
- The IMC will comprise members from various Ministries, Departments and several organizations in the relevant fields.

Reference:

<http://pib.gov.in/PressReleaseDetail.aspx?PRID=1521416>



National meeting on Grassroot Informatics: VIVID-2018

Question: A three-day National Meet on Grassroot Informatics- VIVID 2018 from 08th February to Saturday, 10th February, 2018, is being organizing at which of the following place?

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

Answer: (d)

Related Facts:

- During 8-10 February, 2018; National Meeting on Grassroot Informatics (Information science at the grassroots level): 'VIVID



2018' is being organized at India Habitat Center, New Delhi.

- National Informatics Centre (NIC) is organizing a three-day National Meet on Grassroot Informatics- VIVID 2018.
- The theme of 'VIVID 2018' is 'Cyber Security and Innovation'.
- National Informatics Centre (NIC) was established in 1976.

Reference:

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=176283>

PLANNING & PROJECT

Silkyara Bend-Barkot Tunnel in Uttarakhand

Question: In which of the following states Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA) recently approved the construction of Silkyara Bend-Barkot Tunnel?

(a) Rajasthan (b) Odisha (c) Uttarakhand (d) Himachal Pradesh

Answer :(c)

Related Facts:

- On 20th February, 2018, the Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs has given its approval to the construction of 4.531 km long 2-Lane Bi-Directional Silkyara Bend – Barkot Tunnel with escape passage including approaches on Dharasu -Yamunotri section between Chainage 25.400 Km. and Chainage 51.000 Km in Uttarakhand.
- The project will be falling along NH-134 (old NH-94) in the State of Uttarakhand.
- The project will be built under Engineering, Procurement and Construction (EPC) Mode.
- This is funded under NH (O) Scheme of Ministry of RT&H and forms part of ambitious Chardham Plan.
- The construction period of the project is 4 years.
- The civil construction cost of the project is estimated at Rs. 1119.69 crore, while the total project cost is Rs. 1383.78 crore, which is inclusive of the cost towards Land Acquisition & Rehabilitation and other pre-construction activities as well as Maintenance and Operation cost of tunnel for 4 years.
- The construction of this tunnel will provide all weather connectivity to Yamunotri, one of the dham on Chardham Yatra, encouraging regional socio-economic development, trade and tourism within the country.
- It will reduce the travel distance from Dharasu to Yamunotri by about 20 km and travel time by about an hour. The proposed tunnel will save number of trees that would have been required to be removed in the road improvement of 25.600 km, had the original alignment been followed.
- The project will be implemented by the Ministry of Road Transport & Highways (MoRTH), through National Highways & Infrastructure Development Corporation Ltd. (NHIDCL), a wholly state owned company, formed in 2014 for development of highways in states on the international borders.
- The project aims at construction of 4.531 Km long two lane Bi-Directional tunnel (along with 328m approach road) with escape passage on Dharasu –Yamunotri in the State of Uttarakhand.



Reference:

<http://pib.gov.in/PressReleaseDetail.aspx?PRID=1521024>

Rapid Reporting System for the Scheme for Adolescent Girls

Question: Nutritional support at which of the following rates /beneficiary/day for 300 days in a year is aim of the Rapid Reporting System for the Scheme for Adolescent Girls?

(a) 8.0 rupees (b) 8.50 rupees (c) 9.0 rupees (d) 9.50 rupees

Answer- (d)

Related Facts:

- On January 24th, 2018, Secretary, Ministry of Women and Child Development, Shri Rakesh Srivastava launched the Phase -1 i.e. the beneficiary module of the Rapid Reporting System for the Scheme for Adolescent Girls – a web based on line monitoring for the Scheme for Adolescent Girls in New Delhi
- The RRS will facilitate the monitoring of the scheme and taking corrective measures by ensuring faster flow of information, accurate targeting of the beneficiaries and reduction of leakages.
- This Portal has been developed in collaboration with National Informatics Centre (NIC).
- The URL for the portal is <http://sag-rrs.nic.in>.
- The Government on 16.11.2017, realizing the multi-dimensional needs of out of school adolescent girls (11-14 years) owing to the onset of second growth spurt during this period and with a aim to motivate these girls to join school system, approved continuation of the Scheme for Adolescent Girls (SAG) for out of school girls in the age group of 11-14 years.
- The scheme aims at providing them nutritional support @ Rs.9.50/beneficiary/day for 300 days in a year, motivating out of school girls to go back to formal schooling or skill training under non-nutrition component of the scheme.
- Government has also approved expansion and universalisation of the Scheme for Adolescent Girls in a phased manner i.e. in additional 303 districts in 2017-18
- In remaining districts it will be in 2018-19 with the simultaneous phasing out of Kishori Shakti Yojana.
- Presently, MWCD is implementing the Scheme for Adolescent Girls (SAG) in selected 508 districts across the country.
- SAG aims at empowering out of school adolescent girls of 11 to 14 years by improving their nutritional and health status, upgrading their skills. In addition to the nutritional support under the scheme, the girls are equipped with information on health, hygiene and guidance on existing public services.
- The Scheme aims to mainstream out of school girls into formal education or non-formal education.
- Scheme for Adolescent Girls is a centrally sponsored scheme, implemented through Centre and State share in the ratio of 50:50, for nutrition component 60:40 for the rest of the activities for State and UTs with legislation, 90:10 for NE and three Himalayan States and 100% for UTs without legislation.

Reference:

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=175842>



Launching of National CSR Data Portal & Corporate Data Portal

Question: By whom National CSR Data Portal and Corporate Data Portal were launched recently?

- (a) Suresh Prabhu (b) Arun Jaitley (c) Jayant Sinha
(d) Rajiv Kumar

Answer: (b)

Related Facts:

- On January 19th, 2018, Shri Arun Jaitley, Union Minister for Finance and Corporate Affairs launched the National CSR Data Portal & Corporate Data Portal.
- During launching Shri P.P. Chaudhary, Minister of State for Corporate Affairs and Law & Justice was also present.
- Shri Arun Jaitley said that the initiative is a significant step towards driving accountability and transparency for corporate India.
- By making the portals accessible to general public, it will ensure high level of compliance and also in institutionalizing and consolidating the CSR activities.
- The dual launched had created a landmark in bringing about 100 percent transparencies in corporate governance by making public over 4-crore filings of nearly 1.2 million companies.
- Also the two portals would promote corporate transparency and accountability to public at large and also facilitate social audit of CSR projects, besides bringing together CSR contributors, implementers and beneficiaries and aligning CSR activities with national development goals.
- The National CSR Data Portal will capture information on CSR activities carried out by eligible companies, filed on the MCA21 registry in their financial statements.
- The filed information provides a snap shot of CSR activities carried out by companies.
- The CSR portal contains all filed information, which can generate pre-defined reports with respect to expenditure across states, districts, development sectors, etc.
- The Portal also provides for feedback on projects to be given by registered users.
- The open access to data is expected to help researchers, improve quality of data filed by companies, as well as involve intended beneficiaries in giving valuable feedback to companies.
- While the Corporate Data Portal aims at making all the financial and non-financial information of the companies available in a user friendly format to the general public.
- It also has facility to generate pre-defined reports and also customized reports.

Reference:

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=175763>



First course on Sustainable Urban Planning

Question: In the outreach center in NOIDA of which of the following Indian Institute of Technology The First Global Initiative on Academic Network GIAN course on Sustainable Urban planning using remote sensing and Geographic Information System, GIS has been launched recently?

- (a) Indian Institute of Technology, Madras (b) Indian Institute of Technology, Roorkee
(c) Indian Institute of Technology, Kanpur (d) Indian Institute of



Technology, Kharagpur

Answer: (c)

Related Facts:

- On January 15th, 2018, the First Global Initiative on Academic Network GIAN course on Sustainable Urban planning using remote sensing and Geographic Information System, GIS has been launched at Indian Institute of Technology Kanpur's outreach center in NOIDA.
- Principal Adviser, NITI Aayog, Ratan P. Watal, inaugurated the course at a function.
- This course is being conducted under the Global Initiative on Academic Network (GIAN) Program of the Ministry of Human Resource Development and actively supported by NITI Aayog and Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs.
- This course aims to give participants state-of-the-art remote sensing and GIS skills which will allow them to rise to the challenge of managing the rapidly changing urban environment of Indian cities. Focus will be on issues such as water resource management, water pollution and strategic emplacements for water treatment facilities.
- The course is being coordinated by Professor Rajiv Sinha from the Department of Earth Sciences at IIT Kanpur and Dr. Patrice Carbonneau from the Department of Geography, University of Durham, UK.
- Participants from several Government departments such as ISRO, AP Remote Sensing Application Centre, National Mission on Clean Ganga and students from different engineering colleges and universities across the country are attending the course.
- In his inaugural address, Mr. Watal emphasized the need to harness the potential of GIS and Remote Sensing technology to address the challenges of urbanization.
- He urged the participants to come forward with smart solutions for smart cities.
- Joint Secretary, Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs, Shri Shiv Das Meena, was the Guest of Honour on this occasion.
- This course is expected to contribute significantly to build trained manpower for the Smart Cities Mission launched by the Government on 25th June 2015 with an objective to promote sustainable and inclusive cities that provide core infrastructure and give a decent quality of life to its citizens, a clean and sustainable environment and application of 'Smart' Solutions.

