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# NAVATRA

Monthly Magazine on Current Events

Vol. - 1 >>> Issue - 10 >>> April, 2018

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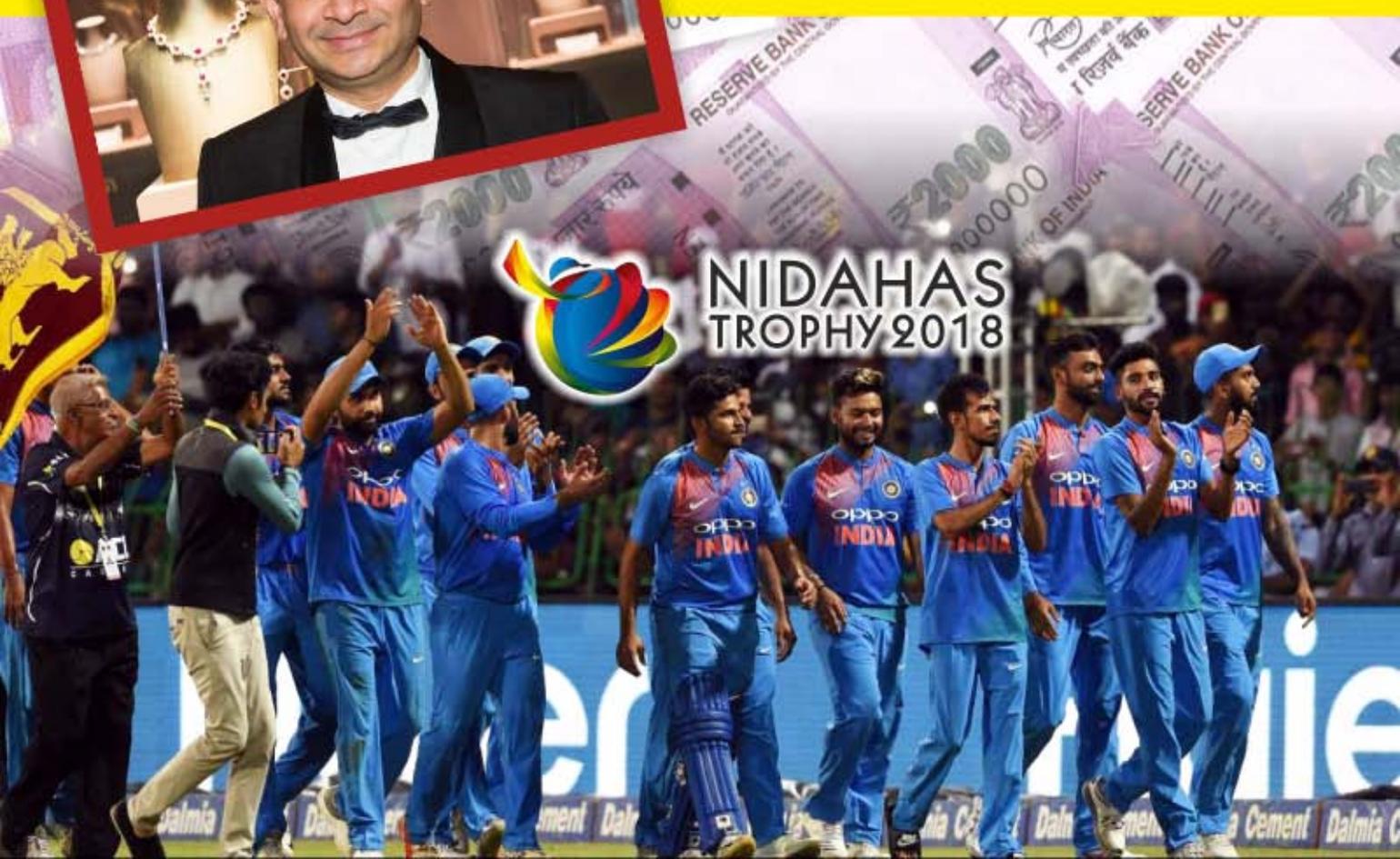
Nagaland, Tripura, Meghalaya Election, 2018



ਪੰਜਾਬ ਨੈਸ਼ਨਲ ਬੈਂਕ  
punjab national bank



NIDAHAS  
TROPHY 2018



## 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 March to 31st March) 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

## National Conference on Down Syndrome

**Question: Where was the 'National Conference on Down Syndrome, 2018' organized recently?**

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

**Answer: (c)**

**Related Facts:**

- On March 26<sup>th</sup>, 2018, the 'National Conference on Down Syndrome' was held in New Delhi.
- It was organized by the National Trust under the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment.
- On this occasion a book titled 'Twilight's Children' was released on the life of a person suffering from Down syndrome.
- Down Syndrome is a chromosomal condition associated with intellectual and learning disabilities. Delayed development and behavioural problems are often reported in children with it.
- Down syndrome is the most commonly occurring chromosomal abnormality, resulting when an individual possesses three, rather than the usual two, copies of the 21st chromosome.
- This excess genetic material affects a person's physical and cognitive development.
- The objective of this conference was to provide excellent opportunities to the parents to obtain information about latest development in education and skilling and inclusive living of persons with Down Syndrome.
- Apart from this, evaluation / screening sessions were also organized for children with Down syndrome.
- On 19<sup>th</sup> December 2011, the United Nations General Assembly declared to observe 21st March as World Down Syndrome Day (WDS) and since then every year, this day is officially observed by UN to create awareness about people with Down Syndrome.



**Reference:**

[http://www.business-standard.com/article/pti-stories/national-conference-on-down-syndrome-held-118032601009\\_1.html](http://www.business-standard.com/article/pti-stories/national-conference-on-down-syndrome-held-118032601009_1.html)

## Tripura, Nagaland and Meghalaya assembly elections results

**Question- Election results of Tripura, Nagaland and Meghalaya assembly elections were declared by the Election Commission on March 3rd, 2018. Consider the following statements in regards to this:**

- (i) The assemblies in the three states have 55 members.
- (ii) In Tripura, the Bharatiya Janata Party got 35 seats.
- (iii) Naga People's Front (NPF) has won 27 seats in Nagaland.
- (iv) Votes were cast on 27th February, 2018 for all three states together.

**Which of the above statements is/are correct?**

(a) only (ii) and (iii)(b) only (i), (iii) and (iv)(c) only (i) And (iv)

(d) only (iii) and (iv)

### Answer- (a)

#### Related Facts:

- On March 3rd, 2018, Election results of Tripura, Nagaland and Meghalaya assembly elections were declared by the Election Commission.
- The State wise election results were as under:

#### Tripura

- Election for 60-member Tripura assembly was notified on January 24th, 2018.

On 18th February, 2018 votes were cast.

- Election Commission announces election results of 59 seats in the state. The election on 1 seat was postponed.
- In these 59 seats, Bharatiya Janata Party has won the most 35 seats. Its vote percentage i.e. 43.0 percent is the highest.
- Communist Party of India (M) got 16 seats (vote percentage -42.7%) and
- Indigenous People's Front of Tripura got 8 seats.
- The Indian National Congress (INC) failed to secure a single seat in this state election.

#### Nagaland

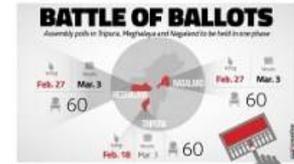
- Election notification for 60-member Nagaland assembly was issued on January 31st, 2018. Votes were cast on February 27th, 2018.
- Election Commission announces election results of 59 seats in the state. In these results Naga People's Front (NPF) got the highest 27 seats (vote percentage - 38.8%).
- 12 seats (vote percentage -15.3%) were won by BJP, Nationalist Democratic
- Progressive Party got 16 seats, Janata Dal (United) won 1 seat, National People's
- Party (NPP) won 2 seats and 1 seat was won by independents candidate.
- INC failed to secure a single seat in the state election Voting is on 1 seat.

#### Meghalaya

- Election notification for the 60-member Meghalaya assembly was announced on January 31st, 2018. Votes were cast on 27th February, 2018.
- Election Commission released results of 60 seats in the state.
- In these election Indian National Congress won highest 21 seats. United Democratic Party got 6 seats National People's Party got 19 seats People's Democratic Front got 4 seats, Hill State People's Democratic Party and BJP won 2-2 seats and Nationalist Congress Party and Khun Hynniewtrep National
- Awakening Movement has won 1-1 seats.

#### Reference:

<http://eciresults.nic.in/PartyWiseResultS15.htm?st=S15>



## Cambridge Analytica: Facebook User Data Leak Scandal

**Question- Recently, the research firm Cambridge Analytica has been in news due to allegations to misuse of Facebook users' data. At which of the following places its headquarters is located?**

(a) New York (b) Beijing (c) London (d) Abu Dhabi

## Answer: (a)

### Related Facts:

- UK research firm Cambridge Analytica has been in news and discussion recently due to the misuse of personal data (data) of Facebook users.
- Allegations that Cambridge Analytica using Facebook's many applications and games like 'Your true friend who is' or 'you are like a Hollywood star', by obtaining data of approximately 5 crore Facebook users, their wrong Used.
- Cambridge Analytica has headquartered in New York.
- Its CEO is Alexander Nix.
- Cambridge Analytica in India is affiliated to Strategic Communications Laboratories India (SCL India).
- It is a joint venture of London's SCL Group and Olevano Business Intelligence Pvt. Ltd.
- Mark Zuckerberg is the Facebook's Chairman and CEO, started on February 4<sup>th</sup>, 2004.
- Facebook is headquartered in California, USA.
- India's Union Law Minister Ravi Shankar Prasad has instructed to take strict legal action when data is leaked from Facebook.
- It is estimated that there are about 20 million Facebook users in India, whose data is likely to be mis-used in the coming elections.
- Social media site Facebook has billions of users worldwide, whose data security has been questioned once again.
- It is important that the British company Cambridge Analytica created the software for the 2016 US presidential election, which could have an edge over the political trends of the people.
- Although both companies have been denying such allegations till date.
- But on March 21, 2018, Facebook CEO Mark Zuckerberg said in his statement that security has been missed, which has ensured access to personal data of users to other parties.
- Through Facebook, Facebook users from around the world can be easily accessed and, according to the requirement, these users should be classified into various categories such as education, fashion, sports etc. based on their hobbies (based on the information given in the personal data).
- Facebook has created various types of applications and games to attract the attention of users.
- Application or Game link is asked to login with the user, which is very easy to login from Facebook.
- By login, the application ensures access to the user's personal data, which was allowed only when the user logged on.
- However, Facebook has banned developers from collecting data on users' running applications.
- In 2013, Cambridge University researcher Alexander Kogan created a personality quiz that was used by nearly 3 million Facebook users.
- As a result, the access of the application to the data of him and some of his friends is ensured.
- To prevent this, the book had completely restricted access to data from friends of the users in 2014.



- The result of this restriction was that the application of a friend of a user could not have received the application till it had authorized the application for data.
- Incorrect use of these data is done especially in the elections.
- Cambridge Analytica was accused of misusing the data in the US presidential election, which led to the fact that Facebook could not separate from the charges.
- After data leak, all the countries in the world have expressed concern.
- However, advertising is the biggest source of Facebook earning. It is very easy to classify customers on Facebook.
- The fact is that in the year 2011, the revolution in Egypt started with the Facebook page 'Today He Killed Khaled'.
- Later that page was named 'We Are All Khaled Said'.
- Solid steps taken by Facebook for data security –
- Keeping in view the data security, Facebook has also instructed all the developers who have received the information till the year 2014 to examine the applications.
- All applications with suspicious activity will be investigated. They will be completely banned if they do not cooperate in the investigation.
- Due to reasons of personal data security, application developers will now be able to ensure access to the names, profile photos and email address information of the users.
- Apart from this, they will have to get permission of users to obtain other information and sign agreement too.

**Reference:**

<https://www.forbes.com/sites/kathleenchaykowski/2018/03/21/zuckerberg-speaks-on-breach-of-trust-in-cambridge-analytica-data-leak/#723e452a127d>

## Payment of Gratuity (Amendment) Bill, 2018

**Question: Which of the following is not correct in relation to the Gratuity Payment (Amendment) Bill, 2018?**

- (a) This Bill was passed in the Rajya Sabha on March 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2018.
- (b) On February 15<sup>th</sup>, 2018 this bill was passed in the Lok Sabha.
- (c) This Bill amends the Gratuity Payment Act, 1972.
- (d) Amendment is proposed in Gratuity Amendment Bill in respect to female employees.

**Answer: (b)**

**Related Facts:**

- On March 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2018, the Payment of Gratuity (Amendment) Bill, 2018 has been passed by parliament.
- The bill was passed by Lok Sabha on March 15<sup>th</sup>, 2018, and by Rajya Sabha on March 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2018.
- The bill ensures harmony amongst employees in the private sector and Public Sector Undertakings/Autonomous Organizations under Government who are not covered under CCS (Pension) Rules.
- These employees will be entitled to receive higher amount of gratuity at par with their counterparts in Government sector.
- The bill was passed by the Rajya Sabha today and the Lok Sabha on 15<sup>th</sup> March, 2018.
- The Payment of Gratuity Act, 1972 applies to establishments employing 10 or more persons.



- The main purpose for enacting this Act is to provide social security to workman after retirement, whether retirement is a result of superannuation, or physical disablement or impairment of vital part of the body.
- Therefore, the Payment of Gratuity Act, 1972 is an important social security legislation to wage earning population in industries, factories and establishments.
- The present upper ceiling on gratuity amount under the Act is Rs. 10 Lakh.
- The provisions for Central Government employees under Central Civil Services (Pension) Rules, 1972 with regard to gratuity are also similar.
- Before implementation of 7th Central Pay Commission, the ceiling under CCS (Pension) Rules, 1972 was Rs. 10 Lakh. However, with implementation of 7th Central Pay Commission, in case of Government servants, the ceiling has been raised to Rs. 20 Lakhs.
- Therefore, considering the inflation and wage increase even in case of employees engaged in private sector, this Government decided that the entitlement of gratuity should also be revised in respect of employees who are covered under the Payment of Gratuity Act, 1972.
- Accordingly, the Government initiated the process for amendment to Payment of Gratuity Act, 1972 to increase the maximum limit of gratuity to such amount as may be notified by the Central Government from time to time.
- In addition, the Bill also envisages to amend the provisions relating to calculation of continuous service for the purpose of gratuity in case of female employees who are on maternity leave from 'twelve weeks' to such period as may be notified by the Central Government from time to time.
- After enactment of the Act, the power to notify the ceiling of the amount of gratuity under the Payment of Gratuity Act, 1972 shall stand delegated to the Central Government so that the limit can be revised from time to time keeping in view the increase in wage and inflation and future pay commissions.

**Reference:**

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintHindiRelease.aspx?relid=71362>

## SATH-Education Roadmaps 2018-2020

**Question: Three states have been selected for SATH-Education program. Which one of the following states is not included in it?**

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

**Answer: (a)**

**Related Facts:**

- On March 17<sup>th</sup>, 2018, the roadmaps for the Sustainable Action for Transforming Human Capital in Education (SATH-E) Project of NITI Aayog, being undertaken in partnership with three participating States of Jharkhand, Madhya Pradesh and Odisha, were released by Shri Amitabh Kant, CEO, NITI Aayog.
- The forward-looking roadmaps for SATH-E were released at the conclusion of the first meeting of the National Steering Group (NSG), the governing body for the project, which is chaired by the CEO of NITI Aayog.
- "SATH-E aspires to be a 'saathi', to the educational system with the student and the teacher at its centre", underscoring the significance of this project.



- “The aim is to make the entire governmental school education system responsive, aspirational and transformational for every child.”
- The release of the States’ roadmap was preceded by a workshop anchored by the States’ Principal Secretaries for education and State Project Directors along with field level functionaries.
- The States presented their respective systemic and innovative best practices so as to learn from each other.
- Shri PK Mahapatra, Principal Secretary, Odisha, highlighted the development of iLMS (Integrated Litigation Management System) which is integrated, online software for efficiently managing education-related cases pending in various courts and tribunals.
- This ‘tripartite arrangement’, where the NITI Aayog, the three States, chosen through a challenge method, and knowledge partners from the private sector, symbolises the very essence of competitive and cooperative federalism exemplified by NITI.
- The process ensured that schemes of the Ministry of Human Resource Development (MHRD) and projects under SATH-E are in sync with their respective state schemes.
- In May 2017, the NITI Aayog wrote to all States offering assistance for improving their health and education sectors.
- 16 States responded favorably. Following presentations and consultations with MHRD, the three States of Jharkhand, Madhya Pradesh and Odisha were selected for the programme.
- The SATH-E initiative is based on formal agreements with the States and will be funded through a cost-sharing mechanism between NITI Aayog and the participating states.
- The Boston Consulting Group (BCG) and Piramal Foundation for Education Leadership (PFEL) were chosen as knowledge partners for the project facilitating review, data collection and implementation.
- SATH-E roadmap refers to a time-bound, goal-driven exercise that will reach its logical culmination by the end of the academic year 2020.

**Reference:**

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=177647>

## International Yoga Fest

**Question: Where was the International Yoga Fest organized from March 21<sup>st</sup> -23<sup>rd</sup>, 2018?**

- (a) In the Stadium of Sports Authority of India (b) Shivaji Stadium (c) Talkatora Indoor Stadium (d) Pragati Maidan

**Answer: (c)**

**related Facts:**

- From 21<sup>st</sup>-23<sup>rd</sup> March, 2018, a 3-day International Yoga Fest held at Talkatora Indoor Stadium, New Delhi.
- International Yoga Fest was organized as a curtain raiser for International Day of Yoga (IDY) 2018.
- The event is being organized by Morarji Desai National Institute of Yoga (MDNIY).
- The Minister of State (IC) for Development of North Eastern Region, MoS for PMO, Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances & Pensions, Dept. of Atomic Energy and Space Dr. Jitendra Singh inaugurated the International Yoga Fest (IYF) on 21<sup>st</sup>



- Minister of State (Independent Charge) for AYUSH, Shri Shripad Yesso Naik, presided over the function.
- More than 5000 participants including eminent yoga gurus, yoga masters, scholars and yoga enthusiasts are expected to participate in the festival.
- The IYF-2018 was expecting more than 15000 Yoga aspirants. Delegates from 16 countries and yoga enthusiasts from European & Asian countries participated in the event.
- 15 parallel pre-fest yoga workshops were conducted by eminent yoga masters on 19-20 March, 2018 at MDNIY & yoga centres at SAI Stadia.
- During the fest, parallel yoga workshops by eminent yoga masters and yoga gurus, quiz and elocution competitions, poster presentation competitions were conducted.
- An exhibition of more than 40 stalls was also organized where books, DVDs, yoga appliances and other yoga related products were displayed for promotion and sale.

**Reference:**

<http://ntdin.tv/en/article/english/india-celebrate-international-yoga-day-march-21-delegates-16-countries>

## Krishi Unnati Mela-2018

**Question- Where was the “Krishi Unnati Mela-2018” organized recently?**

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

**Answer: (d)**

**Related Facts:**

- Between March 16<sup>th</sup>-18<sup>th</sup>, 2018, ‘Krishi Unnati Mela-2018’ was organized in Pusa, New Delhi.
- For new harvesting techniques through organic means and its successful implementation, the Jaivik Mahakumbh pavilion is a special attraction at the fair.
- The main theme of this year’s fair – ‘Doubt the income of farmers by 2022’.
- Information Technology has been linked with agriculture and in order to establish direct connect between the government and farmers, mobile and internet plays a key role.
- In order to give a boost to Cooperatives, a Sahakar Sammelan was also organized.
- Apart from this, 9 farmers-scientist discussions (3 each day) were organized on important issues. Exclusive seed selling counters have also been set up in the fair.
- More than 800 stalls have been set up by the Central and State Governments, various organizations, etc. in this fair.
- Hon’ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, on March 17, 2018, addressed the farmers, agricultural scientists and other participants during the mela.
- He inaugurated the Jaivik Kheti portal and will lay the foundation stone of 25 KVKs.
- He also conferred the Krishi Karman Award & Pandit Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Krishi Vigyan Pratsahan Puruskar.



**Reference:**

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=177609>

## Fugitive Economic Offenders Bill, 2018

**Question: Cases of what value or more, is within the purview of this Bill under the Fugitive Economic Offender Bill, 2018?**

(a) 90 crores (b) 95 crores (c) 100 crores (d) 150 crores

**Answer: (c)**

**Related Facts:**

- On March 1<sup>st</sup>, 2018, the Union Cabinet chaired by Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, has approved the proposal of the Ministry of Finance to introduce the Fugitive Economic Offenders Bill, 2018 in Parliament.
- The Bill would help in laying down measures to deter economic offenders from evading the process of Indian law by remaining outside the jurisdiction of Indian courts.
- The Bill is expected to re-establish the rule of law with respect to the fugitive economic offenders as they would be forced to return to India to face trial for scheduled offences.
- This would also help the banks and other financial institutions to achieve higher recovery from financial defaults committed by such fugitive economic offenders, improving the financial health of such institutions.
- It is expected that the special forum to be created for expeditious confiscation of the proceeds of crime, in India or abroad, would coerce the fugitive to return to India to submit to the jurisdiction of Courts in India to face the law in respect of scheduled offences.
- **Salient features of the Bill:**
- Application before the Special Court for a declaration that an individual is a fugitive economic offender;
- Attachment of the property of a fugitive economic offender;
- Issue of a notice by the Special Court to the individual alleged to be a fugitive economic offender;
- Confiscation of the property of an individual declared as a fugitive economic offender resulting from the proceeds of crime;
- Confiscation of other property belonging to such offender in India and abroad, including benami property;
- Disentitlement of the fugitive economic offender from defending any civil claim; and
- An Administrator will be appointed to manage and dispose of the confiscated property under the Act.
- If at any point of time in the course of the proceeding prior to the declaration, however, the alleged Fugitive Economic Offender returns to India and submits to the appropriate jurisdictional Court, proceedings under the proposed Act would cease by law.
- All necessary constitutional safeguards in terms of providing hearing to the person through counsel, allowing him time to file a reply, serving notice of summons to him, whether in India or abroad and appeal to the High Court have been provided for.
- Further, provision has been made for appointment of an Administrator to manage and dispose of the property in compliance with the provisions of law.
- In order to address the lacunae in the present laws and lay down measures to deter economic offenders from evading the process of Indian law by remaining outside the jurisdiction of Indian courts, the Bill is being proposed.
- The Bill makes provisions for a Court ('Special Court' under the Prevention of Money-laundering Act, 2002) to declare a person as a Fugitive Economic Offender.



- A Fugitive Economic Offender is a person against whom an arrest warrant has been issued in respect of a scheduled offence and who has left India so as to avoid criminal prosecution, or being abroad, refuses to return to India to face criminal prosecution.
- A scheduled offence refers to a list of economic offences contained in the Schedule to this Bill.
- Further, in order to ensure that Courts are not over-burdened with such cases, only those cases where the total value involved in such offences is 100 crore rupees or more, is within the purview of this Bill.

**Reference:**

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=176920>

## 105th Indian Science Congress

**Question: 105<sup>th</sup> session of the Indian Science Congress was held in Manipur University, Imphal (Manipur) between March 16<sup>th</sup>-20<sup>th</sup>, 2018. What was the main theme of this science congress?**

- (a) Science and Technology for Digital Society
- (b) *Reaching the Unreached through Science and Technology*
- (c) Science and Technology for Agriculture Development
- (d) Science and Technology Environmental Change for Environment



**Answer: (b)**

**Related Facts:**

- During 16<sup>th</sup> -20<sup>th</sup> March, 2018, '105<sup>th</sup> Indian Science Congress' was organized in Manipur University, Imphal (Manipur).
- Imphal hosted the Indian Science Congress for the first time.
- This Science Congress chaired by Prof. Achyuta Samanta.
- On March 16<sup>th</sup>, 2018 the Science Congress was formally inaugurated by Prime Minister Narendra Modi.
- The theme chosen for the Indian Science Congress this year, is: "*Reaching the Unreached through Science and Technology*".
- In addition to the scientists from across the country, some prominent foreign scientists also took part in it.
- Also, Child Science Congress, Women Science Congress and National Science Communication Conference were organized.

**Reference:**

<http://ddinews.gov.in/national/pm-inaugurate-105th-indian-science-congress-imphal>

## 17th Annual Conference of International Competition Network 2018 (ICN2018)

**Question-In which of the following year India was joined the International Competition Network (ICN)?**

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

**Answer: (b)**

**Related Fact:**



- From 21<sup>st</sup> to 23<sup>rd</sup> March 2018, India to host 17<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference of International Competition Network 2018 (ICN2018) in New Delhi.
- For first time India is hosting the ICN2018 Annual Conference since it joined International Competition Network (ICN) in 2009.
- Union Minister for Finance and Corporate Affairs Shri Arun Jaitley inaugurated ICN2018 Annual Conference on 21<sup>st</sup> March 2018.
- Union Minister for Railways and Coal Shri Piyush Goyal also attend the valedictory on the final day of the conference.
- CCI Chairperson Shri Sikri said that the ICN is an informal network comprising 138 competition authorities from 125 jurisdictions.
- This Annual Conference is a key international platform in the field of competition law and policy and will bring together over 500 heads and senior officials of competition authorities, non-governmental advisors, distinguished legal experts and economists from over 100 countries.
- The Annual Conference will comprise seven plenary sessions and twenty four breakout sessions.

**Reference:**

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=177583>

## National Financial Reporting Authority

**Question: In which edition of the report of the Standing Committee on Finance, the provision related to the establishment of National Financial Information Authority had been made?**

(a) 19<sup>th</sup> (b) 20<sup>th</sup> (c) 21<sup>st</sup> (d) 22<sup>nd</sup>

**Answer: (c)**

**Related Facts:**

- On March 1<sup>st</sup>, 2018, the Union Cabinet chaired by the Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi has approved the proposal for establishment of National Financial Reporting Authority (NFRA) and creation of one post of Chairperson, three posts of full-time Members and one post of Secretary for NFRA.
- The decision aims at establishment of NFRA as an independent regulator for the auditing profession which is one of the key changes brought in by the Companies Act, 2013.
- The inclusion of the provision in the Act was on the specific recommendations of the Standing Committee on Finance (in its 21<sup>st</sup> report).
- The decision is expected to result in improved foreign/domestic investments, enhancement of economic growth, supporting the globalisation of business by meeting international practices, and assist in further development of audit profession.
- The jurisdiction of NFRA for investigation of Chartered Accountants and their firms under section 132 of the Act would extend to listed companies and large unlisted public companies, the thresholds for which shall be prescribed in the Rules.
- The Central Government can also refer such other entities for investigation where public interest would be involved.
- The inherent regulatory role of ICAI as provided for in the Chartered Accountants Act, 1949 shall continue in respect of its members in general and specifically with respect to audits pertaining to private limited companies, and public unlisted companies below the threshold limit to be notified in the rules.



- The Quality Review Board (QRB) will also continue quality audit in respect of private limited companies, public unlisted companies below prescribed threshold and also with respect to audit of those companies that may be delegated to QRB by NFRA.
- Further, ICAI shall continue to play its advisory role with respect to accounting and auditing standards and policies by making its recommendations to NFRA.
- The need for establishing NFRA has arisen on account of the need felt across various jurisdictions in the world, in the wake of accounting scams, to establish independent regulators, independent from those it regulates, for enforcement of auditing standards and ensuring the quality of audits to strengthen the independence of audit firms, quality of audits and, therefore, enhance investor and public confidence in financial disclosures of companies.

**Reference:**

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintHindiRelease.aspx?relid=70966>

## Mary Kom Regional Boxing Foundation

**Question: Mary Kom Regional Boxing Foundation is established at-**

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

**Answer: (b)**

**Related Facts**

- On March 16<sup>th</sup>, 2018, Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated the Mary Kom Regional Boxing Foundation established in Imphal, Manipur.
- This Academy is spread over 3.3 acre area.
- At this academy 45 young boxers; including 20 girls, are currently receiving training.
- The Mary Kom Boxing Academy has been renamed as Mary Kom-SAI Boxing Academy.
- This Academy was registered and established under the Charitable Trust in the year 2006.
- It was established as a non-profit organization.
- She is the only Indian woman boxer to win a medal in Olympics (Bronze medal at the 2012 London Olympics).
- Mary Kom; the resident of Manipur has been the winner of the World Boxing Championship five times.



**Reference:**

<http://www.thehindu.com/sport/other-sports/pm-to-inaugurate-mary-koms-academy-in-presence-of-vijender-sushil/article23045583.ece>

## International Police Conference on Cybercrime & Terrorism

**Question-At which of the following places Asia-Pacific Regional Conference of the International Association of Chiefs of Police held on March 14<sup>th</sup>-15<sup>th</sup>, 2018?**

(a) Bhopal (b) Raipur (c) Jodhpur (d) New Delhi

**Answer: (d)**

**Related Facts:**

- On March 14<sup>th</sup>– 15<sup>th</sup>, 2018, the two-day Asia-Pacific Regional Conference of the International Association of Chiefs of Police (IACP) held at New Delhi.

- The theme is “Challenges to policing in 2020- How is Cyber Space shaping our approach to Cybercrime & Terrorism, how do we perform within it and take advantage of it”.
- The regional conference was organised by the Asia-Pacific World Regional Office (APWRO) of the IACP in partnership with the Intelligence Bureau.
- The phenomenal growth and influence of Cyber space and Cyber technology have opened new challenges in the field of policing in recent times.
- The Conference was mainly focused on holding discussions about the growing interest of various terrorist/ organized groups and radical elements in exploiting the Cyberspace and its advanced technologies for their various heinous crimes and nefarious designs.
- The Conference provided a platform for top-level Police executives, both national and international, to discuss and understand how Cyber Space is shaping our approach towards Cyber-crime and Terrorism and also how to take advantage of it for better policing.
- The Conference was attended by the President, IACP, Mr. Louis M. Dekmar, senior Executives of the IACP Headquarters.
- Besides representatives from Police organizations of the Asia-Pacific region, namely, Afghanistan, Australia, Bangladesh, Cambodia, Dubai, Fiji, Malaysia, Myanmar, Mongolia, Nepal, Republic of Korea, Sri Lanka, Taiwan and Thailand. From within India, more than 35 Heads of Police Forces of States & Union Territories and of Central Police Organizations also participated.
- It is noteworthy that the IACP is the world’s largest organization of Police/law enforcement executives that is highly regarded for its role in identifying and responding to changing needs of the law enforcement community.
- The IACP’s Headquarters is in Virginia, USA.
- The IACP meets once in a year in the US wherein more than 15,000 Police officers from all over the world congregate to discuss various issues.
- Asia-Pacific World Regional Office (APWRO) was set up in New Delhi in 1994 with Director, Intelligence Bureau, as its Chair.



**Reference:**

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=177383>

## Daman and Diu Municipalities (Amendment) Regulation, 2018; Dadra and Nagar Haveli Municipal Council (Amendment) Regulation, 2018; and Andaman and Nicobar Islands (Municipal) Amendment Regulation 2018

**Question: On March 7th, 2018, the Union Cabinet has approved the implementation of the following. Which one of the given is not included in it?**

- Daman and Diu Municipalities (Amendment) Regulation, 2018
- Dadra and Nagar Haveli Municipal Council (Amendment) Regulation, 2018
- Andaman and Nicobar Islands (Municipal) Amendment Regulation 2018
- Lakshadweep Municipality (Amendment) Regulation, 2018

**Answer: (d)**

**Related Facts:**

- On March 7th, the Union Cabinet chaired by the Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi has approved the proposal for promulgation of:
- the Daman and Diu Municipalities (Amendment) Regulation, 2018;
- the Dadra and Nagar Haveli Municipal Council (Amendment) Regulation, 2018; and
- the Andaman and Nicobar Islands (Municipal) Amendment Regulation 2018
- It will help ensure better provisions for the constitution, administration and powers of the Municipalities in the Union Territories of Daman and Diu, Dadra and Nagar Haveli, and Andaman & Nicobar Islands.
- Provisions relating to anti-defection, constructive no confidence motion, establishment of ombudsman etc. will be inserted in “the Daman and Diu Municipalities Regulation, 1968”, “the Dadra and Nagar Haveli Municipal Council Regulation, 2004” and “the Andaman and Nicobar Islands (Municipal) Regulation, 1994, respectively.
- The regulations also include other amendments like (i) replacement of term ‘servant’ by ‘employee’ to remove colonial connotation, (ii) provisions for voting through Electronic Voting Machines, (iii) making CCS(CCA) Rules, 1965 applicable to penalty proceedings and (iv) revision in the amount of fines which were fixed many years back.



**Reference:**

<http://www.pib.nic.in/PressReleaseDetail.aspx?PRID=1523075>

## National Legislators Conference-2018

**Question- Where was the National Legislators Conference, 2018 organized between March 10th-11th, 2018?**

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

**Answer: (c)**

**Related Facts:**

- During March 10th-11th, 2018, National Legislators Conference was organized in New Delhi.
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated this conference.
- The theme of this two-day conference was- ‘We for Development’.
- The motive of the conference is to bring MPs and MLAs on a single platform where ideas and plans for development can be exchanged.



**Reference:**

[http://www.pmindia.gov.in/en/news\\_updates/pm-addresses-the-national-legislators-conference-in-central-hall-of-parliament/?comment=disable](http://www.pmindia.gov.in/en/news_updates/pm-addresses-the-national-legislators-conference-in-central-hall-of-parliament/?comment=disable)

## Cabinet approval to the Arbitration and Conciliation (Amendment) Bill, 2018

**Question: Recently Union Cabinet chaired by Prime Minister has approved the Arbitration and Conciliation (Amendment) Bill, 2018 for introduction in the Parliament. The amendments proposed therein have been recommended on a High Level Committee under the Chairmanship of which of the following?**

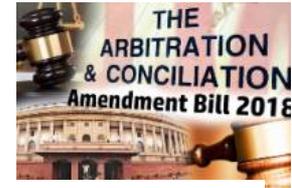
(a) K.K.Venugopal(b) Justice B.N.Srikrishna

(c) Justice S. Ravindra Bhat(d)Justice R. F. Nariman

**Answer: (b)**

**Related Facts:**

- On March 7th, 2018, Union Cabinet chaired by Prime Minister has approved the Arbitration and Conciliation (Amendment) Bill, 2018 for introduction in the Parliament.
- It is a part of the efforts of the Government to encourage institutional arbitration for settlement of disputes and make India a centre of robust Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) mechanism.
- The Amendments in the Act of 1996 will facilitate achieving the goal of improving institutional arbitration by establishing an independent body to lay down standards, make arbitration process more party friendly, cost effective and ensure timely disposal of arbitration cases.



**Salient features of this Amendment are:**

- To facilitate speedy appointment of arbitrators through designated arbitral institutions by the Supreme Court or the High Court, without having any requirement to approach the court in this regard. It is envisaged that parties may directly approach arbitral institutions designated by the Supreme Court for International Commercial arbitration and in other cases the concerned High Courts.
- amendment provides for creation of an independent body namely the Arbitration Council of India (ACI) which will grade arbitral institution and accredit arbitrators by laying down norms and take all such steps as may be necessary to promote and encourage arbitration, conciliation, mediation and other ADR Mechanism and for that purpose evolve policy and guidelines for the establishment., operation and maintenance of uniform professional standards in respect of all matters relating to arbitration and ADR mechanism. The Council shall also maintain an electronic depository of all arbitral awards,
- The ACI shall be a body corporate. The Chairperson of ACI shall be a person who has been a Judge of the Supreme Court or Chief Justice or Judge of any High Court or any eminent person. Further, the other Members would include an eminent academician etc. besides other Government nominees,
- It is proposed to amend sub section (1) of section 29A by excluding International Arbitration from the bounds of timeline and further to provide that the time limit for arbitral award in other arbitrations shall be within 12 months from the completion of the pleadings of the parties.
- A new section 42A is proposed to be inserted to provide that the arbitrator and the arbitral institutions shall keep confidentiality of all arbitral proceedings except award. Further, a new section 42B protects an Arbitrator from suit or other legal proceedings for any action or omission done in good faith in the course of arbitration proceedings.
- A new section 87 is proposed to be inserted to clarify that unless parties agree otherwise the Amendment Act 2015 shall not apply to (a) Arbitral proceedings .which have commenced before the commencement of the Amendment Act of 2015 (b) Court proceedings arising out of or in relation to such arbitral proceedings irrespective of whether such court proceedings are commenced prior to or after the commencement of the Amendment Act of 2015 and shall apply only to Arbitral proceedings commenced on or after the commencement of the Amendment Act of 2015 and to court proceedings

arising out of or in relation to such Arbitral proceedings.

**Background:**

- The Arbitration and Conciliation Act, 1996, was amended by the Arbitration and Conciliation (Amendment) Act, 2015 (passed in Lok Sabha on December 17, 2015 and In Rajya Sabha on December 23, 2015) in order to make arbitration process user friendly, cost effective and ensure speedy disposal and neutrality of arbitrators.
- However, to give a boost to institutional, arbitration vis-a-vis ad hoc arbitration and to remove some practical difficulties in applicability of the Arbitration and Conciliation (Amendment) Act, 2015, a High Level Committee (HLC) under the Chairmanship of Justice B. H. Srikrishna, Retired Judge, Supreme Court of India, was constituted by the Central Government, The HLC was given the mandate
- to examine the effectiveness of existing arbitration mechanism by studying the functioning and performance of Arbitral Institutions in India;
- to devise a road map to promote institutionalized arbitration mechanisms in India;
- to evolve an effective and efficient arbitration eco-system for commercial dispute resolution and submit a Report on suggested reforms in the statute.
- The HLC submitted its Report on 30th July, 2017 and has recommended for amendments in the Arbitration and Conciliation Act, 1996. The proposed amendments are as per the recommendations of the High Level Committee.

**Reference:**

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=177117>

<http://www.prsindia.org/billtrack/the-arbitration-and-conciliation-amendment-bill-2015-4078/>

## Approval of the proposal for the constitution of Mahanadi Water Dispute Tribunal

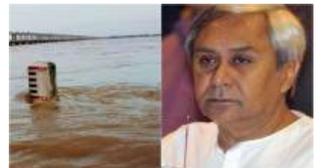
**Question- Recently, the Union Cabinet approved the proposal for the constitution of Mahanadi Water Dispute Tribunal under Interstate River Dispute Act, 1956, on the request of which of the following states?**

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

**Answer: (b)**

**Related Facts:**

- On February 20<sup>th</sup>, 2018, the Union Cabinet approved the proposal for setting up tribunal under the Mahanadi Water Dispute-Interstate River Dispute Act, 1956, on the request of the state of Odisha.
- The tribunal will determine, on the basis of total availability of water in the entire Mahanadi basin, the contribution of each state, the distribution of water between the states having reservoir, the current use of water resources in every state and the possibility of future development.
- According to the provisions of the International River Water Dispute Act, 1956, there will be one chairman and two other members in the tribunal.
- These may be nominated by the Chief Justice of India, from the Supreme Court or the High Court judges.
- Apart from this, services of two assessors' expert in the field of water resources will be provided to advice in the proceedings of the tribunal.



- According to the provisions of the ISRWD Act, 1956, the tribunal will have to submit its report and decisions within a period of three years, which cannot be extended beyond 2 years due to inevitable reasons.
- It is noteworthy that with the judicial settlement of the dispute by the tribunal, the final settlement of the pending dispute between the Odisha and the Chhattisgarh states on the Mahanadi will be resolved.

**Reference:**

<http://pib.gov.in/PressReleaseDetail.aspx?PRID=1521034>

## **INTERNATIONAL** International Day of Forests

**Question: On March 21<sup>st</sup>, 2018, 'International Day of Forests' was celebrated worldwide. The theme of this day for 2018 is-**

- (a) Forests and Sustainable Cities (b) Forest and employment  
(c) Forest and climate change (d) Forest and energy

**Answer: (a)**

**Related Facts:**

- On March 21<sup>st</sup>, 2018, 'International Day of Forests' was celebrated across the world.
- Main theme of this day for year 2018 is " Forests and Sustainable Cities ".
- The purpose of celebrating this day is to increase awareness of forest conservation and strengthen the development of current and future generations.
- It is notable that The United Nations General Assembly adopted resolution A/RES/67/200 on 21<sup>st</sup> December 2012, which declared that 21<sup>st</sup> March of each year is to be observed as the International Day of Forests.
- Significantly, according to the report of the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization, India has been ranked 8<sup>th</sup> among 10 countries of the world, which has recorded the highest growth in forest areas at the annual level.
- According to the '15<sup>th</sup> India Forest Status Report' (ISFR) -2018, issued on February 12<sup>th</sup>, 2018, the total forest and tree cover is 8, 02,088 sq. Km which is 24.39 per cent of the geographical area of the country.

**Reference:**

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



## World Happiness Report-2018

**Question: A landmark survey of the state of global happiness-“World Happiness Report-2018” was released by UN Sustainable Development Solutions Network (UNSDSN).**

**Which of the following countries is at top in the list amongst 156 countries?**

- (a) Denmark (b) Norway (c) Finland (d) Iceland

**Answer: (c)**

**Related Facts**

- On March 14<sup>th</sup>, 2018, the sixth 'World Happiness Report-2018' was released by the UN Sustainable Development Solutions Network (UNSDSN) under the leadership of United Nations General Assembly.
- World Happiness Report-2018 includes 156 member countries.

- Under this survey work, six key factors have been used to measure the level of happiness of people of the countries.
- These 6 key factors are:
- GDP per capita
- (ii) Healthy Life Expectancy
- (iii) Social Freedom
- (iv) Lack of corruption (Absence of Corruption)
- (v) Social Support and
- (vi) Generosity.



- According to this report, Finland, ranked first in the list; is the world's happiest country.
- Reports include Finland, Norway, Denmark, Iceland, Switzerland, Netherlands, Canada, New Zealand, Sweden and Australia, respectively, in the top ten countries of the world.
- In this list among the world's major developed countries, Germany is ranked 15<sup>th</sup>, USA at 18<sup>th</sup>, United Kingdom at 19<sup>th</sup>, France at 23<sup>rd</sup>, Singapore at 34<sup>th</sup> and Japan ranked at 54<sup>th</sup>.
- According to this report, India is ranked at 133<sup>rd</sup> in this list.
- While last year India was ranked at 122<sup>nd</sup> in this list.
- In neighboring countries of India, Pakistan is ranked 75<sup>th</sup>, Bhutan at 97<sup>th</sup>, Nepal at 101<sup>st</sup>, Bangladesh at 115<sup>th</sup> and Sri Lanka remained at 116<sup>th</sup>.
- Thus, India is far behind from its neighbors in this list.
- List does not include any Asian country in the top 10.
- Israel ranked 11<sup>th</sup> and United Arab Emirates ranked 20<sup>th</sup> are among the most Happiest Asian countries.
- According to this report, Burundi ranked last in the list. Its position is 156<sup>th</sup>.
- It is worth noting that the main objective of this report, issued by the United Nations since 2012, is to motivate the member countries to create public policies keeping in mind the level of satisfaction and happiness of their citizens.

**Reference:**

<http://worldhappiness.report/ed/2018/>

## Global Digital Health Partnership Summit

**Question- Where was the 'Global Digital Health Partnership Summit' organized recently?**

(a) New York(b) Canberra(c) Durban(d) Paris

**Answer: (b)**

**Related Facts:**

- On February 19th, 2018 Global Digital Health Partnership Summit was organized in Canberra, Australia.
- Union Health and Family Welfare Minister J.P. Nadda led the Indian delegation to this conference.
- The Union Health Minister spoke on the topic: Making Digital Health Services a Priority in Healthcare Reform.



**Reference:**

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=176638>

## **ECONOMICS**

### **Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI)**

**Question: In which year Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI) was set up under an Act of Indian Parliament?**

(a) 1989(b) 1990(c) 1991(d) 1992

**Answer: (b)**

**Related Facts:**

- On April 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2018, SIDBI celebrated its foundation day as day of Sampark (connect), Sanwad (interaction), Suraksha (security) and Sampreshan (disseminate).
- Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI), acts as the Principal Financial Institution for Promotion, Financing and Development of the Micro, Small and Medium Enterprise (MSME) sector as well as for co-ordination of functions of institutions engaged in similar activities.
- It was set up on 2<sup>nd</sup> April 1990 under an Act of Indian Parliament.
- Chairman Managing Director of SIDBI Shri Mohammad Mustafa launched a series of initiatives.
- In his interaction CMD mentioned that SIDBI has taken a series of steps both from direct lending (launch of growth support to MSME -SMILE loans around 8.12% and enhancing its footprint through string of Resident Representative Office ) as also policy advocacy ( launch of CRISIDEX, to gauge MSME aspirations, and MSME pulse, the health tracker for MSMEs).
- A new step forward in commencing Bancassurance services for MSMEs was also taken.
- An MoU was signed with The New India Assurance Co. Ltd. and two MSMEs were issued insurance policies.
- SIDBI is thus evolving as one stop solution provider.
- On launching the revamped SIDBI website (www.sidbi.in) on this occasion CMD mentioned that it is an attempt to reimagine the site to reflect the new vibrant face of SIDBI.
- Chairman SIDBI also launched Samridhhi- the virtual assistant on banks revamped universal loan portal udyamimitra.in. It will answer standard queries of aspirants 24\*7.
- During the day, a 'Bankability Kit' (brought in partnership with Bank of Baroda and IDBI Bank) was also launched.
- It is a step to look beyond financial literacy and be a trusted guide for aspirants and existing entrepreneurs to know entrepreneurial self, know banker & know banking.



**Reference:**

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=178250>

## Home Delivery of Diesel by IOC

**Question- Where has the IOC recently started the service of Home delivery of Diesel?**

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

**Answer: (c)**

**Related Facts:**

- In March, 2018, the public sector oil company “Indian Oil Corporation (IOC)” has started the service of home delivery of diesel.
- The one-of-its-kind initiative has started in the city of Pune, Maharashtra and will be expanded to in other parts of the country.
- This service has begun after getting approval from Petroleum and Explosives Protection Organization (PESO).
- Home delivery of petrol is also likely to start soon.
- It is known that ANB Fuels had started the initiative in Bengaluru last year under the brand name “MyPetrolPump”.
- The service had to suspend operations within four days of commencing after PESO issued a circular to oil companies directing it to not supply fuel to the start-up due to safety reasons.
- The Indian Oil Corporation starting this service approved by PESO is the first company.
- Like IOC, public retail fuel marketing companies Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited (HPCL) and Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited (BPCL) have also got the approval of PESO for home delivery of diesel.
- They have been given other areas for pilot operations, where this facility will be started soon.
- It is known that Petroleum Minister Dharmendra Pradhan had announced in April last year about his plan of home delivery of diesel and petrol and companies are considering the same.



**Reference:**

<https://www.autocarindia.com/car-news/indian-oil-corporation-starts-home-delivery-of-diesel-407786>

## ‘InstaOD’

**Question: Which of the following banks has recently introduced the Instant ODF facility?**

(a) Indian State Bank(b) HDFC Bank(c) ICICI Bank(d) Axis Bank

**Answer: (c)**

**Related Facts:**

- On 13th March, 2018, ICICI Bank, India’s largest private sector bank by consolidated assets, announced the launch of an instant overdraft facility for MSME (Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises) customers in a completely online and paperless manner.
- Christened ‘InstaOD’, this first-of-its-kind offering in the Indian banking industry enables a few lakhs of pre-qualified current account customers of the bank to instantly avail of the facility without visiting a branch and submitting physical documents.



- This facility significantly improves customers' convenience, as they get an overdraft facility upto Rs. 15 lakh for a year anytime, anywhere, using the bank's internet and mobile banking app.
- The application procedure incorporates an additional level of authentication in order to make the security of the process robust.
- ICICI Bank will also offer a facility of instant online sanction of overdraft facility to MSME customers of other banks shortly.
- Chanda Kochhar is the current MD & CEO of ICICI Bank.

**Reference:**

<https://www.icicibank.com/aboutus/article.page?identifier=news-icici-bank-announces-launch-of-instaod-the-countrys-first-online-and-instant-overdraft-facility-for-msmes-20181303113600093>

## Increase in Government guarantee for procurements of pulses and oilseeds by NAFED

**Question: Recently, for the purchase of pulses and oilseeds under the Minimum Support Price Scheme by the National Agricultural Cooperative Marketing Federation Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs has approved how much extension in the government guarantee limit?**

- (a) 9,500 crores (b) 10,500 crores (c) 18,000 crores  
(d) 19,000 crores



**Answer: (d)**

**Related Facts:**

- On February 28<sup>th</sup>, 2018, the Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs, chaired by Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, has approved the regularization and extension of Govt. Guarantee provided to lender Bank for providing credit limit to National Agricultural Cooperative Marketing Federation of India (NAFED) Rs.19,000 crore from earlier Rs.9,500 crore.
- This is for undertaking procurement operation of pulses and oilseeds under Price Support Scheme (PSS) and to Small Farmers Agri-Business Consortium (SFAC) for Rs. 45 crore for meeting their existing liability and settlement of extant claims.
- These Government Guarantees are provided for a period of five years i.e. till 2021-22 by Govt. of India and with waiver of 1% Government Guarantee fee.
- As the market price of almost all pulses and oilseeds are ruling below Minimum Support Price (MSP) as notified by Govt. of India, provision of Govt. Guarantee will help in protecting the farmers producing these commodities from making distress sales during the peak arrival period.
- It will also provide remunerative prices with a view to encourage higher investment and production and also to safeguard the interest of consumer by making available supplies at reasonable price with low cost of intermediation.

**Reference:**

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=176893>

## Cabinet approval to continuation of ongoing urea subsidy scheme

**Question: Recently, the Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs approved the proposal of urea department for continuing the Urea Subsidy Scheme to upto which Year for an estimated expenditure of Rs. 1, 64,935 crore?**

- (a) From 2017 to 2019 (b) From 2017 to 2020 (c) From 2017 to 2021  
(d) From 2017 to 2022

**Answer- (b)**

**Related Facts:**

- On March 14<sup>th</sup>, 2018, the Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs, chaired by Prime Minister has approved the proposal of Department of Fertilizers to continue Urea Subsidy Scheme up to 2019-20 at a total estimated cost of Rs.1,64,935 crore and for disbursement of fertilizer subsidy.
- This decision implies that there will be no increase in price of urea, till 2020.
- Urea Subsidy is a part of Central Sector Scheme of Department of Fertilizers w.e.f 1<sup>st</sup> April, 2017 and is wholly financed by the Government of India through Budgetary Support.
- The continuation of Urea Subsidy Scheme will ensure the timely payment of subsidy to the urea manufacturers resulting in timely availability of urea to farmers.
- Urea subsidy also includes Imported Urea subsidy which is directed towards import to bridge the gap between assessed demand and indigenous production of urea in the country.
- It also includes freight subsidy for movement of urea across the country.
- This is in continuation to farmer-friendly policies of the Central Government.
- Earlier, 100% Neem Coated Urea was made mandatory in 2015.
- It is noteworthy that Government had earlier notified New Urea Policy, 2015, with the objectives of maximizing indigenous urea production; promoting energy efficiency in urea production; and rationalizing subsidy burden on the government.
- This led to the highest ever production of 245 LMT during 2015-16.
- For sustained agricultural growth and to promote balanced nutrient application, urea is made available to farmers at statutorily controlled price, which at present is Rs. 5360/- per MT (exclusive of the Central/State Tax & other charges towards Neem coating).
- At present, there are 31 urea manufacturing units, out of which 28 urea units use Natural Gas (using domestic gas/LNG/CBM) as feedstock/ fuel and remaining 3 urea units use Naphtha as feedstock/fuel.

**Reference:**

<http://pib.gov.in/PressReleseDetail.aspx?PRID=1524417>

## US declares import duty on Steel and Aluminum

**Question: What was the amount of import duty imposed by the US on Steel and Aluminum, respectively announced recently?**

- (a) 15 percent, 10 percent (b) 20 percent, 15 percent  
(c) 25 percent, 10 percent (d) 30 percent, 25 percent

**Answer: (c)**

**related Facts:**



- In March 2018, the United States announced to impose an import duty of 25 percent on Steel and 10 percent on Aluminum in the country.
- On March 8<sup>th</sup>, 2018, President Donald Trump signed the order for the duty.
- America has granted exemption from this duty to two countries namely: Canada and Mexico.
- This exemption will be effective until the negotiation is complete with the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA).
- This step of imposing duty on import of Steel and Aluminum in the US will initially affect the imports from China.

**Reference:**

<https://www.thehindubusinessline.com/news/world/trump-imposes-heavy-tariffs-on-steel-and-aluminium-imports-into-us/article22992419.ece>

## Approval of Airtel-Telenor Merger

**Question: Under proposed merger between Bharti Airtel's and the Indian unit of Norway's Telenor, how many circles in the ongoing operations of Telenor will be acquired by Bharti Airtel?**

(a) 4(b) 5(c) 7(d) 11

**Answer: (c)**

**Related Facts:**

- On March 8th, 2018, NCLT (National Company Law Tribunal) approved the proposal for Bharti Airtel's proposed merger with the Indian unit of Norway's Telenor.
- This deal has already been approved by the Indian Competitive Commission, the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI), the Bombay Stock Exchange and the National Stock Exchange.
- Under this, Bharti Airtel will acquire seven circles in the ongoing operations of Telenor in Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, Maharashtra, Gujarat, Uttar Pradesh (East), Uttar Pradesh (West) and Assam, which will give it additional spectrum.
- Under merger all the customers of Telenor company's and its all the assets will now of Bharti Airtel.
- It is known that this merger has not yet received the approval of the Department of Telecommunications.
- The merger agreement between the two companies had taken place in February, 2017.



**Reference:**

<https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/economy/policy/nclt-approves-airtel-telenor-merger/articleshow/63220371.cms>

## Cabinet approval for the recommendations of Inter-Ministerial group on the Stressed assets

**Question- On March 7th, 2018, in which of the following area did the recommendations of the inter-ministerial group on the encumbered assets has been approved by the Union Cabinet?**

(a) Tourism Sector(b) Infrastructure sector

(c) Telecommunications sector(d) Defense sector

**Answer: (c)**

**Related Facts:**

- On March 7th, 2018, Union Cabinet chaired by Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi has approved two key measures in telecom sector to facilitate investments, consolidation in the sector and enhancing ease of doing business.
- These include restructuring the deferred payment liabilities of spectrum auction of telecom service providers and revising the limit of the cap for spectrum holding for telecom service providers.
  1. Restructuring of Deferred Payment Liabilities of telecom Service providers for spectrum.
    - By giving one-time opportunity to opt for higher number of instalment (max. 16 instalment) apart from currently permitted 10 instalments.
    - The increased instalment is based upon the principle that the Net Present Value (NPV) of the Payment Due is protected as per respective notice inviting application for auction of spectrum from 2012.
    - The total amount received will be higher by Rs. 74446.01 crore till 2034-35.
  2. Revision of limits of cap for spectrum holding.
    - Based upon the recommendations of TRAI and Telecom Commission, the Cabinet also approved the revision of limits of cap for spectrum holding as follows:-
      - The overall spectrum cap is revised from the current limit of 25% to 35%.
      - The current intra-band cap is removed. Instead, there is a cap of 50% on the combined spectrum holding in the sub-1 GHz bands (700 MHz, 800 MHz and 900 MHz bands).
      - There will be no cap for individual or combined spectrum holding in above 1 GHz band.
      - The revised spectrum caps limits may be revisited after Final Acts of World Radio communication Conference (WRC) 2019.
      - RAI had recommended revision in the existing limits of cap for spectrum holding taking into consideration the technological advancement, efficient use of spectrum, measures to facilitate consolidation etc.



**Reference:**

<http://pib.gov.in/PressReleaseDetail.aspx?PRID=1523080>

## Forbes list of billionaires, 2018

**Question: On March 6th, 2018, the 32nd annual Forbes list of billionaires, 2018 was released. Who amongst the following got the title of the world's richest man in this year's list?**

(a) Mark Zuckerberg(b) Bill Gates(c) Jeff Bezos(d) Warren Buffett

**Answer: (c)**

**Related Facts:**

- On March 6th, 2018, the 32nd Annual Forbes World's Billionaires List, 2018, was released on the world's billionaires list.
- 2208 billionaires were included in this list of the world's richest people this year, whose total assets are \$ 9.1 trillion.



- For the first time this year, the rich and rich people of Hungary and Zimbabwe have been included in the list.
- This year 259 new billionaires joined the list.
- Most 585 billionaires in the list are from the US, after this there are 373 billionaires in China.
- Amazon's Head Jeff Bezos received the title of the world's richest man in this year's list.
- He is topped on the list with a total property of \$ 112 billion.
- He is followed by Microsoft's Bill Gates (\$ 90 billion) second; Warren Buffett (\$ 84 billion) third, Bernard Arnault and Family (\$ 72 billion) fourth, and Mark Zuckerberg (\$ 71 billion) fifth.
- According to this, the number of billionaires in India is 119.
- Mukesh Ambani, the richest Indian in the list, is ranked 19th with \$ 40.1 billion worth of assets. Last year he was at 33rd position.
- Azim Premji is in the 58th position with a property of \$ 18.8 billion.
- Other Indian billionaires ranked in the list include Lakshmi Mittal-62nd (\$ 18.5 billion), Shiv Nadar -98th (\$ 14.6 billion), Dilip Sanghvi-115th (\$ 12.8 billion), Kumar Birla (\$ 11.8 billion), 127th, Uday Kotak-143rd (\$ 10.7 billion), Radhakishan Damani-151st (\$ 10 billion), Gautam Adani-154th (\$ 9.7 billion) and Acharya Balkrishna-274th (\$ 6.3 billion).
- According to the Forbes list of billionaires-2018, the world's wealthiest woman Alice Walton (\$ 46 billion) is ranked 16th.
- According to this latest list, world's youngest billionaire is Norwegian Alexandra Anderson.
- 21-year-old Norway resident Alexandra Anderson is ranked 1650th.
- She has a property of \$ 1.4 billion.
- While the oldest billionaire is Chang Yun Chung (99 years) of Singapore, who is ranked 1284th with a property of 1.9 billion dollars.

**Reference:**

<https://www.forbes.com/billionaires/#31539d00251c>

## Second Advance Estimates of National Income, 2017-18

**Question: Quarterly estimates of GDP for the third quarter October-December (Q3), 2017-18 both at constant (2011-12) and current prices along with the corresponding quarterly estimates of expenditure components of GDP are also being released by the Central Statistics Office (CSO) on February 28th, 2018. According to this release growth rate of expected to remain at what percent?**

(a) 6.7 percent (b) 6.5 percent (c) 7.2 percent (d) 6.8 percent

**Answer: (c)**

**Related Facts:**

- On February 28th, 2018, The Central Statistics Office (CSO), Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation has released the Second Advance estimates of national income at constant (2011-12) and current prices for the financial year 2017-18.
- Quarterly estimates of GDP for the third quarter October-December (Q3), 2017-18 both at constant (2011-12) and current prices along with the corresponding quarterly estimates of expenditure components of GDP are also being released.



- Quarterly estimates of previous years along with the first and second quarter estimates of 2017-18 released earlier have undergone revision in accordance with the revision policy of National Accounts.
- The first three quarters of a financial year are denoted by Q1, Q2 and Q3.
- GDP at constant (2011-12) prices in Q3 of 2017-18 is estimated at `32.50 lakh crore, as against `30.32 lakh crore in Q3 of 2016-17, showing a growth rate of 7.2 percent.
- GDP growth rates for Q1 and Q2 of 2017-18 at constant prices are 5.7 percent and 6.5 percent respectively.

#### **GDP at constant (2011-12) prices**

- Real GDP or Gross Domestic Product (GDP) at constant (2011-12) prices in the year 2017-18 is likely to attain a level of `130.04 lakh crore, as against the First Revised Estimate of GDP for the year 2016-17 of `121.96 lakh crore, released on 31st January 2018.
- The growth in GDP during 2017-18 is estimated at 6.6 percent as compared to the growth rate of 7.1 percent in 2016-17.

#### **GVA at basic constant prices (2011-12)**

- Real GVA, i.e, GVA at basic constant prices (2011-12) is anticipated to increase from `112.48 lakh crore in 2016-17 to `119.64 lakh crore in 2017-18.
- Anticipated growth of real GVA at basic prices in 2017-18 is 6.4 percent as against 7.1 percent in 2016-17.
- The sectors which are likely to register growth rate of over 7.0 percent are 'public administration, defence and other services', 'trade, hotels, transport, communication and services related to broadcasting', 'electricity, gas, water supply and other utility services' and 'financial, real estate and professional services'.
- The growth in the 'agriculture, forestry and fishing', 'mining and quarrying', 'manufacturing', and 'construction' is estimated to be 3.0 percent, 3.0 percent, 5.1 per cent and 4.3 percent respectively.
- Per Capita Income
- The per capita income in real terms (at 2011-12 prices) during 2017-18 is likely to attain a level of `86,689 as compared to `82,229 for the year 2016-17.
- The growth rate in per capita income is estimated at 5.4 percent during 2017-18, as against 5.7 per cent in the previous year.

#### **ESTIMATES AT CURRENT PRICES**

- GDP is derived by adding taxes on products net of subsidies on products to GVA at basic prices.
- GDP at current prices in the year 2017-18 is likely to attain a level of `167.52 lakh crore, as against 152.54 lakh crore in 2016-17 showing a growth rate of 9.8 percent.
- The nominal Net National Income (NNI), also known as national income (at current prices) is likely to be 148.40 lakh crore during 2017-18, as against 134.93 lakh crore for the year 2016-17.
- In terms of growth rates, the net national income registered a growth rate of 10.0 percent in 2017-18 as against the previous year's growth rate of 11.0 percent.
- The per capita net national income during 2017-18 is estimated to be 112,764 showing a rise of 8.6 percent as compared to 1, 03,870 during 2016-17.

#### **Reference:**

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=176847>

## 2nd Advance Estimates of production of major crops for 2017-18

**Question- On February 27, 2018, the 2nd Advance Estimates of production of major crops for 2017-18 have been released by the Department of Agriculture, Cooperation and Farmers Welfare in New Delhi. According to this, how many million tonnes of foodgrain production is estimated in the country?**



- (a) 275.68 million ton (b) 265.65 million ton (c) 277.49 million ton  
(d) 280.60 million ton

**Answer: (c)**

### Related Facts

- On February 27, 2018, the 2nd Advance Estimates of production of major crops for 2017-18 have been released by the Department of Agriculture, Cooperation and Farmers Welfare in New Delhi.
- The assessment of production of different crops is based on the feedback received from States and validated with information available from other sources.
- The estimated production of various crops as per the 2nd Advance Estimates for 2017-18 vis-à-vis the comparative estimates for the years 2003-04 onwards is enclosed.
- As per 2nd Advance Estimates, the estimated production of major crops during 2017-18 is as under:
  - **Foodgrains – 277.49 million tonnes (record)**
  - Rice – 111.01 million tonnes (record)
  - Wheat – 97.11 million tonnes
  - Coarse Cereals – 45.42 million tonnes (record)
  - Maize – 27.14 million tonnes (record)
  - Pulses – 23.95 million tonnes (record)
  - Gram – 11.10 million tonnes (record)
  - Tur – 4.02 million tonnes
  - Urad – 3.23 million tonnes (record)
  - **Oilseeds – 29.88 million tonnes**
  - Soyabean – 11.39 million tonnes
  - Groundnut – 8.22 million tonnes
  - Castorseed – 1.50 million tonnes
  - **Cotton – 33.92 million bales (of 170 kg each)**
  - **Sugarcane – 353.23 million tonnes**
- As a result of near normal rainfall during monsoon 2017 and various policy initiatives taken by the Government, country has witnessed record Foodgrains production in the current year.
- As per Second Advance Estimates for 2017-18, total foodgrains production in the country is estimated at 277.49 million tonnes which is higher by 2.37 million tonnes than the previous record production of foodgrains of 275.11 million tonnes achieved during is estimated at record 111.01 million tonnes.
- Production of rice has increased by 1.31 million tonnes than the production of 109.70 million tonnes during 2016-17.
- It is also higher by 4.71 million tonnes than the five years' average production of 106.29 million tonnes.

- Production of Wheat estimated at 97.11 million tonnes is lower by 1.40 million tonnes as compared to record wheat production of 98.51 million tonnes achieved during 2016-17.
- However, the production of wheat during 2017-18 is higher by 3.77 million tonnes than the average wheat production.
- Production of Coarse cereals estimated at record 45.42 million tonnes is higher than the average production by 3.72 million tonnes.
- Further, it is also higher by 1.65 million tonnes as compared to their production of 43.77 million tonnes achieved during 2016-17.
- Total Pulses production during 2017-18 is estimated at record 23.95 million tonnes which is higher by 0.82 million tonnes than the previous year's production of 23.13 million tonnes.
- Moreover, the production of pulses during 2017-18 is higher than the Five years 'average production by 5.10 million tonnes.
- Total Oilseeds production in the country during 2017-18 is estimated at 29.88 million tonnes which is lower by 1.39 million tonnes than the production of 31.28 million tonnes during 2016-17.
- However, the production of oilseeds during 2017-18 is marginally higher by 0.34 million tonnes than the average oilseeds production.
- With a significant increase by 47.16 million tonnes over 2016-17, total production of Sugarcane in the country during 2017-18 is estimated at 353.23 million tonnes.
- The production of sugarcane during 2017-18 is also higher by 11.19 million tonnes than the average sugarcane production of 342.04 million tonnes.
- Production of Cotton estimated at 33.92 million bales (of 170 kg each) is higher than the previous year's production of 32.58 million bales.
- Further, it is also higher by 0.41 million bales than its average production of 33.50 million bales.
- Production of Jute & Mesta estimated at 10.51 million bales (of 180 kg each) is lower than their production during the 2016-17.

**Reference:**

<http://pib.gov.in/PressReleaseDetail.aspx?PRID=1521936>

## Estimate of Fitch in relation Fiscal Deficit

**Question- Recently, India's fiscal deficit in the fiscal year 2018-19 has been expected at which of the following percentage by Fitch Group's unit, BMI Research?**

(a) 3.5 percent (b) 3.3 percent (c) 3.0 percent (d) 3.5 percent

**Answer: (a)**

**Related Facts:**

- On February 6<sup>th</sup>, 2018; India's fiscal deficit estimate was released by Fitch Group's unit 'BMI Research'.
- Accordingly, India's fiscal deficit in fiscal year 2018-19 is expected to be 3.5 percent of GDP.
- It is noteworthy that Fitch had predicted fiscal deficit, 3.3 percent of GDP, in the past.
- Cause of recent revision in estimates is that the policy makers have to reduce the speed of fiscal consolidation to promote economic growth.
- It is important that the government wants to achieve 7.5 percent growth targets.



- The government presented the budget for the fiscal year 2018-19 (April-March) on February 1<sup>st</sup>, 2018.
- In which the government aimed to transform the economy of the country into 5 trillion dollar economy by 2025.
- To achieve this, the expected development and employment generation is possible only at the slow pace of fiscal consolidation.
- It is important that the government had fixed the fiscal deficit target of 3.3 percent of GDP in 2018-19 as compared to the revised estimate of 3.5 percent of 2017-18.
- Although it is slow pace compared to the recommendation under FRBM (Fiscal Responsibility and Budget Management) Framework.
- Overall expenditure of 'Budget 2018-19' has seen an increase in comparison to earlier.
- Whose largest allocation is in transportation, rural development, agriculture, education and healthcare?
- It is important to note that big allocation in these areas was done only in the wake of long term growth.

**Reference:**

<https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/economy/finance/india-fy2019-fiscal-deficit-to-come-in-at-3-5-of-gdp-report/articleshow/62804874.cms>

## Appointment of Lokpal for Non-Banking Financial Companies

**Question: Recently, in the initial phase by the RBI, of minimum how much amount asset holder NBFCs has been announced for the appointment of Lokpal?**

(a) 10 lakh rupees (b) 5 lakh rupees (c) 3 lakh rupees (d) 1 lakh rupees

**Answer: (a)**

**Related Facts:**

- In the first week of February, a significant development by the RBI was announced to bring NBFCs under the purview of the Ombudsman.
- This Ombudsman will cover (NBFCs) whose asset size is minimum 10 lakh or more.
- Further, those NBFCs will also be brought under its scope, whose asset is 100 crore rupees or more and the customer interface is also available.
- This scheme will be implemented in the end of February, 2018.
- Under the scheme, if there is any complaint from the borrowers of financial companies (NBFCs), they will be able to contact their Ombudsman directly.
- In this way their grievances will be settled soon.
- Initially this scheme will be applicable to all deposit-taking NBFCs.
- RBI's intent is to further strengthen the rules around these companies (NBFCs).
- It is noteworthy that so far, for the consumer complaints, the RBI had made mandatory to have obligatory Grievance Redressal Officer for all NBFCs.
- Whose names and addresses were present in the workspaces of NBFCs.
- It is important that NBFCs works under the requirement of low capital and do the risk holding business in comparison to the banks.
- Thus, the recent step of RBI is an important step in this direction.



**Reference:**

<https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/industry/banking/finance/rbi-to-set-up-ombudsman-for->

## SCIENTIFIC

### DEFENSE/SCIENCE SHORT NOTES

#### Supply of 2nd AOPV to Sri Lankan Navy

**Question: Recently by whom a delivery has been made of second Sri Lanka Advanced Offshore Patrol Vessel (SL AOPV) of Sri Lankan Navy ceremoniously at Vaddem, Vasco da Gama, 25 days ahead of schedule?**

- (a) Cochin Shipyard Limited (b) Mazagaon Post Ltd  
(c) Goa Shipyard Limited (d) Hindustan Shipyard Limited

**Answer: (c)**

**Related Facts:**

- On March 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2018, Goa Shipyard Limited (GSL) has once again delivered second Sri Lanka Advanced Offshore Patrol Vessel (SL AOPV) of Sri Lankan Navy ceremoniously at Vaddem, Vasco da Gama yesterday, 25 days ahead of schedule.
- This step continues with its unparalleled track record of delivering ships ahead of contractual schedule in last 4 years,
- The vessel will be the largest and most advanced ship in the Sri Lankan Navy fleet. This is the fourth Offshore Patrol Vessel (OPV) delivered in the current financial year.
- The keel of the vessel was laid on May 9, 2015 and was launched on May 2, 2017.
- It is creditable for the shipyard to complete this significant export project and deliver the vessel 25 Days ahead of contractual schedule.
- With this, the shipyard has succeeded in reducing build period of 2,500 Tonnes OPV to nearly three years from over five years taken till about three years ago.
- Sri Lanka Navy Ship (SLNS) Sayurala, the first AOPV of the series delivered in July 2017 ahead of contractual schedule, is performing exceedingly well and has received positive feedbacks for GSL for the build quality and state-of-the-art machinery.
- Goa Shipyard has a unique distinction of delivering all the ships ahead of contractual schedule and has been officially adjudged as the 'Best Performing Shipyard' by Ministry of Defence, besides being the largest exporter shipyard of the country.
- Turnover of GSL has grown nearly three times with profits rising from (-) Rs 60 crore to over Rs 220 crore in the last four years.



**Reference:**

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintHindiRelease.aspx?relid=71388>

#### Interceptor Boat C-437

**Question- In which of the following the fleet of interceptor boat C-437 recently inducted?**

- (a) Indian Navy (b) Indian Coast Guard (c) Indian Army  
(d) Border Security Force

**Answer: (b)**

**Related Facts:**

- On March 16<sup>th</sup>, 2018 Interceptor boat (Boat) -437 has been inducted in the fleet of Indian Coast Guard.
- This boat is 27.80 meters long and it can get maximum speed of 45 knots.
- It is equipped with advanced navigation and communication gear.
- It is capable of performing various roles to assist boats in the sea along with monitoring, search and rescue operations.



**Reference:**

<https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/ahmedabad/coast-guard-gets-new-interceptor-to-up-security/articleshow/63349201.cms>

## Successful test of BrahMos

**Question: On March 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2018, where was the successful test of the world's fastest supersonic cruise missile 'Brahmos' conducted?**

(a) Jaisalmer (b) Chandipur (c) Pokhran (d) Bay of Bengal

**Answer: (c)**

**Related Facts**

- On March 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2018, World's fastest supersonic cruise Missile 'Brahmos' was successfully tested in the Pokhran test range of Rajasthan.
- Earlier, on November 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2017, Brahmos cruise missile was successfully test fired for the first time from the Indian Air Force's frontline Sukhoi-30 MKI combat jet.
- The target range of new version of BrahMos missile is 450 km.
- This missile is able to target with a speeds of 2.5 to 3.0 Mac.
- It can be launched from anywhere viz. Air, Surface or Warship.
- It was developed by the Defense Research and Development Organization (DRDO) of India and is a joint venture between DRDO of India and NPO Mashinostroyenia (NPOM) of Russia.



**Reference:**

<http://indianexpress.com/article/india/brahmos-supersonic-cruise-missile-successfully-test-fired-from-pokhran-in-rajasthan-5106898/>

## Successful testing of the Rustom-2 drone

**Question: Which of the given recently successfully tested the drone Rustom-2?**

(a) HAL (b) DRDO (c) NAL (d) BEL

**Answer: (b)**

**Related Facts:**

- On February 25<sup>th</sup>, 2018, Defense Research and Development Organization (DRDO) successfully tested the indigenously built Rustom-2 drone.
- The DRDO tested it in its Aeronautical Test Range (ATR) at Chalakere in Karnataka's Chitradurga district.
- It is worth noting that 'Rustom-2' is an UAV: Unmanned aerial vehicle capable of flying for long periods at medium height.



- It has been developed by DRDO.
- It has been developed on the lines of America's predator drones.
- It is to carry out surveillance and reconnaissance (ISR) roles for the armed forces with an endurance of 24 hours.
- Rustom-2 can take different types of payloads.
- This includes synthetic aperture radars, electronic intelligence systems and the situational awareness payloads.

**Reference:**

<https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/defence/drdo-successfully-carries-out-test-flight-of-rustom-2-drone/articleshow/63068375.cms>

## Massive Asteroid

**Question: What is the name of massive asteroids that has passed close to the Earth in February 2018?**

(a) 2002 AP 128(b) 2002 AJ 129(c) 2003 AJ 139(d) 2003 AJ 129

**Answer: (b)**

**Related Facts:**

- On February 4th, 2018, a massive asteroid Passed close the Earth
- The name of this asteroid is 2002AJ129.
- It was expected to be the largest and speediest space object to whiz past the Earth in 2018.
- At the time of closest approach, the asteroid was no closer than 10 times the distance between Earth and the Moon (about 2.6 million miles, or 4.2 million kilometers).
- The 0.7-mile long body is larger than the tallest building on Earth, Dubai's half-mile high Burj Khalifa skyscraper.
- Its speed was 76,000 miles / hour (122, 400 km / h).
- NASSA has classified this asteroid as Potentially Hazardous.



**Reference:**

<https://wattsupwiththat.com/2018/01/20/nasa-massive-asteroid-will-zoom-near-earth-on-february-4th-at-76000-mph/>

## World's smallest satellite-carrying rocket

**Question: Which of the following countries in February 2018 had successfully launched the world's smallest rocket capable of setting up a satellite in a orbit?**

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

**Answer- (b)**

**Related Facts:**

- On February 3rd 2018, the Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency (JAXA) successfully launched the world's smallest rocket capable of setting up a satellite in the class.
- It was launched from the Uchinoura Space Center in Kagoshima province of Japan.
- The rocket named, SS-520 series, which measures 10 metres in length and 50 centimetres and is about the size of a utility pole.



- According to the Cubusat agency, in a nominal position, it will be used to collect images of earth surface through multiple cameras.
- The height of this rocket is 10 meters and diameter 50 cm is.
- Initially the SS-520 was designed as a sounding rocket.
- This rocket has been launched for the second time, earlier it was launched on February 15th, 2017 which was failed.

**Reference:**

<https://www.japantimes.co.jp/news/2018/02/04/national/science-health/japan-successfully-launches-worlds-smallest-satellite-carrying-rocket/#.WoVKTJ1ubIU>

## Successful test of anti-tank guided missile (ATGM) ‘Nag’

**Question- On February 28th, 2018, where did successfully test of the indigenously built anti-tank guided missile (ATGM) ‘Nag’ was done?**

(a) Andhra Pradesh (b) Odisha (c) Tamil Nadu (d) Rajasthan

**Answer: (d)**

**Related Facts:**

- On February 28th, 2018, India has successfully tested indigenously built anti-tank guided missile (ATGM) Nag.
- This test was done successfully on two tanks at different ranges and time in the desert of Rajasthan.
- The simultaneous development tests of the missile have been completed.
- It is now ready to be deployed.
- This is a third-generation missile in the ‘fire and forget’ category, which is equipped with advanced imaging infrared radar.
- It is one of the five missile systems developed by the Defense Research and Development Organization (DRDO) under integrated guided missile development program (IGMDP).
- The other four missiles developed under this program are ‘Agni’, ‘Akash’, ‘Trishul’ and ‘Prithvi’ respectively.