Reference:

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/mbErel.aspx?relid=175653>

Solar based Micro Irrigation Scheme in Haryana

Question- Recently, a committee was constituted under the chairmanship of the head of which of the following organization to implement the Integrated Solar based Irrigation Scheme?

- (a) Haryana Renewable Energy Development Agency
- (b) Haryana Irrigation Department
- (c) Haryana Energy Corporation
- (d) None of the above

Answer: (a)

Related Facts:

- On January 2nd, 2018, the Haryana Government has directed the implementation of solar based Micro Irrigation Schemes in all the 22 districts of the state.
- A committee was constituted to prepare the strategy in this regard.



- Its chairmanship has been given to the Chief of the Haryana Renewable Energy Development Agency (HREDA).
- Presently with an outlay of Rs. 24.65 crores, this scheme is being implemented on pilot basis (experimental basis) in 14 canal outlets in 13 districts of the state.
- Solar based irrigation system will not only save electricity and water but will also prove to be economical for the farmers.
- Under the scheme, unused ponds of villages will be used for installation of solar panels for micro irrigation.
- On January 2, only guidelines for implementation of water supply scheme through Solar Pump Sets were issued in the Salahwas and Indri blocks of Jhajjar and Karnal districts of Haryana respectively.
- It is notable that on July 30th, 2017, Chief Minister of Haryana Manohar Lal Khattar inaugurated the solar powered micro irrigation pilot project in Gamthala Garhu Dera Fateh Singh village near Pehowa.

Reference:

http://www.business-standard.com/article/news-ians/implement-solar-based-irrigation-scheme-in-all-districts-haryana-cm-118010200776_1.html

Suryadhar Project

Question: Recently, Chief Minister of which of the following states has done Bhumi Poojan and laid foundation for the construction of the Suryadhar Lake?

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

Answer: (b)

Related Facts:

- On December 25th, 2017, Uttarakhand Chief Minister Trivendra Singh Rawat, performed the Bhumi Poojan and laid the foundation stone for the construction of Suryadhar Lake at the Shila Ki Chowki, Thano in Dehradun district.
- The construction cost of this lake is approximately Rs 48 crores 53 lacs.
- This lake will be named after the name of Late Gajendra Dutt Nathani.
- The target completion period of the Suryadhar project is 3 years.
- This project will provide drinking water to 50 villages and irrigation water for 24 villages.
- People of Hoiwala region will be able to get complete Gravity drinking water through this project.
- This project will save power of about Rs. 7 crore per annum which is spent on tubel.
- Irrigation facility will be available for the total of 2083 hectares area from the project



Reference:

<http://www.uttarakhandbulletin.com/2017/12/25/suryadhar-lake-will-be-built-at-thano/>

Atal Jan Aahaar Yojna

Question: By whom Atal Jan Aahaar Yojna has been started recently?

(a) Maharashtra Government (b) Municipal Corporation of Southern Delhi
(c) Government of Chhattisgarh (d) Bhopal Municipal Corporation

Answer: (b)

Related Facts:

- On December 25th, 2017; a new scheme 'Atal Jan Aahaar Yojna' was started for the people of the poorer sections by the South Delhi Municipal Corporation.
- South Delhi Mayor Kamaljit Sehrawat inaugurated this scheme from Matiyala Chowk under Najafgarh Zone with Bhupendra Gupta, Chairman of the Standing Committee of the Public Body and Ramesh Matiyala of the Opposition.
- This scheme has been started at five different places in South Delhi.
- Under the scheme food will be available, for only Rs 10, at the stalls of the institution.
- This meal will be available daily between 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. afternoons.
- It is known that this scheme has been started in a phased manner with the objective of providing nutritious food to the needy.
- North Delhi Municipal Corporation (NDMC) also launched a pilot project at Shalimar Bagh on the same pattern.



Reference:

<http://indianexpress.com/article/cities/delhi/atal-jan-aahar-yojana-queue-for-rs-10-thali-as-scheme-starts-in-south-delhi-4998669/>

CCTNS project

Question: In which of the following states the Crime and Crime Tracking Network and System (CCTNS) project was launched recently?

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

Answer: (c)

Related Facts:

- On 12 February, 2018, Punjab Chief Minister Amarinder Singh launched the Crime and Criminal Tracking Network and Systems (CCTNS), a project to keep digitised records of FIRs and information on crimes and criminals.
- FIRs and General Diaries can now be updated online by police officials on CCTNS Go-Live.



Reference:

<https://www.indiatoday.in/pti-feed/story/cctns-project-rolled-out-in-punjab-1167768-2018-02-12>

Shri Nitin Gadkari Inaugurates / Lays Foundation Stone for 5 Highways Projects Around Allahabad

Question- On February 7, 2018, Shri Nitin Gadkari, the Union Minister for Road Transport and Highways, Shipping and Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation inaugurated / laid foundation stone for 137 km of highways projects worth of how much crores around Allahabad in Uttar Pradesh?

(a) 4631 crores (b) 2532 crores (c) 5632 crores (d) 7456 crores

Answer: (c)

Related Facts:

- On February 7th, 2018, Shri Nitin Gadkari, the Union Minister for Road Transport and Highways, Shipping and Water Resources, River Development



and Ganga Rejuvenation inaugurated / laid foundation stone for 137 km of highways projects worth Rs 5632 crore around Allahabad in Uttar Pradesh.

- Besides widening of national highways, this includes construction of a new, six-lane bridge over Ganga at Fafamau, Allahabad.
- Inauguration: 41.34 km long section of NH 27 that was 4 laned at a cost of Rs 775 crore.
- Laid the foundation stone for:
- Three projects that include 6 laning of 53.15 km Handiya- Aurai section of NH 2 at a cost of Rs 1813 crore;
- 15 km, 4 lane Puramufti-Kaudiyar Allahabad inner ring road Phase I that is to be constructed at a cost of Rs 830 crore and
- 17.77 km section of NH 96 from Allahabad Bypass to Allahabad City at a cost of Rs 314 crore.
- Commencement: construction of a new, six lane bridge over River Ganga at Fafamau, Allahabad, that is to be built at a cost of Rs 1900 crore.

Reference:

https://twitter.com/nitin_gadkari?ref_src=twsrc%5Egoogle%7Ctwcamp%5Eserp%7Ctwgr%5Eauthor

Farm Debt Waiver Scheme

Question: The Punjab Government has recently launched the Agricultural Debt Waiver Scheme. How many farmers will be benefitted in the first phase of this scheme?

(a) 4.50 lakhs (b) 5.25 lakhs (c) 5.63 lakh (d) 10.25 lakhs

Answer: (c)

Related Facts:

- On January 7th, 2018, Punjab Chief Minister Capt Amarinder Singh launched the Farm Debt Waiver scheme in Mansa.
- On this occasion, he symbolically handed over waiver certificates to 10 farmers from the five districts of Mansa, Bathinda, Faridkot, Muktsar and Moga.
- Under this scheme, 5.63 lakh farmers will be benefitted in the first phase.
- As a relief amount Rs 2700 crore will be provided to these farmers.
- According to the Punjab Government, there are 17.5 lakh farming families in the state.
- Under this scheme 10.25 lakh farmers will be benefitted.
- Big farmers are not covered under the scheme.



Reference:

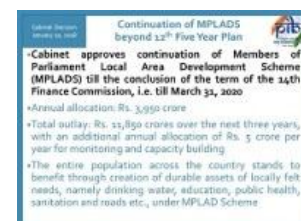
<http://www.thehindu.com/news/national/amarinder-singh-launches-farm-debt-waiver-scheme/article22391823.ece>

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

TREATY & AGREEMENTS

Agreement between Rout Mobile and Jharkhand Government

Question: BPO center with how many seats will be started in the state of Jharkhand by Route Mobile?

(a) 250 (b) 450 (c) 550 (d) 100

Answer: (c)

Related Facts:

- On February 12th, 2018, the Master Service Agreement (MSA) to start BPO centre was signed between Jharkhand Government and Route Mobile, working in the area of BPO.
- Both BPO centers will be launched with the help of Software Technology Parks of India (STPI) Ranchi.
- Route Mobile is going to set up a BPO center with a seating capacity of 550 seats.
- Through these BPO centers around 5,000 people would be getting employment in the State.
- Route Mobile has planned an investment of approximately Rs 40 crores in Jharkhand and a possible project expansion in the near future.
- The project will also be expanded in the coming days.
- Rout Mobile Company has also been given the proposal to the State Government to open the construction unit in the state.