**Reference:**

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=176898>

## Launching of Viral Load test for People Living with HIV/AIDS (PLHIV)

**Question: Who amongst the following has recently launched viral load test for people with HIV / AIDS (PLHIV)?**

(a) Rajyavardhan Singh Rathore (b) Vinayya Naidu (c) J.P. Nadda  
(d) Anupriya Patel

**Answer: (c)**

**Related Facts:**

- On February 26<sup>th</sup>, 2018 Union Minister of Health and Family Welfare J.P. Nadda launched ‘Viral Load Test’ for HIV / AIDS sufferers (PLHIV) at a function organized in New Delhi.



- This initiative will ensure the free viral load test of 1.2 million PLHIV treated in the country at least once in a year.
- After 'Treat All', Viral Load Test is a major step towards the treatment and monitoring of people suffering from HIV.
- On this occasion, the Health Minister informed that in the year 2017, India had modified the antiretroviral therapy (ART) treatment protocol.
- So that 'Treat all' can be launched for all PLHIVs with ART.
- At present, about 12 lakh PLHVs are taking advantage of free treatment in more than 530 ART centers.

**Reference:**

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=176810>

## SPORTS

### TENNIS

#### BNP Paribas Open 2018

**Question: Who amongst the following is the men's singles champion of the BNP Paribas Open, 2018 Tennis Championship concluded on March 18<sup>th</sup>, 2018?**

- (a) Roger Federer (b) Juan Martin Del Potro (c) Rafael Nadal  
(d) Novak Djokovic

**Answer: (b)**

**Related Facts:**

- ATP World Tour Session, Masters 1000 Category of 2018 and WTA Premier Event Combined Tournament BNP Paribas Open concluded at Indian Wells, California, US. (March 5<sup>th</sup>-18<sup>th</sup>, 2018)
- It is also known as Indian Wells 2018.
- **Competition Result:**
- **Men's singles:**  
winner-Juan Martin Del Potro (Argentina)  
Runner Up -Roger Federer (Switzerland)
- **Women's singles:**  
winner-Naomi Osaka (Japan)  
Runner Up – Daria kasatkina (Russia)
- **Men's Doubles:**  
winner- John Isner and Jack Sock (both of America)  
Runaway-Bob Bryan and Mike Bryan (both US)
- **Women's Doubles:**  
Winners- Hsieh Su-Wei (Chinese Taipei) and Barbora Strycova (Czech Republic)  
Runner Up – Ekaterina Makarova and Elena Vesnina (both Russia).



**Reference:**

<https://bnpparibasopen.com/score-center/scores/>

#### New York Open-2018

**Question: Who amongst the following is the sole winner of the recently concluded “New York Open-2018” the 250th ATP World Tour Men’s Tennis Tournament held in New York?**

(a) Sam Querrey (b) Kevin Anderson(c) David Goffin(d) Oleksandr Dolgopolo

**Answer: (b)**

**Related facts:**

- 250th ATP World Tour Men’s Tournaments concluded “New York Open, 2018” concluded in New York, America. (12-18 February, 2018).
- Competition Result:
- Men’s Singles  
winner-Kevin Anderson (South Africa)  
Runner Up- Sam Querrey (USA)
- Men’s Doubles  
winner- Max Mirnyi (Belarus) and Philipp Oswald (Austria)  
Runners-up – Wesley Kloof (Netherlands) and Artem Sitak (New Zealand)
- This is the Kevin Anderson career’s 4th ATP title.



**Reference:**

<https://www.atpworldtour.com/en/scores/archive/new-york/424/2018/results>

## Qatar Total open-2018

**Question: Who amongst the following won the title of the women’s singles event in the Qatar Total Open 2018 tennis tournament?**

(a) Garbain Mughuruza(b) Petra Kvitova(c) Katrina Sanyakova  
(d) Simona Halep

**Answer: (b)**

**Related Facts:**

- WTA tennis championship Qatar Open, 2018 (16th Edition) concluded at Doha, Qatar. (12th-18th February, 2018)
- Women’s Signals: Winner- Petra Kvitova (Czech Republic)
- Runner Up-Garbain Mugruza (Spain)
- Women’s Doubles:
- Winner- Gabriella Dabrowski (Canada) and Jelena Ostapenko (Latvia) Runner Up- Andranja Ci Peck (Slovenia) and Maria Jose Martinez Sanchez (Spain).



**Reference:**

<http://www.wtatennis.com/tournament/2018-doha-qatar-1003#results>

## Chennai Open 2018

**Question: Who amongst the following won the singles title of Chennai Open ATP Challenger Tour Tournament, 2018?**

(a) Yuki Bhambri(b) Jordan Thompson(c) Sumit Nagal(d) Lee Duck Hee

**Answer: (b)**

**Related Facts:**

- ATP Challenger Tour Tennis Tournament “Chennai Open-2018” concluded in Chennai, Tamil Nadu. (12-17 February, 2018)



- Tournament Result-
- **Men's Singles:**  
Winner-Jordan Thompson (Australia)  
Runner Up-Yuki Bhambri (India)
- **Men's doubles:**  
winners- Vishnu Vardhan and Sriram Balaji (both India)  
Runner Up- Cem Ilkel (Turkey) and Danilo Petrovic (Serbia).

**Reference:**

<http://www.atpworldtour.com/en/tournaments/chennai/7849/overview>

## CRICKET

### Pakistan Super League (PSL), 2018

**Question: Which team won the title of Pakistan Super League (PSL), 2018 Cricket Tournament concluded on March 25<sup>th</sup>, 2018?**

(a) Islamabad United(b) Karachi Kings(c) Multan sultans(d) Quetta Gladiators

**Answer- (a)**

**Related facts:**

- Pakistan Super League (PSL) of T-20 format, 2018 (Third Edition), conducted by the Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) concluded in UAE and Pakistan. (22 February-25 March, 2018)
- Sponsor – HBL
- Final Venue – National Stadium, Karachi
- **Competition Results:-**
- Winner-Islamabad United, 2<sup>nd</sup> title
- Runner-up- Peshawar Zalmi
- 'Player of the Final Match and Series' – Luke Ronchi (New Zealand player of Islamabad United)
- 'Most wickets in the tournament' – Fahim Ashraf (Islamabad United) and Wahab Riaz (Peshawar Zalmi) both took 18-18 wickets in the tournament.
- Luke Ronchi of Islamabad United scored the highest run (435) in the tournament.



**Reference:**

<http://www.espnricricinfo.com/series/8679/scorecard/1128851/islamabad-united-vs-peshawar-zalmi-final/>

### ICC Cricket World Cup qualifier-2018

**Question: Which two teams were qualified for the 2019 World Cup in ICC Cricket World Cup qualifier, 2018 held on March 25<sup>th</sup>, 2018 in Zimbabwe?**

(a) West Indies and Scotland(b) Nepal and West Indies  
(c) West Indies and Afghanistan(d) West Indies and Ireland

**Answer: (c)**

**Related Facts:**



- For the last two places Cricket World Cup Qualifier Tournament of ICC Cricket World Cup, 2019, 2018 concluded in Zimbabwe,. (March 4-25, 2018)
- The two teams, which reached in the qualifiers final, the West Indies and Afghanistan have qualified for the World Cup, 2019.
- In the final, Afghanistan won the title of qualifiers by defeating the West Indies by 7 wickets.
- 'Man of the match' in final – Mohammad Shahzad (Afghanistan)
- Player of the series- Sikander Raja (Zimbabwe)
- The 10 teams of ICC Cricket World Cup, 2019 are as follows: England (host), 2. Australia, 3. India, 4. Bangladesh, 5. New Zealand, 6. Pakistan, 7. South Africa, 8. Sri Lanka, 9. West Indies and 10. Afghanistan
- This is the first Cricket World Cup since 1979, when Zimbabwe could not make it to the World Cup.
- It also happened for the first time that an Associate Nation will not participate in Cricket World Cup.
- In the final of the tournament, Rashid Khan of Afghanistan became the fastest bowler to take 100 wickets in international one-dayers.
- In his 44th match, Rashid made Shai Hope (West Indies) his 100th victim.
- Earlier this record was named after Australia's Mitchell Starc (100 wickets in 52 games).

**Reference:**

<http://www.espnricinfo.com/ci/engine/series/1132997.html>

## Irani Cup 2017-2018

**Question: Who amongst the following was elected as the 'Player of the Match' in the India's domestic cricket tournament "Irani Cup, 2017-18" concluded on March 18<sup>th</sup>, 2018?**

(a) Faiz Fazal(b) Karun Nayar(c) Mayank Agarwal(d) Wasim Jaffer

**Answer: (d)**

**Related Facts:**

- India's domestic first-class cricket tournament Irani Cup, 2017-18 concluded in Nagpur. (March 14<sup>th</sup>-18<sup>th</sup>, 2018)
- Venue: Vidarbha Cricket Association Stadium.
- Vidarbha won the tournament for the first time by defeating 'Rest of India' on the basis of the lead in the first innings.
- Brief Score:
- Vidarbha: First innings – 800 Runs at 7 Wickets
- Rest of India: First Innings -390 All Out
- 'Player of the match' -Wasim Jaffer (Vidarbha), 286 runs
- Vidarbha team captain was Faiz Fazal and the Rest of India team captain was Karun Nair.
- Wasim Jaffer of Vidarbha became the batsman to made most runs (286) in an innings of Irani Cup.
- He broke the record of Murali Vijay's 266 runs in the Irani Cup.



**Reference:**

<http://www.espnricinfo.com/series/18098/scorecard/1118704/rest-of-india-vs-vidarbha-irani-cup/>

## Nidahas Twenty-20 Tri Series

**Question: Who amongst the following was chosen the 'Player of the Series' on March 18<sup>th</sup>, 2018, in the Nidahas Twenty-20 Tri Series?**

- (a) Rohit Sharma (b) Shikhar Dhawan (c) Washington Sundar  
(d) Yuzvendra Chahal

**Answer: (c)**

**Related Facts:**

- India-Sri Lanka-Bangladesh "Nidahas Twenty-20 Tri Series" concluded in Colombo, Sri Lanka. (March 6<sup>th</sup> – 18<sup>th</sup>, 2018)
- This series was organized in honor of the completion of 70 years of Sri Lanka's independence.
- In Sinhalese language Nidahas means 'freedom'.
- Sponsor-Hero
- Finals match venue: R. Premadasa Stadium, Colombo, Sri Lanka.
- In final, India won the prestigious tournament by defeating Bangladesh by 4 wickets.
- 'Man-of-the-match' in final – Dinesh Karthik (India), made 29 runs on 8 balls.
- 'Player of the Series' – Washington Sunder together with Yuzvendra Chahal for most 8-8 wickets.
- 'Most runs in tournament' – Kusal Perera (Sri Lanka), 204 runs.
- In the first match, India's Vijay Shankar made his international T20 debut.
- In the third match Bangladesh made their highest score (215 runs) in T20.
- Sri Lanka lost the third match and became the first country to face defeat in 50 matches in T20.
- In the fourth match K.L. Rahul became the first Indian cricketer to be hit wicket in the T20 (bowler- Jeevan Mendis, Sri Lanka).
- In the 6<sup>th</sup> match, Kusal Perera (Sri Lanka) became the first batsman to score five T20 half centuries against the same opposition team (Bangladesh).
- India became the first team to win after chasing the target of the highest runs (167 runs) given to win the T20 final.
- India's Dinesh Karthik became the first cricketer to get win for his team by making a six at last ball in any T20 International final.
- Nobody had done this before.
- Although there are four cricketer prior to Kartik who made their team won by making six at the last ball.

**Reference:**

<http://www.espnricinfo.com/ci/engine/series/1133811.html>



## Vijay Hazare Trophy, 2018

**Question: Karnataka has won the Vijay Hazare Trophy, 2018 by defeating which of the following?**

- (a) Tamil Nadu (b) Delhi (c) Maharashtra (d) Saurashtra

**Answer: (d)**

**Related Facts:**

- National ODI championship Vijay Hazare Trophy, 2018 has



concluded. (February 5<sup>th</sup> – February 27<sup>th</sup>, 2018)

- On February 27<sup>th</sup>, 2018, Karnataka won the trophy for the third time by defeating Saurashtra by 41 runs in the final match played at Firozshah Kotla ground in New Delhi.
- Mayank Agarwal of Karnataka was chosen as the Man of the Match in this match.
- In this tournament, Mayank Agarwal has scored 723 runs (three centuries and four half centuries) in most 8 matches.
- Mohammed Siraj of Hyderabad took the maximum 23 wickets, in which he got five wickets in an innings three times.
- In this season, Mayank Agarwal scored maximum 1160 runs in Ranji Trophy.
- Mayank scored 2141 runs in this session.
- Mayank Agarwal has become the first batsman to score more than 2,000 runs in one round season.
- Mayank Agarwal, who scored more than 700 runs in Vijay Hazare Trophy, became the first batsman to do so.
- Earlier, there was record of making the highest runs in any tournament in the name Sachin, who scored 673 runs in the World Cup in 2003.
- Vijay Hazare Trophy is also known as the Ranji One-Day Trophy.
- It started in 2002-03.
- This is a domestic tournament related to state teams of Ranji Trophy Plate.
- This competition has been named after the famous Indian cricketer Vijay Hazare.
- Tamil Nadu has won this trophy for most of 5 times so far.
- Saurashtra has won this competition once.

**Reference:**

<http://www.espncricinfo.com/ci/engine/series/1118606.html?view=records>

## HOCKEY

### 8th Hockey India Senior Men's National Championship (A Division), 2018

**Question: Who won the title of 8th Hockey India Senior Men's National Championship (A Division), 2018, held on March 25<sup>th</sup>, 2018 in Lucknow?**

- (a) Railway Sports Promotion Board (RSPB)
- (b) Petroleum Sports Promotion Board (PSPB)
- (c) Air India Sports Promotion Board (AISPB)
- (d) Hockey Punjab

**Answer: (d)**

**Related Facts:**

- 8th Hockey India Senior Men's National Championship ('A' Division), 2018 concluded in Lucknow (Uttar Pradesh) (March 15-25, 2018)
- Final Venue – Padmashree Mohammed Shahid Synthetic Hockey Stadium
- **Competition Results:-**
- Gold medal-Hockey Punjab (2-1 sec)
- Silver Medal – Petroleum Sports Promotion Board (PSPB)
- Bronze Medal-Railway Sports Promotion Board (RSPB)



- Fourth Place – Air India Sports Promotion Board (AISPB)

**Reference:**

<http://hockeyindia.org/news/hockey-punjab-crowned-champions-of-8th-hockey-india-senior-men-national-championship-2018.html>

## FOOTBALL

### Jockey Club International Youth Invitation Football Tournament-2018

**Question: Who amongst the given recently won the title of the Jockey Club International Youth Invitational Football Tournament held in Hong Kong?**

- (a) Hong-Kong U-17 (b) India U-17 (c) Singapore U-17 (d) Malaysia U-17

**Answer: (b)**

**Related Facts:**

- Jockey Club International Youth Invitation Football Tournament, organized by the Hong Kong Football Association (HKFA) concluded in Hong Kong (March 23-25, 2018)
- Originally it was a U-17 tournament in which India had placed its U-16 football team.
- India won the title of the tournament by defeating Hong Kong U-17 by 4-2 in the final.
- The coach of the Indian U-16 football team is Bibiano Fernandes.



**Reference:**

[http://www.xinhuanet.com/english/2018-03/25/c\\_137064242\\_2.htm](http://www.xinhuanet.com/english/2018-03/25/c_137064242_2.htm)

## CHESS

### Gama Reykjavik Open-2018

**Question: Who won the title of the Gama Reykjavik Open-2018 Chess Tournament, held on March 14<sup>th</sup>, 2018?**

- (a) Anees Giri (b) Bhaskaran Adan (c) Abhijeet Gupta (d) Maxim Lagarde

**Answer: (b)**

**Related Facts**

- Gama Reykjavik Open-2018 (Bobby Fisher Memorial) concluded at Reykjavik, Iceland. (March 6-14, 2018)
- Sponsor-GAMMA
- **Competition Result:**
- Winner- Baskaran Adhiban (India), 7.5 out of 9
- 2<sup>nd</sup> place- Maxim Lagarde (France)
- 3<sup>rd</sup> place- Yilmaz Mustafa (Turkey)
- Bhaskaran is the second Indian to win this title after the Abhijeet Gupta (year 2016).



**Reference:**

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

<https://www.reykjavikopen.com/baskaran-adhiban-the-winner-of-the-2018-gamma-reykjavik-open/>

<http://chess-results.com/tnr304881.aspx?lan=1&art=1&rd=9&fedb=ENG&fed=ENG&flag=30>

# BADMINTON

## Yonex All England Open-2018

**Question: In the women's singles semifinals of the Yonex All England Open, 2018 badminton championship held on March 18<sup>th</sup>, 2018 who amongst the following defeated the India's P.V. Sindhu?**

(a) Akane Yamaguchi(b) Tai Tzu Ying(c) Chen Yufei(d) Kirsty Gilmour

**Answer: (a)**

**Related Facts:**

- BWF's Yonex All England Open Badminton Championship concluded in 2018 Birmingham, England (U.K.) (March 14<sup>th</sup>-18<sup>th</sup>, 2018)
- **Competition Results:**
- **Men's Singles**  
Winner-Shi Yuki (China)  
Runner Up- Lin Dan (China)
- **Women's Singles**  
Winner-Tai Tzu Ying (Chinese Taipei)  
Runner Up-Akane Yamaguchi (Japan)
- **Men's Doubles:**  
winner- Marcus Fernandes Gideon and Kevin Sanjaya Sukamuljo (both Indonesia)  
Runner Up- *Mathias* Boe and Carsten *Mogensen* (both Denmark)
- **Women's Doubles:**  
Winner- Kamilla Rytter Juhl and Christina Patterson (both Denmark)
- Runner Up- Yuki Fukushima and Sayaka Hirota (both Japan)
- **Mixed Doubles:**  
Winner- Yuta Watanabe and Arisa Higashino (both Japan)  
Runner Up- Zheng Sewei and Huang Yaqiong (both China)
- In the semi finals of the tournament Japan's Akane Yamaguchi defeated India's P.V. Sindhu.
- Any Indian woman badminton player has not won the title of women's singles event in the history of of England Open tournament.
- In the men's singles event, Prakash Padukone of India (1980) and Pullela Gopichand (2001) has got this achievement.



**Reference:**

<http://bwfworldtour.com/tournament/3141/yonex-all-england-open-2018/results/draw/xd>

## 33rd Brazilian International Badminton Cup, 2018

**Question: Who won the men's singles title of the recently concluded 33rd Brazilian International Badminton Cup, 2018?**

(a) Sergey Sirant(b) Tarun Kona(c) Yagar Coelho(d) Saurabh Sharma

**Answer: (c)**

**Related Facts:**

- International Challenge level, 33rd Brazilian International Badminton Cup of BWF Session-2018, concluded in Foz do Iguacio, Brazil. (March 7-11, 2018)

#### **Competition Results**

- **Men's Singles Winner** – Yagar Coelho (Brazil)  
Runner up – Sergey Sirant (Russia)
- **Woman's Singles**  
Winner – Rachel Honderich (Canada)  
Runner up – Sabrina Jaquet (Switzerland)
- **Men's Doubles**  
Winner- Jason Anthony Ho-Shue & Nyl Yakura (both Canada)  
Runner-up-Tarun Kona and Saurabh Sharma (both India)
- **Women's Doubles**  
winners- Rachel Honderich (Canada) and Jamie Subandhi (America)  
Runner up-Jenny Guy and Jamie Hsu (both US)
- **Mixed Doubles**  
winner- Evgenij Dremin and Evgenia Dimova (both Russia)  
Runner up- Saurabh Sharma and Anoushka Parikh (both India)



#### **Reference:**

<http://bwfbadminton.com/results/3120/33th-brazil-international-badminton-cup-2018/draw/ms>

## **BOXING**

### **69th Strandja Memorial Boxing Tournament-2018**

**Question: Who was selected as the best boxer in 69th Strandja Memorial Boxing Tournament- 2018?**

(a) Amit Panghal(b) Vikas Krishnan(c) Gaurav Solanki(d) M.C Mary Kom

**Answer: (b)**

#### **Related Facts:**

- 69<sup>th</sup> Strandja Memorial Boxing Tournament concluded in Sofia (Bulgaria) (February, 2018)
- In this tournament, India has won 11 medals including 2 Gold, 3 Silver and 6 Bronze medals.
- On the last day of the tournament in 75 kg weight category Vikas Krishnan won the Gold medal by defeating American boxer Troy Isley.
- Amit Panghal won the Second Gold medal, beating Morocco's Said Moradaji in 49 kg weight category.
- MC Mary Kom (48kg), Seema Punia (+81kg) and Gaurav Solanki (52kg) won the Silver medal.
- Vikas Krishnan was elected as the best boxer of the tournament.



#### **Reference:**

<http://www.firstpost.com/sports/strandja-memorial-boxing-tournament-gold-medallist-vikas-krishan-became-first-indian-to-be-adjudged-best-boxer-of-event-4367229.html>

## **BILLIARDS, SNOOKER & SQUASH**

### ACBS Billiards and Snooker Championship-2018

**Question: Who recently won the title of the ACBS Billiards Championship concluded in Yangon, Myanmar?**

- (a) Dhvaj Haria (b) Pankaj Advani (c) Bhaskar Balachandra  
(d) Spaesh Shah

**Answer: (b)**

**Related Facts:**

- Three-category championship organized by Asian Confederation of Billiards Sports (ACBS) concluded in Yangon, Myanmar. (March 18-24, 2018)
- Three-category were:
  - 17th Asian Billiards (Men) Championships 100UP, 2018
  - Second Asian Snooker Women's Championship, 2018
  - 19th Asian U-21 (Boys) Snooker Championships, 2018
- India won two gold, one silver and three bronze medals in the competition.
- **Competition Results:-**
  - 17th Asian Billiards (Men) Championships 100UP, 2018
    - Gold Medal-Pankaj Advani (India)
    - Silver Medal-Bhaskar Balachandra (India)
    - Bronze Medal Dhvaj Hariya and Rupesh Shah (both India)
  - Second Asian Snooker Women's Championship, 2018
    - Gold Medal-Amee Karmani (India)
    - Silver Medal- *Siripaporn* Nuanthakhamjan (Thailand)
    - Bronze medal-Keerath Bhandaal (India) and *Wan Ka-kai* (Hong Kong)
  - 19th Asian U-21 (Boys) Snooker Championships, 2018
    - Gold Medal-Aung Phyo (Myanmar)
    - Silver Medal-Haris Tahir (Pakistan)
    - Bronze Medal- *Pongsakorn* Chongjairak (Thailand) and Muhammad Shahbaz (Pakistan)
- Ameer Kamani became the first Indian player to win the title Asian Snooker.



**Reference:**

<http://thebridge.in/amee-kamanis-creates-history-asian-snooker-championships/>

## **GOLF**

### Golconda Masters- 2018

**Question- Who won the title of Golconda Masters, 2018, a golf tournament, concluded recently?**

- (a) Shamim Khan (b) Udayan Mane (c) Abhijit Singh Chadha  
(d) N. Thangaraja

**Answer: (b)**

**Related Facts:**



- India's Professional Golf Tour (PGTI) competition Golconda Masters, 2018 concluded in Hyderabad. (February 22nd-25th, 2018)
- Udayan Mane won the title of Golconda Masters, 2018, defeating close rivals in four golfers' playoffs.
- This is the sixth professional title of Udayan.
- In the playoffs Mane defeated Shamim Khan of Delhi, Abhijit Singh Chadha (Chandigarh) and Sri Lanka's N. Thangaraja, all of whom had a score of 14.
- Mane got a check Rs 4, 50,000.
- With this win, he reached at the third place from the 39th place in the 2018 PGTI Order of Merit List.

**Reference:**

<https://golfingindian.com/udayan-mane-wins-golconda-masters-2018/>

## SPORTS MISCELLANEOUS

### South Asian Cross Country Championships

**Question:** Which of the following countries won the gold medal of the men and women's section of the recently concluded South Asian Cross Country Championship, 2018?

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

**Answer: (c)**

**Related Facts:**

- South Asian Cross Country Championship, 2018 concluded in 2018 Thimphu (Bhutan). (March 27, 2018)
- India won gold medal in both men and women category.
- **Contest Results**
- **Men's category (8km)**
- Gold Medal – Pradeep Singh Chaudhary (India), Time -33: 52: 20
- Silver Medal-Shankar Mana Thapa (India), Time 34:01:64
- Bronze Medal- Don Lional (Sri Lanka), Time -34: 15: 47
- **Women's category (10km)**
- Gold Medal-Sanjivani Jadhav (India), Time -32: 00:64
- Silver Medal-Vishwarupa (Nepal), Time-32 : 18: 47
- **Team Championship**
- **Men's category (10km)**
- Gold medal- India
- Silver medal- Sri Lanka
- Bronze medal- Bhutan
- **Women's category (8km)**
- Gold medal- Sri Lanka
- Silver medal- India
- Bronze- Nepal



**Reference:**

<https://www.sportskeeda.com/athletics/india-continue-dominance-in-south-asian-cross-country-championships>

## Wisden India Almanack released

**Question: Who amongst the following has not been included in the recently released Wisden India Almanack's Cricketer of the Year 2018?**

(a) Shikhar Dhawan (b) KL Rahul (c) Hasan Ali (d) Tamim Iqbal

**Answer: (a)**

**Related Facts:**

- On March 15<sup>th</sup>, 2018, sixth edition of Wisden India Almanack has been released.
- Wisden India has chosen KL Rahul; one of the successful batsmen of the T20 format, as 'cricketer of the year'.
- Apart from this, Priyank Panchal (India), Hasan Ali (Pakistan), Tamim Iqbal (Bangladesh) was included in Wisden India's 'Cricketers of the Year'.
- The only female player in 'Quakers of the Year' was India's Deepti Sharma. India's first female superstar cricketer Shanta Rangaswamy and Erapalli Prasanna have been named in the Wisden India Hall of Fame. Indian captain Virat Kohli was the most successful Indian and international cricketer.
- Indian women cricketers have been given special significance by printing the picture of the ICC Women's World Cup held in July, 2017 on the main page.



**Reference:**

[http://www.business-standard.com/article/pti-stories/rahul-is-wisden-india-almanack-s-cricketer-of-the-year-118031501235\\_1.html](http://www.business-standard.com/article/pti-stories/rahul-is-wisden-india-almanack-s-cricketer-of-the-year-118031501235_1.html)

## Asian Wrestling Championship, 2018

**Question: Who amongst the following is the first Indian woman to win gold medal in Asian Wrestling Championship-2018 concluded on March 4th, 2018 in Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan?**

(a) Navjot Kaur (b) Sangeeta Phogat (c) Sakshi Malik  
(d) Vinesh Phogat

**Answer: (a)**

**Related Facts:**

- Asian Wrestling Championship, 2018, concluded in Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan. (February 27th – 4th March 2018)
- China ranked first in the medal table by getting total 14 medals, including 7 gold medals.
- Host country Kyrgyzstan won 2 gold, 3 silver and 6 bronze medals (11 medals total) and remained at 6th position in the medal table.
- In this championship, Navjot Kaur from India won the only gold medal in 65 kg freestyle style category.
- Now, Navjot Kaur is the first woman wrestler to win gold medal in the Asian Wrestling Championships.
- Indian women wrestler Vinesh Phogat won the silver medal in the Women's Free Style 50kg category.
- In addition to this, India won 6 bronze medals (2 bronze medals women and 4 by men) and remained at Ninth in the medal tally.



**Reference:**

<https://unitedworldwrestling.org/event/asian-championships-4?tab=results&weight-category=d3f95dab-1b9b-11e8-8ff4-080027548b1b>

## SPORTS PERSONALITY

### Former Zimbabwe cricket official suspended for 20 years

**Question:** Recently, the ICC suspended which former Zimbabwe Cricket official for 20 years?

- (a) Saleem Sherwani (b) Rajan Nair (c) Rajesh Nair  
(d) Suresh Mugamba

**Answer: (b)**

**Related Facts:**

- On March 27<sup>th</sup>, 2018, ICC suspended former Zimbabwe Cricket Administration official Rajan Nayar for 20 years for his alleged involvement in fixing the international match.
- Nair has been found guilty under the ICC Code of Conduct for violating the three rules.
- In this offering of 30,000 US \$ in October 2017 to Zimbabwe captain Graeme Cremer to get involved in corrupt activities also included.
- At that time Nayar was the treasurer and marketing director of the Harare Metropolitan Cricket Association (HMCA).
- His suspension will be effective from January 16, 2018 when he was temporarily suspended.



**Reference:**

[http://www.espnricinfo.com/story/\\_/id/22928352/icc-suspends-zimbabwe-official-20-years](http://www.espnricinfo.com/story/_/id/22928352/icc-suspends-zimbabwe-official-20-years)

### World's first cricketer to play 100 international T20 matches

**Question:** Who amongst the following has recently got the distinction of becoming the world's first cricketer to play 100 international T-20?

- (a) Mitali Raj (b) Jhulan Goswami (c) Meg Lanning (d) Jenny Gunn

**Answer: (d)**

**Related Facts:**

- England's Jenny Gunn is all set to create history by becoming the first cricketer, male or female, to reach 100 Twenty20 (March 25, 2018)
- She achieves this title in the match against India in the Twenty20 tri-series at the Brabourne Stadium.
- The record for most international T-20 matches played by any male players is recorded in the name of Pakistan's Shahid Afridi (98 matches).
- Ms Dhoni of India is at 3<sup>rd</sup> position in this list by playing 89 international T-20 matches.



**Reference:**

<http://www.thehindu.com/sport/cricket/100th-t20-match-beckons-jenny-gunn/article23344005.ece>

## Batsman to makes second fastest century in international T-20 cricket

**Question: Which of the following female batsman recently made the second fastest century in international women's T20 cricket?**

(a) Smriti Mandhana (b) Danielle Wyatt (c) Meg Lanning (d) Mitali Raj

**Answer: (b)**

**Related Facts**

- England's Opener Batsman Danielle Wyatt becomes *thesecond* player to make the second fastest century in international women's T20 cricket (March 25, 2018)
- In a match of the ongoing tri-series T-20 series in India, Wyatt scored a century on 52 balls (124 runs, 64 balls) against India.
- The fastest century in this format is the record of the West Indies's Deandra Dottin (38 balls).



**Reference:**

<https://www.icc-cricket.com/news/650598>

## Indian batsman to score the century in 20 balls in T20 match

**Question: Which Indian cricketer did the miracle by making a century in 20 balls in T-20 match?**

(a) Rishabh Pant (b) Shubhmaya Das (c) Riddhiman Saha  
(d) Hardik Pandya

**Answer: (c)**

**Related Facts:**

- Indian cricketer Riddhiman Saha made a century (102 runs) in 20 balls in a T-20 match and remained in the lime light. (March 24, 2018)
- Saha did this against the BNR Recreation Club in a match of the Jesse Mukherjee Trophy T20 tournament. During this, his strike rate was 510.00.
- Saha hit 14 sixes and 4 fours in his innings.
- Although Riddhiman Saha did not break the record of fastest century (30 balls) of Chris Gayle (West Indies) in T20 matches.
- Because the data of the recognized T-20 matches is considered to be official and this trophy is not recognized.
- The fastest century after Chris Gayle in the T20 match was made by Rishabh Pant of India in 32 balls.
- That is, Rishabh is the second and first Indian batsman in the world to have the fastest century in the T20 match.
- David Miller (South Africa) and Rohit Sharma (India) are jointly at the top in the list of the fastest century in international T20 matches.
- Both have scored centuries on 35 balls each.



**Reference:**

<http://www.cricbuzz.com/cricket-news/101217/india-cricket-team-wicketkeeper-batsman-riddhiman-saha-hits-6-sixes-in-an-over-makes-a-20-ball-century>

## New Zealand's highest century scorer batsman in International Test matches

**Question: Who recently became the batsman to score the most Test centuries from the New Zealand?**

(a) Ross Taylor (b) Brendon McCullum (c) Kane Williamson (d) Martin Crowe

**Answer: (c)**

**Related Facts:**

- New Zealand captain Kane Williamson became the batsman hitting highest 18 centuries in the Test matches (March 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2018).
- He achieved this feat on the second day of the first day-night test against England.
- He left behind Martin Crowe and Ross Taylor, whose names are registered for hitting 17 centuries each in Test matches.



**Reference:**

[http://stats.espnricinfo.com/ci/engine/records/batting/most\\_hundreds\\_career.html?class=1;id=5;type=team](http://stats.espnricinfo.com/ci/engine/records/batting/most_hundreds_career.html?class=1;id=5;type=team)

## Second footballer to score 100 goals in the UEFA Champions League

**Question: Who amongst the following was the second player to score 100 goals in the UEFA Champions League recently?**

(a) Cristiano Ronaldo (b) Lionel Messi (c) Neymar (d) Harry Kane

**Answer: (b)**

**Related Facts:**

- In the final match of the Round 16 of the UEFA Champions League, 2017-18, Lionel Messi scored two goals against Chelsea. (March 14, 2018)
- With these two goals Messi became the second player to score 100 goals in the Champions League.
- He is the first player to complete the fastest 100 goals.
- Barcelona won the match 3-0 and entered the Champions League quarter-finals.
- Messi made his debut in his 123<sup>rd</sup> match in the Champions League.
- Prior to Messi, Cristiano Ronaldo of Real Madrid achieved this feat.
- Ronaldo has scored 117 goals in 152 matches in the Champions League.
- The first phase of the quarter-finals will take place on April 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2018 and the second phase will be held from 10<sup>th</sup>-11<sup>th</sup> April, 2018.



**Reference:**

<http://www.uefa.com/uefachampionsleague/season=2018/matches/#/rd/2000882/2>

## High Performance Coach of Australia Cricket

**Question: On March 14<sup>th</sup>, 2018, who amongst the following has appointed as the High Performance Coach of Cricket Australia (CA)?**

(a) Adam Gilchrist (b) Shane Warne (c) Steve Smith (d) Chris Rogers

**Answer: (d)**

**Related Fact:**

- Former Australia Test opener Chris Rogers was appointed Cricket Australia's High Performance team as a full-time coach. (March 14<sup>th</sup>, 2018)
- Now Rogers is tasked with helping to develop the country's next generation of stars (cricketers).
- Rogers retired from international cricket after the 2015 Ashes series.
- Rogers scored 2015 for Australia with an average of 42.87 in 25 test matches.



**Reference:**

<https://www.cricket.com.au/news/chris-rogers-australia-high-performance-coach-under-19s-bupa-national-cricket-centre-brisbane/2018-03-14>

## Para-Swimmer Suspended

**Question: Which of the following parasite swimmer was recently suspended for 3 years by the Indian Para Olympic Committee?**

- (a) Prasanta Karmakar (b) Sharath Gayakwad (c) K.S. Vishwas  
(d) Suyash Jadhav



**Answer: (a)**

**Related Facts:**

- On March 1<sup>st</sup>, 2018; Para-Swimmer Prasanta Karmakar has suspended for 3 years by the Para Olympic committee for allegedly recording videos of the women's para-swimmer in 2017 at the National Championship held at Jaipur.
- Prasanta Karmakar was the first Indian para-swimmer who participated in the World Swimming Championships in 2003 and wins medals in Argentina.
- He won a bronze medal in the Commonwealth Games in 2010.
- He was India's swimming coach for the 2016 Rio Paralympics.
- Karmakar was awarded the Bhima Award in 2014 and the Major Dhyanchand Award in 2015.
- He was selected as the "Swimmer of the Year" for year 2009 and 2011.

**Reference:**

<https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/sports/more-sports/others/para-swimmer-prasanta-karmakar-suspended-for-three-years/articleshow/63126780.cms>

## Ed Cowan

**Question: Recently, cricketer Ed Cowan announced his retirement from professional cricket. To which of the following countries he belongs?**

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

**Answer: (b)**

**Related Facts:**

- On March 8th, 2018, Australia's former Test opener Ed Cowan announced his retired from professional cricket.
- 35-year-old Ed Cowan made his Test debut in the 2011 match against India.
- He played his last Test match in 2013.
- This cricketer scored 1001 runs in his 18 Test matches.



- In the first class, this player has scored more than 10 thousand runs which include 25 centuries.

**Reference:**

[http://www.espnricinfo.com/story/\\_/id/22672800/ed-cowan-retires-first-class-cricket](http://www.espnricinfo.com/story/_/id/22672800/ed-cowan-retires-first-class-cricket)

## David Astori

**Question- Recently, footballer David Astori passed away. To which of the following countries did he belong to?**

(a) Germany(b) France(c) Italy(d) Uruguay

**Answer: (c)**

**Related Facts:**

- On March 4th 2018, Italian footballer David Astori passed away in his room suddenly during illness.
- David Astori passed away at the age of 31.
- He was the Defender and Captain of the Fiorentina team.
- He joined the Fiorentina team in 2016.
- Earlier, he played for the Cagliari team.



**Reference:**

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-5460895/Italian-football-star-Davide-Astori-31-dies-sleep.html>

## SHORT NOTES

### PERSONALITIES

#### First Indian woman to represent as an officer in the Commonwealth Games

**Question: Who amongst the given became the first Indian woman to represent as an officer in the Commonwealth Games recently?**

(a) Snehal Bendke(b) Preeti Thakur(c) Smita Malik(d) Lalita Gonzalvis

**Answer: (a)**

**Related Facts:**

- Snehal Bendke of Maharashtra was selected as referee by the International Basketball Federation (FIBA) for the Commonwealth Games Basketball Tournaments. (March 27<sup>th</sup>, 2018)
- She is the first Indian woman representing as Officer in Commonwealth Games.
- Snehal passed the Maharashtra State Referee Examination in the year 2006 and received a referee license from FIBA in 2008.
- The 2018 Commonwealth Games will be held in the Gold Coast, Australia during April 5-15, 2018.



**Reference:**

<http://www.uniindia.com/~mah-girl-becomes-basketball-referee-for-commonwealth-game/Sports/news/1180684.html>

## New National Security Adviser to the US President

**Question: Who amongst the following has recently been appointed the new National Security Adviser to the US President?**

- (a) John R. Bolton (b) Mike Pompeo (c) Lt. General H.R. McMaster  
(d) Gary Cohen



**Answer: (a)**

**Related Facts:**

- On March 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2018, John R. Bolton appointed US President Donald Trump's new national security adviser.
- His tenure will begin on April 9<sup>th</sup>, 2018.
- At this post he will replace the current National Security Adviser to the US President.
- Bolton was a permanent representative of the United States in the year 2005-06.

**Reference:**

<http://www.bbc.com/news/world-us-canada-43509695>

## Tata Power's new CEO and MD

**Question: Who amongst the following is recently appointed as the new Chief Executive Officer (CEO) and Managing Director (MD) of Tata Power?**

- (a) Deepak Srivastava (b) J.S. Kumar (c) Praveer Sinha (d) Rakesh Bhatnagar  
**North- (c)**



**Related Facts**

- On March 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2018, Praveer Sinha was appointed the new Chief Executive Officer (CEO) and Managing Director (MD) of Tata Power.
- His tenure will be effective May 1<sup>st</sup>, 2018.
- Currently, he is the CEO and MD of Tata Power Delhi Distribution Ltd.

**Reference:**

<http://www.thehindu.com/business/Industry/tata-power-appoints-praveer-sinha-as-new-ceo-md/article23334106.ece>

## Ameenah Gurib-Fakim

**Question: Ameenah Gurib-Fakim recently resigned as the President of which country?**

- (a) Myanmar (b) Mauritius (c) Malaysia (d) Thailand

**Answer: (b)**

**Related Facts:**

- On March 17<sup>th</sup>, 2018 Mauritian President Ameenah Gurib-Fakim resigned from the post.
- She resigned due to allegations against her for use of a credit card to buy luxury personal items.



- She became Mauritius's first woman president in 2015.

**Reference:**

<https://navbharattimes.indiatimes.com/world/asian-countries/mauritius-president-ameenah-gurib-fakim-resigns-after-being-caught-in-financial-scandal/articleshow/63348682.cms>

## New Brand Ambassador

**Question: Who amongst the following recently became the new brand ambassador of 'Vivo', a Chinese mobile company?**

- (a) Deepika Padukone
- (b) Arjun Kapoor
- (c) Virat Kohli
- (d) Aamir Khan



**Answer: (d)**

**Related Facts:**

- In March, 2018 Famous Bollywood actor Aamir Khan became the new brand ambassador of 'Vivo', a Chinese mobile company.
- Earlier, Bollywood actor Ranvir Singh was the brand ambassador this company.

**Reference:**

[http://www.business-standard.com/article/companies/aamir-khan-replaces-ranveer-singh-as-vivo-india-s-brand-ambassador-118031900511\\_1.html](http://www.business-standard.com/article/companies/aamir-khan-replaces-ranveer-singh-as-vivo-india-s-brand-ambassador-118031900511_1.html)

## Nand Bahadur Pun

**Question: Recently, Nand Bahadur Pun re-sworn in as Vice President of which of the following countries?**

- (a) Bangladesh
- (b) Nepal
- (c) Myanmar
- (d) Sri Lanka

**Answer: (b)**

**Related Facts:**

- On 19<sup>th</sup> March, 2018, Nand Bahadur re-sworn in as Vice-President of Nepal
- At this post it is his second term.
- President of Nepal Vidya Devi Bhandari administered his oath of office and secrecy.
- Earlier, first he was elected as Vice President of Nepal in October 2015.

**Reference:**

<http://www.newindianexpress.com/world/2018/mar/19/nanda-bahadur-pun-elected-nepal-vice-president-unopposed-1789317.html>

## First Indian MD of the Sony India

**Question: Who amongst the following was chosen the first Indian Managing Director of Sony India?**

- (a) Sunil Mehta
- (b) Sunil Nayar
- (c) Deepak Kumar
- (d) Ajay Arora

**Answer: (b)**

**Related Facts:**

- On March 19<sup>th</sup>, 2018 Sunil Nayar has been appointed as first Indian Managing Director of Sony India.



- His tenure will begin on April 1<sup>st</sup>, 2018.
- At this post, he will replace Kenichiro Hibi.

**Reference:**

<https://www.thehindubusinessline.com/companies/sony-india-appoints-first-indian-md-sunil-nayyar/article23291177.ece>

## Atul M. Gotsurve

**Question:** Atul M. Gotsurve, the Indian Foreign Service officer has recently been appointed the next ambassador of India in which of the following countries?

(a) China (b) Democratic People's Republic of Korea (c) Brazil (d) Russia

**Answer: (b)**

**Related Facts:**

- On March 19<sup>th</sup>, 2018, Atul M. Gotsurve was appointed the next Ambassador of India to the Democratic People's Republic of Korea.
- Currently he is working as Director in the Ministry of External Affairs.
- He is the 2004 batch IFS officer.



**Reference:**

<http://www.mea.gov.in/press-releases.htm?dtl/29667/Shri+Atul+M+Gotsurve+appointed+as+the+next+Ambassador+of+India+to+the+Democratic+Peoples+Republic+of+Korea>

## M. Sukumaran

**Question-** M. Sukumaran passed away recently. He was-

(a) Writer (b) Journalist (c) Scientist (d) Historian

**Answer- (a)**

**Related Facts:**

- On 16<sup>th</sup> March, 2018, the famous Malayalam writer M. Sukumaran passed. He was 75 years old.
- He was given the Kerala Sahitya Akademi Award in 1976 for his book *Marichittillathavarude Smarakangal*.
- His popular stories are 'Sagajanam', 'Anarathuptu' and 'Pithrutranam'.



**Reference:**

<http://www.newindianexpress.com/states/kerala/2018/mar/17/malayalam-writer-m-sukumaran-passes-away-at-76-1788325.html>

## Ranjan Roy

**Question:** Ranjan Roy passed away recently. He was-

(a) Actor (b) Literary (c) Journalist (d) Politician

**Answer: (c)**

**Related Facts:**

- On March 10<sup>th</sup>, 2018, senior journalist Ranjan Roy died. He was 57 years old.



- He started his journalistic career as a trainee journalist in the press trust of India (PTI) in New Delhi in the year 1982.
- He was a member of the Times News Network (TNN) and a member of the National Editorial Board of Newspapers.

**Reference:**

<http://indianexpress.com/article/india/senior-editor-ranjan-roy-dies-at-57-5093981/>

## Additional charge of the Civil Aviation Ministry

**Question: Recently, who among the given gets additional charge of the Civil Aviation Ministry by the President Ramnath Kovind; in accordance with the advice of the Prime Minister, ?**

(a) Nitin Gadkari (b) Suresh Prabhu (c) Dr. Harshavardhan (d) Arun Jaitley

**Answer: (b)**

**Related Facts:**

- On March 10<sup>th</sup>, 2018, President Ramnath Kovind gave additional charge of the Ministry of Civil Aviation to Suresh Prabhu in addition to his current portfolio, in accordance to the Prime Minister's advice.
- Currently Suresh Prabhu is the Minister of Commerce and Industry.
- Significantly, the charge of the Ministry of Civil Aviation was vacant due to Ashok Gajapati Raju's resignation from the post.



**Reference:**

<http://indianexpress.com/article/india/suresh-prabhu-gets-additional-charge-of-civil-aviation-ministry-5093029/>

## Kedarnath Singh

**Question: Recently Hindi poet Kedarnath Singh passed away. In which year he was honored with the prestigious Jnanpith Award?**

(a) Year 2012 (b) Year 2013 (c) Year 2015 (d) Year 2009

**Answer: (b)**

**Related Facts:**

- On 19<sup>th</sup> March, 2018, Noted Hindi poet Kedarnath Singh passed away following a prolonged illness at Delhi's. He was of 83.
- He was born on July 7, 1934 in village Chakia of Ballia district.
- 'Abhi bilkul Abhi' and 'Yahan se Dekho' are among his prominent works. He also wrote essays and stories.
- Sri Singh was chosen for the prestigious Jnanpith award for 2013.
- He was awarded the Sahitya Akademi Award in 1989 for his work 'Akaal Mein Saras (Cranes in Drought)'.
- Apart from this, Kedarnath Singh has also received many other Hindi awards. This includes, Vyas Samman, Maithilisharan Gupt Samman and Dinkar Award.
- Famous poems collections of Kedarnath Singh include tiger, crocodile stork, North Kabir and other poems.
- Their major prose works are 'Kalpana and Shadavaad', 'Bimbvishan in modern Hindi poetry' and 'words of my time'.



**Reference:**

<https://www.amarujala.com/india-news/prominent-poet-kedarnath-singh-passes-away-in-delhi-aiims-hospital?pageld=1>

## Miro Cerar

**Question: Recently the Prime Minister Miro Cerar of which of the following countries resigned from his post?**

(a) Norway (b) Czech Republic (c) Czechoslovakia (d) Slovenia

**Answer: (d)**

**Related Facts:**

- On March 14<sup>th</sup>, 2018, Prime Minister of Slovenia, Miro Cerar, resigned from his post.
- He resigned after the country's top court annulled last year's referendum on a key railway project and ordered a new vote.
- The project was to upgrade the transport link for the Kopar port on the Adriatic coast.
- The Supreme Court said that the government had acted partially by spending public funds to get positive votes for the scheme.



**Reference:**

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2018/03/15/slovenias-prime-minister-resigns-court-ruling-referendum/>

## Larry Kudlow

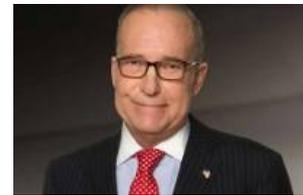
**Question- Larry Kudlow was appointed the new Chief Economic Advisor of which of the following countries?**

(a) Russia (b) Brazil (c) America (d) Australia

**Answer: (c)**

**Related Facts:**

- On March 14<sup>th</sup>, 2018, Larry Kudlow appointed US President Donald Trump's new Chief Economic Advisor.
- On this post, he replaced Gary Cohen.
- It is remarkable that Larry Kudlow has worked as Trump's informal economic adviser during the year 2016.



**Reference:**

<http://time.com/5197983/larry-kudlow-replace-gary-cohn-what-to-know/>

## Emily Nasrallah

**Question- Recently a famous writer and feminist Emily Nasrallah passed away. To which of the following countries did she belong?**

(a) Mexico (b) Colombia (c) Lebanon (d) America

**Answer: (c)**

**Related Facts:**

- On March 13<sup>th</sup> 2018, a prizewinning Lebanese writer Emily Nasrallah passed away in Beirut. She was 86 years old.



- In his year 1962, her first book 'Birds of September' was published.

**Reference:**

<https://www.nytimes.com/2018/03/16/obituaries/emily-nasrallah-dead.html>

## Jayendra Nath Chaturvedi

**Question: Jayendra Nath Chaturvedi passed away recently. He had served as-**

- (a) First chairman of the Uttar Pradesh Public Service Commission
- (b) UP First Lokayukta
- (c) First Commissioner of Delhi Police
- (d) Madhya Pradesh First Lokayukta

**Answer: (c)**

**Related Facts:**

- On March 12<sup>th</sup>, 2018, Delhi Police's first commissioner, Jayendra Nath Chaturvedi passed away.
- That year 1951 batch IAS officer.
- He also served as Director General of Police and U.P. and as the Chairman of the Public Service Commission.
- He was the first Commissioner of Delhi Police during the period from 1978 to 1980.



**Reference:**

[http://www.business-standard.com/article/news-ians/delhi-s-first-commissioner-of-police-dead-118031300044\\_1.html](http://www.business-standard.com/article/news-ians/delhi-s-first-commissioner-of-police-dead-118031300044_1.html)

## Vladimir Putin

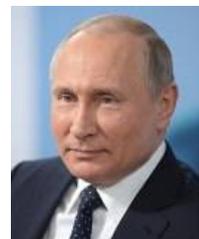
**Question- Vladimir Putin recently elected the President of Russia for the fourth time. His tenure will be of-**

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

**Answer- (a)**

**Related Facts:**

- On 18<sup>th</sup> March 2018, Vladimir Putin has been elected President of Russia for the fourth times.
- In this election, he got more than 76 percent of the votes.
- He will now be President of Russia for 6 years again.
- Presidential term of Putin will last until 2018-2024.



**Reference:**

<http://www.bbc.com/news/world-europe-43452449>

## Air Chief Marshal Mujahid Anwar Khan

**Question: Recently, Air Chief Marshal Mujahid Anwar Khan took charge as the new Air Chief of which of the following countries?**

- (a) Bangladesh
- (b) Pakistan
- (c) Sri Lanka
- (d) Malaysia

**Answer: (b)**

**Related Facts:**

- On March 19<sup>th</sup>, 2018, AirChief Marshal Mujahid Anwar Khan took



charge as the new Air Chief of Pakistan.

- At this post, he replaced Sohail Aman.

**Reference:**

<https://www.geo.tv/latest/187000-paf-change-of-command-ceremony-under-way-in-islamabad>

## Sangeeta Bahadur

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

(a) Russia (b) Belarus (c) Ukraine (d) Norway

**Answer: (b)**

**Related Facts:**

- On March 15<sup>th</sup>, 2018, Sangeeta Bahadur has been appointed as the next Ambassador of India to the Republic of Belarus.
- She is currently Additional Secretary in Ministry of External Affairs.
- She is the 1987 batch IFS officer.
- Books 'Jaal' and 'Vikraal' written by her were quite popular.



**Reference:**

[http://mea.gov.in/press-releases.htm?dtl/29639/Ms\\_Sangeeta\\_Bahadur\\_appointed\\_as\\_the\\_next\\_Ambassador\\_of\\_India\\_to\\_the\\_Republic\\_of\\_Belarus](http://mea.gov.in/press-releases.htm?dtl/29639/Ms_Sangeeta_Bahadur_appointed_as_the_next_Ambassador_of_India_to_the_Republic_of_Belarus)

## New Foreign Minister of America

**Question: Recently who has been named as the new Foreign Minister of America?**

(a) Rex Tillerson (b) Evan Trump (c) Mike Pompeo (d) Richard Moran

**Answer: (c)**

**Related Facts:**

- On March 13<sup>th</sup>, 2018, President Donald Trump announced the name of the Mike Pompeo as the new foreign minister of US.
- Currently he is the Director of the American Intelligence Engineer Central Intelligence Agency (CIA).
- At this post, he replaced Rex Tillerson, who was sacked by President Donald Trump from his post.



**Reference:**

<https://www.usatoday.com/story/news/politics/2018/03/13/secretary-state-rex-tillerson-ousted-favor-cia-chief-trump-announces/419363002/>

## Begum Hamida Habibullah

**Question: Begum Hamida Habibullah passed away recently. She was-**

- (a) Former Rajya Sabha member (b) Former Lok Sabha member  
(c) Former President of National Commission for Women  
(d) Former President of National Commission for Minorities

**Answer: (a)**

**related Facts:**

- On March 13<sup>th</sup>, 2018, Former Rajya Sabha Member Begum Hamida Habibullah passed away. She was 101 years old.
- She was the mother of India's first Chief Information Commissioner Wajahat Habibullah.
- She was an assembly member from Haidergarh seat of Barabanki (UP) district from 1969 to 1974 and remained minister in UP government.
- She was also a Rajya Sabha member from 1976-1982.



**Reference:**

<http://www.thehindu.com/news/national/other-states/former-rs-member-begum-hamida-dies-at-101/article23168427.ece>

## Prof. Stephen Hawking

**Question: On March 14th, 2018, the famous British physicist Prof. Stephen Hawking passed away. The name of the book written by him is-**

- (a) A Brief History of Black Hole (b) A Brief History of Time  
(c) A Brief History of Science (d) A Brief History of Big Bang

**Answer: (b)**

**Related Facts**

- On March 14th, 2018, the famous British physicist Prof. Stephen Hawking passed away. He was 76 years old.
- He was born on January 8th, 1942 in the UK.
- That year, in 1963, at the age of 21, he suffered with a rare form of motor neurone disease which caused many parts of his body paralyzed.
- He played an important role in understanding general relativity, black hole and big bang theory.
- 'A Brief History of Time' was a famous book written by him.
- Due to its high sales, it was also included in Guinness Book of World Records.
- In the year 2014, the movie 'The Theory of Every Thing' was made on his life, in which Eddie Redman played hawking, for which he received the Oscar award for Best Actor.



**Reference:**

<http://www.bbc.com/news/uk-43396008>

## Narendra Jha

**Question- Narendra Jha passed away recently. He was –**

- (a) Journalist (b) actor (c) politician (d) sculptor

**Answer- (b)**

**Related Facts**

- On March 14th, 2018, the famous Bollywood actor Narendra Jha passed away. He was 55 years old.
- He started his career as an actor from the famous TV serial 'Shanti'.



- After this he worked in many TV serials like 'Amrapali', 'Constitution', 'Begusarai' and 'Make a House'.
- Apart from this, he starred in films such as 'Haider', 'Our Incomplete Story', 'Rais', 'Force 3', 'Kabil', 'Wounded Returns' and 'Mohenjo Daro'.
- 'Saho' and 'Race 3' are his upcoming films.

**Reference:**

<http://indianexpress.com/article/entertainment/bollywood/narendra-jha-dead-5097255/>

## Bidya Devi Bhandari

**Question: Recently, Bidya Devi Bhandari was re-elected as the President in which of the following countries?**

(a) Bermuda (b) Nepal (c) Sri Lanka (d) Mauritius

**Answer: (b)**

**Related Facts**

- On March 13th, 2018, Bidya Devi Bhandari was re-elected as the President of Nepal.
- She was the country's first woman president elected in the year 2015.
- She was supported by the ruling Left alliance of the CPN-UML (Maoist Centre), the Sanghiya Samajbadi Forum-Nepal and other fringe parties.



**Reference:**

<http://www.thehindu.com/news/international/bidya-devi-bhandari-re-elected-as-nepal-president/article23228780.ece>

## India's new brand ambassador for Uber

**Question: Who amongst the following has recently become brand ambassador in India for the Uber; the company giving facility of app-based taxi booking?**

(a) Mahendra Singh Dhoni (b) Shikhar Dhawan (c) Virat Kohli  
(d) Abhinav Bindra

**Answer: (c)**

**Related Facts:**

- On March 9th, 2018 Uber; app based taxi booking company "Uber" has appointed Indian cricketer Virat Kohli as his brand ambassador in India.
- For the first time, the company has made its brand ambassador in the Asia-Pacific region.
- Apart from this, Virat Kohli is also the brand ambassador of Punjab National Bank (PNB) and Border Security Force (BSF).



**Reference:**

[http://www.business-standard.com/article/pti-stories/uber-ropes-in-virat-kohli-as-brand-ambassador-in-india-118030900464\\_1.html](http://www.business-standard.com/article/pti-stories/uber-ropes-in-virat-kohli-as-brand-ambassador-in-india-118030900464_1.html)

## New CTO of Twitter

**Question: Who amongst the given has recently been appointed as new micro technology official (CTO) of a micro-blogging site Twitter?**

(a) Deepak Agarwal(b) Parag Agrawal(c) Arjun Shah(d) Pradeep Chatterjee

**Answer: (b)**

**Related Facts:**

- On March 9th, 2018, Micro Blogging site Twitter has made Parag Agarwal to his new Chief Technology Officer (CTO).
- At this post, he will replace Adam Messinger.



**Reference:**

<https://cio.economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/strategy-and-management/twitter-appoints-iit-bombay-alumnus-parag-agrawal-as-new-cto/63231221>

## Ravi Thapar

**Question: Recently, Ravi Thapar has been appointed as the next Ambassador of India to which of the following countries?**

(a) Norway(b) Switzerland(c) Panama(d) Finland

**Answer: (c)**

**Related Facts:**

- On March 6th, 2018, Indian Foreign Service officer Ravi Thapar has been appointed as the next Ambassador of India to Panama.
- Currently, he is posted as Additional Secretary in the Ministry of External Affairs.



**Reference:**

<http://www.mea.gov.in/press-releases.htm?dtl/29568/Shri+Ravi+Thapar+appointed+as+the+next+Ambassador+of+India+>

## New Special Director of the ED

**Question: Who amongst the following has recently appointed as the new special director of the ED (ED)?**

(a) Karnal Singh(b) Vivek R. Wadekar(c) Dev Singh Rathore  
(d) Vinod Khemka

**Answer: (b)**

**Related Facts:**

- On March 6th, 2018, Shri Vivek R. Wadekar senior officer of the Indian Revenue Service (IRS) appointed new special director of ED by the central government.
- His tenure will be of 5 years.
- It is known that the Enforcement Directorate is a special investigation agency under the Department of Revenue, Ministry of Finance.
- It enforces Foreign Exchange Management Act (FEMA), 1999 and the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA), 2002 in the country.
- At present, Karnal Singh is the Director of Enforcement Directorate.



**Reference:**

[http://www.business-standard.com/article/pti-stories/wadekar-appointed-new-special-director-in-ed-118030601227\\_1.html](http://www.business-standard.com/article/pti-stories/wadekar-appointed-new-special-director-in-ed-118030601227_1.html)

## Sir John Sulston

**Question: Sir John Sulston passed away recently. He was**

(a) Environmentalist(b) Architect(c) Scientist(d) Actor

**Answer: (c)**

**Related Facts:**

- In March, 2018, Nobel Prize winner famous British scientist and medicine Sir John Sulston Passed away. He was 75 years old.
- He helped decode human genome.
- He was awarded the Nobel Prize in Medicine in 2002 for his work on the development of cells within a humble worm, which paved the way for innovations in cancer research.

**Reference:**

<http://www.bbc.com/news/science-environment-43349774>



## New Director General of PIB

**Question: Who amongst the following has recently been appointed by the Central Government as the new director general of the PIB?**

(a) Ira Joshi(b) Frank Noronha(c) Shashi Shekhar(d) Sitanshu Kar

**Answer: (d)**

**Related Facts:**

- On 9th March, 2018, The Central Government has appointed senior officer of Indian Information Service (IIS) Sitanshu Kar as the new director general of the PIB.
- He will take charge from May 1st, 2018.
- Currently he is working as Director General of News Service Division (NSD) of AIR Radio based in New Delhi.
- At this post he will replace Frank Noronha.
- It is significant that Ms Ira Joshi has been given the charge of DG of AIR News Service, in place of Mr. Kar.

**Reference:**

<http://www.uniindia.com/sitanshu-kar-to-be-new-dg-of-pib/india/news/1162968.html>



## Chief Minister of the Meghalaya

**Question: Who amongst the following took oath as new Chief Minister of Meghalaya on March 6th, 2018?**

(a) Vipalv Deb(b) Conrad Kongkal Sangma(c) Jual Oram  
(d) Mukul Sangma

**Answer: (b)**

**Related Fact:**

- On March 6th , 2018 President of National People's Party (NPP) Conrad Kongkal Sangma sworn in as the new Chief Minister of Meghalaya.
- He is the 12th Chief Minister of Meghalaya.
- At this post he replaced Mukul Sangma.
- Ganga Prasad, the Governor of Meghalaya administered oath of office and secrecy to him.



- Apart from this, the Governor also administered the oath of office to 11 legislators.
- Conrad Kongkal Sangma is the son of Former Speaker of Lok Sabha and Former Chief Minister of the State P.A. Sangma.
- Conrad is currently a member of Tura Lok Sabha seat of the state.
- Significantly, Election notification for the 60-member Meghalaya assembly was announced on January 31st, 2018. Votes were cast on 27th February, 2018.
- Election Commission released results of 60 seats in the state.
- In these election Indian National Congress won highest 21 seats.
- United Democratic Party got 6 seats National People's Party got 19 seats People's Democratic Front got 4 seats, Hill State People's Democratic Party and BJP won 2-2 seats and Nationalist Congress Party and Khun Hynniewtrep National Awakening Movement has won 1-1 seats.
- The state government was formed with a rare alliance of five parties, namely the National People's Party, United Democratic Party (UDP), People's Democratic Front, Hill State People's Democratic Party and the BJP.

**Reference:**

<http://eciresults.nic.in/PartyWiseResultS15.htm?st=S15>

## Shammi

**Question- Shammi passed away recently. She was**

(a) Musician (b) Actress (c) Reporter (d) Painter

**Answer: (b)**



**Related Facts:**

- On March 6th, 2018, veteran actress Shammi passed away. She was 88 years old.
- She was famous for his humorous talent.
- Born in a Parsi family, initially her name was Nargis Rabadi.
- Shammi featured in many popular films, including "Ustad Pedro", "Bhai- Bahen", "Dil Apna Aur Preet Parayi", "Half Ticket", "Jab Jab Phool Khile", "Ittefaq", "The Burning Train", "Kudrat", "Awara Baap", "Swarg", "Shirin Farhad Ki Toh Nikal Padi" and others.
- She also acted in quite a few popular TV serials, such as "Dekh Bhai Dekh", "Zabaan Sambhal Ke", "Shriman Shrimati", "Kabhi Yeh Kabhi Woh" and "Filmi Chakkar".

**Reference:**

<https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/entertainment/hindi/bollywood/news/veteran-actress-shammi-passes-away/articleshow/63180792.cms>

## Krishna Kumari Kohli

**Question: In which of the following countries Krishna Kumari Kohli has become the first Hindu Dalit female senator recently?**

(a) Bangladesh (b) Pakistan (c) America (d) UK

**Answer: (b)**



**Related Facts:**

- On March 4th, 2018, Krishna Kumari Kohli became the first Hindu Dalit female senator in Pakistan.
- She won the election of the Upper House Senate of the Pakistan Parliament on the ticket of the Pakistan People's Party (PPP) from the minority seat of Sindh province.

- Earlier, PPP's Ratna Bhagwandas Chawla was elected the first Hindu woman senator.

**Reference:**

<https://timesofislamabad.com/05-Mar-2018/pakistan-elects-first-female-dalit-senator>

## Kunwar Bai

**Question- Kunwar Bai passed away recently. In which of the following states she was the brand Ambassador of Clean India Mission?**

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

**Answer: (c)**

**Related Facts:**

- On February 23rd, 2018, the brand ambassador of Clean India Mission, Kunwar Bai, passed away in Chhattisgarh state. She was 106 years old.
- She was from Kotabari in Dhamtari district of Chhattisgarh state.
- Kunwar Bai, who had built toilets by selling goats, came to limelight when Prime Minister Narendra Modi had appreciated her.
- Impressed by Swachh Bharat Mission, she had made significant contribution in the cleanliness drive of the village.



**Reference:**

<https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/politics-and-nation/kunwar-bai-the-106-year-old-icon-for-swachh-bharat-campaign-dies/articleshow/63048609.cms>

## Barnaby Joyce

**Question: Which country's deputy Prime Minister Barnaby Joyce resigned from his post recently?**

- (a) Canada(b) Australia(c) Sweden(d) Switzerland

**Answer: (b)**

**Related Facts:**

- On February 23rd, 2018, Australian Deputy Prime Minister Barnaby Joyce resigned from his post.
- He resigned from his post due to charges of sexual harassment.
- His 'National Party' is a partner in power with Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull's Liberal Party.



**Reference:**

<https://www.nytimes.com/2018/02/25/world/australia/barnaby-joyce-resigns-as-michael-mccormack-becomes-australias-new-deputy-prime-minister.html>

## Vinay Kumar

**Question: Recently, senior official of Indian Foreign Service, Vinay Kumar has been appointed as the next Ambassador of India to which of the following countries?**

- (a) Iran(b) Iraq(c) Turkish(d) Afghanistan

**Answer :(d)**

**Related Facts:**

- On March 1st, 2018, Senior Foreign Service Officer of Vinay Kumar has been appointed as the next Ambassador of India to the Islamic Republic Of Afghanistan.
- He is a member of IFS cadre: 1992.
- He is currently Joint Secretary in Ministry Of External Affairs.



**Reference:**

<http://www.mea.gov.in/press-releases.htm?dtl/29528/Shri+Vinay+Kumar+appointed+as+the+next+Ambassador+of+India>

## New DGP of the State of Bihar

**Question: Who amongst the following became the new DGP of the state of Bihar?**

- (a) P K Singh (b) P K Thakur (c) K.S. Dwivedi (d) Rajesh Gupta

**Answer: (c)**

**Related Facts:**

- On 27th February, 2018, Senior IPS officer K.S. Dwivedi was appointed the new Director General of Police (DGP) of Bihar.
- He is the 1984 batch IPS officer.
- His tenure will last till January 31st, 2019.
- Indian Police Service (IPS) batch of 1984, Dwivedi took charge from current DGP PK Thakur.
- Thakur was retired from his post on February 28.



**Reference:**

<https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/politics-and-nation/kunwar-bai-the-106-year-old-icon-for-swachh-bharat-campaign-dies/articleshow/63048609.cms>

## Sudhir Tripathi

**Question: Recently, senior IAS officer Sudhir Tripathi was appointed as the new principal secretary of which of the following states?**

- Madhya Pradesh (b) Rajasthan (c) Bihar (d) Jharkhand

**Answer: (d)**

**Related Facts:**

- On February 28th, 2018 Senior IAS officer Sudhir Tripathi, appointed as Jharkhand State's new Chief Secretary.
- He is the IAS officer of the year 1985 batch (Bihar cadre).
- At this post, he replaced Rajbala Verma.



**Reference:**

<https://www.telegraphindia.com/states/jharkhand/tripathi-chief-secy-nidhi-moves-to-health-212029>

## Ratnavel Pandian

**Question- Ratnavel Pandian passed away recently. He was-**

- (a) Educationist (b) Educationist (c) Environmentist (d) Judge

**Answer: (d)**

**Related Facts:**

- On 28th February, 2018, Former Justice of the Supreme Court, Justice Ratnawal Pandiyan passed away in Gaya. He was 89 years old.
- He was a judge of the Supreme Court from 1988 to 1994.
- He also worked as the Chairman of the National Backward Classes Commission.



**Reference:**

<https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/chennai/former-sc-judge-ratnawal-pandian-passes-away-at-89/articleshow/63120947.cms>

## New Chairperson, National Authority for Chemical Weapons Convention

**Question: Who amongst the following has recently been appointed by the Central Government as the chairman of the National Authority for Chemical Weapons Convention (NACWC)?**

- (a) Bhupendra Singh (b) Dr. Indrajeet Singh  
(c) Dr. Vinay Singh Ambassador (d) Anil Gulati

**Answer: (a)**

**Related Facts:**

- On March 1st 2018, Central Government has appointed senior IAS The officer appointed Bhupendran Singh as the president of National Chemical Chemical Weapons Convention (NACWC).
- Currently he is the President of National Drug Pricing (NPPA).
- It is noteworthy that the NACWC was established on April 29th 1997 under the Chemical Weapons Convention Act 2000.



**Reference:**

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=176904>

## Jayendra Saraswati Shankaracharya

**Question- Shankaracharya Jayendra Saraswati passed away recently. With which of the following bench (Peeth) he was attached?**

- (a) Dwarikadheesh (b) Kardarath (c) Badrishashram (d) Kanchi Kamakoti

**Answer: (d)**

**Related Facts:**

- On February 28th, 2018, 69th Shankaracharya Jayendra Saraswati of Kanchi Kamkoti Peeth passed away. He was 82 years old.
- He was born on July 18th, 1935 in the then Thanjavur district.
- He was made the 69th Shankaracharya of Kanchi Kamkoti Peeth after the death of Chandrashekharendra Saraswati Swamigal in 1994.
- On March 22nd, 1954, Jayendra Saraswati was declared successor of Chandrashekharan Saraswati Swamigal.
- Jayendra Saraswati had declared Shankar Vijender Saraswati as his successor in the year 1983.



**Reference:**

<https://aajtak.intoday.in/story/kanchi-shankaracharya-jayendra-saraswati-passes-away-1->

## New Director of the Ayushman Bharat Scheme

**Question: Who amongst the following has recently been appointed as the new director of the ambitious Ayushman Bharat 'scheme by the Central Government?**

- (a) Manoj Jhalani (b) Dr. Dinesh Chandra (c) Dr. Dinesh Arora  
(d) Dr. Soumya Swaminathan

**Answer: (c)**

**Related Facts:**

- On February 14<sup>th</sup>, 2018, the Central Government appointed senior IAS officer Dr. Dinesh Arora as the director of the ambitious 'Ayushman Bharat' scheme.
- He is the 2002 batch IAS officer of Kerala cadre.
- At present, he is a director in the Policy Commission and looks at matters related to health.
- Apart from this, senior IAS officer Manoj Jhalani was appointed the Mission Director of this scheme.
- It is worth mentioning that under the Ayushman Bharat Scheme, there is a plan to provide treatment up to five lakh rupees to 10 million poor families.
- This plan was announced in the Union Budget 2018-19.

**Reference:**

<https://www.hindustantimes.com/india-news/niti-aayog-official-appointed-pm-s-healthcare-programme-director/story-DPit94YqWbqXkMaXOMDqDI.html>



## Ashok Das

**Question: Recently to which of the following countries senior official of the Indian Foreign Service Ashok Das has been appointed as the next ambassador of India?**

- (a) Russia (b) Brazil (c) China (d) France

**Answer: (b)**

**Related Facts:**

- On February 13<sup>th</sup>, 2018, Ashok Das, senior official of the Indian Foreign Service, was appointed by the Central Government to be the next Ambassador of India to Brazil.
- He is the IFS officer of the 1987 batch.
- He is currently working as additional secretary in the Ministry of External Affairs.

**Reference:**

[http://mea.gov.in/press-releases.htm?dtl/29481/Shri\\_Ashok\\_Das\\_appointed\\_as\\_the\\_next\\_Ambassador\\_of\\_India\\_t](http://mea.gov.in/press-releases.htm?dtl/29481/Shri_Ashok_Das_appointed_as_the_next_Ambassador_of_India_t)



## PLACES

### Smart India Hackathon 2018

**Question: The Software Edition Grand Finale of Smart India Hackathon 2018 was held at which of the following places?**

(a) Kavaraipeitai(b) Hyderabad(c) Pune(d) Indore

**Answer: (a)**



#### Related Facts:

- Smart India Hackathon 2018 – Software Edition Grand Finale was organized here at the R.M.K. Engineering College at Kavaraipeitai, Thiruvallur District near Chennai, Tamil Nadu.
- 41 teams from different parts of India consisting of 246 students competed in the grand finale for the 14 problem statements posed by MoHUA and the State Governments.
- A total of 340 Problem Statements have been proposed across the Ministries/Departments/ States etc.
- Total 1282 teams comprising more than 10,000 young Engineering students and their mentors participated in the event.
- Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs participated as a host of Chennai Nodal Centre which is a combined initiative involving the Ministry of Human Resources Development, All India Council of Technical Education (AICTE), Inter-Institutional Inclusive Innovations (i4c) and Persistent Systems Ltd.
- The following seven software problems are found hackathonable:
  - Posting/transfers at the level of JE/AE/EE in CPWD (Works Div/CPWD)
  - The impact of GST can vary from sector to sector and depends on whether the project is under execution (Economic Division)
  - Stakeholder Engagement for Urban Planning and Management (Smart City)
  - Urban Mobility (Smart City)
  - Common Mobility App (Urban Transport)
  - Common Platform for Vehicle Registration (Urban Transport)
  - E-Measurement Book (Delhi Division/DDA)
- The State Governments have also sent problem statements relating to Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (PMAY), Urban Local Bodies (ULBs), Swachhata, Real Estate Regulation Act etc.
- It is note worthy that Smart India Hackathon 2018 is a digital product development competition involving all Technology institutes in India with a reach to approximately 30 lakh students.
- The initiative challenges the students to come out with out-of-the-box innovative ideas to build smart applications which will help address major real time problems in our country.
- All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE) under the aegis of Ministry of Human Resource Development (MHRD) and in collaboration with i4c, MyGov, Persistent Systems, and Rambhau Mhalgi Prabodhini organized this event across India.
- With 27 Union Ministries and Departments and 17 State Governments having joined this grand initiative this year, the Hackathon is much bigger than its previous edition.
- It included 2 sub-editions – Software edition, which is a 36-hr software product development competition.

- The Hardware edition, involving building of hardware solutions will be held later this year in the month of June.
- Students from 41 teams have submitted ideas for various problems like traffic management systems, vehicle registration, revolutionizing public transport systems, urban planning and management systems and GST calculators using technologies like Artificial Intelligence, Machine Learning, IoT and Mobility.
- 23 teams consisting of 138 students of the RMK Group of Institutions competed in the above Hackathon in various nodal centers in India.

**Reference:**

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=178241>

## World-Class Interpretation Centre and Tourist Amenities at Konark Sun Temple

**Question: Konark Sun Temple is Odisha's pride and development of World-Class Interpretation Centre and Tourist Amenities is a step in that direction. This development will funded by which of the given?**

- (a) World Bank (b) Odisha Tourism Department  
(c) The Indian Oil Foundation (d) Odisha Government

**Answer: (c)**

**Related Facts:**

- On April 1<sup>st</sup>, 2018, Union Minister of Petroleum & Natural Gas, Skill Development & Entrepreneurship Shri Dharmendra Pradhan, inaugurated the world-class Interpretation Centre and tourist facilities at Konark Sun Temple at Konark coinciding with Utkal Divas celebrations in Odisha.
- Shri Dharmendra Pradhan complimented The Indian Oil Foundation (IOF), a non-profit trust fully funded by Indian Oil Corporation (Indian Oil), under the aegis of Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas, for developing the visitor-friendly infrastructure and associated facilities, including a state-of-the-art Interpretation Centre that showcases the unique architectural features of Konark Sun Temple.
- He also complimented Shri Raghunath Mahapatra for recreating the sculptural wealth of Konark Sun Temple at the Interpretation Centre for the benefit of both national & International visitors.
- Modern amenities that have been developed at the temple complex would attract more tourists in future.
- It is notable that Konark Sun Temple is Odisha's pride and it is important that the world is made aware of this architectural marvel, for which the Interpretation Centre is a step in that direction.
- UNESCO is continuously working for the preservation of heritage monuments, like the Sun Temple at Konark, across the world.