Reference:

<http://www.dailypioneer.com/state-editions/ranchi/route-mobile-inks-msa-to-set-up-bpo-in-state.html>

MoU between Ministry of Railways and Ministry of Ayush

Question: Presently Indian Railways is running how much Ayurvedic Clinics through Staff Benefit Fund under Welfare Section of Establishment Directorate?

(a) 126 (b) 75 (c) 40 (d) 35

Answer: (c)

Related Facts:

- On February 6th, 2018, the Ministry of Railways has signed MoU with the Ministry of AYUSH for promoting Ayush services in railway hospitals.
- The MoU is to augment the AYUSH system services in its zonal hospitals at New Delhi, Mumbai, Kolkata, Chennai and Guwahati.
- Under this MoU Ministry of Railways and Ministry of AYUSH have decided to scale up AYUSH health services in B.R. Singh Hospital in Eastern Railway, Perambur Railway Hospital Southern Railway, Central Hospital of Northern Railway, JR Hospital in Western Railway and the Central Hospital of Northeast Frontier Railway.
- Under the terms of the MoU signed, Ministry of Railways will arrange for providing logistics and infrastructure in the form of Land & building, Equipments, Furniture, AYUSH medicines and consumables as well as Manpower as per its guidelines.



- It will organize and provide orientation training to newly recruited AYUSH Doctors and AYUSH Paramedicals.
- Ministry of AYUSH in turn will provide all other technical inputs required for introduction of AYUSH Systems in the five identified Railways Hospitals.
- The Ministry will also provide technical knowhow regarding the pharmacopoeia, medicine inventory, hospital planning.
- Guidelines of manpower requirement and Recruitment Rules; Procedures of AYUSH Doctors, AYUSH Para medical required for introduction of AYUSH Systems in five Railway Hospitals including the guidelines for contractual AYUSH doctors and paramedical staff would be aided by MoAYUSH.
- Presently Indian Railways is running 126 Homeopathic Clinics and 40 Ayurvedic Clinics through Staff Benefit Fund under Welfare Section of Establishment Directorate.

Reference:

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=176256>

Minamata Convention

Question: Minamata Convention is related with which of the following?

(a) Mercury (b) Carbon monoxide (c) lead (d) copper

Answer- (a)

Related Facts:

- On February 7th, 2018, Union Cabinet chaired by the Prime Minister has approved the proposal for ratification of Minamata Convention on Mercury and depositing the instrument of ratification enabling India to become a Party of the Convention.
- The approval entails Ratification of the Minamata Convention on Mercury along with flexibility for continued use of mercury-based products and processes involving mercury compound up to 2025.
- The Minamata Convention on Mercury will be implemented in the context of sustainable development with the objective to protect human health and environment from the anthropogenic emissions and releases of mercury and mercury compounds.
- The Convention protects the most vulnerable from the harmful effects of mercury and also protects the developmental space of developing countries.
- Therefore, the interest of the poor and vulnerable groups will be protected.
- The Minamata Convention on Mercury will further urge enterprises to move to mercury-free alternatives in products and non-mercury technologies in manufacturing processes. This will drive research & development, and promote innovation.



Reference:

<http://pib.nic.in/PressReleaseDetail.aspx?PRID=1519591>

Agreement between India and China

Question: Recently, Union Cabinet has given its approval for signing and ratification of protocol amending the Agreement between India and China in which regards?

- (a) For mutual negotiation on Border dispute (b) For strategic partnership
(c) For the Avoidance of Double Taxation and the Prevention of Fiscal Evasion

(d) To increase trade partnership

Answer: (c)

Related Facts:

- The Union Cabinet chaired by the Prime Minister has given its approval for signing and ratification of protocol amending the Agreement between India and China for the Avoidance of Double Taxation and the Prevention of Fiscal Evasion with respect to taxes on income.
- Besides other changes, the Protocol updates the existing provisions for exchange of information to the latest international standards.
- Further the Protocol will incorporate changes required to implement treaty related minimum standards under the Action reports of Base Erosion & Profit shifting (BEPS) Project.
- In this project India had participated on an equal footing. Besides minimum standards, the Protocol will also bring in changes as per BEPS Action reports as agreed upon by two sides.



Reference:

<http://pib.nic.in/PressReleaseDetail.aspx?PRID=1519597>

Agreement among Ministry of Railways, Ministry of Human Resource Development and Ministry of Science and Technology

Question- According to the recent MoU, how much will the human resources development ministry and the Ministry of Science and Technology both invest in the TMIR project?

- (a) 75 crores and 50 crores (b) 75 crores and 75 crores
(c) 75 crore and 65 million (d) 85 crore and 75 million

Answer: (b)

Related Facts:

- On January 4th, 2018, Ministry of Railways, Ministry of Human Resource Development and the Department of Science & Technology (Ministry of Science & Technology) signed an MoU, at Rail Bhawan, New Delhi for joint funding of TMIR.
- Under this unique effort and as per vision of Hon'ble Prime Minister for "Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas", three Ministries of the Union Government have joined hands to propel the Technology Mission for Indian Railways (TMIR).
- The MOU was signed today by Chairman/TMIR Prof. N.S. Vyas; Shri Alok Kumar, Co-Chairman/TMIR, on behalf of Ministry of Railways; Shri R. Subrahmanyam, Additional Secretary (TE) on behalf of Ministry of Human Resource Development and Dr. Neeraj Sharma, Adviser/DST on behalf of Ministry of Science and Technology.
- This consent memorandum will pave the way for the common investment of rail projects identified for the applied research.
- In this project, of the Ministry of Railways 30 per cent, the Ministry of Human Resource Development 25 per cent and per cent of the Department of Science and Technology will hold stake the stake of 25 percent.



- It is known that Ministry of Railways had set up the Technology Mission for Indian Railways (TMIR) as a consortium of Ministry of Railways, Ministry of Human Resource Development and Ministry of Science & Technology on an investment sharing model for taking up identified railway projects for applied research and use on Indian Railways.
- As per this MoU, Ministry of HRD and Ministry of Science & Technology have agreed to fund the TMIR projects to the tune of Rs.75 crore each while Railways and Industries will also contribute to their respective shares.
- The Technology Mission will take up R&D projects in the areas of heavy haul, safety, energy, environment and urban railways.
- The projects will be implemented through a Mission Implementation and Coordination Committee having members from the three Ministries, academia and industry.
- The projects will be implemented in the national R&D labs and academic institutions. Collaborations, wherever essential, will be entered into with similar foreign institutions.
- Projects will be implemented in national research and development laboratories and academic institutions.
- There will be cooperation with similar foreign institutions where necessary.
- The Mission Implementation and Coordination Committee will include representatives of Railways, RDSO, Ministry of Human Resource Development and Ministry of Science and Technology.
- The "Mission Implementation and Coordination Committee" (MICC), consists of nominees of Railways, RDSO, Ministry of HRD, Ministry of Science & Technology and is headed by Prof. N.S. Vyas of IIT-Kanpur as Mission Chairman and Shri Alok Kumar, Chief Admin. Officer/Const/NR as Co-Chairman/TMIR.

Reference:

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=175297>

Agreement between India and Seychelles

Question: Capital of Seychelles is

(a) Port Louis (b) Bamako (c) Victoria (d) Montevideo

Answer: (c)

Related Facts:

- On January 27th 2018, India and Seychelles signed a revised agreement.
- This revised agreement will develop, manage, operate and maintain military facilities on this island.
- After this agreement, India will be able to keep an eye on China through the sea route.
- It is noteworthy that this agreement has been signed at that time when China is consistently touring high in this island.
- China has also set up a naval base in Djibouti.
- This agreement was held between the two countries in March, 2015.
- Officially the Seychelles Republic is an island nation with 155 islands located in the Indian Ocean.
- Victoria is the capital of Seychelles.



Reference:

<https://thewire.in/218559/india-seychelles-sign-revised-pact-assumption-island-allay-local-fears/>

Indian IT Company's contract with American insurance group

Question: Which of the following IT Company of the country has recently signed contracts worth more than USD 2 billion with American insurance company Trans America?

(a) Wipro (b) TCS (c) Tech Mahindra (d) Infosys

Answer: (b)

Related Facts:

- On January 12th, 2018, Tata Consultancy Services (TCS), the country's largest information technology company, announced the contract with the American insurance company Trans-America.
- TCS has received a contract worth more than USD 2 billion from this American insurance company.
- This is the biggest contract TCS has done so far.
- TCS will change the US Company's insurance and digital structures of the annual allowance business under the agreement.
- With this partnership, Trans-America will be able to intensify its digital capabilities and it will be able to simplify the company's more than 10 million dollars policies and integrate into a modern platform.
- TCS will provide valuable administrative and quality customer services under this multi-year agreement.
- Along with this contract, TCS has entered the third party administration marketplace of insurance sector with US specialization.



Reference:

<http://www.thehindu.com/business/tcs-bags-over-2-billion-deal-from-us-insurance-group-transamerica/article22427511.ece>

North Koel Reservoir Project

Question: North Koel reservoir project is being set up on the North Koel River. North Koel is a tributary of which of the following Rivers?