**Reference:**

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=178243>

## Telugu mandatory subject in all Telangana schools

**Question: Up to which standard Telugu has been made compulsory subject in both private and government schools of Telangana from this academic year (2018-19)?**

(a) up to VIII class (b) up to Class X (c) up to class XII (d) up to Class V

**Answer- (b)**

**Related Facts:**

- On March 20<sup>th</sup>, 2018, Telangana Government made Telugu as a compulsory subject in both private and government schools from this academic year (2018-19).
- It will be mandatory to study Telugu up to class X in the state.
- The government has decided to make a law in this regard.
- As a part of efforts to save the language and protect the culture, Telugu is included in the compulsory subject in all the schools of the state.
- Telangana CM K. Chandrasekhar Rao has asked the Telugu Sahitya Academy and Telugu University to prepare a class-wise syllabus for Telugu to be taught in all schools.
- Course material for Telugu will have content that “inculcates patriotism and ethical values among children”.



**Reference:**

<https://www.livemint.com/Education/QzGWvtpakmiiZuB07b8fGM/Telugu-to-be-a-mandatory-subject-in-all-Telangana-schools-C.html>

## Plastic Park to be set up in Jharkhand

**Question: In which of the following district of Jharkhand recently, the approval of the establishment of a plastic park was approved by the Indian Government?**

(a) Ranchi (b) Deoghar (c) Jamshedpur (d) Dhanbad

**Answer: (b)**

**Related Facts:**

- On March 20<sup>th</sup>, 2018, Union Minister for Chemicals & Fertilizers and Parliamentary Affairs, Shri Ananthkumar announced that the Government of India has approved the setting up of a Plastic Park in Deoghar District, Jharkhand.
- The project would be set up at a cost of Rs. 120 crores in an area of 150 acres and a range of polymer products including woven sacks, moulded furniture, water tanks, bottles, pipes mosquito nets, etc would be manufactured.
- It has great potential for attracting investment for setting up an ecosystem for plastic industry and generates employment opportunities for the local populace, the Minister informed.
- Project is likely to provide direct employment generation to about 6000 people and indirect employment to over 30000 people.
- This human resource is of vital importance as the plastic industry is growing at a rapid pace and the polymer consumption in India would double from the current 10 million metric tonnes to 20 million metric tonnes by 2022, the Minister added.
- The setting up of Rs. 3.5 crore Plastic Recycling unit at Deoghar to tackle the menace of plastic waste being generated due to the place being a tourist attraction was also announced.



- Deoghar receives over 5 crore tourists per year, leading to generation of a lot of plastic waste.
- The coming up of the Plastic Park, CIPET and the Plastic Recycling unit would build an ecosystem that would encourage setting up of Plastic Industry at Deoghar, thereby making it a 'Plastic Hub' in the future.

**Reference:**

<https://www.news18.com/news/business/centre-sanctions-rs-120-crore-plastic-park-for-jharkhand-promises-cipet-centre-1695053.html>

## Inland Ferry Services

**Question: From where Union Minister of Road Transport and Highways, Shipping and Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation Shri Nitin Gadkari inaugurated the Inland ferry services?**

(a) Rajasthan (b) Goa (c) Mumbai (d) Odisha

**Answer: (b)**

**Related Facts:**

- On March 20<sup>th</sup>, 2018, Union Minister of Road Transport and Highways, Shipping and Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation Shri Nitin Gadkari inaugurated the Inland ferry services in the port city of Vasco in Goa.
- In his keynote address, the Minister said that while addressing the needs of the poor, environment and ecosystem must be given its due priority.
- To achieve this, all the stakeholders need to make a concerted decision and action. He said, India has about seven thousand five hundred kilometres of seashore which can help the development of the country while giving tourism the much-required boost.
- Goa owes its emergence as a tourism state due to its coastal belt. The tourism sector has very high potential for Investment and employment generation.
- It is note worthy that the central government has so far provided Rs 15,000 crore for development of roads in Goa. He assured that Goa will receive all the funds required for the development projects under 'Sagarmala'.



**Reference:**

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintHindiRelease.aspx?relid=71296>

## Bihar's first startup hub

**Question: Where will the first startup hub of Bihar established?**

(a) Nalanda (b) Muzaffarpur (c) Samastipur (d) Patna

**Answer: (d)**

**Related Facts:**

- On March 16<sup>th</sup> 2018, Bihar Deputy Chief Minister Sushil Kumar Modi inaugurated Bihar's the first startup hub at Patna.
- 'Plug and Play' with workstation and office space will be provided free of charge to 31 startup companies in this start up hub
- This startup hub will be developed as a general facility center.



**Reference:**

<http://www.business-standard.com/article/pti-stories/sushil-modi-inaugurates-bihar-s-1st-startup->

## Approval to Nuclear Power Program

**Question: Cabinet of which of the following countries has recently approved the National Policy for Atomic Energy Program?**

(a) United Arab Emirates (b) Saudi Arabia (c) Iran (d) Iraq

**Answer: (b)**

**Related Facts:**

- On 13<sup>th</sup> March 2018 Saudi Arabia's cabinet approved on Tuesday the national policy of the atomic energy program.
- This national policy restricts all atomic activities within boundaries prepared by international treaties for peaceful purposes.
- This policy also highlighted the need for the best use of natural resources from nuclear materials and the use of best practices for the management of radioactive waste.



**Reference:**

<https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/world/middle-east/saudi-cabinet-approves-nuclear-power-program-national-policy-report/articleshow/63287643.cms>

## Pink Electricity Zone

**Question: Which of the following states has launched the Pink Electricity Zone where all the employees will be women?**

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

**Answer: (b)**

**Related Facts:**

- On March 8<sup>th</sup>, 2018, on the occasion of International Women's Day; Madhya Pradesh West Power Distribution Company (MPWPDC) launched a 'Pink Electricity Zone'.
- This zone will be managed by female employees.
- In the Pink Electricity Zone, 25 women employees (for the post of assistant engineer, junior engineer, line supervisor, line man, meter reader, accountant and computer operator) have been deployed.
- The uniforms of these women will be of pink color.
- They will manage the maintenance of 13,000 power connections in Aranya Nagar inhabited by 60,000 people.



**Reference:**

<https://energy.economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/power/mp-power-utility-starts-pink-electricity-zone/63228948>

## Construction of houses for earthquake victims in Nepal

**Question- India will provide financial assistance for construction of how many houses for earthquake victims in Nepal?**

(a) 10,000(b) 25,000(c) 40,000(d) 50,000

**Answer: (d)**

**Related Facts:**

- On March 8<sup>th</sup>, 2018, in a reconstruction bid for Nepal devastated by earthquake, India signed the agreement in Kathmandu for construction of earthquake victims in Nepal with the United Nations Development Program (UNDP) and the United Nations Office Project Services (UNOPs).
- Under this agreement, India will provide financial assistance for the construction of 50,000 homes in Nepal.
- India will provide US \$ 8.41 million to UN Office Project Services and US \$ 7.41 million to UNDP for the construction of these 50,000 homes.
- It is to be noted that excessive destruction was caused by heavy earthquake in Himalayan country Nepal in April 2015.
- More than 10,000 people died in this earthquake and about 22,000 people were injured.
- The districts most affected by earthquake were Gorkha and Nuwakot.



**Reference:**

[http://www.business-standard.com/article/pti-stories/india-to-build-50-000-houses-for-quake-victims-in-nepal-118030801056\\_1.html](http://www.business-standard.com/article/pti-stories/india-to-build-50-000-houses-for-quake-victims-in-nepal-118030801056_1.html)

## Lakshadweep

**Question- Recently Union Territory Lakshadweep joined the Ujwal Discom Assurance Yojana (UDAY). What amount of benefit in total will be received by this union territory through this Yojana?**

(a) 7 crore(b) 8 crores(c) 10 crores(d) 12 crores

**Answer: (b)**

**Related Facts:**

- On February 28<sup>th</sup>, 2018 Union Territory Lakshadweep joined the Ujwal Discom Assurance Yojana (UDAY).
- On this day the Union Territory Lakshadweep and the Government of India signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) under the Uday Yojana.
- This is likely to improve the operating system of department of electricity of the Union territory.
- Through the Uday Yojana, this Union Territory will get an overall benefit of about Rs. 8 crores.



**Reference:**

<https://www.thehindubusinessline.com/economy/lakshadweep-joins-uday/article22889293.ece>

## Countries achieving the Status of the ODI Status

**Question: Which of the following countries became first time in their history achieved ODI status?**

(a) Bhutan(b) Nepal(c) Hong Kong(d) Myanmar

**Answer: (b)**

**Related Facts:**

- In the ongoing ICC Cricket World Cup Qualifier (March 4<sup>th</sup>-25<sup>th</sup>, 2018) held in Zimbabwe, Nepal by creating history achieved the ODI status (March 15<sup>th</sup>, 2018).
- Qualifier played two matches for the 7<sup>th</sup> to 8<sup>th</sup>
- In a match, Nepal defeated Papua New Guinea by 6 wickets.
- In the second match, the Netherlands defeated Hong Kong by 44 runs.
- With these results, Nepal got first time in their history achieved ODI team status by 2022.
- The two teams have been sent to the Division Two of the World Cricket League.
- After achieving this Nepal has joined the group of top one-day teams of India, South Africa and Australia.



**Reference:**

<https://www.icc-cricket.com/news/644946>

## First International Solar Coalition Conference, 2018

**Question- Where did the 'First International Solar Coalition Conference, 2018' concluded on March 11<sup>th</sup>, 2018?**

(a) Gurugram (b) Noida (c) New Delhi (d) Amritsar

**Answer: (c)**

**Related Facts:**

- On March 11<sup>th</sup>, 2018, 'First International Solar Coalition Conference, 2018' concluded at Rashtrapati Bhavan, in New Delhi.
- Prominent representatives from 47 countries including President of France Emmanuel Macron attended this conference.
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi and all member countries of the Alliance with President Macron formally inaugurate the conference.
- It is noteworthy that 121 countries of the world are such that between the Cancer and Scorpio line and they receive sunlight for almost the whole year.
- 60 out of these countries have joined the coalition, and 32 countries have also signed frameworks.
- On this occasion, Prime Minister Modi announced a collaboration of about \$ 1.4 billion for solar power projects.
- Significantly, on November 30<sup>th</sup>, 2015, this initiative was started by the India and France in the United Nations Climate Change Conference in Paris.



**Reference:**

<http://isolaralliance.org/docs/ISA%20Summit.pdf>

## First alcohol-free village in Ranchi district

**Question: Which village was the first liquor free village in Ranchi district of Jharkhand in March 2018?**

(a) Bongai Bera (b) Baro (c) Banlotwa (d) Baruhatu

**Answer: (c)**

**Related Facts:**

- In March, 2018 the village 'Banlotwa' located in Ranchi district of Jharkhand, became the first liquor-free village.



- On this achievement, Jharkhand Chief Minister Raghuvar Das paid a cash prize of Rs. 1 lakh to the head of the village.
- It is known that two years ago, Chief Minister Raghuvar Das had announced that any village would be given a sum of Rs. 1 lakh to the village, being liquor free.

**Reference:**

<http://indianexpress.com/article/cities/city-others/banlotwa-first-alcohol-free-village-in-ranchi-district/>

## Inauguration of the New Building of Central Information Commission

**Question: The Central Information Commission (CIC) is the apex appellate body established under which of the following acts?**

- (a) Information Act, 2004 (b) Information Act, 2005  
(c) Information Act, 2006 (d) Information Act, 2011

**Answer: (b)**

**Related Facts:**

- On March 6<sup>th</sup>, 2018, Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated the new building of Central Information Commission (CIC) in Munirka, Delhi.
- This building has been provided environmental friendly rating Planet IV which will ensure energy savings and will be helpful in environmental protection.
- From this new building, the commission can operate its work from one place.
- Earlier this commission was operated by two rented buildings (August Kranti Bhawan and Old JNU Building).
- The new building has been constructed by green technology from the National Building Construction.
- This building is five-storey, with all the hearing rooms equipped with state-of-the-art IT and video conferencing.
- The Central Information Commission (CIC) is the apex appellate body established by the Information Act, 2005.



**Reference:**

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=177045>

## Announcement of an emergency in Sri Lanka

**Question- Recently at which of the following places an emergency has been announced in Sri Lanka due to the violence spread across the country?**

- (a) Jaffna (b) Dambulla (c) Candy (d) Galle

**Answer: (c)**

**Related Facts:**

- On March 6<sup>th</sup>, 2018, the Sri Lankan government announced an emergency to stop communal violence among the majority of Sinhalese (Buddhist) and minority Muslims in Kandy district.
- The period of emergency is 10 days.
- In the last week, the violence in the Kandy started as a result of the death of a Sinhala Buddhist man at the hands of a crowd.



- In this violence, mosques, shops and houses related to minority communities were damaged.
- For the first time since August, 2011, emergency status has been implemented in Sri Lanka.

**Reference:**

<https://edition.cnn.com/2018/03/06/asia/sri-lanka-state-of-emergency-intl/index.html>

## Sportsman Fitness Center

**Question: The government of Uttar Pradesh will provide how much amount in the form of pension/month for retired international players?**

(a) Rs 10,000(b) 15,000(c) 20,000(d) 25,000

**Answer: (c)**

**Related Facts:**

- On 28<sup>th</sup> February, 2018, the Sports and Youth Welfare Minister of Uttar Pradesh, Chetan Chauhan inaugurated the Sportsman Fitness Center at Shringar Nagar, Alambagh (Lucknow).
- For the promotion of sports in every district by the State Government, Competitions will be organized twice a year, which will organize different competitions for players of cities and villages.
- Recruitment process of players in government jobs has been started after 25 years by the present government.
- Soon, the recruitment process will be started in 11 departments, in which 2 percent of the players will be included.
- The state government will provide pension of Rs. 20,000/month to retired international players.
- It is known that the Uttar Pradesh Government will award Rs. 6 crore, Rs. 4 crore and Rs. 2 crore respectively for the gold medal, silver medal and bronze medal winners in the Olympics to encourage sportspersons.



**Reference:**

<http://information.up.nic.in/attachments/files/5a96bfa9-3014-4537-85d1-27270af72573.pdf>

## First cyber police station of Haryana

**Question: First cyber police station of Haryana has been established recently at-**

(a) Bhiwandi(b) Karnal(c) Gurugram(d) Hisar

**Answer: (c)**

**Related Facts:**

- On March 7th, 2018, the cyber police station was inaugurated in Gurugram, Haryana for facilitating registration of cyber crime cases.
- This is the first cyber police station in Haryana.
- V. Umashankar, CEO of Gurugram Metropolitan Development Authority, inaugurated this cyber police station located in DLF Phase-5.
- On this occasion, Gurugram Police Commissioner Sandeep Khirwar was also present.
- A magistrate has been appointed separately in the cyber station.



**Reference:**

<http://www.thehindu.com/news/cities/Delhi/gurugrams-first-cyber-police-station-opened/article22972151.ece>

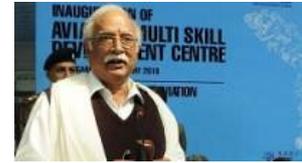
## Country's first Aviation Multi Skill Development Centre

**Question- Where was the country's first aviation multi-skill center was inaugurated in February, 2018?**

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

**Answer: (b)**

**Related Facts:**



- On February 28th, 2018, a first-of-its-kind Aviation Multi Skill Development Centre (MSDC), a CSR initiative of Airports Authority of India (AAI) was inaugurated in Chandigarh.
- It was inaugurated by the Union Minister of Civil Aviation, Shri P Ashok Gajapathi Raju.
- The Centre has been set up in collaboration with the National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC) and is supported by the Aerospace and Aviation Sector Skill Council (AASSC) of India.
- This Centre will train about 2,400 youth and women in 8 aviation job roles over the next 3 years and has already received a very enthusiastic response.
- Many more such Centers for aviation skill development are to be set up across the country.
- Demand for aviation skilled personnel has been rising commensurately with the boom in the civil aviation sector witnessed in the last 3-4 years.
- More than 900 new aircraft are expected to be inducted by Indian scheduled airlines in the coming few years.
- Air connectivity for both passenger transport and air freight is increasing, with new air routes and operationalisation of unserved or underserved airports through the UDAN Regional Connectivity Scheme.
- MRO and ground-handling demands for skilled personnel are also rising in tandem.
- Recognising this demand and to bolster the Skill India Mission, the Ministry of Civil Aviation (MoCA) and the Ministry of Skill Development & Entrepreneurship (MSDE) have collaborated to launch this Aviation MSDC at the Chandigarh old airport terminal building.
- With an outlay of Rs.5.25 crore, this project which is a unique CSR initiative of AAI, NSDC, the implementing agency of MSDE, in collaboration with the Bird Education Society for Travel & Tourism (BESTT) will undertake the training programmes.
- The course curriculum and assessments of the training have been designed by AASSC in accordance with the National Skill Qualification Framework.
- Located at Chandigarh's old Airport Terminal building, this Centre will leverage AAI's existing infrastructure, which has been converted to offer training in modern aviation courses as well as upskilling programmes to empower youth and women in particular.
- Upon successful completion of the skill training, the candidates will be certified by NSDC through the AASSC.
- The Training Provider –BESTT– has been mandated to ensure job placement in the aviation and allied fields for at least 70% of the successfully trained students.

**Reference:**

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=176832>

## 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 19<sup>th</sup>, 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>



## World's longest Zip line

**Question: Where was the world's longest zip line launched in February, 2018?**

- (a) United Arab Emirates (b) Alaska (c) Puerto Rico (d) Ukraine

**Answer: (a)**

**Related Facts:**

- On February 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2018, the world's longest zip line built in the United Arab Emirates (UAE), opened.
- This line is located in Ras Al Khaimah which is located north of the country on the border of Oman.
- It has been established in the center of one peak to another of the UAE's 'Jebel Jais' mountain.
- Through this, tourists can enjoy this exciting journey at a speed of 150 km / hour.
- It has been constructed by Ras Al Khaimah Tourism Development Authority.
- It was also included in the Guinness Book of World Records in the last week.
- The length of this zip line is 2.83 km which is almost equal to more than 28 football fields.
- It is located at an altitude of 1680 meters above sea level.
- Through this zip line over 1 lakh people can enjoy this adventure every year.
- The length of the rider that comes on it is at least 1.20 meters and the weight should not exceed 150 kg.



**Reference:**

<https://edition.cnn.com/travel/article/longest-zip-line-ras-al-khaimah-uae/index.html>

# AWARDS & HONORS

## Global Teacher Prize-2018

**Question: Who amongst the following was recently awarded the Global Teacher Prize-2018?**

- (a) Maggi MacDonell (b) Nancy Atwell (c) Andria Jafirakou  
(d) Hanan al Harub

**Reply- (c)**

### Related Facts

- On March 18<sup>th</sup> 2018, Global Teacher Prize award for 2018 from Sunny Varkey of the Varkey Foundation was given to British teacher Andria Jafirakou.
- The prize was distributed by Shaikh Mohammad Bin Rashid Maktoum, vice president and Prime Minister of UAE and ruler of Dubai.
- The winner is awarded \$1million for their outstanding work.
- It is remarkable that she is the first person from Britain to get this award.
- Andria teaches at Alperton Community School, a secondary school academy in the inner city borough of Brent. It's no easy task. Brent is one of the most ethnically diverse places in the country and 130 languages are spoken in its schools.
- It is known that this award is provided annually by the founding non-profit organization Varkey Foundation for improving the level of education for the poor children of the world.
- Varkey Foundation was founded by Sunny Varkey, a social activist born in Kerala.



### Reference:

<http://www.globalteacherprize.org/winner-2018/>

## The Abel Prize Laureate 2018

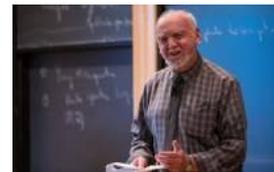
**Question: Recently, the Norwegian Academy of Science and Letters announced The Abel Prize Laureate 2018?**

- (a) Prof. Sir Andrew J. Wills (b) Robert P. Langlands (c) John F. Nash (d) Lubis Nireberg

**Answer: (b)**

### Related Facts:

- On March 20<sup>th</sup>, 2018, the Norwegian Academy of Science and Letters announced the prestigious Abel Award for the year 2018.
- Canadian mathematician Robert P. Langlands has been chosen for this prize.
- This award will be given to him “for his visionary program connecting representation theory to number theory.”
- Robert P. Langlands will receive the Abel Prize for his work from His Majesty King Harald V at an award ceremony in Oslo on 22 May.
- The Abel Prize was established by the Norwegian government in 2002 on the occasion of the 200th anniversary of Niels Henrik Abel’s birth.
- The Abel Prize recognizes contributions to the field of mathematics that are of extraordinary depth and influence.
- The Norwegian Academy of Science and Letters awards the Abel Prize based on a recommendation from the Abel committee.



- The prize carries a cash award of 6 million NOK and has been awarded annually since 2003.

**Reference:**

<http://www.abelprize.no/c73016/seksjon/vis.html?tid=73018>

## Short film “Shunyata” has won an award at Best of India Short Film Festival

**Question: Which of the following Bollywood actor starrer short film “Shunyata” has won an award at Best of India Short Film Festival in Los Angeles, US?**

- (a) Mithun Chakraborty (b) Jackie Shroff (c) Anupam Kher  
(d) Irfan Khan

**Answer: (b)**

**Related Facts:**

- On March, 2018 Jackie Shroff starrer short film “Shunyata” has won an award at Best of India Short Film Festival in Los Angeles, US.
- The 22-minute fiction film is directed by Chintan Sarda.
- On the work front, Jackie Shroff will next be seen in the trilingual magnum opus project ‘Saaho’ starring Prabhas and Shraddha Kapoor.



**Reference:**

<http://www.freepressjournal.in/entertainment/chintan-sarda-made-everything-look-pausable-jackie-shroff-on-shunyatans-win-at-la-film-festival/1240504>

## U.K. Golden flame award

**Question: Which of the following Indian actress was conferred the ‘UK Golden Flame Award’ at the opening ceremony of the annual Tongues of Fire UK Asian Film Festival in London?**

- (a) Preity Zinta (b) Sonam Kapoor (c) Simi Garewal (d) Priyanka Chopra

**Answer: (c)**

**Related Facts:**

- During 14<sup>th</sup> -25<sup>th</sup> March, 2018 the annual Tongues of Fire UK Asian Film Festival is being organized in London.
- Indian actress Simi Garewal has been conferred the ‘UK Golden Flame Award’ in the opening ceremony of the festival.
- It is remarkable that she was honored with this award for his contribution to Indian cinema.



**Reference:**

<https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/entertainment/hindi/bollywood/news/veteran-actress-simi-garewal-wins-uk-film-festival-award/articleshow/63324325.cms>

## Pritzker Architecture Prize-2018

**Question: Who amongst the following was recently announced to be awarded the prestigious Pritzker Architecture Prize of 2018?**

- (a) Devkrishna Joshi (b) Balkrishna V. Doshi (c) Ibrahim Ahmed  
(d) Sandeep Mathur

**Answer: (b)**

**Related Facts:**

- On March 7th, 2018, it was announced that the famous 'Pritzker Architecture Prize' for the year 2018 will be awarded to the renowned architect Balkrishna Vitaldas Doshi from India.
- This is the biggest award given in the field of architecture.
- It is also called 'Noble of Architecture'.
- It is worth mentioning that Balkrishna Doshi is the first Indian to receive this award.
- He will be awarded in May 2018 at Toronto.
- He will receive 1 million dollars as a reward.
- Those honored with this prize include the Sydney Opera House designer Jorn Utzon, Brazilian Oscar Niemeyer and British-Iraqi designer Jaha Hadid.



**Reference:**

<https://www.pritzkerprize.com/media-news#>

## 90th Oscar Award-2018

**Question: Which of the following films was conferred the Best Film award distributed at the 90th Oscars award ceremony on March 4th, 2018?**

- (a) Darkest Hour (b) The Shape of Water  
(c) Three Billboards outside Ebbing, Missouri (d) A Fantastic Woman

**Answer: (b)**

**Related Facts:**

- On March 4th, 2018, the American Film Industry's most prestigious 90th Annual Academy Awards were presented in Los Angeles, United States.
- This award is popularly known as 'Oscar Award'.
- **The details of major awards are as follows:**
- Best Film – 'The Shape of Water', Director-Guillermo del Toro.
- Best Director – Guillermo del Toro (film – 'The Shape of Water').
- Best Actor – Gary Oldman (Film-Darkest Hour)
- Best Actress – Frances McDormand, Film – Three Billboards Outside Ebbing, Missouri
- Best Supporting Actor – Sam Rockwell (Film-Three Billboards outside Ebbing, Missouri).
- Best Supporting Actress-Allison Janney (Film- I, Tonya)
- Best Writing (Original Screenplay) -Get Out; Written by Jordan Peele.
- Best Writing (Edited Screenplay) – Call Me by Your Name; Screenplay by James Ivory.
- Best Foreign Language Film – A Fantastic Woman, Spanish Language Film (Country-Chile).
- Best Apparel Design – 'Phantom Thread' (Designer-Mark Bridges).
- Best Editing-Dunkirk (Editor-Lee Smith)
- Best Cinematography-Blade Runner 2049
- Best Animated Feature Film – 'Coco'



- Best Song – ‘Remember Me’ (Film-Coco)
- It is notable that posthumously famous Bollywood actress Sridevi and Bollywood actor Shashi Kapoor were recalled at the 90th Oscars.
- It is worth mentioning that this time the movie ‘The Shape of Water’ was nominated in 13 categories and awarded in the highest 4 categories.

**Reference:**

<http://oscar.go.com/winners>

## **OPERATIONS & CAMPAIGN**

### **Intensive Campaign ‘Health Team at your Doorstep’**

**Question: In which of the following states will the ‘Health Team Your Gate’ campaign is launched in March, 2018?**

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

**Answer: (d)**

**Related Facts:**

- In order to control the seasonal diseases in Jaipur district, the Department of Health and Health will run the health camps of your health team from 21st to 23rd March.
- For this campaign meetings were held in the office of Officer and Health Officer, Jaipur II, on March 16<sup>th</sup>, 2018.
- Teams would be formed in this campaign by involving nursing students and health personnel.
- Going home and going home, people will be aware by providing information on preventing mosquitoes and preventing diseases like seasonal diseases – dengue, malaria, swine flu, chickengunia and scrub typhus. In the
- campaign, to clear the water resources and coordinate with other departments and arrange anti-laval activities in the area and instructed the workers to provide training for them.
- During this time, the team formed in the urban and rural areas of the district will go to the house and check the boxes of tannya trees, cans, old tires, coolers and water and will clear the water when found larvae and will dry and suggest to fill the water again.
- Along with this, MLO (black oil) will be put in the water filled in public places.
- Source reduction done by the medical department for the prevention of seasonal diseases (cleaning up the entire water in seven days by drying and drying the cloth) can be prevented from activity of 70 percent dengue and malaria infections.
- For the campaign, the cooperation of various departments and NGOs will be taken under the leadership of the district administration, including Municipal Corporation, Education Department, Panchayati Raj.



**Reference:**

<http://www.dipr.rajasthan.gov.in/content/dipr/en/news-detail.59582.html>

## Forest Fire Awareness Campaign-2018

**Question: In which of the following states Forest Fire Awareness Campaign -2018 was started recently?**

- (a) Chhattisgarh (b) Madhya Pradesh (c) Himachal Pradesh  
(d) Uttarakhand

**Answer: (c)**

**related Facts:**

- On March 15<sup>th</sup>, 2018, Chief Minister Shri Jai Ram Thakur flagged off the two rapid fire fighting force vehicles to various forest fire sensitive areas of the state after launching the forest fire awareness campaign in the state.
- This campaign has been launched in order to create mass awareness regarding prevention and control of forest fires due to a prolonged dry spell in the state.
- The fortnight long campaign will create awareness amongst the people regarding the precautions and the measures to be adopted in case of major forest fire or other such incidents and seek their participation.
- Anyone found igniting the forest fires would be dealt as per the law of the land.
- 'Rapid Forest Fire Fighting Force' had been constituted with 1900 volunteers as its members.
- Besides, special events like rallies on foot and on cycles, chat shows, Nukkad natak, painting and slogan writing and exhibitions would be organized to create wider awareness during the campaign.
- He also released a manual containing key features of the campaign.
- Forest Minister informed that the awareness campaign would be undertaken on two routes from 16<sup>th</sup> March onwards till 27<sup>th</sup> March 2018.
- The awareness campaigns would be simultaneously held on two routes viz: Kangoo, Suket, Jaidevi, Jari, Patlikuhal, Urla, Jogindernagar, Ladbhadol, Baijnath, Droh, Gopalpur, Chowari, Chamba, Dalhousie, Dehra and the second route would cover Nirmand, Rampur, Sunni, Arki, Addhar, Bijad, Bangana, Amb, Ramshehar, Nalagarh, Trilokpur, Kolar, Paonta Sahib, Majra, Kafota, Nahan, Jamta, Dharampur and Solan.
- The two vehicles will cover the entire states in 11 districts barring the tribal district of Lahaul and Spiti.
- Earlier, the Forest department organized a 'Run' from the historic ridge in the morning in which children from various schools, forest officials and citizens from Shimla participated.



**Reference:**

<http://himachalpr.gov.in/OnePressRelease.aspx?Language=2&ID=11490>

## Go-Yatra

**Question- From which of the following places was the Go-Yatra started in Uttar Pradesh on February 1<sup>st</sup>, 2018?**

- (a) Mathura (b) Ayodhya (c) Lucknow (d) Jhansi

**Answer: (b)**

**Related Facts:**

- On February 1<sup>st</sup>, 2018, Go-Yatra started from Ayodhya in Uttar Pradesh.
- On February 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2018, Rajiv Gupta, President of the Uttar Pradesh Go-Seva Commission, flagged off this Yatra from Indira Bhawan, Lucknow and left for Etawah, while passing through Unnao, Kanpur through Auraiya.
- The Yatra reached Delhi on February 7<sup>th</sup>, passing through various places in Uttar Pradesh.



**Reference:**

<http://information.up.nic.in/attachments/files/5a745dd0-c50c-4746-84c2-7f2a0af72573.pdf>

## COMMISSION & COMMITTEE

### Steering Committee on Fintech (Financial Technology) related issues

**Question: Recently, under whose chairmanship the Central Government constituted a Steering Committee to consider various issues related to the development of Fintech sector in India?**

- (a) Secretary, Department of Economic Affairs
- (b) Secretary, Department of Financial Services
- (c) Chairman, Central Board of Excise and Customs
- (d) Chairman, SEBI



**Answer: (a)**

**Related Facts:**

- On March 5th, 2018, the Central Government constituted the Steering Committee to consider various issues related to the development of Fintech (Financial Technology) sector in India.
- It will be headed by the Secretary of the Department of Economic Affairs.
- Other members of the committee include Secretary, Department of Electronics and Information Technology, Secretary, Department of Financial Services (DFS), Secretary, Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises, Chairman, Central Board of Excise and Customs (CBEC), Chief Executive Officer, Indian Special Identification Authority, Deputy Governor, Reserve Bank of India and Joint Secretary (Investment), Department of Economic Affairs.
- Its main objective is to make Fintech related Rules and regulations more flexible and to create more entrepreneurship in an area where in India has a distinct edge over other emerging economies.

- The Steering Committee will focus on how Fintech can be used to increase the financial inclusion of MSME.

**Reference:**

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=176943>

## Committee for Selection of 20 Institutes of Higher Education in India

**Question- Recently, under the chairmanship of who's of the following of the University Grants Commission has constituted an expert committee for the selection of top 20 educational institutes in India?**

- (a) Prof. Tarun Khanna(b) N.Gopaldaswamy(c) Pritam Singh  
(d) Renu Khator

**Answer: (b)**

**Related Facts:**

- On February 20th, 2018, the University Grants Commission (UGC) constituted a Expert Committee (EEC) empowered for the selection of the top 20 educational institutions in India.
- India's former Chief Election Commissioner N. Gopaldaswamy will be the head of this panel.
- Other members of the committee, Professor of Harvard University Tarun Khanna, IIM Lucknow and former Director of MDI Gururgram Pritam Singh and Vice Chancellor of the University of Houston System Renu Khator.



**Reference:**

<http://www.newindianexpress.com/nation/2018/feb/20/former-cec-n-gopaldaswami-to-head-a-panel-that-will-select-indias-20-world-class-educational-insti-1776298.html>

## Y H Malegam Committee

**Question: which institution amongst the given has constituted 'Y H Malegam Committee' for provisioning in the credit portfolio of banks as well as the rising incidence of frauds in the Indian banking system?**

- (a) Sebi(b) Ministry of Finance(c) CDBT(d) RBI

**Answer: (d)**

**Related Facts:**

- On February 20th, 2018, in view of large divergences observed in asset classification and provisioning in the credit portfolio of banks as well as the rising incidence of frauds in the Indian banking system, it has been decided to constitute an Expert Committee.
- This committee has been set up under the chairmanship of Shri Y H Malegam, a former member of the Central Board of Directors of RBI.
- The committee has to look into the reasons for high divergence observed in asset classification and provisioning by banks vis-à-vis the RBI's supervisory assessment and the steps needed to prevent it.



- Committee will also look toward factors leading to an increasing incidence of frauds in banks and the measures (including IT interventions) needed to curb and prevent it; and the role and effectiveness of various types of audits conducted in banks in mitigating the incidence of such divergence and frauds.
- Significantly, the RBI has recently formed the committee after fraud of 11,400 crore rupees in PNB.
- The members of the committee will be: Shri Bharat Doshi, Member, Central Board of Directors, RBI; Shri S Raman, former Chairman and Managing Director, Canara Bank and former Whole-Time Member, SEBI; and Shri Nandkumar Saravade, Chief Executive Officer, Reserve Bank Information Technology Pvt Ltd (ReBIT). Shri A K Misra, Executive Director, RBI will be the Member-Secretary of the committee.

**Reference:**

[https://rbi.org.in/Scripts/BS\\_PressReleaseDisplay.aspx?prid=43181](https://rbi.org.in/Scripts/BS_PressReleaseDisplay.aspx?prid=43181)

## Vinay Sheel Oberoi Committee

**Question: Recently, for which of the following purpose the central government constituted the ‘Vinay Sheel Oberoi Committee’?**

- (a) Modernization of Railways
- (b) Modernization of Armed Forces
- (c) Modernization of Police
- (d) Modernization of Post Offices



**Answer: (b)**

**Related Facts:**

- On February 7<sup>th</sup>, 2018, Union Defense Minister Nirmala Sitharaman has constituted a 13-member advisory committee for monitoring and speeding of capital acquisition projects for the modernization of the Armed Forces.
- This committee was constituted under the chairmanship of former secretary Vinay Sheel Oberoi.
- The term of the committee will be till August 2018.
- The committee will suggest ways to improve the capital acquisition process.
- Apart from this, the committee will examine the status of important projects worth more than Rs. 500 crores and conduct independent review.
- The committee will review the projects of various categories including ‘Buy’ (India) and “Buy and Make” (Indian).
- This committee will present its initial report by March 31<sup>st</sup>, 2018.

**Reference:**

<http://www.news18.com/news/india/defence-minister-appoints-panel-to-expedite-capital-acquisition-for-armed-forces-modernisation-1654115.html>

## Drought Monitoring Committee

**Question: Recently under whose chairmanship Drought Monitoring Committee (D.M.C) has been formed by the UP Government.**

- (a) Minister of Agriculture
- (b) Minister of Irrigation
- (c) Chief Secretary
- (d) Uttar Pradesh Relief Commissioner

**Answer: (d)**

**Related Facts:**

- On February 6<sup>th</sup>, 2018, the Drought Monitoring Committee (DMC) was formed by the Uttar Pradesh Government.
- A 9-member committee has been constituted under the chairmanship of U.P. Relief Commissioner.
- On the same day the first meeting of this committee was convened under the chairmanship of secretary and relief commissioner Sanjay Kumar at the office of Relief Commissioner, Babu Bhawan.
- In order to establish State Drought Monitoring Center at the state level, In the light of the provisions made in the Drought Management Manual of the Government of India in 2016, on the various scientific and technical issues related to drought management, formation of Drought Monitoring Committee have been done with the purpose of providing technical advice to the state government.
- This committee will also recommend 'How to declare drought' or 'Which area is drought-prone?'
- A data base will be constructed by Drought Monitoring (DMC).
- Through which various indices related to drought such as rainfall, land use, agricultural conditions, ground water, equal water level and socio-economic conditions like migration and data collection of sale of property in emergencies, etc. Collection of data of sale of property, etc. will be collected and analyzed.
- Periodic Report will be prepared by the D.M.C. regarding drought conditions, rainfall, agricultural transactions, crop circles, fodder, reservoir level and drinking water.
- Tele-metric Rain-gauge and weather network will be set up in the state with the help of which improvement can take place in the databases weather and precipitation.
- Through the D.M.C. with the help of the settlement with National Remote Sensing Center (Hyderabad), the activities of monitoring of drought and assessment of crops from Space Application Center (Ahmedabad) etc. will be done.
- the report will be submitted by the DMC In relation to the announcement of drought to the state government, based on drought damage assessment and management of water and soil, etc



**Reference:**

<http://information.up.nic.in/attachments/files/5a796fd6-3ca8-49f2-bfaa-24290af72573.pdf>

## New Executive Committee of Uttar Pradesh Urdu Academy constituted

**Question: Recently, under whose chairmanship, the new Executive Committee of Uttar Pradesh Urdu Academy was constituted?**

- (a) Sarfaraz Ali (b) Prof. Asifa Zamani (c) Dr. Abbas Raza Meyer  
(d) Dr. Shadab Alam

**Answer: (b)**

**Related Facts:**

- On January 31<sup>st</sup>, 2018, the new Executive Committee of Uttar Pradesh Urdu Academy was formed on the instructions of the state government.
- Asifa Zamani (former Head of the Department, Farsi Department of Lucknow University, and Lucknow) has been appointed as Chairperson of the Academy.



- The executive committee includes Bakhshish Ahmad Warsi (Gorakhpur), Nikunj Mishra 'Kishwar' (Lucknow), Fahmida Sultan (Moradabad), Sarfaraz Ali (Gautam Buddha Nagar), Kunwar Basid Ali (Meerut), Syed Nadeem Akhtar (Bulandshahr), Ashfaq Saifi (Agra), Mirza Mohd. Yasub Abbas (Lucknow), Dr. Shadab Alam (Lucknow), Dr. Abbas Raja Nayyar (Lucknow), Saleem Baig (Kanpur) and M Azad Ansari (Saharanpur) will be non-official members.

**Reference:**

<http://information.up.nic.in/attachments/files/5a71d50f-1fbc-4836-99b5-656c0af72573.pdf>

## **PLANNING & PROJECT**

### Program 'LaQshya'

**Question: In March-2018, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare has recently announced the launch of program 'LaQshya'. The Program aims at implementing 'fast-track' interventions for achieving tangible results of improving quality of care in labour room and maternity Operation Theatre (OT) within how many months?**

(a) 10 months (b) 12 months (c) 15 months (d) 18 months

**Answer: (d)**

**Related Facts:**



- On March 15<sup>th</sup>, 2018, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare has recently announced the launch of program 'LaQshya', aimed at improving quality of care in labour room and maternity Operation Theatre (OT).
- The Program will improve quality of care for pregnant women in labour room, maternity Operation Theatre and Obstetrics Intensive Care Units (ICUs) and High Dependency Units (HDUs).
- The LaQshya program is being implemented at all Medical College Hospitals, District Hospitals and First Referral Unit (FRU), and Community Health Center (CHCs) and will benefit every pregnant woman and new-born delivering in public health institutions.
- 'LaQshya' will reduce maternal and newborn morbidity and mortality, improve quality of care during delivery and immediate post-partum period and enhance satisfaction of beneficiaries and provide Respectful Maternity Care (RMC) to all pregnant women attending public health facilities.
- The Program aims at implementing 'fast-track' interventions for achieving tangible results within 18 months.
- Under the initiative, a multi-pronged strategy has been adopted such as improving infrastructure up-gradation, ensuring availability of essential equipment, providing adequate human resources, capacity building of health care workers and improving quality processes in the labour room.
- To strengthen critical care in Obstetrics, dedicated Obstetric ICUs at Medical College Hospital level and Obstetric HDUs at District Hospital are operationalized under LaQshya program.
- The Quality Improvement in labour room and maternity OT will be assessed through NQAS (National Quality Assurance Standards).
- Every facility achieving 70% score on NQAS will be certified as LaQshya certified facility.
- Furthermore, branding of LaQshya certified facilities will be done as per the NQAS score.

- Facilities scoring more than 90%, 80% and 70% will be given Platinum, Gold and Silver badge accordingly.
- Facilities achieving NQAS certification, defined quality indicators and 80% satisfied beneficiaries will be provided incentive of Rs 6 lakh, Rs 3 lakh and Rs 2 lakh for Medical College Hospital, District Hospital and FRUs respectively.
- India has come a long way in improving maternal survival as Maternal Mortality Ratio (MMR) has reduced from 301 maternal deaths in 2001-03 to 167 in year 2011-13, an impressive decline of 45% in a decade.
- India is further committed to ensuring safe motherhood to every pregnant woman in the country.
- A transformational improvement in the quality of care around child-birth- relating to intrapartum and immediate postpartum care shall dramatically improve maternal and new-born outcomes.

**Reference:**

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=177532>

## Citizen Services- Mobile APP

**Question: By whom was the ‘Citizen Services’ mobile app launched recently?**

- (a) National Police Research Bureau (b) National Crime Records Bureau  
 (c) Ministry of Consumer Affairs (d) Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare

**Answer: (b)**

**Related Facts:**

- On March 11<sup>th</sup>, 2018, National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB) celebrated its 33<sup>rd</sup> Inception Day in their newly constructed Complex at Mahipalpur, New Delhi.
- **Shri Rajiv Jain, Director, IB** was the Chief Guest and **A. P. Maheshwari, DG BPR&D** was the Guest of Honour on this occasion.
- An exhibition showcasing various in-house developed applications by NCRB under CCTNS Project, Finger Prints Science, ‘Vahan-Samanvay’, ‘Talash’ Mobile APPs Citizen Complaint, View FIR, Police Station Locator, NCRB Publications of ‘Crime in India’, ‘Accidental Deaths & Suicides in India’ and ‘Prison Statistics India’ was also organised.
- On this occasion “Citizen Services” Mobile APP was also launched.
- On the occasion Chief Guest released a Mobile App called “**Citizen Services**” developed in-house by NCRB.
- This single App is a bouquet of various essential police related services to the citizen.
- The App can be used by citizen for various services such as Complaint Registration & Status Check, View FIR Detail, SOS – Stay Safe, Locate Police Stations, Vahan-Samanvay, Emergency Contact List, Police Stations Telephone Directory etc.
- More than 93% police stations have been connected and today’s CCTNS National Data base consists of more than 12.5 crore records which includes digitization and migration of more than 4 crore CD files since 2003 apart from 4.25 Cr records in CCIS.
- More than 5 lakh police personal have been trained on CCTNS.
- 35 States and UTs have opened State Citizen Portals where citizens can avail of various services.



- At present some of the States like Haryana and Rajasthan are completely working online and as many as 18 States has started submitting CCTNS generated outputs to the courts.
- Data Analytics for Predictive Policing making a way for emerging Centre of Excellence in Crime Data Analytics & Intelligence and Finger Print Science.

**Reference:**

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=177478>

## Project Sarathi

**Question- In which of the following states the ‘Project Sarathi’ has been started for giving information about road safety rules to motorists of State Motor Garage?**

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

**Answer: (b)**

**Related Facts:**

- On 12<sup>th</sup> March, 2018, 250 vehicles of Rajasthan State Motor Garage The ‘Project Charioteer’ was launched to provide information.
- This project has been started by Road Safety Cell of Transport Department with the assistance of Maruti Suzuki India Limited.
- A group of 20-25 drivers per day will be shown towards road safety rules in the workshops organized under this project.
- On 12<sup>th</sup> March, 2018 training of 20 motorcycle drivers of the State Motor Garage started as the first batch.
- Automotives Maruti Driving School started at Janpath Shyamnagar, Jaipur.
- In the workshop, school given training through the project and quiz on measures to reduce road safety rules and reduce road accidents.
- At the end of the Workshop, the drivers performing well in road safety quiz were also rewarded.



**Reference:**

<http://www.dipr.rajasthan.gov.in/content/dipr/en/news-detail.59464.html>

## Shivdham Navinikaran Yojana

**Question: Which of the following states government has recently announced the launch of ‘Shivdham Navinikaran Yojana’?**

(a) Uttarakhand (b) Haryana (c) Jharkhand (d) Madhya Pradesh

**Answer: (b)**

**Related Facts:**

- On March 8<sup>th</sup>, 2018, Chief Minister of Haryana Manohar Lal Khattar announced the launching of ‘Shivdham Navinikaran Yojana’.
- Under the scheme, renovation and strengthening of Shivdham (Swargdham) complexes will be done in the urban and rural areas of the state.
- These are facility of water, construction of maximum two sheds, boundary wall and path to cremation ground.



- Besides, a bridge between Hamida and Meerut road in Karnal would also be constructed after discussion with Uttar Pradesh government.

**Reference:**

<http://haryanacmoffice.gov.in/newsupdates/details/id/1313>

## Pandit Deendayal Upadhyay Social Security Fund Single Women Loan Scheme

**Question: Which state government recently launched Pandit Deendayal Upadhyay Social Security Fund Single Women Loan Scheme?**

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

**Answer: (c)**

**Related Facts:**

- On March 8<sup>th</sup>, 2018; on the occasion of International Women's Day organized by the Women Welfare and Child Development Department Uttarakhand Chief Minister, Trivendra Singh Rawat, launched the Pandit Deendayal Upadhyaya Social Security Fund Single Women Loan Scheme.
- Under this scheme, loans of one lakh rupees will be given at one percent interest to the socially vulnerable and destitute single women in the state.
- The aim of this scheme is to strengthen the status of women by creating employment in the villages and providing social security to them.
- Animal Husbandry and Fisheries have also been included in this.
- On this occasion, the Chief Minister gave the e-Rickshaw key and safety kit to seven women under the Sakhi e-Rikshaw Yojana for single women.
- He started operations by sitting in into the e-Rickshaw.
- Under this scheme Rs. 50 thousand per e-Rickshaw grant will be provided.
- On this occasion, the Chief Minister also released 'Beti Bachao, Beti Padhao' calendar and various publicity material and also distributed safety napkin kits to women.



**Reference:**

<http://www.cm.uk.gov.in/upload/pressrelease/Pressrelease-2479.pdf>

## Award Scheme for the women announced by Chhattisgarh Government

**Question: In whose name Chhattisgarh Chief Minister Dr Raman Singh, on the occasion of International Women's Day, announced the special award for the women of the state?**

(a) Padam Chandrakar (b) Raimuni Bhagat (c) Kunwar Bai (d) Teejan Bai

**Answer: (c)**

**Related Facts:**

- On March 8<sup>th</sup>, 2018, On the occasion of International Women's Day, Chief Minister Dr Raman Singh has announced special award scheme for women of Chhattisgarh.
- This announcement was made by the Chief Minister while addressing the Livelihood Convention organized on the occasion of International Women's Day in Somni village of Rajnandgaon district



- This award will be given in the name of Cleanliness Ambassador of Chhattisgarh Mrs. Kunwar Bai.
- in the field of cleanliness and livelihood, women self-help groups and women will be provided award of Rs 1.50 lakh.
- Dr Singh also announced that an education hub will be developed in Rajnandgaon district at the cost of Rs 12 crore, and said that in this huge educational premise, 33 per cent seats will be reserved for girls.
- The convention was organized by State Rural Livelihood Mission, on behalf of Panchayat and Rural Development Department.
- On the occasion, 30 women were provided e-rickshaw, three women were provided vehicle for taxi business and two women were provided cheques of financial aid for solar energy based mini cold storage, under Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana- State Rural Livelihood Mission. Dr Singh distributed 20 micro ATMs to 'Bank Sakhi' women.

**Reference:**

<http://dprcg.gov.in/post/1520506323/> Raipur : International Women's Day

## Multi-Skill Centre by CII

**Question- Recently, the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) announced the establishment of a multi-skill center at which place in West Bengal?**

(a) Veerbhumi (b) Darjeeling (c) Hugli (d) Vardhman

**Answer: (b)**

**Related Facts:**

- On March 13<sup>th</sup>, 2018, multi-skill centre was announced to set up in Darjeeling, West Bengal by Confederation of Indian Industry (CII).
- This announcement was made by CII Director General Chandrajit Banerjee during the two-day Darjeeling Business Summit held in Darjeeling.
- India Industries Federation (CII) will establish this multi-skill center in partnership with Gorkha Regional Administration.
- This multi-skill center will provide training in hospitality, beauty and wellness and health care in the beginning.



**Reference:**

<http://businessworld.in/article/CII-to-set-up-multi-skill-centre-in-Darjeeling/13-03-2018-143302/>

## Insurance Scheme for Journalists

**Question: Which of the following states government recently announced the introduction of insurance scheme for journalists?**

(a) Chhattisgarh (b) Kerala (c) Assam (d) Manipur

**Answer: (c)**

**Related Facts**

- The Assam Government has proposed an insurance plan for journalists and their families in the state budget of 2018-19.
- On March 12<sup>th</sup>, 2018, this announcement was made by Assam Finance Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma during the presentation of the state budget of the year 2018-19.



- 63 crore has been allocated budget for the year 2018-19 for the scheme and information and public relations department has been allocated Rs. 63 crore.
- Information and Public Relations Department will implement the scheme related to journalists.
- This journalist insurance scheme will ensure the safety of journalists and their families.

**Reference:**

[http://www.business-standard.com/article/pti-stories/assam-govt-proposes-insurance-scheme-for-journalists-118031300928\\_1.html](http://www.business-standard.com/article/pti-stories/assam-govt-proposes-insurance-scheme-for-journalists-118031300928_1.html)

## National e-Mobility Program

**Question: By whom National e-Mobility Program will be implemented?**

- (a) Ministry of Roads and Transportation (b) Ministry of Tourism  
 (c) EESL (d) Ministry of Consumer Affairs

**Answer: (c)**

**Related Facts:**

- On March 7th, 2018, Shri R K Singh, Union Minister of State (IC) Power and New & Renewable Energy, launched the National E-Mobility Programme.
- The Programme aims to provide an impetus to the entire e-mobility ecosystem including vehicle manufacturers, charging infrastructure companies, fleet operators, service providers, etc.
- The Programme will be implemented by Energy Efficiency Services Limited (EESL) which will aggregate demand by procuring electric vehicles in bulk to get economies of scale.
- EESL will purchase a large number of electric vehicles.
- These electric vehicles will replace the existing fleet of petrol and diesel vehicles.
- EESL had procured 10,000 e-vehicles last year and will issue a new tender very soon for 10,000 more e-vehicles to cater to the growing demand.
- With these 20,000 electric cars, India is expected to save over 5 crore litres of fuel every year leading to a reduction of over 5.6 lakh tonnes of annual CO2 emission.



**Reference:**

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=177134>

## Approval for the road rehabilitation project in three states

**Question: Recently, the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways approved the road rehabilitation project in three states. Which state is not included in the option?**

- (a) Uttar Pradesh (b) Bihar (c) Madhya Pradesh (d) Tamil Nadu

**Answer: (b)**

**Related Facts:**

- On March 5th, 2018, Ministry of Road Transport and Highways approved road rehabilitation projects in three states of Madhya Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh and Tamil Nadu.
- Rehabilitation project of seven roads have been approved for Madhya Pradesh.
- The completion period of these projects is 18 months.



- This includes 48 months of road maintenance work.
- Rehabilitation project for five roads were approved by the Standing Finance Committee of the Ministry of Road and Transport for Uttar Pradesh.
- Apart from this, rehabilitation project for two roads have been approved for Tamil Nadu.
- This work will be done on NH 234 (Gudiyatham Bypass and Vellore Bypass) and NH 338 (Dindigul-Natham section).

**Reference:**

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=176968>

## Chief Mantri Awas Yojana-Rural

**Question: What is the cost amount of housing unit under the Chief Mantri Awas Yojana of the Uttar Pradesh government in the general areas?**

(a) 1.45 lakhs (b) 1.40 lakhs (c) 1.30 lakhs (d) 1.20 lakhs

**Answer: (d)**

**Related Facts:**



- In the meeting on 30th January, 2018, the Cabinet of Uttar Pradesh decided to implement the Chief Mantri Awas Yojana-Rural in the state.
- Families residing in rural areas and those who are without shelter having affected by Black fever and families of Vanattangia and Musahar area affected with Japanese Encephalitis (JE) / SES certified by the District Magistrate will be eligible to take advantage of this scheme.
- Apart from this, the families covered by the eligibility of the Prime Minister's housing scheme- Rural, but not included in the present list based on the eligibility for the facilities upon social, economic and ethnic census 2011 figures, are also included in the eligibility category of this scheme.
- Those who are without roof or shelter less and has not been received amount of Rs. 95,100 from the Department of Revenue will also get the benefit. Those who have received this amount will not be eligible in this scheme.
- This scheme will be completely funded by the state government.
- Allocation of accommodation will be on the basis of priority, in the name of female member of the family or jointly in the name of Husband and Wife.
- In the absence of female members, housing allocation can also be done in the name of male member.
- The area of accommodation is 25 square meters, including kitchens.
- The cost of accommodation will be Rs 1.12 lakh in general areas (per dwelling) and Rs 1.30 lakh in Naxal-affected districts (Chandauli, Mirzapur and Sonbhadra).
- According to the current estimate, about 25 thousand families are marked for this benefit.
- Under the scheme beneficiaries will be selected in the order of priority based on the availability of financial resources.
- The State Government will make provision of the desired amount for the availability of residential facility in the year 2018-19 under the scheme.
- The toilets will be constructed with the residence from Clean India-Mission / MNREGA.
- People who are helpless, surviving through begging, primitive tribes and bonded laborers of will be benefited by this scheme.

- In order to assess the eligibility, survey will be conducted on the basis of the rules and norms defined in the guidelines described in the guidebook of Prime Minister's Housing Scheme rural.

**Reference:**

<http://information.up.nic.in/attachments/CabinetDecisionfile/70f20b20187bbe5>

## Inauguration of Truck Parking Terminal and Information Centre

**Question: Recently, the Union Road Transport and Highways, Shipping, Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Protection Minister Nitin Gadkari inaugurated the Truck Parking Terminal at which of the following port?**

- (a) New Mangalore Port, Karnataka (b) Mundra Port, Gujarat  
(c) V.O. Chidambarnar Harbor, Tuticorin (d) Kandla Harbor, Gujarat

**Answer: (c)**



**Related Facts:**

- On February 26th, 2018, Union Road Transport and Highways, Shipping, Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Conservation Minister Nitin Gadkari, inaugurated a truck parking terminal, under the ambitious Sagarmala project at the V.O Chidambarnar port of Tuticorin.
- The construction and cost of this terminal is 23.69 crores.
- This terminal is capable of processing up to 200 trucks.
- Gadkari also inaugurated a port information center.
- The construction cost of this information center is Rs 1.89 crore, in which 60 LED panels are installed.
- On this occasion, the Minister also launched an additional container terminal berth.
- Its operating capacity is 7.20 MTPA (6 million TEUs).
- The cost amount of this project is Rs. 312.23 crores.
- The current capacity of this port is 65.90 million tonnes, which has 15 berths.

**Reference:**

<http://pib.gov.in/PressReleseDetail.aspx?PRID=1521788>

## Railway projects in Mysuru

**Question: Recently, the Prime Minister flagged off the Palace Queen Humsafar Express between Mysuru and which of the following one?**

- (a) Udaipur (b) Jaipur (c) Khajuraho (d) Tirupati

**Answer: (a)**

**Related Fact:**

- On February 19th, 2018, Prime Minister Narendra Modi dedicated to the nation, the electrification of railway line between Mysuru and KSR Bengaluru.
- At a function at Mysuru Railway Station, he also flagged off the Palace Queen Humsafar Express between Mysuru and Udaipur.
- Earlier the Prime Minister visited Shravanabelagola for the Bahubali Mahamasthakabhisheka Mahotsava 2018.
- He inaugurated the new steps carved at Vindhyagiri Hill by ASI. He also inaugurated the Bahubali General Hospital.



- Addressing the gathering at Shravanabelagola, he said saints and seers from our land have always served society and made a positive difference.
- This route was built by the Indian Archaeological Survey.
- The strength of our society is that we have always changed with the times and adapted well to new contexts.

**Reference:**

<http://pib.nic.in/PressReleaselframePage.aspx?PRID=1520915>

## Antyodaya Aahar Yojana

**Question- In which of the following states Antyodaya Aahar Yojana has been started recently?**

- (a) Punjab(b) Haryana(c) Himachal Pradesh(d) Madhya Pradesh

**Answer: (b)**

**Related Facts:**

- On February 17th, 2018, Haryana Chief Minister Manohar Lal Khattar Launched 23 subsidized food canteens in Faridabad, Gururgram, Hisar and Yamuna Paar through video conferencing to provide healthy, nutritious and clean food poor and needy people.
- Under the Antyodaya Aahar Yojana, all the poor and needy people will get healthy, nutritious and clean food at Rs. 10.
- In these canteens, registered workers and all other poor and needy persons will be provided from daily food from 11 am to 4 pm.
- Every pack of 730 grams of food will include 4 chapati, rice, lentils, seasonal vegetables, yogurt or raita, green chutney and jaggery.
- Under this scheme, two-two canteens (total 23 subsidized canteens) will be opened in each district and district headquarter of 'Gurgaam and Faridabad'.



**Reference:**

<http://haryanacmoffice.gov.in/newsupdates/details/id/1295>

## Pundit Deendayal Upadhyay Gramodyog Yojana

**Question: Under the Pundit Deendayal Upadhyay Gramodyog Yojana, what is the maximum percentage of interest subsidy benefit will be given to the units set up?**

- (a) 10 percent(b) 12 percent(c) 13 percent(d) 15 percent

**Answer: (c)**

**Related Facts:**

- January 25<sup>th</sup>, 2018 Avinash Krishna Singh, Chief Executive Officer of Khadi and Village Industries Board, informed about the Pandit Deendayal Upadhyay Gramodyog Yojana which being started soon by the Uttar Pradesh government.
- Under this scheme, the 24 districts of Purvanchal and Bundelkhand in Uttar Pradesh will be given priority in the industries marked by 'One District – One Product'.
- With implementation of the scheme, approximately 4500 units installed under Purvanchal and Bundelkhand areas will be benefitted.



- Benefits of maximum 13 percent interest subsidy to the units established under the scheme and other facilities for 3 years will be permissible.
- Under this, mineral, forest, agricultural food, polymer chemicals, engineering and non-conventional energy and textile and service based industries will be in the form of eligible industry groups.

**Reference:**

<http://information.up.nic.in/attachments/files/5a69d8dd-d608-4680-a9b3-12700af72573.pdf>

## **TREATY & AGREEMENTS**

### **ISRO–BHEL Tie up**

**Question: Recently, ISRO has entered into a Technology Transfer Agreement (TTA) with Bharat Heavy Electricals Limited (BHEL), for which of the given one?**

- (a) For the transfer of technology to make the engine
- (b) For the production of lithium-ion batteries
- (c) For sharing in satellite creation
- (d) none of the above

**Answer: (b)**

**Related Facts:**

- On March 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2018, ISRO has entered into a Technology Transfer Agreement (TTA) with Bharat Heavy Electricals Limited (BHEL), which is one of the country's leading PSUs, to transfer the technology for the manufacture of space grade Li-Ion cells.
- The TTA was signed at ISRO Headquarters, Bengaluru yesterday in the presence of Dr. K. Sivan, Chairman, ISRO and Mr. Atul Sobti, Chairman & Managing Director, BHEL.
- ISRO uses Li-Ion batteries as power sources for satellite and launch vehicle applications due to their high energy density, reliability and long cycle life.
- Vikram Sarabhai Space Centre (VSSC) of ISRO at Thiruvananthapuram has successfully developed the technology to produce space grade Li-ion cell, demonstrated the performance of the cell under various testing conditions and established its cycle life characteristics in accelerated mode.
- These cells are currently being used for various satellite and launch vehicle applications.
- This Li-ion cell Technology Transfer will enable BHEL to produce space grade Li-Ion cells which can meet the country's space programme requirements.
- This technology can also be adopted to cater to the Li-Ion cell requirement for other national needs.



**Reference:**

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=177903>

### **Agreement between Indian Army, HPCL and NIDEO**

**Question- Recently, in order to safeguard the better future of youth of which of the given states, Indian Army signed MoU with Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited (HPCL) and National Integrity and Educational Development Organization under the aegis of Chinar Corps?**

- (a) Odisha
- (b) Gujarat
- (c) Jammu & Kashmir
- (d) Jharkhand

**Answer: (c)**

**Related Facts:**

- In March 2018, the Indian Army signed MoU with Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited (HPCL) and National Integrity and Educational Development Organization (NIDO) under the aegis of Chinar Corps, with the objective of securing a better future of Kashmiri youth.
- Under the terms of this Memorandum, Education Development National Institute of Educational Sciences, Kanpur will provide quality support for professional training of Kashmiri youth.
- HPCL will be corporate partner in this project.
- The Indian Army will be responsible for monitoring the entire project including administration, logistics and security.
- The first batch coaching will start from June 1<sup>st</sup>, 2018.



**Reference:**

<http://www.financialexpress.com/defence/indian-army-inks-mous-with-hpcl-niedo/1101829/>

## Agreement between ISA and IEA

**Question: The full name of the ISA is-**

- (a) International Solar Alliance (b) International Secret Alliance  
(c) Indian Solar Agency (d) International Solar Agency

**Answer: (a)**

**Related Facts:**

- On March 10<sup>th</sup>, 2018, a joint partnership agreement was signed to increase cooperation in the renewable energy sector between the International Solar Coalition (ISA) and the International Energy Agency (IEA).
- Apart from this, the ISA also signed a financial partnership with African Development Bank, Asian Development Bank (ADB), Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB), Green Climate Fund (GCF) and New Development Bank (NDB).
- The objective of the agreements is to deepen their cooperation in support of Renewable Energy.
- The previous three partnerships were signed by ISA with the World Bank, the European Investment Bank and the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development.
- The International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA) will sign a Joint Partnership Declaration on 11<sup>th</sup> March 2018.
- The agreements were signed in the presence of Arun Jaitley, Union Minister of Finance and Corporate Affairs and RK Singh, Minister of State for Power and New and Renewable Energy.



**Reference:**

<http://www.uniindia.com/news/business-economy/isa-working-for-deployment-of-over-1000-gw-of-solar-energy-mobilising-above-1000-bn/1163449.html>

## Agreement between India and Vietnam

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

- (a) Agriculture (b) Economic and trade (c) Information Technology

(d) Tax evasion and double taxation

**Answer: (b)**

**Related Facts:**

- On February 28<sup>th</sup>, 2018, the Union Cabinet approved the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding on Economic and Trade Cooperation between India and Vietnam.
- Under this MoU, there will be a greater increase in bilateral trade and economic cooperation between the two countries.

**Reference:**

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=176867>



## Agreement between Asian Development Bank (ADB) and the Government of India

**Question-** In order to complete double-tracking and electrification of railway tracks along high-density corridors in India and improve operational efficiency of the country's railway networks Asian Development Bank (ADB) and the Government of India today signed a loan agreement. This loan agreement is for-

(a) \$ 185 million (b) \$155 million (c) \$145 million (d) \$120 million

**Answer: (d)**

**Related Facts**

- On March 16<sup>th</sup>, 2018, Asian Development Bank (ADB) and the Government of India signed a \$120 million loan agreement.
- This agreement is for to complete double-tracking and electrification of railway tracks along high-density corridors in India and improve operational efficiency of the country's railway networks.
- The \$120 million financing is the third tranche of a \$500 million financing facility for the Railway Sector Investment Program approved by ADB's Board in 2011.
- The loan amount will be used to complete the ongoing works started in the project's first two tranches.
- The agreement was signed by Kenichi Yokoyama, ADB Country Director for India, and Sameer Kumar Khare, Joint Secretary (Multilateral Institutions) of the Department of Economic Affairs in the Ministry of Finance, at a ceremony in New Delhi.
- The program will help develop energy efficient, safe, and reliable railway systems that will result in reduced travel time along project rail routes and also reduce annual accident rate.
- Funding for the project's third tranche will contribute toward achieving the overall program outputs of double-tracking about 840 kilometers (km) of rail routes and electrification of 640 km of tracks along high density corridors.
- The program is also helping implement new accounting systems and provide additional safety measures including collision avoidance equipment.
- The investment program is targeting busy freight and passenger routes in the states of Andhra Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Karnataka, Maharashtra, and Odisha, including the "Golden Quadrilateral" corridor that connects Chennai, Kolkata, Mumbai, and New Delhi.



- The doubling of rail sections is being implemented along Daund-Titlagarh section, Sambalpur-Titlagarh section, Raipur-Titlagarh Section, and Hospet-Tinaighat section, while electrification is being undertaken along the 641-km Pune-Wadi Guntakal section.
- ADB, based in Manila, is dedicated to reducing poverty in Asia and the Pacific through inclusive economic growth, environmentally sustainable growth, and regional integration.
- Established in 1966, it is owned by 67 members—48 from the region.

**Reference:**

<https://www.adb.org/news/adb-india-sign-120-million-loan-improve-rail-infrastructure>

## MoU signed between India and Sri Lanka

**Question: The Union Cabinet chaired by the Prime Minister has been apprised of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between India and Sri Lanka for promoting cooperation in which of the following fields?**

- (a) Traditional Drug System (b) Double Taxation and Financial Taxation  
(c) Information Technology and Electronics (d) Health and Drugs

**Answer (c)**

**Related Facts:**

- On March 14<sup>th</sup>, 2018, the Union Cabinet chaired by the Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi has been apprised of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between India and Sri Lanka for promoting cooperation in the field of Information Technology and Electronics.
- The MoU was signed on 15<sup>th</sup> January, 2018 during the visit of Minister of Law & Justice and Electronics & Information Technology, Shri Ravi Shankar Prasad to Sri Lanka.
- The MoU intends to promote closer co-operation in the areas of e-Governance, m-Governance, e-Public Services Delivery, cyber security, software technology parks, start-ups ecosystem etc.
- The MoU shall be implemented by establishing a Working Group on IT&E composed of representatives of the two Parties.
- Bilateral Cooperation in ICT domain both B2B and G2G will be enhanced.
- **It is noteworthy that** The Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) has been mandated to promote international cooperation in the emerging and frontier areas of Information and Communications Technology (ICT) under bilateral and regional framework of cooperation.
- MeitY has entered into MoUs / Agreements with counterpart organizations/agencies of various countries to promote close cooperation and exchange of information in the area of ICT.
- The Prime Minister's visit to Sri Lanka in 2015 did a synergy in India's neighbourhood first policy.



**Reference:**

<http://pib.gov.in/PressReleaseDetail.aspx?PRID=1524412>

## Agreement between India and Macedonia

**Question: Recently, the approval of the signing of the Memorandum of Understanding between India and Macedonia for the cooperation in which of the following field was**

### approved by the Union Cabinet?

(a) Electronics(b) Economic and trade(c) Health(d) Information Technology

**Answer: (c)**

#### Related Facts:

- On February 28<sup>th</sup>, 2018, the Union Cabinet approved the signing of the Memorandum of Understanding between India and Macedonia for cooperation in Health sector.
- The MoU covers the following areas of cooperation:-
  1. Capacity building and short term training of human resources in health;
  2. Exchange & training of medical doctors, officials, other health professionals and experts;
  3. Assistance in development of human resources and setting up of health care facilities;
  4. Any other area of cooperation as may be mutually decided upon.
- A Working Group will be set up to further elaborate the details of cooperation and to oversee the implementation.



#### Reference:

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintHindiRelease.aspx?relid=70928>

## Agreement between India and Jordan

**Question- Recently, the Union Cabinet gave approval for various MoUs signed between India and Jordan. Which of the given options is not true in this regard?**

- (a) Approval of the proposal for signing a Memorandum of Understanding for cooperation between the two countries in the field of health and medical science.
- (b) Approval of agreement between India and Jordan on cooperation and mutual administrative assistance in issues related to customs duties.
- (c) Approval of the proposal for signing a Memorandum of Understanding in respect of collaboration between the two countries in the field of labor force.
- (d) Approval of signing of Memorandum of Understanding for cooperation in the field of renewable energy between the two countries.

**Answer: (d)**

#### Related Facts:

- On February 28<sup>th</sup>, 2018, the signing of the following Memorandum of Understanding signed between the Union Cabinet between India and Jordan has been approved.
  1. Approval for signing of MoU for long term supply of Rock Phosphate and Fertilizer/NPK-
    - The purpose of the MoU is mining and beneficiation of rock phosphate and setting up of production facility in Jordan for Phosphoric acid/DAP/NPK fertilizers, with a long term agreement for 100% off-take to India.
    - Such an MoU ensures long term and sustained supply of rock phosphates to India.
  2. Approval of MoU for cooperation in the field of Health and Medicine between India and Jordan-
    - The objective of this MoU is to establish and encourage cooperation in the fields of health, medical science, medical education and research on the basis of equality and mutual benefits in accordance with respective legislations and regulations of India and Jordan.



- The various recognized areas of mutual cooperation include Universal Health Coverage (UHC); Services and IT in Health; Health Research; National Health Statistics; Diagnosis, Treatment and Medication of TB, and; Regulation of Pharmaceuticals and Medical Devices etc.
3. Approval of Customs Mutual Assistance Agreement-
    - This agreement will help in providing appropriate information for prevention of customs crimes and their investigation.
    - The trade between the two countries is likely to accelerate and speedily get clearance for commodities to be traded.
    - This agreement will provide a legal framework for sharing information and understanding between the customs officials of the two countries.
    - It will be helpful in implementing customs laws through proper means, prevention and investigation of customs crimes and facilitating legal trade.
    - The draft of the agreement has been finalized with the consent of the Customs Administration of the two countries.
  4. Approval of Manpower Cooperation Agreement-
    - This MoU provides for cooperation between India and Jordan with a view to promote best practices in the administration of the cycle of contract employment of the Indian nationals in Jordan.
    - The legal period of this MoU is 5 years.
    - This agreement also includes provision of automatic renewal and a monitoring mechanism through the Joint Technical Committee.

**Reference:**

<http://www.mea.gov.in/incoming-visit-detail.htm?29518/Visit+of+the+King+of+Jordan+to+India+February+27++March+01+2018>

## Agreement between Haryana Vishwakarma Skill University (HVSU) and Bikanerwala Phase Limited

**Question: A contract was recently signed for which of the following the purpose between Haryana Vishwakarma Skills University and Bikanerwala Phase Limited?**

- for the investment in the university building
- for the preparation of traditional desserts and food
- for the establishment of restaurant at the university
- to include Bikanerwala in the governing body of the University

**Answer: (b)**



**Related Facts:**

- On March 13th, 2018, a contract was signed between Haryana Vishwakarma Skill University and Indian Traditional Food Manufacturer Bikanerwala Phase Limited.
- Under this contract, this University will start a Diploma Course with the famous traditional food production company to manufacture traditional food and dessert.
- With the help of this course, those students will be added to the mainstream of education which are interested in cooking/making of traditional food and want to start their own business in the area.

- The eligibility of this work will be 10 + 2 and the course will be one year and the entire course will be run in Bikanera Plant and in the restaurant under the Dual Education Model.
- The Registrar of the University Dr. Sunil Kumar Gupta and Ramesh Agrawal Director of Bikanerwala signed this agreement.

**Reference:**

<http://prharyana.gov.in/hi/haraiyaanaa-vaisavakaramaa-kaausala-vaisavavaidayaalaya-agaamai-saaikasanaika-satara-sae-0>

## Ministry of Health and Family Welfare and WHO sign an Agreement

**Question: Where is the WHO headquarters located?**

(a) New York(b) Washington(c) Geneva(d) Rome

**Answer: (c)**

**Related Facts:**

- On March 13th 2018, to further strengthen collaborative work between India and WHO in achieving improved health outcomes, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare and World Health Organization (WHO) signed a Memorandum of Agreement (MoA).
- Shri J P Nadda, Union Minister of Health & Family Welfare presided over the signing ceremony.
- Dr. Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, Director General of WHO met Shri J.P. Nadda, Union Health and Family Welfare Minister, and signed the agreement.
- They discussed perspectives on national, regional and global public health program.
- Dr Tedros complimented the Government of India on the courageous and bold initiatives taken to expand universal health coverage through the two pillars of Ayushman Bharat.
- The World Health Organization (WHO) was established on April 7th, 1948. This is a subsidiary unit of the United Nations.
- Its headquarters is located in the city of Geneva, Switzerland.
- At present, the Director General of WHO is Dr. Tedros Adhanom Gabreysas (Ethiopia).



**Reference:**

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=177399>

## Agreement between Madhya Pradesh Police and Sheffield Hallam University

**Question: How much reservation has been given to women in police recruitment in state of M.P?**

(a) 15 percent(b) 25 percent(c) 33 percent(d) 35 percent

**Answer: (c)**

**Related Facts:**

- On March 7th, 2018, MoU was signed between Madhya Pradesh Police and Sheffield Hallam University for preventing violence against women and for making action plan in community policing.
- This Memorandum of Understanding was signed in the presence of Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chauhan.



- A study team from the Sheffield Hallam University will study innovative efforts like setting up one stop centres to put an end to crime and violence against women in Madhya Pradesh and share experiences of UK.
- This study team will give suggestions to Madhya Pradesh Police to work more effectively in the state's social and economic background.
- Besides this, the team will study the efforts made by the state government in providing justice to victimized women, to conserve their rights and protect them.
- The team will also prepare an outline to provide training to newly-appointed police officials for police officials posted in the field.
- The Chief Minister said on the occasion that women in the state have been given 33 percent reservation in police recruitments so that they not only strengthen themselves but can also protect their rights.
- The study team has begun research work apart from study of work system of Gulmohar Mahila Suraksha Kendra set up in Vidisha.

**Reference:**

<http://mpinfo.org/News/TodaysNews.aspx?newsid=20180307N8&LocID=1&PDt=3/7/2018>

## MoU between India and Hellenic

**Question: Recently, the Central Cabinet has apprised of the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on Cooperation in which of the following fields between India and Hellenic?**

- (a) Electrical Energy (b) Renewable Energy (c) Information Technology  
(d) Agriculture

**Answer- (b)**

**Related Facts:**

- On March 7th, 2018, the Union Cabinet chaired by Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi has been apprised of the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on Cooperation in the field of Renewable Energy between India and Hellenic.
- The MoU was signed by the External Affairs Minister, Smt. Sushma Swaraj, Government of India and H.E. Nikos Kotzias, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Hellenic Republic during the latter's visit to New Delhi in November, 2017.
- Both sides aim to establish the basis for a cooperative institutional relationship to encourage and promote technical bilateral cooperation on new and renewable issues on the basis of mutual benefit equality and reciprocity.
- The MoU envisages establishing a Joint Working Group to review, monitor and discuss matters relation to areas of cooperation.
- The MoU aims for exchange of expertise and networking of information.

**Reference:**

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=177119>



## Agreement between India and France

**Question: In which of the following areas the Union Cabinet approved a cooperation agreement between India and France?**

- (a) Tourism (b) Environment (c) Information Technology (d) Defense

**Answer: (b)**

**Related Facts:**

- On March 7th, 2018, the Union Cabinet approved the cooperation agreement between India and France in the field of environment.
- This cooperation agreement will help in encouraging close and long-term cooperation between the two countries in the field of environmental protection and for the management of natural resources.
- Under the agreement, in line with equality, mutual cooperation and mutual benefit, cooperation will be done on the basis of the statutory laws of both the countries.
- Under the collaboration agreement, there is the possibility of excellent environmental protection, excellent protection, best management of climate change and help in the field of modern technologies and excellent practices for wildlife protection / protection.