(a) Punpun (b) Old Gandak (c) Son (d) Bagmati

Answer: (c)

Related Facts:

- On 12th January, 2018, A Memorandum of Understanding has been signed between Ministry of Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation, Government of India, State of Bihar and State of Jharkhand for completion of balance works of North Koel reservoir project.
- The estimated cost of the project is Rs. 1622.27 crore.
- A supplementary Memorandum of Agreement has also been signed between Ministry of Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation, Government of India, National Water Development Agency, NABARD with State Governments of Bihar and Jharkhand for funding of the state share under Long Term Irrigation Fund (LTIF) for North Koel reservoir project.
- The construction of North Koel project was started in 1972 but was later halted in 1993.
- The project situated on North Koel River, a tributary of Sone River.



- Reservoir will provide irrigation to 1,11,521 hectares of land annually in the most backward and drought prone areas of Palamu and Garhwa districts in Jharkhand and Aurangabad and Gaya districts in Bihar.
- Out of the estimated cost of balance works of Rs. 1622.27 crores, the common component amounting to Rs. 1013.11 crores shall be borne by the Govt. of India as a grant from LTIF under Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchai Yojana (PMKSY).
- Remaining cost of works amounting to Rs. 609.16 crores pertaining to Bihar and Jharkhand portion.
- 60% of the cost amounting to Rs. 365.5 crores shall be financed by Central Government from LTIF making the total Central share as Rs 1378.61 crore.
- Remaining 40% of cost amounting to Rs. 243.66 crores will be borne by the States through the loan financed by NABARD.
- The project is scheduled to be completed in 30 months from the start of the project.

Reference:

<http://pib.gov.in/PressReleaseDetail.aspx?PRID=1516590>

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/PressReleaseDetail.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>

CONFERENCE

BioAsia-2018

Question: Where was the 15th International Life Sciences and Healthcare Convention 'BioAsia-2018' organized between February 22nd -24th, 2018?

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

Answer: (b)

Related Facts:

- On February 22nd -24th, 2018, '15th International Life Sciences and Healthcare Convention ' BioAsia-2018, was held in Hyderabad.
- It was organized jointly by the Government of India, Telangana Government and Federation of Asian Biotech Association (FABA).
- Its main theme for this year was "Opportunities in times of change: RIGHT TIME, RIGHT NOW".



Reference:

<http://2018.bioasia.in/>

44th Khajuraho Dances Festival

Question: Which of the following rulers had built the temple of Khajuraho?

(a) Parmar (b) Chandel (c) Chauhan (d) Chalukya

Answer: (b)

Related Facts:

- During February 20th-26th, 2018, 44th Khajuraho Dance Festival, 2018 is being held at Khajuraho of Chhatarpur district Madhya Pradesh.
- During this Dance Festival, Indian classical dances such as Kathak, Odissi, Bharatnatyam, Kuchipudi, Kathakali and Mohiniattam were performed with other Indian classical dances. It is being organized by the Arts Council under the Madhya Pradesh government. This festival was started in the year 2002.
- India is that the construction of temples in Khajuraho was done by Rajput Chandel rulers in the 10-12th century.



Reference:

<https://www.hindustantimes.com/art-and-culture/44th-khajuraho-dance-festival-to-start-from-february-20/story-ATgnsr75tBqdehYd5WhEbK.html>

International Solar Alliance first conference

Question: According to the announcement made by the Ministry of External Affairs recently, where will the first conference of the International Solar Coalition (ISA) be organized?

(a) New Delhi (b) Jaipur (c) Paris (d) Sendai

Answer: (a)

Related Facts:

- On February 22nd, 2018, as per announcement of the country's external affairs ministry, the inaugural conference of the international solar alliance (ISA) will be held in New Delhi on March 11th.
- The conference will be organized jointly by India and France.
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi and President of France Immanuel Macron will participate in this conference.
- Apart from this, the heads of nation of Sri Lanka, Bangladesh, Seychelles, Ghana, Gabon, Australia, Venezuela, Fiji and Mauritius will also participate in this conference.
- It is noteworthy that so far 55 countries have signed the ISA Framework Agreement, out of which 26 countries have already approved it.
- Significantly, ISA is the first joint-based international and intergovernmental organization with its headquarters in Gururgram, Haryana (India).



Reference:

http://www.xinhuanet.com/english/2018-02/22/c_136992096.htm

12th India-Saudi Arabia Joint Consultative Mechanism meeting

Question- Where was the meeting of 12th India – Saudi Arabia Joint Consultative Mechanism organized during February 18th-19th, 2018?

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

Answer: (b)

Related Facts

- On February 18th-19th, 2018 India-Saudi Arabia 12th Joint Consultative Mechanism Meeting held in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia.
- In this meeting, the Indian delegation was led by Union Finance and Corporate Affairs Minister Arun Jaitley.



Reference:

<https://twitter.com/arunjaitley/status/965547302353063936>

Sanskriti Mahotsav - 'Swachhagrah – Bapu ko Kaaryaanjali' Question-In which of the following

Question-In which of the following cities a Sanskriti Mahotsav “Swachhagrah – Bapu ko Kaaryaanjali” was organized recently?

(a) Gandhinagar (b) Rajkot (c) Ahmedabad (d) Varanasi

Answer: (d)

Related Facts:



- On 21st and 22nd February, 2018, a Sanskriti Mahotsav “Swachhagrah – Bapu ko Kaaryaanjali” was organized at the Man Mandir Ghat and Assi Ghat in Varanasi.
- The 2-day event was focus on performances on the theme of ‘Swachhagraha’ presented under the rubric of ‘Swachhagraha: Bapu ko Karyanjali’.
- The Minister of State for Culture (Independent Charge) and Environment, Forest & Climate Change, Dr. Mahesh Sharma remain present on the second day of the event being held at Man Mandir Ghat on 22nd February, 2018.
- The *Swachh* drive was steered by school-children affiliated to Ministry of Culture, Government of India’s Interpretation Centres through exhibitions, songs, puppetry, *nukkad nataks* and folk dances.
- The Mahotsav was cover a profusion of art forms from classical, folk music, dance and visual arts and would offer the chance to experience the best in established and emerging virtuosity.
- An exhibition on Varanasi curated by the National Archives was showcased at the Man Mandir ghat to the creation of Virtual Museum.
- During the Swachhagraha Music and Dance Festival the classical arts of Varanasi celebrated at a stage created at the Man Mandir ghat.
- On 21st February, the program was started with a tabla recital by 5 year old Avantika Mishra, granddaughter of Padma Vibhushan Pandit Kishan Maharaj.
- Children from the Interpretation Centres will perform Swachhta Geet.
- Art connoisseurs got a chance to interact with artisans and watch their work in progress.
- The bazaar were included with folk performances by folk singers and dancers from different states with special focus on Arunachal Pradesh and Meghalaya, the states paired with Uttar Pradesh under the *Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat*

Reference:

<http://pib.gov.in/PressReleaseDetail.aspx?PRID=1521167>

Sixth India Region Commonwealth Parliamentary Association Conference-2018

Question: Where was the 6th conference of Commonwealth Parliamentary Association (CPA) India Region organized during February 16-19, 2018?

(a) Jaipur (b) Bhopal (c) Raipur (d) Patna

Answer: (d)

Related Facts:

- During 16-19 February 2018, 6th conference of Commonwealth Parliamentary Association (CPA) India Region held in Patna, Bihar.
- Lok Sabha Speaker Sumitra Mahajan inaugurated the conference.
- In this four-day conference there was a feature discussion on “Parliament’s role in development agenda and legislature and judiciary – two important pillars of democracy”.
- Over 100 delegates from Australia, UK and Uganda, including India, attended the conference.
- Apart from this, the Speakers of various State Legislatures and the Chairmen of the State Legislative Council also took part.



- Emilia Lifaka, Chairman of the executive committee of Commonwealth Parliamentary Association (CPA) also participated in the conference.
- It is noteworthy that the CPA is composed of over 180 branches formed in legislatures of Commonwealth countries enjoying parliamentary democracy.
- All the CPA branches are geographically grouped into nine Commonwealth regions”
- Conferences of CPA India Region are held once every two years and the 5th conference was held in 2015 in Goa”.

Reference:

<http://blqrms.bih.nic.in/biharvscpawebiste/Downloads/TentativeProgramme.pdf>

Aadi Mahotsav

Question: Where was the Aadi Mahotsav organized during 19-28 January, 2018?

(a) Raipur (b) Ranchi (c) jaipur (d) Bhopal

Answer: (b)

Related Facts:

- From 19-28 January, 2018, Aadi Mahotsav was organized in Andre House (Coke Road), Ranchi, Jharkhand.
- Mahotsav was launched by Jharkhand Chief Minister Raghuvar Das.
- The theme of the Mahotsav was A Celebration of the Spirit of Tribal Culture, Craft, Cuisine and Commerce.
- Over 150 tribal artisans and artists from more than 28 states participated in this festival.
- Adivasi food (Tribal Food) was presented mainly by the tribal cooks (chef) as per the urban flavor in this mahotsav.
- The Tribal Cooperative Marketing Development Federation (TRIFED), which is an agency of the Union Tribal Ministry, organized this tribal festival.
- It has exhibition-cum-sale of tribal handicrafts, art, painting, garments, and ornaments through 100 stalls.
- It is noteworthy that this festival has been organized in Jharkhand for the first time.



Reference:

<http://www.uniindia.com/trifed-to-organise-aadi-mahotsav-from-jan-19-28-in-ranchi/states/news/1110054.html>

Carnival of Blacks and Whites

Question: In which of the following year Black & Whites carnival was included in World Cultural Heritage in a special legacy by UNESCO?

(a) Year 2008 (b) Year 2009 (c) Year 2010 (d) Year 2011

Answer: (b)

Related Facts:

- Black and White Carnival was celebrated in America's Columbia in January 2018.
- This carnival is celebrated every year between 2th-7th January with the aim of spreading the message of equality against apartheid.



- This Carnival is divided into two parts: Pre Carnival and Little Carnival.
- In the Pre Carnival participant play with water, while in Little Carnival creativity is presented.
- People designed costume for it themselves.
- Because of being anti apartheid carnival is part of UNESCO's World Cultural Heritage since 2009 is.

Reference:

<http://www.colombia.travel/en/fairs-and-festivals/blacks-and-whites-carnival>

National Conference “Agriculture 2022- Doubling Farmers’ Income”

Question: Where will the National Conference on the subject of ‘Agriculture 2022- doubling the income of farmers’ be organized between February 19th-20th, 2018?

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

Answer: (b)

Related Facts:

- A two days National Conference under the title of “Agriculture 2022 – Doubling Farmers’ Income” is scheduled on 19th and 20th February, 2018 at National Agriculture Science Complex (NASC), Pusa, New Delhi.
- The Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare (MoA&FW) is organizing the Conference.
- The Conference is being organized on the advice of the Hon’ble Prime Minister with a view to identify various critical issues relating to agriculture and farmers’ welfare and finding appropriate solutions.
- The main aim of the conference is to build a consensus around appropriate recommendations that will help in shaping and sharpening the vision of the Government on Doubling Farmers’ Income by 2022 into actionable points.
- As many as seven broad themes have been identified for the conference and some of these also have sub-themes.
- The participants comprising farmers, farmers’ associations, scientists, economists, academics, trade industry, professional associations, NGOs, policy makers and officers have been assigned to different themes and sub-themes, such that the issues are examined from multiple angles and comprehensive recommendations are made.
- Government is keen to find and adopt the suggestions of the participants that will help in yielding quick results across the agricultural sector, comprising several sub-sectors in addition to initiating long term interventions.
- The focus would be on the human element of this primary sector, i.e., the farmer. It shall be farming for the farmer.
- The select participants numbering about 300 have been invited from across the country with varied background, and are expected to bring to the table their domain experience and expertise.



Reference:

<http://pib.gov.in/PressReleaseDetail.aspx?PRID=1520772>

First Ever International Kala Mela

Question: Where is the First Ever International Kala Mela being organized?

(a) Jaipur (b) New Delhi (c) Khajuraho (d) Puri

Answer: (b)

Related Facts:

- On February 4th, 2018, First ever International Kala Mela was inaugurated by the Vice President of India, Shri M. Venkaiah Naidu in New Delhi.
- The Festival is being organized from February 4th, 2018 to February 17th, 2018 at the IGNCA, New Delhi.
- The International Kala Mela has been organised by the Lalit Kala Akademi in partnership with IGNCA of the Ministry of Culture.
- More than 800 artists from across the world are taking part in the Festival.
- A total of 325 stalls have been installed in this Mela.



Reference:

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=176160>

22nd World Congress on Information Technology (WCIT), 2018

Question- At which of the following places 22nd Congress on Information Technology (WCIT), 2018, will be held from 19th-21st February, 2018?

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

Answer: (b)

Related Facts:

- From 19th-21st February, 2018, the '22nd World Congress on Information Technology (WCIT), 2018 will be held in Hyderabad, Telangana.
- This program will be held in India for the first time.
- This program will be organized by the Telangana Government, NASSCOM and the World Information Technology and Services Alliance (WITSA).
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi will address the inaugural session of this program through video conferencing.
- Sri Lankan Prime Minister Ranil Vikram Sindhi will also participate in the conference.
- More than 2500 delegates from government, industry and education sector of more than 80 countries will participate in the conference.
- It is known that earlier this conference was held in Taiwan in 2017.



Reference:

<https://www.hindustantimes.com/india-news/narendra-modi-to-address-global-it-event-in-hyderabad-on-feb-19/story-JG0e9yBV7YSisdIGtHtdUL.html>

India-Russia Agriculture Business Summit

Question- Where was the 'India Russia Agricultural Business Summit' organized recently?

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

Answer: (d)

Related Facts:

- On February 13th, 2018, the Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare organised two major events, an India-Russia Agriculture Business Summit held in New Delhi.
- It is noteworthy that celebration of 70 years of Agricultural Relationship to be held in Suratgarh, Rajasthan on 14th February 2018.
- The two major events were organised as a part of the country-wide year-long celebration of India-Russia Diplomatic Relations, since April 2017.
- Shri Gajender Singh Shekhawat, Union Minister of State for Agriculture and Mr. Sergey Beletskiy, Deputy Minister, Ministry of Agriculture, Russia addressed the India-Russia Agriculture Business Summit.
- Apart from presentation by both countries that highlighted the agricultural trade opportunities, there was intense discussion in 4 theme sessions on potential areas of collaboration and trade in the fields of agriculture machinery; sanitary and phytosanitary measures (both plants and animals); agriculture education and biotechnology; fishery and sea products (including feeding, care and processing); and confectioner's/baker's, dry fruits and coconut products.
- The discussions were facilitated by officers of Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare and Ministry of Food Processing Industries.



Reference:

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=176536>

Advantage Assam-Global Investor Summit, 2018

Question-During February 3rd-4th where was the 'Advantage Assam-Global Investor Summit, 2018' organized?

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

Answer: (c)

Related Facts:

- During February 3rd -4th, 2018, the 'Advantage Assam-Global Investor Summit, 2018' was organized in Guwahati, Assam.
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi addressed the inaugural session of this conference.
- The two-day Summit will be the largest ever investment promotion and facilitation initiative by the Government of Assam.
- The Summit aims at highlighting the geo-strategic advantages offered to investors by Assam.
- The event shall showcase the manufacturing process and the opportunities offered by the State in terms of export-oriented manufacturing and services to growing economies in South and South-East Asia.



Reference:

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=176109>

7th India Energy Congress, 2018

Question: Where was the '7th India Energy Congress, 2018' organized during February 1st-2nd, 2018?

(a) Faridabad (b) New Delhi (c) Panaji (d) Hyderabad

Answer: (b)

Related Facts:

- During February 1st-2nd 2018, the '7th India Energy Congress', 2018 was organized in New Delhi.
- Main Theme – “Energy 4.0: Energy Transition towards 2030”.
- It was organized by the World Energy Council (WEC) India.

Reference:

<https://www.worldenergy.org/events/a2901baf-f528-e711-80c6-00155d050ff0/>



World Government Summit

Question: Where was 'World Government Summit 2018' organized during February 11th-13th, 2018?

(a) Abu Dhabi (b) New Delhi (c) Colombo (d) Dubai

Answer: (d)

Related facts:

- During 11th-13th February 2018, the 'World Government Summit' was held in Dubai, United Arab Emirates.
- Nearly 4,000 delegates, including representatives from 16 countries of different nationalities and countries, participated in this conference.
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi led the Indian delegation for this conference.

Reference:

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



32nd Surajkund International Crafts Mela

Question-Where the '32 Surajkund International Crafts Mela' is being organized in the middle of February, 2018?

(a) Gurgram (b) Rewari (c) Faridabad (d) New Delhi

Answer: (c)

Related Facts:

- From 2nd-18th February, 2018, '32 Suraj Kund International Crafts Fair ' is being organized in Faridabad, Haryana.
- The Mela is organized by the Surajkund Mela Authority & Haryana Tourism in collaboration with Union Ministries of Tourism, Textiles, Culture and External Affairs.
- Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath inaugurated this fair.
- The state of Uttar Pradesh has been chosen to be the Theme State.
- At least 20 countries & all the states of India will be participating in the Mela.
- Significantly, Surajkund International Crafts Fair is the largest craft fair in the world.
- The Mela is the largest crafts fair in the world and indeed a custodian of the heritage crafts involving use of traditional skills that are fading away due to cheap machine



made imitations, and a special section is earmarked for showcasing of these heritage crafts.

- During this time, a MoU was signed for the transport of roadways buses between Haryana and Haryana Government.