**Reference:**

<http://www.pib.nic.in/PressReleaseDetail.aspx?PRID=1523086>

## India France Agreement

**Question: Recently, the Union Cabinet approved the signing of the Migration and Mobility Partnership Agreement between India and France. Initially, what is the valid period of this agreement?**

(a) 3 years (b) 5 years (c) 7 years (d) 10 years

**Answer: (c)**

**Related Facts:**

- On March 7th, 2018, the some agreements were approved by the Union Cabinet between India and France.
- Agreement between India and France is on the Prevention of the Illicit Consumption and Reduction of Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs, Psychotropic Substances and Chemical Precursors, and related offences.
- The Agreement is aimed at enhancing mutual cooperation between the two countries in the prevention of the illicit consumption of, and reduction of illicit traffic, in narcotic drugs, psychotropic substances and chemical precursors and related offences through exchange of information, expertise and capacity building.
- Establishment of effective institutional interaction and curbing transnational narcotics trafficking including disruption of terrorist financing structures is also envisaged through this Agreement.
- The Agreement represents a major milestone in enhancing people-to -people contacts, fostering mobility of students, academics, researchers and skilled professionals and strengthening cooperation on issues related to irregular migration and human trafficking between the two sides.
- The Agreement is a testimony to India's rapidly expanding multi-faceted relationship with France and symbolizes the increasing trust and confidence between the two sides.
- The Agreement is initially valid for a period of seven years, incorporates provision for automatic renewal and a monitoring mechanism through a Joint Working Group.



**Reference:**

<http://www.pib.nic.in/PressReleaseDetail.aspx?PRID=1523086>

## CSIR signs MoU with IORA

**Question: How many countries are currently included in the Indian Ocean Coastal Regional Cooperation Association (IORA)?**

(a) 18(b) 20(c) 21(d) 25

**Answer- (c)**

**Related Facts:**

- On January 26th, 2018, Council of Scientific & Industrial Research (CSIR) has entered into a MoU with the Regional Center for Science and Technology Transfer (RCSTT) of Indian Ocean Rim Association (IORA) for designating Central Institute of Medicinal and Aromatic Plants, Lucknow (CSIR-CIMAP) as Coordinating Center on Medicinal Plants.
- The MoU was signed by Prof. Anil Kumar Tripathi, Director CSIR-CIMAP and Dr. A. Sedrpousan, Director, IORA-RCSTT.
- The Indian delegation was led by Dr. Girish Sahni, DG, CSIR and Secretary, DSIR.
- The delegation also attended the 31st Khwarizmi International Award Ceremony which was addressed by H.E. Dr. Hassan Rouhani, President of the Islamic Republic of Iran.
- The IORA Center at CSIR-CIMAP will establish a database on the important medicinal plants, their value added products, related experts and industries of the IORA member states and organize meetings and training programmes to promote trade, commerce and scientific exchanges to complement the strength and limitation of the member states.
- The IORA is an association of 21 countries and 7 dialogue partners which have identified 6 areas of cooperation including medicinal plants.
- The signing ceremony was organized in the office of H.E. Mr. Morteza Sarmadi, Vice Minister of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Islamic Republic of Iran, in Tehran in the august presence of H.E. Dr. Nomvuyo Nokwe, Secretary General of IORA headquartered in Mauritius and Dr. Girish Sahni, DG, CSIR and Secretary, DSIR, Government of India. Several eminent people and leaders of Iranian Industry participated in the ceremony.



**Reference:**

<http://pib.gov.in/PressReleaseDetail.aspx?PRID=1521771>

## Agreement between Virgin Group and Government of Maharashtra

**Question: An agreement between the Virgin Group and the Maharashtra government has been signed recently to build a hyperloop transportation system between which of the following two?**

(a) Mumbai-Nagpur(b) Mumbai-Goa(c) Mumbai-Pune(d) Bandra-Pune

**Answer: (c)**

**Related Facts:**

- On February 18th, 2018, an agreement was signed between Virgin Group and Maharashtra Government to build a hyperloop transportation system between Mumbai-Pune.



- It is known that Union Minister Nitin Gadkari had given control to Tesla for hyperloop test in Maharashtra last year.
- The distance between Mumbai and Pune is about 150 kilometer which can be covered in 14-24 minutes via this hyperloop.
- This hyperloop route will be based on the full electric system.
- The maximum speed at this route is 1000km hourly.
- The first Hyperloop route will connect Central Pune with the Mega Police as well as Navi Mumbai International Airport.
- Possibly, over 15 million passengers per year will travel via this hyperloop.

**Reference:**

<http://indianexpress.com/article/technology/tech-news-technology/mumbai-pune-virgin-hyperloop-one-project-everything-you-need-to-know-5069402/>

## Agreement between Assam Government and Ola

**Question: Recently, the MoU was signed to launch an App Based River taxi service at which place between Assam Government and taxi service provider Ola?**

- (a) Dibrugarh (b) Silchar (c) Guwahati (d) Jorhat

**Answer: (c)**

**Related Facts:-**

- On 4<sup>th</sup> February, 2018 A Memorandum of Understanding was signed to launch an App based River (river) taxi service in Guwahati between Assam Government and taxi service provider Ola.
- River taxis will operate machine-driven boats,
- It is expected that faster and safer than conventional boats.
- Ola will operate high-speed taxis for Guwahati-bound Ghats and Machkhowa to North Guwahati.
- This will reduce the time of reaching across the river to 2-5 minutes compared to 45 minutes as taken by road.
- This agreement was done during the global summit organized in Assam.
- Another Memorandum of Understanding between the IIT Guwahati and Kalam Institute of Health Technology for the transfer of technology in the area of medical technology was also signed during this conference.



**Reference:**

<http://www.dailypioneer.com/business-and-finance/assam-signs-mou-with-ola-for-app-based-river-taxi-service.html>

## Tie-up between DOT and IIT Chennai

**Question- For which purpose DOT (Department of Telecom) and IIT Chennai have recently tie-up?**

- (a) Establishment of 5G Development Center  
 (b) Frequency Excellence in Basic Phone  
 (c) For excellence and promotion of 4G frequency  
 (d) None of the above

**Answer: (a)**



**Related Facts:**

- On February 1<sup>st</sup>, 2018; Tie-ups were announced by the Ministry of Finance between (Department of Telecommunications) DOT and IIT Chennai.
- According to the announcement, the Department of Telecommunications (DOT) will establish a 5G development center in partnership with IIT Chennai.
- It is important that 5G technology is still being standardized globally and India has had the opportunity to play a key role in the development of this technology.
- 5G will enable applications such as Internet of things and machine-to-machine internet.
- It is important that under the '5G for India' program, the process of 5G technology has already started in educational institutions.
- For this purpose 'Ericsson' and IIT Delhi have already signed a Memorandum of Understanding.
- Ericsson will set up a Center of Excellence with a 5G Test Bed and an 'Incubation Center' in IIT Delhi.
- This facility (Centers of Excellence) will be used to develop the 5G system in the country.

**Reference:**

<https://www.thehindubusinessline.com/economy/budget/dot-to-set-up-5g-development-centre-in-tie-up-with-iit-chennai/article22618896.ece>

## CONFERENCE

### 5th India Maize Summit 2018

**Question: Where was the 5<sup>th</sup> India Maize Summit 2018 held recently?**

(a) Chandigarh(b) Ludhiana(c) Gururgram(d) New Delhi

**Answer: (d)**

**Related Facts:**

- On March 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2018, 5<sup>th</sup> India Maize Summit, 2018 was held at FICCI, New Delhi.
- The summit was inaugurated by the Minister for Agriculture and Farmers Welfare Radha Mohan Singh.
- On this occasion, he said that during 1950-51, India produced only 1.73 MT, which has reached 25.89 MT in 2016-17 and is expected to cross 27 MT in 2017-18.
- The average productivity in India is 2.43 ton/ha.

**Reference:**

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintHindiRelease.aspx?relid=71373>

## Rising India Summit

**Question- Recently Rising India Summit was head at-**

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

**Answer: (c)**

**Related Facts:**

- On March 16<sup>th</sup>-17<sup>th</sup> 2018, the Rising India Summit was held in New Delhi.
- This conference was organized by Network 18.



- This was the first edition of this conference in which Prime Minister Narendra Modi also participated.
- The Chief Guest of the Conference was Nobel Prize Winner economist Paul Krugman.
- The Summit was centered primarily on strategic issues, sports, entertainment and defense.
- This was the concluding conference of the Rising Series organized by Network 18 in Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, West Bengal, Karnataka, Kerala etc.

**Reference:**

<https://www.exchange4media.com/industry-briefing/pm-narendra-modi-to-grace-news18-rising-india-summit- 88783.html>

## 5th World Urdu Conference

**Question- Where was the '5th World Urdu Conference' organized during March 24<sup>th</sup>-26<sup>th</sup>, 2018?**

(a) Jaipur(b) Ajmer(c) New Delhi(d) Agra

**Answer: (c)**

**Related Facts**

- On 24<sup>th</sup>-26<sup>th</sup> March, 2018, 5<sup>th</sup> World Urdu Conference was organized in New Delhi.
- The three-day conference was organized by the National Council for Promotion of Urdu Language, an autonomous body of the Ministry of Human Resource Development.
- Union Minority Affairs Minister Mukhtar Abbas Naqvi is presided this conference.
- Urdu poets, novelists, journalists and Experts from 18 countries are participated in this conference.
- Pakistan is not participated in this.



**Reference:**

<http://www.uniindia.com/~world-urdu-conference-from-tom-pakistanis-did-not-get-visa/India/news/1177573.html>

## Odisha MSME International Trade Fair

**Question: Odisha (Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises-MSME) International Trade Fair, 2018 organized in Bhubaneswar in March 2018, was mainly focused on which of the following field?**

- (a) On the establishment of small enterprises  
 (b) investment on MSME industries(c) on the food processing sector  
 (d) on the use of the latest technologies in agriculture

**Answer: (c)**

**Related Facts:**

- Between March 5<sup>th</sup>-10<sup>th</sup>, 2018, Odisha was organized at MSME (Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises) International Trade Fair, Bhubaneswar.
- The fair was inaugurated by Odisha Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik.
- It was mainly focused on food processing sector.
- Fair was organized by the Department of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME), Odisha Government.



- More than 500 domestic and international representatives attended this trade fair.
- For the first time more than 30 delegates from Iran, Bangladesh, Korea and Germany participated.
- This fair had 350 stalls installed in 6 pavilions.

**Reference:**

<https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/bhubaneswar/odisha-msme-international-trade-fair-2018-to-held-from-march-5/articleshow/63092586.cms>

## 17th World Conference on Tobacco or Health for Young People

**Question: Where was the 17<sup>th</sup> ‘World Conference on Tobacco or Health’ organized between March 7<sup>th</sup>-9<sup>th</sup>, 2018?**

(a) New Delhi (b) Cape Town (c) Colombo (d) Johannesburg

**Answer: (b)**

**Related Facts:**

- On 7<sup>th</sup>-9<sup>th</sup> March, 2018 '17<sup>th</sup> World Conference on Tobacco or Health' was held in Cape Town, South Africa.
- The main theme of this three-day conference – ‘Uniting the World for a tobacco free generation’.



**Reference:**

<https://wctoh.org/>

## Vision for Future

**Question- ‘Vision for future’ was organized in New Delhi to celebrate the successful 70 years of relations between which of the two countries?**

(a) Indo-Myanmar (b) India-Russia (c) India-France (d) India-Nepal

**Answer: (b)**

**Related Facts:**

- On 6<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> March, 2018 India-Russia Vision for Future was organized in New Delhi to celebrate successful 70 years of relationship.
- This program was organized by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of India (Eurasian Division) in collaboration with Russian Federation Embassy and Russian Center of Science and Culture in India.
- It was co-organized under the aegis of International Federation of Indo-Russian Youth Club and BRICS International Forum.
- The purpose of this program was to strengthen the strategic partnership between India and Russia.
- India-Russia Youth Parliament and India-Russia Excellence Award ceremony was organized during the program and Youth Festival Calendar was launched.



**Reference:**

<http://www.bricsforum.in/events/india-russia-vision-for-future/>

## CAP India-2018

**Question: At which of the following places India’s premier exhibition 3<sup>rd</sup> CAPINDIA 2018 for chemical, plastics, construction, mining industry and related products was organized**

**between March 22<sup>nd</sup>-24<sup>th</sup>, 2018?**

(a) New Delhi(b) Ahmedabad(c) Gururgram(d) Mumbai

**Answer: (d)**

**Related Facts:**

- During March 22<sup>nd</sup>-24<sup>th</sup>, 2018, India's premier exhibition 3<sup>rd</sup>CAPINDIA 2018 for chemical, plastics, construction, mining industry and related products was organized in Goregaon, Mumbai.
- It was organized under the aegis of the Department of Commerce, Government of India, supported by Department of Chemicals and Petrochemicals, Government of India and organised jointly by PLEXCONCIL, CHEMEXCIL, CAPEXIL & SHEFEXIL is slated to be one of the largest sourcing and networking events for the Chemicals, Plastics, Construction & Mining Industries and Allied Products.
- The partner state of the event is Gujarat.



**Reference:**

[http://capindiaexpo.in/downloads/capindia%202018\\_Brochure.pdf](http://capindiaexpo.in/downloads/capindia%202018_Brochure.pdf)

## The First G20 Meeting of Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors

**Question: Where was the first G-20 meeting Finance Ministers and central bank governors held on March 19<sup>th</sup>-20<sup>th</sup>, 2018?**

(a) New Delhi(b) Tokyo(c) Hamburg(d) Buenos Aires

**Answer: (d)**

**Related Facts**

- On March 19<sup>th</sup>-20<sup>th</sup>, 2018, the first G-20 meeting Finance Ministers and central bank governors held in Buenos Aires.
- 57 delegates from different countries and organizations participated in this meeting.
- Among those present were Jim Yong Kim, president of the World Bank; Mario Draghi, president of the European Central Bank; Christine Lagarde, managing director of the IMF; and Steven Mnuchin, Secretary of the Treasury of the United States.
- In all, 22 finance ministers, 17 central bank governors, and 10 heads of international organizations attended the meeting.
- This was the first meeting in five meetings to be organized in this manner. The remaining four meetings will be concluded before the G-20 summit from November 30 to December 1, 2018, in the presence of Argentina.



**Reference:**

<https://g20.org/en/press/press-kit/press-releases/first-g20-meeting-finance-ministers-and-central-bank-governors-begins>

## First India-French Knowledge Summit

**Question: Where did the 'First India-French Knowledge Summit' concluded on March 10<sup>th</sup>-11<sup>th</sup>, 2018?**

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

**Answer: (c)**

**Related Facts:**

- On March 10<sup>th</sup>-11<sup>th</sup>, 2018 'First India-French Knowledge Summit' concluded in New Delhi.
- The first high-level India-France Knowledge Summit was jointly organized by French Institute in India, along with Ministry of Higher Education, Research & Innovation (MESRI), France and Ministry of Human Resource Development, Government of India.
- Around 80 Indian institutions and more than 350 people from 70 French institutions participated in this summit with major enterprises.
- This knowledge summit is for university, scientific and technology cooperation.
- The purpose of which is to create a road map of India-France cooperation for the next five years with the cooperation of companies.
- Apart from the MoU on Mutual Recognition of Academic Qualifications between India and France, 15 MoUs between various institutions of India and France in the areas of higher education, research, innovation, faculty exchange, scientific cooperation were exchanged.



**Reference:**

<https://www.indiatoday.in/pti-feed/story/india-france-ink-pact-for-mutual-recognition-of-educational-qualifications-1186672-2018-03-10>

## “Best Exhibitor Award” at ITB – Berlin

**Question: During 7<sup>th</sup>-10<sup>th</sup> March 2018, 'ITB- Berlin World Tourist Meet' was convened at Berlin, Germany. Which of the following countries won the 'Best Performance Award' in the Asia class?**

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

**Answer: (b)**

**Related Facts:**

- During 7<sup>th</sup>-10<sup>th</sup> March 2018, 'ITB- Berlin World Tourist Meet' was convened at Berlin, Germany.
- India was represented by the Minister of State (Independent charge) for Tourism Mr K. J. Alphons along with couple of Tourism Ministry officials.
- More than 100 countries participated in the ITB- Berlin meet with their respective Tourism Ministers.
- India's Incredible India (Ministry of Tourism) presented a short film named "Yogi of the Racetrack" in the meet.
- The said short film has got 3.2 million hits in 60 hours.
- India has won the "Best Exhibitor Award" at ITB – Berlin in the Asia class.
- 'Poland' in Europe category and 'Costa Rica' won the Best Performance Award in the US category.



**Reference:**

<http://newsroom.itb-berlin.de/en/news/international-tourism-management-students-cologne-business-school-honour-best-exhibitors-itb>

## World ATM Congress, 2018

**Question: Where did 'World ATM Congress, 2018' concluded during March 6<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup>, 2018?**

(a) New York(b) Paris(c) Madrid(d) Colombo

**Answer: (c)**

**Related Facts:**

- The 'World Air Traffic Management (ATM) Congress' was concluded in Madrid, Spain during March 6<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup>, 2018.
- It is the world's largest international air traffic management exhibition and conference.
- In this, the Airports Authority of India (AII) displayed its achievements and initiatives.
- The next congress will be held again in Madrid, Spain between 12<sup>th</sup>-14<sup>th</sup> March, 2019.



**Reference:**

<https://www.worldatmcongress.org/exhibitor-info>

## Kabul Process Conference

**Question-Second Kabul Process Conference was organized in Afghanistan. Who represented India in the conference?**

- (a) Radhakrishna Mathur (b) Anil Swaroop (c) Vijay Keshav Gokhale  
(d) Ratan Kumar Sinha

**Answer: (c)**

**Related Facts:**

- On February 28<sup>th</sup>, 2018, the second Kabul Process Conference was held in Afghanistan's capital Kabul.
- 25 countries including India participated in this conference.
- India was represented by Foreign Secretary Vijay Keshav Gokhale at the conference.
- The conference was launched with the aim of discussing security and political issues in Afghanistan.



**Reference:**

<http://mfa.gov.af/en/news/the-kabul-process-for-peace-and-security-cooperation-in-afghanistan-declaration-ii>

## 5th Meeting of Mission Steering Group of NHM

**Question- Where was the 5<sup>th</sup> meeting of Mission Steering Group of NHM concluded on February 27<sup>th</sup>, 2018?**

- (a) Jaipur (b) Kolkata (c) Bangalore (d) New Delhi

**Answer: (d)**

**Related Facts:**

- On the 27<sup>th</sup> of February, 2018, the 5<sup>th</sup> Meeting of Mission Steering Group of NHM) was concluded in New Delhi.
- Shri J P Nadda, Union Minister of Health and Family Welfare as he chaired the 5th meeting of the Mission Steering Group of the National Health Mission (NHM).
- Shri Nadda said that NHM is vital to supporting the states in improving their health systems.
- "The Health and Wellness Centers are expected to provide preventive, promotive, rehabilitative and curative care for a package of 12 services."



- Hon'ble Prime Minister's announcement of the heightened focus on the aspirational districts also provides us with significant leverage point to address long persisting inequities and development lag in these districts. This will be strengthened through NHM.
- Currently all 36 states/UTs have notified policy to provide essential drugs free of cost in public health facilities.
- Under NHM Free Diagnostics Service Initiative, substantial funding is provided to States within their resource envelope to provide free essential diagnostic services at public health facilities.
- The program has been rolled out in 29 states/UTs which are providing free diagnostic Services either in-house or in PPP mode.
- The MSG of the NHM discussed various agenda points including enhancement of reach, outlay and facilities within components of the NHM, Prevention and Control of Viral Hepatitis, Immunization, Comprehensive Primary Health Care, Newer Intervention under Revised National TB Control Programme with respect to Patient's Support and Private Sector Involvement, capacity building of health workers, etc. Many suggestions were also made by other members of the MSG.
- Meeting offered a valuable and useful platform for candid discussion on several issues, and a wider perspective from a wide section of experts which will enable to enhance quality and effectiveness of the NHM.

**Reference:**

<http://medlarge.com/2018/03/03/union-health-ministers-chairs-5th-meeting-mission-steering-group-nhm/>

## International Conference on Sustainable Biofuels 2018

**Question- Where was the International Conference on Sustainable Biofuels' organized during February 26<sup>th</sup>-27<sup>th</sup>, 2018?**

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

**Answer: (c)**



**Related Facts:**

- During February 26<sup>th</sup>-27<sup>th</sup>, 2018, two day international conference on Sustainable Biofuels was jointly organized by Department of Biotechnology, Govt. of India and Biofuture platform in Stan Auditorium, India Habitat Center, New Delhi.
- This event aims to provide a common platform to Government policy makers, industry, investors and research community to exchange experiences and challenges related to development and scaling of advance biofuels.
- Besides this the conference is focusing on concerns of the private sectors to speed up large scale production of sustainable biofuels.
- The event bring experts and delegates from 19 countries together in Sustainable Biofuels sector to take stock of current knowledge, share information and best practices, and build consensus on the actions most needed to move forward.

**Reference:**

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=176794>

## 3rd National Conclave on Mines and Minerals

**Question: At which of the following places 3<sup>rd</sup> National Conclave on Mines and Minerals was concluded recently?**

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

**Answer: (c)**

**Related Facts:**

- On 20<sup>th</sup> March 2018, the Ministry of Mines organized 3<sup>rd</sup> National Conclave on Mines & Minerals in Convention Hall, Hotel Ashoka New Delhi.
- It was organized by the Ministry of Mines with the support of Federation of Indian Mineral Industries (FIMI).
- The conference was attended by representatives of state governments, mining industries, industry organizations, financial and educational institutions.
- It is remarkable that the 1<sup>st</sup> National Conclave on Mines & Minerals on 4-5 July, 2016 at Raipur and 2<sup>nd</sup> National Conclave on Mines & Minerals on 15<sup>th</sup> Feb 2017 at New Delhi.



**Reference:**

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=177642>

## First India-Japan Workshop on Disaster Risk Reduction

**Question: Where is the first India-Japan Workshop on 'Disaster Risk Reduction' being organized on March 19<sup>th</sup>-20<sup>th</sup>, 2018?**

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

**Answer: (b)**

**Related Facts:**

- On March 19<sup>th</sup>-20<sup>th</sup> 2018, First India-Japan Workshop on Disaster Risk Reduction is being organized in New Delhi.
- The Vice-Chairman, NITI Aayog, Dr. Rajiv Kumar inaugurated the First India-Japan Workshop on Disaster Risk Reduction here today.
- The two-day workshop is being jointly organized by the Ministry of Home Affairs, National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) and Government of Japan.
- Fifty delegates from Japan including experts from government, technical institutions, private sector and 70 delegates from India including experts are participating in the Workshop.



**Reference:**

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=177643>

## Informal World Trade Organization Ministerial Meeting

**Question: At which of the following places the WTO's informal ministerial meeting is being organized between March 19<sup>th</sup> -20<sup>th</sup>, 2018?**

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

**Answer: (b)**

**Related Facts:**

- On March 19<sup>th</sup>-20<sup>th</sup>, 2018 Informal WTO Ministerial Meeting is being organized in Taj Diplomatic Enclave, New Delhi.
- Representatives from 50 countries will be gathering to attend this meeting.
- The informal meeting of ministers will provide an opportunity to engage in free and frank discussions with the hope that it will lead to political guidance on some major issues.
- It is noteworthy that in the absence of Ministerial guidance at the Eleventh Ministerial Conference (MC 11) that took place from 10 to 13 December 2017 in Buenos Aires, Argentina.



**Reference:**

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=177628>

## First Regional Conference on Mass Rapid Transport Systems for Urban Areas

**Question: At which of the following places the First Regional Conference on Mass Rapid Transport Systems for Urban Areas was held on March 13<sup>th</sup>, 2018?**

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

**Answer: (c)**

**Related Facts:**

- On March 13<sup>th</sup>, 2018, First Regional Conference on Mass Rapid Transport Systems for Urban Areas was held at Kolkata.
- The conference was jointly organized by Ministry of Finance, AIIB, ASSOCHAM and Research and Information System for Developing Countries (RIS).
- It is important to note that Before the third annual meeting of Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB) to be held in Mumbai from June 22 to 27 this year, eight such regional conferences will be held on the issues relating to infrastructures development, sustainable infrastructure, mass rapid transportation system, port and coastal infrastructure, urban development and the like in eight different cities of India.



**Reference:**

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=177358>

## 14th meeting of Empowered Committee under Nirbhaya Fund

**Question: Recently, the 14th meeting of the Empowered Committee of the Officers under the Nirbhaya Fund was held in New Delhi. At which of the following places setting up of a Central Forensic Science Laboratory has been announced at this meeting?**

(a) Lucknow (b) Chandigarh (c) Shimla (d) Hyderabad

**Answer: (b)**

**Related Facts:**

- On March 1<sup>st</sup>, 2018, the 14th meeting of the Empowered Committee of the Officers under the Nirbhaya Fund was held in New Delhi.

- It was presided by Rakesh Srivastava, Secretary, Ministry of Women and Child Development.
- It approves proposals for the security and protection of women.
- **The Committee discussed three proposals-**
- Proposal for introduction of Emergency Response Support system / panic button in Uttar Pradesh.
- Safe city proposal for 8 cities
- This is a major initiative under the Nirbhaya Fund. Under this, a detailed action plan will be implemented for women's safety in 8 major cities (as in Delhi, Mumbai, Chennai, Ahmedabad, Kolkata, Bangalore, Hyderabad and Lucknow).
- These schemes have been prepared with the help of Municipal Corporations and Police Departments.
- For these eight proposals, the committee has fixed the amount of Rs 2,919.55 crore.
- An ideal forensic science laboratory will be established in Chandigarh with advanced infrastructure and modern machines.



**Reference:**

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintHindiRelease.aspx?relid=70972>

## State Level INSPIRE Award Science Scheme

**Question- Where was the State Level INSPIRE Award Science Exhibition held recently in Uttar Pradesh?**

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

**Answer: (c)**

**Related Facts:**

- On March 15<sup>th</sup>, 2018, 'State Level INSPIRE Award Science Exhibition and Project Contest' was organized at Rani Lakshmbai Memorial School, Ganga Bihar Colony, Malhar Road, Lucknow.
- This exhibition was organized under the 'INSPIRE Award-Standard scheme' run by Department of Secondary Education, Department of Science and Technology, Government of India.
- In the exhibition 164 students selected from different districts and participated and presented the project / model related to science subjects.
- Based on the project / model displayed by the Participant student / students, they were selected at the state level by the jury.
- Selected student / students will display their talent at the National INSPIRE Award Science Exhibition to be held in New Delhi.



**Reference:**

<http://information.up.nic.in/attachments/files/5aa7c72d-3b8c-4880-bee4-02c40af72573.pdf>

## Conference on Counterfeiting

**Question-On 13th-14th March, 2018, where was the National Conference on Counterfeiting and Role of Enforcement Agencies organized?**

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

**Answer: (c)**

**Related Facts:**

- On 13th-14th March, 2018, the National Conference on Counterfeiting and Role of Enforcement Agencies was organized in New Delhi.
- The conference was organized by the Cell for IPR Promotion and Management (CIPAM) under the auspices of the Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion (DIPP), Ministry of Commerce and Industry in collaboration with European Union (EU).
- Minister of Commerce and Industry, Shri Suresh Prabhu inaugurated this two-day conference.
- This will provide a platform for the officials to share their experiences and better coordination between the agencies regarding dealing with the dangers of counterfeiting.



**Reference:**

<http://ddinews.gov.in/business/government-mulling-giving-patent-registrations-quickly-says-suresh-prabhu>

## ELACRAMA -2018

**Question: From 10th-14th March 2018 where was elecrama-2018 organized?**

- (a) New Delhi(b) Noida(c) Jaipur(d) Lucknow

**Answer: (b)**

**Related Facts:**

- From 10th -14th March, 2018, Exhibition of electronics goods ELACRAMA- 2018 was organized in Noida, Uttar Pradesh.
- It was organized by the Indian Electricity and Electronics Manufacturers' Association (IEEMA).
- Vice President Venkaiah Naidu inaugurated the program.



**Reference:**

<https://elecrama.com/>

## Conference on Command Area Development

**Question: Where was the one day conference on the development of the command area organized recently?**

- (a) Visakhapatnam(b) New Delhi(c) Kochi(d) Kolkata

**Answer: (b)**

**Related Facts:**

- On March 13th, 2018, a one-day Conference on Command Area Development was organised by Ministry of Water Resources, River Development & Ganga Rejuvenation at CSMRS Auditorium, New Delhi.
- The Conference was inaugurated by Shri Nitin Gadkari, Union Minister for Water Resources, River Development & Ganga Rejuvenation, Road Transport & Highways and Shipping as Chief Guest.
- Shri Arjun Ram Meghwal, Union Minister of State for Water Resources, River Development & Ganga Rejuvenation and Parliamentary Affairs was the guest of honour.



- The Conference is being organised to promote awareness on Command Area Development and Water Management (CADWM) amongst the 18 participating states.
- In all these 18 states Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana (PMKSY) projects are being implemented involving the concerned Central and State Government agencies as well as non-governmental organisations active in the area.
- A Plenary session and three technical sessions have been planned for the Conference.
- Conference deliberations will cover such themes as new initiatives in CADWM implementation; Aim of CADWM programme & present Day Challenges; CADWM implementation under PMKSY, and Participatory Irrigation Management.
- Eminent speakers from Central and State governments and other apex organisations will make focused presentations on the themes of the conference followed by open house discussions.
- About 200 delegates from the Command Area Development Authority (CADA) and irrigation departments of all participating states, officers from the Union Ministry of Water Resources, and Central government organisations like Central Water Commission, Central Ground Water Board, National Water Development Agency, Central Soil Material Research Station etc are participating in the Conference.
- The deliberations during the Conference are expected to lead to valuable recommendation for future implementation by the government.

**Reference:**

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=177283>

## International Conference on Sports Management

**Question: At which of the following places 'International Conference for discussion on sports management' is being organized on 8th -10th March, 2018?**

(a) Patiala (b) Chandigarh (c) New Delhi (d) Mumbai

**Answer: (c)**

**Related Facts:**

- On 8th-10th March, 2018 'International Conference for Discussing Sports Management' is being organized in Vigyan Bhawan, New Delhi.
- The conference is being organized at the Diamond Jubilee celebration of Laxmibai National Institute of Physical Education located at Gwalior (MP).
- The Sports Ministry is organizing this conference with this institute in which new ideas and issues will be discussed in sports management.
- The aim of this conference will be to exchange new ideas of sports management with different stakeholders to promote performance in sports in the country.



**Reference:**

<http://www.thehindu.com/todays-paper/tp-sports/lnipes-three-day-sports-conference/article22972923.ece>

## HappyNess Index International Workshop

**Question: On 22nd-23rd February 2018, where was the International Workshop organized in connection with the HappyNess Index?**

(a) Indore(b) Bhopal(c) Jaipur(d) Ahmedabad

**Answer: (b)**

**Related Facts:**

- On February 22nd-23rd, 2018; an international workshop was organized in connection with the Happiness Index at Hotel Jahanuma Palace, located in Bhopal (Madhya Pradesh).
- This workshop was organized by the Anand Department, Madhya Pradesh with the support of Indian Institute of Technology (IIT), Kharagpur.
- Apart from Indian, experts from the United States, UAE, Canada and other countries participated in this workshop.
- Happiness Index Workshop held two sessions on the first day and two sessions on the last day.
- State Ananda Sansthan has signed an agreement with IIT Kharagpur to identify the parameters of happiness, methods for making people happy and developing tools.
- It is known that Madhya Pradesh, which constituted the Anand Department, is the first state in the country.



**Reference:**

<http://www.dailypioneer.com/state-editions/bhopal/happiness-index-international-workshop-on-feb-22-23.html>

## India-Korea Business Summit

**Question- Where did the 'India-Korea Business Summit' concluded on February 27th, 2018?**

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

**Answer: (b)**

**Related Facts:**

- On February 27th, 2018, Second India-Korea Business Summit organized by the Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion (DIPP), Ministry of Commerce & Industry, in partnership with ChosunILbo, KOTRA, Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) and Invest India, was held in New Delhi.
- Aim of the summit is to strengthen the economic relationship, boost trade relations and increase investments between India and Republic of Korea.
- The summit began with a roundtable of Korean CEOs which was chaired by Prime Minister of India. It highlighted the strategic partnership between India and Republic of Korea and the potential of increasing trade and investment between the two countries.
- The roundtable included delegates from both Governments and 25 CEOs from leading Korean companies with an estimated revenue of USD 575 billion.
- On the sidelines of the summit, several B2B meetings were arranged.
- The summit addressed various issues across industries and was attended by over a thousand delegates, including 425 South Korean delegates from 90 Korean companies, senior government officials and political leaders.



**Reference:**

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=176828>

## 2nd Indo-Nepal Trade Fair & Tourism Festival 2018

**Question- From February 2nd-8th, 2018 where was the Second Indo-Nepal Trade Fair and Tourism Festival, 2018 organized?**

(a) Kanchanpur(b) Kathmandu(c) Dehradun(d) Gorakhpur

**Answer: (c)**

**Related Facts:**

- On 2nd February, 2018, Uttarakhand Chief Minister Trivendra Singh Rawat launched second India-Nepal trade fair and Tourism Festival-2018 in Parade Ground, Dehradun (Uttarakhand).
- Nepal Minister of State for Commerce Narbahadur Chand was also present on this occasion.
- It was organized by Kanchanpur Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Nepal.
- The ending of the festival took place on 8th February 2018.
- In this Expo, various food items, handicrafts, medicinal herbs and agricultural products were displayed by more than 150 stalls from India and Nepal.



**Reference:**

<http://www.fncci.org/events/detail.php?id=212>

## FICCI Frames, 2018

**Question: During 5th -7th March, 2018 at which of the following places the 'FICCI Frames, 2018'; an annual conference of the media and entertainment industry is being organized?**

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

**Answer: (c)**

**Related Facts:**

- On March 5th- 7th, 2018, the annual conference of the Media and Entertainment Industry 'FICCI Frames, 2018'is being organized in Grand Hyatt, Mumbai.
- Union Information and Broadcasting Minister Smriti Irani inaugurated this three-day conference.
- It is worth mentioning that 'FICCI Frames' is the leading business conclave to attract almost all important stakeholders in the entertainment sector.
- This is the largest conference of its kind in Asia.



**Reference:**

<http://www.ficci-frames.com/frames-2018/index.html#about>

## Conference of Southern States on Water Resources

**Question- Where was the regional conference of Southern states on water resources organized recently?**

(a) Bangalore(b) Hyderabad(c) Chennai(d) Vijayawada

**Answer: (b)**

**Related Facts:**

- On February 20th, 2018, The Ministry of Water Resources, River



Development and Ganga Rejuvenation organized a “Regional Conference of Southern States on Water Resources” at Taj Vivanta, Begumpet, Hyderabad.

- The conference will be chaired by Shri Arjun Ram Meghwal, MoS, WR, RD & GR and Parliamentary Affairs.
- Six southern states namely, Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, Puduchery, Karnataka, Kerala and Telangana will be represented by their Ministers, Principal Secretaries and Engineer-in-Chiefs of Water Resources.
- The objective of the conference is to discuss pending issues of water resources and inter-state issues.
- These would include issues related to the implementation of the latest orders of the Supreme Court on sharing of Cauvery waters, Mullai Periyar Dam, interlinking of rivers like Godavari-Cauvery and notification of jurisdiction of Krishna and Godavari Management Boards, Parambikulam Aliyar projects, Pollavaram project and other interstate issues.

**Reference:**

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=176648>

## National Banana Festival, 2018

**Question: At which of the following places National Banana Festival (NBF) was organized from February 17th-21st, 2018?**

(a) Jaipur (b) Udaipur (c) Bhopal (d) Thiruvananthapuram

**Answer: (d)**

**Related Facts:**

- National Banana Festival (NBF) was organized from February 17th-21st, 2018 at Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala.
- It was organized with the help of Kalliar Gram Panchayat with the Center for Innovation in Science and Social Action (CISSA).
- Union Agriculture & Farmers Welfare Minister, Shri Radha Mohan Singh addressed at the National Banana Festival, 2018.
- **The objectives of this festival were:**
  - Create awareness on the local biodiversity conservation
  - Promote entrepreneurship for doubling farmers income
  - Create awareness on the nutritional and health benefits of banana
  - Promote utilization of underutilized parts of banana -peels, leaves, pseudo stem, stalk and inflorescence for food and non-food products.
  - Augment market : supply chain and value addition linkages
  - Promote organic farming, precision farming, and efficient input management and per drop more crop.
- Today banana is cultivated in more than 130 countries across the world in 5.00 million hectare and yielding 103.63 million tonnes of banana and plantain (FAO, 2013).
- India is the largest producer of banana in the world with 29.7 million tonnes from an area of 0.88 million hectares with a productivity of 37 MT/ha.
- Although India accounts for only 15.5per cent in area, its contribution in the world's production is 25.58per cent.



- It is predicted that with ever-increasing demand, 60 million tonnes of banana will be needed to meet the domestic demand in 2050.

**Reference:**

<http://pib.gov.in/PressReleaseDetail.aspx?PRID=1520827>

## Brainstorming on WTO in the Post-Mc11 Phase

**Question:** After the 11<sup>th</sup> Ministerial Conference phase during February 19-20, 2018, where was the brainstorming meeting organized on WTO?

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

**Answer: (b)**

**Related Facts:**

- During 19<sup>th</sup>-20<sup>th</sup> February 2018; after the 11<sup>th</sup> Ministerial Conference phase in New Delhi, a brainstorming meeting was held on the WTO between the Department of Commerce and the World Trade Organization (W.T.O.) study center.
- The objective of organizing this two-day contemplation meeting was to consult as far as possible in order to highlight the ideas on the WTO after the 11th Ministerial Conference phase.
- The agenda of this meeting was extensive, including agriculture, service, investment accessibility, e-commerce institutional issues, development, MSME and gender issues.
- The participants of the meeting included industry, government, educational institutions, think tank, experts.
- It is known that 11<sup>th</sup> WTO Ministerial Conference, 2017 was held in Buenos Aires, Argentina during 10-13 December, 2017.



**Reference:**

<http://pib.gov.in/PressReleaseDetail.aspx?PRID=1521207>

## State Designated Agency (SDA) National Summit, 2018

**Question:** Where did the State Designated Agency (SDA) National Summit, 2018 be organized recently?

(a) Agra (b) Lucknow (c) Kanpur (d) NOIDA

**Answer: (b)**

**Related Facts:**

- During 8<sup>th</sup>-9<sup>th</sup> February, 2018, the State Designated Agency (SDA) National Summit, 2018 was organized in the hotel Hyatt, Lucknow.
- It was inaugurated by Uttar Pradesh Additional Power Resources Minister Brajesh Pathak.
- The summit was organized by the Bureau of Energy Efficiency and Indo-German Energy Program by the U.P. NEDA (Uttar Pradesh, New and Renewable Energy Development Agency).
- In this, a large number of SDA representatives, working for conservation of energy, participated from different states of the country.
- To increase the awareness and competitiveness of energy conservation in the industries / buildings of the state, State Energy Conservation Awards were provided in total 11 sectors, including architects, banks, hotels and hospitals, in the year 2017.