Reference:

<http://www.haryanatourism.gov.in/at-a-glance>

16th International Energy Forum

Question: Where will the Ministerial Meeting of the 16th International Energy Forum be held?

(a) Algiers (b) New Delhi (c) Beijing (d) Seoul

Answer: (b)

Related Facts:

- From 10th-12th April 2018, Ministerial Meeting of the 16th International Energy Forum will be New Delhi.
- The host country of this meeting is India with China and South Korea as co-host.
- In this meeting, representatives of 92 countries including 72 member countries of the International Energy Forum and 20 guest countries will participate.
- Minister-level meeting of the 15th International Energy Forum was held between September 26th -28th, 2016 in Algiers, Algeria.
- Prior to this meeting the Minister-level meeting of the International Energy Forum was held in India in 1996.



Reference:

<https://www.ief.org/ief16-ministerial.aspx>

WTO Informal Ministerial Meeting

Question: Where will the WTO informal ministerial meeting be held between March 19-20, 2018?

(a) Davos (b) Hamburg (c) New Delhi (d) Vienna

Answer: (c)

Related Facts:

- India will host the WTO informal ministerial meeting in March, 2018.
- This meeting will be held in Delhi during March 19-20, 2018.
- On 27th January, 2018 India's offering to host the meeting was made after trade ministers from various countries including Australia, Japan and Switzerland met for an informal WTO ministerial gathering in Davos to discuss the way forward for the global trade organization.
- Indian Ambassador and Standing Representative of WTO Deepak Jagdish Saxena participated in this informal meeting held during the annual conference of the World Economic Forum in Davos.



Reference:

<http://www.uniindia.com/delhi-to-host-informal-wto-ministerial-meet-in-march/india/news/1119056.html>

International Spice Conference

Question: Where is the third edition of the International Spice Conference is being organized between February 4th-7th, 2018?

(a) Kochi (b) Thiruvananthapuram (c) Jaipur (d) Hyderabad

Answer: (c)

Related Facts:

- From February 4th-7th, 2018, the third edition of the International Spice Conference is being held in Jaipur.
- More than 750 delegates participated from different countries including international Spice associations, policy makers and representatives of farmers.
- The main theme of this conference is 'Management Disruptions & through Transformation and Collaboration'.



Reference:

<http://www.internationalspiceconference.com/about-isc.php/>

Fourth India International Science Festival-2018

Question: Where will the fourth edition of the Indian International Science Festival (IISF) - 2018 be held?

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

Answer: (b)

Related Facts:

- On January 20th, 2018, the fourth edition of the India International Science Festival will be held in Lucknow.
- According to the press release issued by the Ministry of Science and Technology this information was provided.
- It is worth mentioning that the 3rd Indian International Science Festival was held in Chennai during 13-16 October, 2017.



Reference:

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=175771>

Fourth ASEAN India Ministerial Meeting on Agriculture and Forestry (AIMMAF)

Question: Where was the Fourth ASEAN India Ministerial Meeting on Agriculture and Forestry (AIMMAF) on January 11th-12th, 2018?

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

Answer: (d)

Related Facts:

- On January 11th-12th, 2018, The 4th ASEAN-INDIA Ministerial Meeting on Agriculture and Forestry commenced today at NASC Complex, New Delhi.
- The meeting aims to facilitate promotion of joint research for development of technologies for increasing production and productivity of crops, livestock and fisheries, and natural



resources management, among others, in the region as well as in development of joint ventures, exchange of technologies, expertise and material.

- This meeting was co-chaired by the Agriculture and Cooperation Minister of Thailand, Grisd Bunrach and Union Agriculture and Farmer Welfare Minister Radha Mohan Singh of the Government of India.
- It is notable that the fifth ASEAN-India Ministerial Meeting on Agriculture and Forestry will be held in Brunei Darussalam in 2019.

Reference:

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

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>

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>

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.

NIIT



- 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>

LAW & JUSTICE

Approval to Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code (Amendment) Bill, 2017

Question- On which date Union Cabinet has given its approval to Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code (Amendment) Bill, 2017 in place of Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code (Amendment) Ordinance, 2017?

- (a) February 4, 2018 (b) February 6, 2018 (c) February 7, 2018
(d) February 8, 2018

Answer: (c)

Related Facts:

- On February 7th, 2018, the Cabinet has given its approval to Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code (Amendment) Bill, 2017 in place of Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code (Amendment) Ordinance, 2017.
- The Union Cabinet chaired by the Prime Minister has given Ex-post facto approval to the modifications carried out in the replacement Bill, which replaced the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code (Amendment) Bill 2017, and which has been passed by the Parliament as the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code (Amendment) Act, 2018.
- The amendment will bring clarity and ensure that the prohibition of certain persons in the resolution process of an insolvent corporate person does not include unintended persons and the opportunity given to a person whose account is classified as non-performing asset is more equitable.



Reference:

<http://pib.nic.in/PressReleaseDetail.aspx?PRID=1519589>

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:**
 - (i) Encroachment or unauthorized development as of January 1, 2006,
 - (ii) Unauthorized colonies, village abadi areas that existed on March 31, 2002 and where construction took place up till February 8, 2007, and
 - (iii) 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>

YEAR, DAY & WEEK

World Day of Social Justice

Question: When 'World Day of Social Justice' is celebrated?

- (a) January 19 (b) February 22 (c) February 20 (d) January 30

Answer: (c)

Related Facts:

- On February 20th, 2018, 'World Day of Social Justice' was celebrated all over the world.
- The theme of the day for 2018 is "Workers on the Move: The Quest for Social Justice".
- It is noteworthy that the United Nations General Assembly announced the celebration of this day in 2007.



Reference:

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

International Mother Language Day

Question: 'International Mother Language Day' is celebrated on which date?

(a) February 23 (b) February 21 (c) February 20 (d) February 19

Answer: (b)

Related Facts:

- 'International Mother Language Day' is celebrated on February 21st, every year.
- The theme of this day for year 2018 is 'Linguistic diversity and multilingualism count for sustainable development' for continuous development.
- It is notable that in November, 1999 the announcement was made to celebrate by the General Assembly of United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO).
- Thereafter this day is celebrated every year from February 2000 for promoting linguistic and cultural diversity and multilingualism.
- Significantly, on February 21st, 1952, many students in Dhaka got martyrdom in front of police bullets demanding Bangla to become national language.
- The United Nations decides to celebrate this day every year its memory.



Reference:

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

Hosting of World Environment Day, 2018

Question- Which of the following countries will host World Environment Day, 2018?

(a) Canada (b) America (c) Brazil (d) India

Answer: (d)

Related Fact:

- On February 19th, 2018, Minister of Forest, Environment and Climate Change, Dr Harsh Vardhan and Head of the United Nations Environment Program (UNEP) Eric Solheim said that India will host World Environment Day, 2018.
- In the year 2018, the theme of the day was "Beat Plastic Pollution".
- Environment Day is organized on June 5th every year.
- it was organized in Canada in 2017.
- On this occasion, electricity charging facility was started at the United Nations Office located at Lodhi road, New Delhi.



Reference:

<http://pib.gov.in/PressReleaseDetail.aspx?PRID=1520904>

International Custom Day

Question: When 'International Custom Day' is celebrated?

(a) 25th January (b) 26th January
(c) 24th January (d) 28th January

Answer- (b)

Related Facts:

- On 26th January 2018 'International Customs Day' was celebrated



across the world.

- Slogan of this day for 2018 was- 'A Secure Business Environment for Economic Development'.

Reference:

<http://www.wcoomd.org/en/about-us/international-customs-day/icd-2018.aspx>

World Wetlands Day

Question: On February 2nd, 2018, 'World Wetlands Day' was celebrated across the world. The theme of this day was

- (a) Wetland for our future
- (b) Wetlands for the sustainable development of sustainable development
- (c) Wetlands for a sustainable urban future
- (d) Wetland for environmental protection

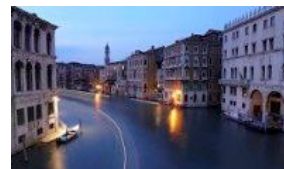
Answer: (c)

Related Facts:

- On February 2nd, 2018 World Wetlands & Day was celebrated all over the world.
- In the year 2018, the theme of this day was 'Wetlands for a sustainable urban future'.
- It is important that on February 2nd, 1971; the 'Ramsar Convention' was signed in, Iran's Ramsar city, for the protection of the wetland for the international importance.
- This day is being celebrated annually since 1997. The aim of this day is to raise awareness for the protection of wetlands and ensure positive action in this regard.
- It is worth mentioning that the Ramsar Secretariat provides various information regarding the importance and values of the people of the wetlands to increase the awareness of the people.
- Significantly, the wetlands play an important role in enhancing natural beauty as well as in environmental protection.
- In this year, the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change organized the National Level 'World Wetlands Day' in the Deepor Beel, area a wetland site in Guwahati in collaboration with the Forest Department of Assam Government.

Reference:

<http://whc.unesco.org/en/news/1778>



World Radio Day

Question: When 'World Radio Day' is celebrated?

- (a) February 11
- (b) February 13
- (c) February 10
- (d) February 15

Answer- (b)

Related facts

- World Radio Day was observed on February 13th, 2018 across the world.
- Theme of this day for the year 2018 is 'Radio and Sports'.
- It is known that on January 14th, 2013, the UNESCO General Assembly had announced the 'World Radio Day' and since then it is being celebrated every year on 13th
- It is significant that on February 13th, 1946, the United Nations Radio was established.

Reference:

<http://www.un.org/en/events/radioday/index.shtml>



National Productivity council

Question: In which year the National Productivity council was established to promote productivity culture in India?

(a) 1985 (b) 1958 (c) 1987 (d) 1978

Answer: (b)

Related Facts:

- On February 12th, 2018, National Productivity Council is observing National Productivity Day.
- National Productivity Week is also being celebrated 12th -18th February.
- It is the 60th Anniversary of the National Productivity Council and is being celebrated as Diamond Jubilee Year.
- The NPC is national level organization to promote productivity culture in India established by the Ministry of Industry, Government of India in 1958.
- The objective of NCP is stimulating and promoting productivity and quality consciousness across all sectors in the country.
- "Industry 4.0 Leapfrog Opportunity for India" has been selected as the theme for the National Productivity Week -2018.
- It is noteworthy that the first industrial revolution was triggered by water and steam power to move from human labour to mechanical manufacturing. The second industrial revolution built on electric power to create mass production.
- The third used electronic and information technology to automate manufacturing.
- Now Industry 4.0 or the fourth industrial revolution as it is called is emerging globally as a powerful force and is being called as the next industrial revolution.
- Industry 4.0 would mean the convergence of real and virtual worlds-the next phase in bringing together conventional and modern technologies in manufacturing.
- It is characterized by the increasing digitization and interconnection of products, value chains and business models.
- Over its 59 years of existence, NPC has nearly 140 full time consultants on its roll possessing a wide repertoire of skill/ expertise and a network of 13 regional offices at all major State capitals/industrial centres with Corporate Headquarters in New Delhi.
- NPC is a constituent of the Tokyo-based Asian Productivity Organisation (APO), an Inter Governmental Body, of which the Government of India is a founder member.



Reference:

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

World Cancer Day 2018

Question: When 'World Cancer Day' is celebrated?

(a) February 3rd (b) February 4th (c) February 5th (d) February 2nd

Answer: (b)

Related Facts:

- On February 4th, 2018, World Cancer Day was celebrated.
- Significantly For 2016-2018, the theme for observing World Cancer Day is 'We Can. I can.'
- Under this theme, people are expected to, individually and collectively, understand and work towards lessening the impact and harmful effects of the condition globally.



- The purpose of celebrating this day is to create awareness about cancer and focus on the need for early detection of the disease and the treatment of cancer.
- This day was established by the International Cancer Control Association (UICC) to support the goals of World Cancer Declaration.
- UICC was established in the year 1993. Its headquarters is in Geneva.
- It is a membership based organization taking care of Cancer around the world and helping in medical research and taking care of patients' interests.
- With this, organizations of health ministry, large cancer social organizations, research institutes, medical centers and patients of 155 countries around the globe are working, which are about 800.

Reference:

<http://indianexpress.com/article/lifestyle/health/world-cancer-day-2018-theme-goals-and-significance-5050874/>

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://traigov.in/sites/default/files/Press_Release_No2_02012018.pdf

BOOKS

Election Atlas of India

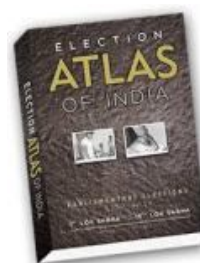
Question: Who amongst the following has written the preface of the book 'Election Atlas of India' based on the results of all Lok Sabha elections from 1952 to 2014?

- (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

The Country's first All-Women Railway Station

Question- Which of the following railway station became the first 'All Women's Railway Station' of the country?

- (a) Govindapur Railway Station (b) Rewa Railway Station
(c) Giridih Railway Station (d) Gandhi Nagar Railway Station

Answer: (d)

Related Facts:

- On February 19th, 2018, the Gandhi Nagar railway station of Jaipur became the first 'All Women Railway Station' of the country.
- Previously, Matunga of Mumbai had been made 'All Woman Station', but it is a Sub-Urban Railway Station.
- A total of 40 women will be crew from Station master to Gateman at the Gandhinagar Railway Station.
- North-Western Railway experimenting uniquely has given all the responsibilities (Posts) to women viz. Station master, engineer, ticket clerk, chief reservation supervisor, flag indicator, point man and gateman.
- Women will only be inducted in the GRP team too that will be posted in the security of this.



Reference:

<http://www.ddinews.gov.in/people/first-jaipurs-gandhinagar-station-be-operated-all-women-staff>

LPG Panchayat

Question- Where was the LPG Panchayat organized recently?

- (a) Krishi Bhawan (b) Urja Bhawan (c) Rashtrapati Bhavan
(d) NITI Aayog

Answer: (c)

Related Facts:

- On February 13th, 2018; President of India, Shri Ram Nath Kovind, hosted an 'LPG Panchayat' today (February 13, 2018) at Rashtrapati Bhavan.
- The LPG Panchayat was organised by the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas.
- The aim is to provide a platform for LPG consumers to interact with each other, promote mutual learning and share experiences.
- Each LPG Panchayat has about 100 LPG customers coming together, near their living areas, to discuss safe and sustainable



usage of LPG, its benefits and the link between clean fuel for cooking and women's empowerment. The Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas intends to conduct 1 lakh such Panchayats across India before March 31, 2019.

- It is known that taking place of LPG Panchayats as part of the Ujjwala Yojana process will prove very useful.

Reference:

<http://pib.gov.in/PressReleaseDetail.aspx?PRID=1520403>

International Young Chef Olympiad (YCO) 2018

Question: Which edition of the world's biggest culinary event 'International Young Chef Olympiad' was held recently at the Talkatora Indoor Stadium, New Delhi?

- (a) First Edition (b) Third Edition (c) Fourth Edition
(d) Fifth Edition

Answer: (c)

Related Facts:

- On January 28th, 2018, the fourth edition of the world's largest culinary event 'International Young Chef Olympiad' for Chef Students was organized at the Talkatora Indoor Stadium, New Delhi.
- The teams of 45 countries had to compete with different difficult levels in the three challenging rounds.
- This competition was organized in four cities Delhi, Bangalore, Pune and Kolkata.
- The top ten competitors selected in the first phase were to demonstrate their culinary skills in the final stages.
- The phase concluded in Kolkata on February 2nd, 2018.
- Malaysian chef Li Jia Yi topped the list of Olympiad.
- Indian Chef Surya Shekhar Rao remained second.
- The winners of this competition were given a trophy and cash amount of about 6.5 lakh rupees.
- In this year's jury of the competition, Padmashree Chef Sanjeev Kapoor, Michelle Star Chef John Wood and Chris Galvin, Prof. David Fosquet, Chef Ranbir Barar, Chef Angelo Olivari, Chef Abhijit Saha, Chef Parabinder Bali and Chef Ajay Chopra.



Reference:

<http://businessworld.in/article/International-Young-Chef-Olympiad-YCO-2018-Kickstarts-on/29-01-2018-138519/>

Vila

Question: In which of the following zoo one of the world's oldest gorillas called 'Vila' has died recently?

- (a) Sam Diego Zoo (b) Gijel Zoo (c) Gija Zoo (d) Tripoli Zoo

Answer (a)

Related Facts:

- On January 25th 2018, 60-year-old Gorilla died in 'safari park' of San Diego Zoo.
- The name of this gorilla was 'Villa'.
- It was one of the oldest gorillas in the world.



- According to a calculation, this gorilla was born in Congo, Africa, in the year 1957.
- This Gorilla has been a surrogate mother for many Western Gorillas.

Reference:

<http://fox5sandiego.com/2018/01/25/safari-park-mourns-death-of-vila-one-of-worlds-oldest-gorillas/>

Human Chain against Child Marriage and Dowry

Question: In which of the following states a human chain against child marriage and dowry was created in January, 2018?

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

Answer: (c)

Related Facts:

- On 21st January 2018, Bihar State created Human Chain against Child Marriage and Dowry.
- Chief Minister Nitish Kumar started chain at Gandhi Maidan.
- This human chain (13660 km long) passed through various roads and trails of National Highway, State Highway, District, Block, Panchayat and Villages.
- In this human chain millions of people have participated throughout the state.



Reference:

<https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/patna/bihar-governments-human-chain-against-dowry-system-and-child-marriage-a-super-flop-opposition/articleshow/62593383.cms>

World Bank approval to Nepal's USD 300 million loan

Question: For which amount a loan has been sanctioned by the World Bank recently for the reconstruction of Nepal earthquake?

- (a) USD 300 million (b) USD 400 million (c) USD 500 million
(d) USD 600 million

Answer: (a)

Related Facts:

- On January 21st, 2018, the World Bank has sanctioned a loan of USD 300 million for Nepal earthquake reconstruction.
- It is significant that the earthquake of 7.8 magnitudes struck in April 2015 which had caused a huge devastation in Nepal.
- This was the most powerful earthquake in Nepal in the last 80 years.
- Earthquake destroyed over 5 lakh homes and killed about 9,000 people.
- So far only 50,000 houses have been rebuilt and Nepal is facing a shortage of USD 1.2 billion in rebuilding funds.
- The loan provided by the World Bank in this context becomes important.
- Nepal estimated the recovery bill from the devastating quake at USD 6.7 billion but costs quickly spiralled.
- The first phase of reconstruction has expired last year.
- In September 2016 the government increased the housing grant by 50 percent, sending costs soaring.



- Nepal National Reconstruction Authority is currently distributing the second installment of the 'three payments'.
- International donors pledged USD 4.1 billion for reconstruction after the quake the strongest to hit Nepal in 80 years and the World Bank approved a USD 200 million loan at the time.
- The deal Sunday also includes USD 80 million for a livestock project and another USD 60 million credit for vocational training.

Reference:

<http://www.newindianexpress.com/world/2018/jan/21/world-bank-signs-usd-300-million-loan-for-nepal-quake-reconstruction-1760544.html>

First Indian Sports Radio Channel

Question: What is the name of India's first sports radio channel launched recently?

- (a) India's Sports (b) Sports Flasher (c) Radio Sports
(d) Sports Flashback

Answer- (b)

Related Facts:

- On January 16th, 2018, biggest Multi-sports apps, has launched the first Sports Radio Channel of India.
- This channel is called ' Sports Flashes '.
- This channel will broadcast sports news like live chat commentary, talk show, special sports program, expert comments and sports news.
- Apart from this, it will also broadcast audio documentary university sports and sporting content.
- This radio channel will cover 34 major sports such as cricket, hockey, soccer, kabaddi, and wrestling.
- Raman Raheja is the founder of Sports Flashes radio channel.



Reference:

http://www.exchange4media.com/media-radio/first-indian-sports-radio-channel-sports-flashes-launched_88002.html

Fixation of terms for Chairperson and Members of the National Trust

Question- Recently, The Union Cabinet has approved the proposal to amend the National Trust for the Welfare of Person with Autism, Cerebral Palsy, Mental Retardation and Multiple Disabilities Act, 1999. By virtue of the amendment the term of the Chairperson and Members of the Board of National Trust has be fixed for-

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

Answer- (b)

Related Facts:

- On January 10th, 2018, Union Cabinet chaired by the Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi has approved the proposal to amend Section 4(1) and Section 5(1) of the National Trust for the Welfare of Person with Autism, Cerebral Palsy, Mental Retardation and Multiple Disabilities Act, 1999.
- By virtue of this amendment the term of the Chairperson and Members of the Board of National Trust has been fixed for three years.



- Section 4(1) of the National Trust Act, 1999 provides that the Chairperson or a Member of the Board of National Trust would continue in office beyond the prescribed term of three years until his successor shall have been duly appointed.
- In case of resignation of the Chairperson, section 5(1) of the Act provides for him to continue in office until his successor is duly appointed by the Government.
- The wording of the above provisions of the Act in its present form has resulted in continuation of a Chairman for an indefinite period as no suitable successor could be found eligible for appointment.
- The proposed amendments in these provisions of the Act seek to avoid such a situation and will thus eliminate any chance of prolonged continuation in the same post by any incumbent.

Reference:

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=175507>

Jain ‘Maha Kumbh’

Question-At which of the following hill, the 57-feet high statue of Lord Bahubali is located in Shravanabelagola?

- (a) Chandragiri hill (b) Vindhyagiri hill (c) Nandy hill
(d) Brahmagiri hill

Answer: (b)

Related Facts:

- From 17th-25th February, 2018, Jain Maha Kumbh is being organized in Shravanabelagola (famous pilgrimage site of Jains) situated in Hassan district (Karnataka). During this Maha Kumbh, Mahamastakabhisheka of Lord Bahubali will be performed. This ritual of ‘Mahamastakabhisheka’ is performed once in 12-year.
- This ceremony is an integral part of the ancient and overall Jain tradition in this pilgrim center. It is said that the program was started by the President on February 7th, 2018, but the main ceremony started from February 17th, 2018.
- An estimated 30 to 40 lakh devotees are expected to attend the ceremony.
- The 57 ft-high statue of Lord Bahubali, son of the first Jain tirthankara Adinath, located on Vindhyagiri hill here, was carved from a single rock and is said to be the world’s tallest monolithic granite statue.
- This statue is made of the single stone. It is probably the largest statue in the world created by intact granite. This is the 88th edition of this ceremony.
- This ceremony began in 981 AD during the Gang dynasty.
- Since then this function is held regularly on every 12 years.
- During this ceremony, the statue is bathed and anointed with milk, sugarcane juice and saffron paste and sandalwood, turmeric and vermilion are sprinkled on it.
- 12 floating townships with all basic facilities have been created for this grand event.
- Jogi, a separate township called ‘Tyagi Nagar’ has been built for the sadhus.
- Rs. 300 crores has been allocated by the state government for this ceremony.
- Shravanabelagola is situated between two hills named Vindhyaagiri and Chandragiri, which has been the center of Jain pilgrimage since last 2500 years.



Reference:

<http://www.timesnownews.com/india/article/shravanabelagola-2018-mahamastakabhisheka-bahubali-vindhyagiri-hill-hassan-district-chavundaraya-jainism-karnataka/200001>

Nobel Prize Series India -2018

Question: Where did the second edition of 'Nobel Prize Series India -2018' organize recently?

(a) Gandhinagar (b) Panaji (c) Lucknow (d) Hyderabad

Answer: (b)

Related Facts:

- During 1-2 February 2018, the second edition of 'Nobel Prize Series India -2018' was organized in Panaji, Goa.
- This program was jointly organized by Department of Biotechnology, Ministry of Science and Technology, Government of India in collaboration with Goa Government and Nobel Media AB, Sweden.
- It was inaugurated by Goa Chief Minister Manohar Parrikar.
- The theme – "Education & the Role of Teachers".
- It is known that in the year 2017, the first edition of Prize Series India was held in Gujarat.

Reference:

http://nobelprizeseries.in/sites/default/files/NPS_Programme_Goa.pdf



Payment banks are allowed to start an Atal Pension Scheme

Question: How many finance banks and payment banks have recently been granted license by the Reserve Bank to start banking business in the country?

(a) Five and Seven (b) Eight and Ten (c) Ten and Eleven
(d) Ten and Thirteen

Answer: (c)

Related Facts:

- In January 2018, the Central Government has allowed small finance and payment banks to start an Atal Pension Scheme.
- According to the finance ministry, the Reserve Bank has granted license to ten financial banks and eleven payment banks to start banking business in the country.
- These financial institutes include Ujjivan Finance Bank, Janalakshmi Small Finance Bank, Suryodaya Small Finance Bank, India Post Payment Bank and Paytm Payment Bank etc.
- It is known that government had implemented the Atal Pension Scheme in the year 2015.
- People aged 18 to 40 years can avail the benefits of this pension scheme.
- Under this scheme, after the age of 60 years, the minimum assured pension will be between Rs 1000 and Rs 5000 in accordance with the contribution.



Reference:

<http://www.thehindu.com/business/Economy/payments-banks-to-offer-atal-pension-vojana/article22533973.ece>

Heavy fines on foreign ships in Sri Lankan waters

Question: Recently, Sri-Lankan Parliament approved the amendments in the Foreign Fisheries Boats Regulating Act. Maximum penalty of that can be imposed on foreign boats under this sanction is-

- (a) 12 million Sri Lankan rupees (b) 1.45 million Sri Lankan rupees
(c) 15.5 million Sri Lankan rupees (d) 17.5 million Sri Lankan rupees

Answer: (d)

Related Facts:

- In January 2018, the Parliament of Sri Lanka approved amendments to the 'Foreign Fisheries Boats Regulating Act'.
- Under this sanction, Sri Lanka has increased the penalty on overseas boats fishing in their water belt almost a hundredfold.
- According to Sri Lankan Fisheries and Marine Resources Development Minister Mahindra Amaraveer earlier the penalty was of 15 lakh Sri Lankan rupees, which has been increased to a minimum of six million Sri Lankan rupees.
- The maximum penalty amount will be 17.5 crores Sri Lankan rupees.

Reference:

<http://www.firstpost.com/firstcricket/sports-news/sri-lanka-increases-fine-on-illegal-fishing-to-lkr-1-75-to-prevent-foreign-vessels-from-entering-lankan-waters-4322301.html>

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 31st December 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).
- MWMU 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>