- It is known that the Uttar Pradesh Government has set a target of 10,700 MW in the solar energy policy of 2017.
- This reduces the equivalent emission of carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) absorbed by 6 crore 42 lakhs of trees.

**Reference:**

<http://information.up.nic.in/attachments/files/5a7c39af-d760-4f49-aec7-0b340af72573.pdf>

## State-level Khadi and Village Industries Exhibition

**Question: What is the rebate percentage after increased by the existing UP government on the sale of Khadi textiles which was fixed at 10% by the previous government?**

(a) 12 percent (b) 14 percent (c) 15 percent (d) 20 percent

**Answer: (c)**

**Related Facts:**

- On January 25<sup>th</sup>, 2018, Khadi and Village Industries Minister of Uttar Pradesh, Satyadev Pachauri inaugurated the 15-day state-level Khadi and Village Industries Exhibition organized in the Children's Museum Lawn (Charbagh), Lucknow.
- This exhibition has been organized by the U.P. Khadi and Village Industries Board.
- The aim of organizing this exhibition is to encourage the idea of 'One District One Product'.
- It is known that by the previous government, only 10 percent rebate arrangements were made on the sale of Khadi textiles, which was valid for 108 working days from 2 October.
- The present government has increased the system of 10% rebate on the sale of Khadi textiles to 15%, which will be applicable throughout the year instead of 108 working days.
- Of which 5 percent will be provided directly to the knitters and weavers.
- This will directly benefit the backward and the poorer sections that do the work of Khadi.



**Reference:**

<http://information.up.nic.in/attachments/files/5a69d8dd-d608-4680-a9b3-12700af72573.pdf>

## ASSOCIATIONS & ORGANIZATIONS

### Mahanadi Water Disputes Tribunal

**Question: The Central Government constituted the Mahanadi Water Disputes Tribunal on March 12<sup>th</sup>, 2018. Its chairman will be—**

(a) Justice Dr. Ravi Ranjan (b) Justice Inderjit Kaur (c) Justice Arun Mishra  
(d) Justice A.M. Khanwilkar

**Answer: (d)**

**Related Facts:**

- On March 12<sup>th</sup>, 2018, the Ministry of Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation have issued a notification today constituting the Mahanadi Water Disputes Tribunal.



- The Tribunal will have its headquarters at Delhi and will have the following members nominated by the Chief Justice of India:
- Mr Justice A.M. Khanwilkar, Judge, Supreme Court of India as Chairman
- Justice Ravi Ranjan, Judge, Patna High Court as Member
- Mrs Justice Indermeet Kaur Kochhar, Judge, Delhi High Court as Member
- The Tribunal has been constituted following orders of the Supreme Court dated 23<sup>rd</sup> January, 2018 in a suit filed by the Government of Odisha.
- The Government of Odisha had sought to refer the water dispute regarding the inter-state river Mahanadi and its river valley to a Tribunal for adjudication under the Inter-State River Water Disputes Act, 1956.

**Reference:**

<http://pib.gov.in/PressReleaseDetail.aspx?PRID=1523911>

## Approval of DAC

**Question: Recently, the Defense Acquisition Council (DAC) has approved of the how much amount of Capital Acquisition proposals of the Coast Guard and services?**

- (a) Rs. 8,550 crores (b) Rs. 9,220 crores  
 (c) Rs. 9,435 crores (d) Rs. 9,830 crores

**Answer: (c)**

**Related Facts:**

- On February 28<sup>th</sup>, 2018, the Defence Acquisition Council (DAC), chaired by Raksha Mantri Smt. Nirmala Sitharaman, met and accorded approval to Capital Acquisition Proposals of the Services and Coast Guard valued at approximately Rs 9435 crore.
- In a major boost to the Make in India initiative the DAC accorded approval for procurement of 41000 LMGs and over 3.5 Lakh Close Quarter Battle Carbines under Buy and Make (Indian) category.
- Out of total quantities envisaged, 75 percent will be through Indian Industry under 'Buy & Make (Indian)' category and balance through OFB.
- The total cost for procurement of Carbines and LMGs for the soldiers of the three Services is Rs 4607 crore and Rs 3000 crore respectively.



**Reference:**

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=176869>

## Avaada Power Pvt. Ltd

**Question- Recently, Avaada Power Pvt Ltd has announced to invest Rs 3500 crores for setting up solar power projects of how much power in Andhra Pradesh?**

- (a) 350 MW (b) 450 MW (c) 500 MW (d) 550 MW

**Answer: (c)**

**Related Facts:**

- On February 28<sup>th</sup>, 2018, Avaada Power Pvt. Ltd. announced an investment of Rs. 3500 crores for setting up 500 MW solar projects in Andhra Pradesh.



- In this context, the agreement was signed in 2018 in the Indian Industry Confederation Partnership Summit, held in Visakhapatnam in February, 2018.
- According to Avaada Power, the solar project on the utility scale will produce enough clean energy for more than 2.4 million households.

**Reference:**

<https://www.thehindubusinessline.com/companies/avaada-power-to-invest-rs-3500-cr-to-build-500-mw-solar-capacity-in-ap/article22889453.ece>

## **LAW & JUSTICE**

### **Abortion Referendum Bill**

**Question: The government of which of the following countries recently approved the Abortion Referendum Bill?**

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

**Answer: (c)**

**Related Facts:**

- On March 8<sup>th</sup>, 2018 the Irish government approved the Abortion Referendum Bill.
- This referendum will be done at the end of the month of May.
- Under this referendum, Voters will be asked if they want to repeal article 40.3.3 – known as the eighth amendment.
- Amendment; since 1983 has given unborn fetuses and pregnant women an equal right to life, effectively enshrining a ban on abortion in the country's constitution.
- If voters votes in favour of repeal, the government has said it will introduce legislation permitting unrestricted abortion during the first 12 weeks of pregnancy.
- It is notable that currently, terminations are only allowed when the life of the mother is at risk.
- Maximum penalty for accessing an illegal abortion in the country is 14 years in prison.



**Reference:**

<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2018/mar/08/irelands-government-approves-bill-paving-way-for-abortion-referendum>

## **YEAR, DAY & WEEK**

### **World Theater Day**

**Question: When is 'World Theater Day' celebrated?**

(a) March 26(b) March 27(c) March 28(d) March 30

**Answer- (b)**

**Related Facts:**

- On March 27<sup>th</sup>, 2018, the World Theater Day was celebrated all over the world.
- To celebrate the 70<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the International Theatre Institute and to underline the cross-cultural and international aspect of theatre and of ITI, the Executive Council



has selected five message authors to write a message – one from each of the five UNESCO Regions: Africa, the Americas, Arab Countries, Asia Pacific and Europe.

- They are as follows:
- Asia Pacific – Ram Gopal Bajaj (India).
- Arab countries-Maya Jabib (Lebanon).
- Europe- Simon Mcburrey (U.K.)
- America-Sabina Burman (Mexico)
- Africa- Were Were Liking (Ivory Coast).
- It is known that the celebration of this day was started in the year 1962 by the 'International Theater Institute' (ITI).
- The main event of this day is held in UNESCO or in the selected place by ITI.
- This year the main event of this day was held in Paris (France).

**Reference:**

<http://www.world-theatre-day.org/messageauthor.html>

## Earth Hour-2018

**Question: When global campaign of energy saving celebrated in year 2018?**

(a) March 23(b) March 22(c) March 24(d) March 20

**Answer: (c)**

**Related Facts:**

- On March 24<sup>th</sup>, 2018 Global campaign for energy saving 'Earth Hour' was observed from 8:30 pm to 9:30 pm.
- It is worth noting that this is celebrated every year by the World Wide Fund for Nature.
- It aims to encourage individuals and various communities to reduce energy consumption, for which everyone has been urged to stop the unnecessary lights of their homes and establishments for one hour.
- The global campaign was started in Sydney, Australia in 2007.



**Reference:**

<https://www.earthhour.org/what-is-earth-hour>

## World Down Syndrome Day

**Question: When 'World Down Syndrome Day' is celebrated?**

(a) March 25(b) March 24(c) march 22(d) March 21

**Answer- (d)**

**Related Facts:**

- On March 21<sup>st</sup>, 2018, World Down Syndrome Day was celebrated all over the world.
- The main theme of this day in the year 2018 is – 'What can I bring for my community'.
- To demonstrate the specificity of trisomy of 21 chromosomes, the 21<sup>st</sup> of the third month of the year was selected as this day, which causes Down syndrome.
- The name Down syndrome was named after British doctor John Langdon Down who first discovered the syndrome (medical condition) in 1866.
- 1 out of the estimated 1000 children in the world is born with Down syndrome.
- **What is Down syndrome?**



- Down syndrome is a genetic disorder, which is caused by the presence of an additional chromosome in pair of 21 chromosomes.
- Most of the people of most people have 46 chromosomes, but people with Down syndrome have 47 chromosomes in them and because of this, they look different and learn differently.

**Reference:**

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=178002>

## World Tuberculosis Day

**Question: When ‘World Tuberculosis Day’ is celebrated?**

(a) March 23(b) March 21(c) March 25(d) March 24

**Answer: (d)**

**Related Facts:**

- On March 24<sup>th</sup>, 2018 World Tuberculosis Day was celebrated across the world.
- The theme of World TB Day 2018 – “Wanted: Leaders for a TB-free world”.
- This day is celebrated to raise public awareness about the devastating health, social and economic consequences of tuberculosis (TB) and to step up efforts to end the global TB epidemic.
- India Government has set a new health policy, 2017 to eradicate tuberculosis by year 2025.
- It is known that the date marks the day in 1882 when Dr. Robert Koch announced that he had discovered the bacterium that causes TB, which opened the way towards diagnosing and curing this disease.
- Tuberculosis is an infectious disease caused by ‘Mycobacterium tuberculosis’ which spreads through the coughing, abluton or spitting of infected people.



**Reference:**

<http://www.who.int/campaigns/tb-day/2018/event/en/>

## World Meteorological Day

**Question: On which date ‘World Meteorological Day’ is celebrated?**

(a) March 24(b) March 21(c) March 23(d) March 18

**Answer: (c)**

**Related Facts:**

- On March 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2018, World Meteorological Day was celebrated across the world.
- The main theme of this day – “Weather Ready, Climate Smart”.
- The purpose of this day is to make people aware about meteorology and changes in it.
- This day is celebrated by the World Meteorological Organization (WMO).
- WMO was born on March 23<sup>rd</sup>, 1873, from the International Meteorological Organization (WMO).
- WMO was founded on March 23<sup>rd</sup>, 1950.
- In the year 1951, it became a UN agency. Currently it has 191 country members.
- Its headquarters is in Geneva (Switzerland).



**Reference:**

<https://public.wmo.int/en/resources/world-meteorological-day/wmd-2018>

## World Water Day

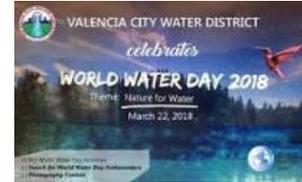
**Question- On March 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2018, 'World Water Day' was celebrated. What is the main theme of this day in 2018?**

- (a) Water for humans (b) Water for Environment (c) Nature for Water  
(d) Water for Durable Future

**Answer: (c)**

**Related Facts:**

- On March 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2018 World Water Day was celebrated across the world.
- The main theme of this day for year 2018 is: 'Nature for Water'.
- The purpose of organizing this day is to make people aware about tackling the water crisis.
- International World Water Day is held annually on 22 March as a means of focusing attention on the importance of freshwater and advocating for the sustainable management of freshwater resources.
- An international day to celebrate freshwater was recommended at the 1992 United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED) in Rio de Janeiro.
- The United Nations General Assembly responded by designating 22 March 1993 as the first World Water Day.
- The United Nations General Assembly adopted resolution by which 22 March of each year was declared World Day for Water, to be observed starting in 1993.



**Reference:**

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

## World Poetry Day

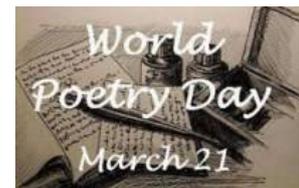
**Question: When is "World Poetry Day" celebrated?**

- (a) March 23 (b) March 21 (c) March 24 (d) March 19

**Answer- (b)**

**Related Facts:**

- World March 21<sup>st</sup>, 2018 'World Poetry Day' was celebrated.
- One of the main objectives of the Day is to support linguistic diversity through poetic expression and to offer endangered languages the opportunity to be heard within their communities.
- It is notable that a decision to proclaim 21 March as World Poetry Day was adopted during UNESCO's 30th session held in Paris in 1999.
- In celebrating World Poetry Day, March 21, UNESCO recognizes the unique ability of poetry to capture the creative spirit of the human mind.



**Reference:**

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

## International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination

**Question: When “International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination” is observed?**

(a) March 22(b) March 20(c) March 18(d) March 21

**Answer- (d)**

**Related Facts:**

- On March 21<sup>st</sup>, 2018, International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination was observed.
- The main theme of this day in the year 2018 – “Promoting tolerance, inclusion, unity and respect for diversity in the context of combating racial discrimination”.

**Reference:**

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



## International Happiness Day

**Question- When ‘International Happiness Day’ is celebrated?**

(a) 22<sup>nd</sup> March(b) 21<sup>st</sup> March(c) 19<sup>th</sup> March(d) 20<sup>th</sup> March

**Answer- (d)**

**Related Facts:**

- On March 20<sup>th</sup>, 2018; International Day of Happiness was celebrated across the world.
- This day is celebrated every year from 2013 to understand the importance of happiness worldwide.
- It is remarkable that in the recently released world happiness by the United Nations, India was ranked 133<sup>rd</sup> among 156 countries of the list.
- While Finland has ranked top in the list.

**Reference:**

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



## World Sparrow Day

**Question: When is ‘World Sparrow Day’ celebrated?**

(a) March 20(b) March 18(c) March 22(d) March 15

**Answer: (a)**

**Related Facts:**

- On March 20<sup>th</sup>, 2018, World Sparrow Day ‘ was celebrated across the world.
- ‘I Love Sparrow’ has been set as the theme for this year.
- It is remarkable that this day is celebrated every year to make people aware about the protection of sparrow.
- For the first time this day was celebrated in 2010.
- It is significant that the sparrow’s scientific name is Passer Domesticus.
- This is the state bird of India’s Union Territory of Delhi.



**Reference:**

<https://www.worldsparrowday.org/theme.html>

## World Sleep Day

**Question: When 'World sleep day' is celebrated?**

(a) March 13(b) March 16(c) March 17(d) March 19

**Answer: (b)**

**Related Facts:**

- On March 16<sup>th</sup>, 2018 'World Sleep day' was celebrated.
- In the year 2018, the main theme of this day was "Join the sleep: World Preserve Your Rhythms to Enjoy Life".
- This is celebrated on Friday before Spring Vernal Equinox every year.
- Next 'World Sleep Day' will be observed March 15<sup>th</sup>, 2019.
- It aims to reduce the burden of sleeping problems through better prevention and management.



**Reference:**

<http://worldsleepday.org/>

## World Consumer Rights Day

**Question- When is 'World Consumer Rights Day' celebrated?**

(a) March 13(b) March 15(c) March 18(d) March 12

**Answer: (b)**

**Related Facts:**

- On March 15<sup>th</sup>, 2018, 'World Consumer Rights Day' was celebrated.
- The main theme of this day in the year 2018 was – 'Making Digital Markets Fairer is Digital Making'.
- The purpose of this day is to make consumers aware about their rights and responsibilities.
- Significantly, World Consumer Rights Day was inspired by President John F Kennedy, who sent a special message to the US Congress on 15<sup>th</sup> March 1962, in which he formally addressed the issue of consumer rights.
- On 24<sup>th</sup> December every year in India 'National Consumer Day' is celebrated.
- It is Notable that the 'Consumer Protection Act' for India was enacted in 1986 on same day (March 15<sup>th</sup>).



**Reference:**

<http://www.consumersinternational.org/what-we-do/world-consumer-rights-day/2018-making-digital-marketplaces-fairer/>

## International Women's Day

**Question: 'International Women's Day' is being celebrated by the United Nations since the year-**

(a) 1972(b) 1995(c) 1975(d) 1980

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

**Answer: (c)**

**Related Facts:**

- On March 8th, 2018, International Women’s Day was celebrated across the world.
- In the year 2018, the theme of this day is “The Time is now: Rural and urban activists transforming women’s lives”.
- It is worth mentioning that this day is celebrated as the occasion of women’s economic, political and social achievements.
- It is known that during the ‘International Women’s Year’ in the year 1975, the United Nations started celebrating ‘International Women’s Day’ on March 8th.
- On this day (March 8th, 1975), in many countries of the world millions of women done a strike for their rights.
- It was such a first widespread strike of women by its kind.



**Reference:**

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

## World Kidney Day

**Question: In the year 2018, on which date ‘World Kidney Day’ was celebrated?**

(a) March 10(b) March 8(c) March 9(d) March 2

**Answer: (b)**

**Related Facts:**

- On March 8th, 2018, World Kidney Day was celebrated across the world.
- It is known that every year this day is celebrated on the second Thursday of March.
- The theme of this day for year 2018 – “Kidneys & Women ‘& Health: Include, Value, Empower”.
- It is a joint initiative of the International Society for Nephrology (ISN) and the International Federation of Kidney Foundation (IFKF).
- ISN was established in the year 1960.
- ISN is primarily a non-profit membership organization of Kidney Disease specialists, which represents Kidney Disease Medicine internationally and is dedicated to the treatment and prevention of kidney disease.
- While IFKF is working for the treatment and prevention of disease on all continents around the world.
- It was established in the year 1999.
- ‘World Kidney Day’ is a global health awareness campaign under which it aims to reduce kidney disease and related health problems and to spread awareness about the importance of kidneys.



**Reference:**

<http://www.worldkidneyday.org/2018-campaign/2018-wkd-theme/>

## Zero Discrimination Day

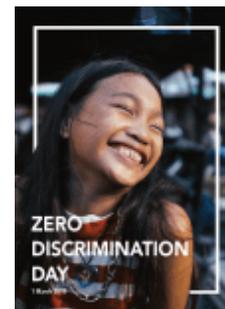
**Question: When 'Zero Discrimination Day' is celebrated?**

(a) March 3rd (b) March 4th (c) March 1st (d) March 6th

**Answer- (c)**

**Related Facts:**

- On March 1st, 2018, 'Zero Discrimination Day' was celebrated all over the world.
- This day is celebrated in society to bring neutrality, adopt diversity and emphasize talent and skill.
- The UN first celebrated Zero Discrimination Day on March 1st, 2014.
- This celebration was after UNAIDS, a UN program on human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) and Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome (AIDS), launched its Zero Discrimination Campaign on World AIDS Day in December 2013.



**Reference:**

<http://www.who.int/life-course/news/events/zero-discrimination-day/en/>

<http://www.unaids.org/en/resources/presscentre/pressreleaseandstatementarc>

## National Science Day

**Question- On February 28<sup>th</sup>, 2018, 'National Science Day' was celebrated across the country. The main theme of this day in year 2018 was-**

- (a) Science and Technology for nation building
- (b) Science and Technology for a Permanent Future
- (c) Science and Technology specifically for the Divyang (Disabled)
- (d) Make in India: Science and technology driven innovation



**Answer (b)**

**Related Facts:**

- On February 28<sup>th</sup>, 2018, National Science Day (NSD) was celebrated throughout the country. In the year 2018, the theme of this day is 'science and technology for a sustainable future' (Science and Technology for a sustainable future).
- It is known that on February 28<sup>th</sup>, 1928, Sir Chandrasekhar Venkata Raman had discovered 'Raman effect'.
- He was awarded the Nobel Prize for Physics in the year 1930.
- This festival is celebrated in India as the 'National Science Day' on every 28th February since year 1986.
- The purpose of this day is to attract and inspire students to science and to alert the masses to science and scientific achievements.

**Reference:**

<http://www.dst.gov.in/news/national-science-day-201828-february-theme-year-2018-science-and-technology-sustainable-future>

## BOOKS

### Hari Singh Nalwa: Champion of the Khalsaji (1791-1837)

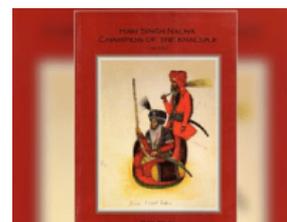
**Question: Who amongst the given wrote the book of 'Hari Singh Nalwa: Champion of the Khalsaji (1791-1837)'?**

(a) Amarinder Singh (b) Vanit Nalwa (c) Vijay Singh Nalwa (d) Hoshiyar Singh

**Answer: (b)**

**Related Facts:**

- In February, 2018, Dr. Vanit Nalwa presented his book "*Hari Singh Nalwa: Champion of the Khalsaji*" (1791-1837) in the national archives in Delhi.
- Maharaja Ranjit Singh called Hari Singh Nalwa, a Sikh warrior who lived in the 19<sup>th</sup> century, 'Wah mere Raja Nal Wah'.
- Maharaja Ranjit Singh had said those words to the bravery of Hari Singh as a child of King Nal of Mahabharata.
- Other information related to Hari Singh Nalwa in this presentation was also shared.
- Vanit Nalwa is a descendant of seventh generation of Hari Singh.
- Sardar Hari Singh Nalwa (1791-1837) was the Chief of Army Staff Maharaj Ranjit Singh.
- He led many battles with the Pathans and conquered Kabul and Kashmir.
- In the Battle of Noshera, he amicably led the army of Maharaja Ranjit Singh.



**Reference:**

<https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/life-style/books/features/new-book-reveals-how-sikh-warrior-hari-singh-nalwa-got-his-name/articleshow/63054783.cms>

### The Book :Exams Warriors

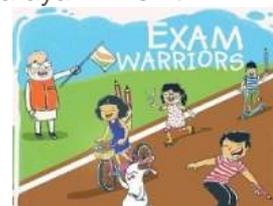
**Question: Who is the author of the book 'Exams Warriors'?**

(a) Pranab Mukherjee (b) Prakash Javdekar (c) Narendra Modi (d) Hriday Narayan Dikshit

**Answer: (c)**

**Related Facts:**

- On February 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2018, External Affairs Minister Sushma Swaraj and Human Resource Development Minister Prakash Javdekar released the book 'Exam Warriors'.
- This book is written by Prime Minister Narendra Modi.
- This book is written in reference to the stresses that occur among children during the examination.
- This book, which helps the youth of New India to put wings to the dreams without tension, can be read on the Narendra Modi app too.



**Reference:**

<http://www.thehindu.com/news/national/modis-25-mantras-for-success-in->

## MISCELLANEOUS

### Special Postal Cover on Stephen Hawking released by Department of Posts

**Question: In how many circle of postal department Special postal cover on Stephen Hawking were issued by the Indian post recently?**

(a) 18(b) 20(c) 21(d) 22

**Answer: (d)**

**Related Facts:**

- On March 20<sup>th</sup>, 2018, as a tribute to the renowned physicist, cosmologist and author, late Professor Stephen Hawking, a special cover on the great personality was released by the Department of Posts.
- Chief Postmaster General, Maharashtra Circle, Shri H.C. Agrawal released the cover and presented the first album to Director, Tata Institute of Fundamental Research, Mumbai, Dr. Sandip Trivedi, who was the Chief Guest for the function.
- Special postal cover on Stephen Hawking was issued in all 22 circles of the Postal Department.
- On March 14<sup>th</sup>, 2018, 76-year-old Stephen Hawking passed away at his home in Cambridge (UK).
- In addition, forty school students received scholarships under 'Deen Dayal SPARSH Yojana' of Department of Posts today.
- Chief Postmaster General, Maharashtra Circle distributed the scholarship and certificates to the selected students of Maharashtra Circle, i.e. ten students from each of standards VI, VII, VIII & IX. Philately Scholarship under "Deen Dayal SPARSH Yojana" is Rs. 6000/- per annum, for promotion of aptitude & research in stamps as a hobby.
- A total of 579 students participated in the Philately Quiz in Maharashtra Circle, from which 111 students were selected for submission of philately project.
- After evaluation of these 111 philately projects, the 40 students were selected for the SPARSH scholarship.



**Reference:**

<http://www.pib.nic.in/PressRelease/framePage.aspx?PRID=1525433>

### First Indian Sign Language Dictionary

**Question: A unique dictionary 'The Indian Sign Language' was released with the aim of bringing uniformity in sign language used by silent deaf people. How many words of Hindi and English have been encoded in this dictionary?**

(a) 1500(b) 2000(c) 2500(d) 3000

**Answer: (d)**

**Related Facts:**

- On March 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2018 "First Indian Sign Language Dictionary



of 3000 words” was launched by Shri Thaawarchand Gehlot, Union Minister for Social Justice and Empowerment at a function.

- The dictionary has been developed by Indian Sign Language Research & Training Centre (ISLR&TC) under Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities (DEPwD), M/o Social Justice & Empowerment.
- Ministers of State for Social Justice and Empowerment Shri Krishan Pal Gujar and Shri Ramdas Athwale and Shri Krishan Pal Gurjar were also present on the occasion.
- Addressing on the occasion, Shri Thaawarchand Gehlot said that the basic aim of developing the ISL Dictionary is to remove communications barriers between the deaf and hearing communities as it is focused on providing more information in Indian sign language.
- Its aim is to give Deaf people the constitutional right to speech and opportunity of freedom of expression and also bringing them into the main stream of the society.
- Soon many new words will be added in this dictionary.
- The ISL dictionary has focused on providing more information in Indian Sign Language. He hoped that more and more people use this dictionary and get the benefit of learning Indian Sign Language.
- ISLR&TC has been working on its dream project of developing the Indian Sign Language Dictionary for last one and a half years.
- As per the census 2011, there are 50, 71,007 Deaf people and 19, 98,535 with speech disability in India.
- ISLR&TC, New Delhi realized the gravity of the situation and issues being faced by the large number of Deaf people in common communication.
- Therefore, ISLR&TC has developed an ISL Dictionary for Deaf people and Hearing people, offering them the maximum words to learn and expressing their feelings, ideas etc.
- ISL dictionary consists of various categories of words for example legal terms, medical terms, academic terms, technical terms and daily use words.

**Reference:**

<http://pib.nic.in/PressReleaseDetail.aspx?PRID=1526046>

## Buyer and Seller Meet cum Facilitation Camp

**Question: Where was the buyer-seller co-facility camp organized recently?**

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

**Answer: (c)**

**Related Facts:**

- On March 11<sup>th</sup> 2018, Union Textiles Minister Smriti Irani along with Union Minister Ananth Kumar inaugurated a buyer and seller meet cum facilitation camp on textiles in Bengaluru, Karnataka.
- The camp was organized to provide all the facilities to the buyer and seller on one platform.
- On this occasion, the Textile Minister announced the establishment of Textile Park in Karnataka with a cost of 100 crores.
- They also launched a Power Tex portal and mobile app.



**Reference:**

<http://www.tea-india.org/news-board/6660-smriti-irani-assures-textile-park-for-karnataka-13th->

march-2018

## Indo-French club

**Question: Where did the Indo-French Friends Club was launched in March?**

(a) Mirzapur(b) Varanasi(c) New Delhi(d) Agra

**North- (b)**

**Related Facts**

- On 8<sup>th</sup> March, 2018, Eighty Ghats, 'Indo-French Friends Club' on Varanasi has been launched.
- This club was created to improve the man-to-man contact between the two countries by a group of local youths and some French citizens before the proposed visit of French President, Immanuel Macran and Prime Minister Narendra Modi.
- The founder and convener of this club is Uttam Ojha.
- The program was organized by the Club on March 12, 2018 on special programs, academicians, arts and cultural activities.
- Through this club, efforts will be made to coordinate with the French citizens residing in Varanasi at local, social, cultural, literary and spiritual level.
- The club will set up an equivalent center to facilitate the visit of future French tourists here.



**Reference:**

<http://zeenews.india.com/hindi/india/indo-french-friends-club-in-varanasi-ahead-pm-narendra-modi-french-president-emmanuel-macron/379471>

## Grant for the Impacting Research Innovation and Technology (IMPRINT)

**Question: Grants for how much were sanctioned by the Central Government for the II-phase of the Impacting Research Innovation and Technology (IMPRINT) progra**

(a) 800 crores(b) 900 crores(c) 1000 crores(d) 1200 crores

**Answer: (c)**

**Related Facts:**

- On March 6<sup>th</sup>, 2018, Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Thursday launched 'IMPRINT India', an Rs 1,000-crore project to kickstart original research in areas where the country is dependent on foreign technology.
- IMPRINT India program was started in 2015.
- This program is a joint initiative of Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) and Indian Institute of Science (IISc).
- It's aim is to identify areas of relevance in those areas which need innovation and to ensure the support of higher financing for research in these areas and measure the impact of research at the people's level of life.
- 142 projects are being implemented under the IMPRINT First Program with a cost of 318.71 crore rupees.
- These projects are related to important areas including security and energy, health care, climate change, etc.



- Under the IMPRINT – II (II), a ‘Department of Funds Science and Technology’ and ‘Human Resource Development Ministry’ is being jointly organized.

**Reference:**

<https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/home/education/news/govt-sanctions-rs-1000-crore-for-research-and-innovation/articleshow/63191035.cms>

## Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation announces fund for women empowerment

**Question: Projects of how many dollars were announced for the purpose of advancing women’s economic empowerment in India, Tanzania, Kenya and Uganda by the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation recently?**

- (a) 150 million USD (b) 165 million USD (c) 170 million USD  
(d) 185 million USD

**Answer: (c)**

**Related Facts:**

- On March 5<sup>th</sup>, 2018, the Melinda Gates Foundation has announced projects of 170 million US dollars for the purpose of advancing women’s economic empowerment in India, Tanzania, Kenya and Uganda.
- It will target four key priorities – advancing gender equality, spreading digital financial inclusion, increasing job opportunities, and supporting the agricultural sector and women’s support groups.
- Earlier, previous financial commitments was made in the year 2016 to advance progress on gender equality, including USD 80 million for gender data, advocacy and accountability.
- Out of this USD 20 million was dedicated to supporting women’s movements.
- The Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation was founded in year 2000 and headquartered in Washington (US).
- It was founded by Microsoft founder Bill Gates and his wife Melinda Gates.



**Reference:**

<https://www.thehindubusinessline.com/news/variety/bill-and-melinda-gates-foundation-invests-170-million-to-boost-gender-equality/article22936053.ece>

## Losar Festival

**Question: Looser festival is celebrated by-**

- (a) Jain community (b) Buddhist community (c) Parsi community  
(d) Koa tribals

**Answer: (b)**

**Related Facts:**

- On 2<sup>nd</sup>-4<sup>th</sup> March, 2018, the Silver Jubilee of the Losar Festival was celebrated by the Buddhist community in Arunachal Pradesh on the Nyokum Lapang Ground,
- This festival was organized by Itanagar Buddhist Cultural Society.
- For the Buddhist community, the festival is termed as the ‘New Year’ according to their Buddhist calendar.
- This festival was organized by the Itanagar Buddhist Cultural Society (IBCS).



- During this festival, various cultural presentations were given by the people of different regions of Arunachal Pradesh.
- Bhutani and Gorkha cultural programs were also part of these presentations.
- Anunachal Pradesh Education Minister Honchun Ngandam was the chief guest in this program.

**Reference:**

<https://www.aninews.in/news/national/general-news/itanagar-celebrates-silver-jubilee-of-losar-festival201803050918250002/>

## Microprocessor Controlled Indian locomotives

**Question: Recently, Indian Railway has assigned eighteen 1350 HP AC/DC main line diesel locomotives to which one of the given railway?**

- (a) Bhutan Railway (b) Sri Lanka Railway (c) Myanma Railway  
(d) Maldivian Railway

**Answer: (c)**

**Related Facts:**

- On March 19<sup>th</sup>, 2018, Indian Railways hands over 18 microprocessor controlled Indian locomotives to Myanma Railways.
- This supply is as per vision of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi; that Indian Railways is playing a pivotal role in developing cordial relations with the neighboring countries.
- India and Myanmar have been long enjoying cooperation in the Railway sector over the last two decades.
- These locomotives have been supplied by RITES and manufactured by Diesel Locomotive Works, Varanasi, India.
- These 18 locomotives are fitted with micro-processor control based system.
- 1350 HP AC/DC main line diesel locomotives is with maximum speed of 100 KM PH.
- They are extremely fuel efficient are equipped with the latest features.
- Most of these supplies in the railway sector have been carried out under Indian Line of Credit.
- As per the agreement schedule, all locomotives were to be delivered by September, 2018.
- They have been delivered six months ahead of the schedule.
- RITES, a Public Sector Enterprise under the Ministry of Railways are the export arm of the railways undertaking various projects worldwide.
- RITES has engaged in the supply of Railway rolling stock (locomotives, coaches, wagons, permanent way maintenance vehicles), maintenance of railway infrastructure, technical studies, training of Myanmar Railway officials.
- A team of experts from Diesel Modernization Works, Patiala would visit Myanmar soon.



**Reference:**

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=177686>

## Festival of Innovation and Entrepreneurship

**Question: Where was the festival of innovation and entrepreneurial organized?**

- (a) Vigyan Bhavan, New Delhi (b) Rashtrapati Bhavan, New Delhi

(c) Pragati Maidan, New Delhi(d) Indira Gandhi Foundation, New Delhi

**Answer: (b)**

**Related Facts:**

- On March 19<sup>th</sup>, 2018, the President of India, Shri Ram Nath Kovind, inaugurated the Festival of Innovation and Entrepreneurship (FINE) and presented the Gandhian Young Technological Innovation Awards at Rashtrapati Bhavan.
- This festival was organized by the Department of Science and Technology, Government of India with the support of the National Innovation Foundation.
- On this occasion, the President provided Gandhi Gandhian Young Tecnological Innovation Awards.
- President said that the vision of a newer and better India calls for meeting certain developmental milestones, some of these as early as 2022 – when we commemorate the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of our Independence.
- The concept of FINE brings the two wings of the bird of imagination together.
- The festival ended on March 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2018.
- FINE, an initiative to recognise, respect, showcase, reward innovations and to foster a supportive ecosystem for innovators, was organised by Rashtrapati Bhavan in association with the Department of Science and Technology, Government of India and the National Innovation Foundation from March 19<sup>th</sup> to 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2018.
- Integral to FINE was an exhibition of innovations that remained open for public viewing between 1200 hrs to 1700 hrs from March 20<sup>th</sup> to 23<sup>th</sup>, 2018.



**Reference:**

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintHindiRelease.aspx?relid=71259>

## Last Northern Male Rhino of the World Died

**Question- What the name was of recently died last surviving northern white male rhinoceros of the world?**

(a) Budan(b) Sudan(c) Libco(d) Tanusha

**Answer: (b)**

**Related Facts:**

- On March 19<sup>th</sup>, 2018, the last survivor Northern White Male Rhinoceros of the world died recently in Kenya.
- 45 years old Rhinoceros was named 'Sudan'.
- The care of this rhino was done by an institution protecting wildlife in Kenya.
- He had been infected in his leg, due to which he was being treated for a long time.



**Reference:**

<http://www.olpejetaconservancy.org/the-last-male-northern-white-rhino-dies/>

## World's Largest Flag

**Question: In which of the following countries 200 km (124 mile) long flag was unveiled?**

(a) Chile(b) Bolivia(c) Japan(d) Sweden

**Answer: (b)**

**Related Facts:**

- On 10<sup>th</sup> March, 2018, Bolivia has 200 km of its own (124 mile) long flag and claimed to be the world's largest flag.
- The so-called "flag of maritime revindication" stretched like a long blue ribbon between the towns Oruro and Apacheta, on the outskirts of capital La Paz.
- Made from blue cloth, the width of this flag is three meters and this is the national symbol of Bolivia.
- Bolivia's people hoisted the flag as a sign of support for their reach to the Pacific Ocean coast.
- India is that Bolivia seeks access to the Pacific Ocean, which won by Chile in a war in the 19<sup>th</sup>
- Bolivia will present its case demanding access to Chile from the Pacific coast to the International Court, on which International Court will hear from March 19<sup>th</sup>.
- Bolivia is a landlocked country.



**Reference:**

<http://www.dw.com/en/bolivia-unfurls-worlds-biggest-flag-to-demand-access-to-sea-from-chile/a-42924450>

## T-App Folio

**Question: Which of the following states government recently launched a Mobile App T-App Folio for Government-to-Citizen (G2C) and Business to Citizen (B2C) services at anytime and anywhere?**

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

**Ans: (b)**

**Related Facts:**

- On February 28<sup>th</sup>, 2018, the Telangana Government launched a mobile app 'T-App Folio' for the services of 'Government to Citizen' (G2C), 'Business to Citizen' (B2C), anytime and anywhere.
- Telangana is the second state in India to launch mobile administration app for provision of G2C services.
- The 'T-App Folio' will provide more than 150 services in the first phase like Me service, RTA services, Duty payment and Bill payment etc.
- It has been started in Telugu and English languages.



**Reference:**

<http://it.telangana.gov.in/minister-launched-t-app-folio/>

<https://www.thehindubusinessline.com/news/telangana-aggregates-all-g2c-apps-in-t-app-folio/article22881845.ece>

## Decision to distribute Food grain through e-Pos Machine

**Question: As per the decision taken by the Uttar Pradesh Cabinet on January 30th, 2018, under which of the given schemes of Government of India, food grains will be distributed to the beneficiaries by establishing e-Pos machine in all the Ration shops in the FPS**

### automation work?

- (a) All in All Computerization Scheme (b) Food Distribution Plan (c) Q & Q Computing Scheme  
(d) End-to- End computerization scheme

**Answer: (d)**

#### Related Facts:

- On 30th January, 2018; in the meeting of Uttar Pradesh cabinet, it was decided to set up e-Pos machine in all the Ration shops in the state and distribute foodgrain to the beneficiaries through it.
- Under this decision, Indian government's end-to-end computerization scheme Food will be distributed to beneficiaries through establishment of e-pos machine in all the appropriate rate shops in the FPS automation work.
- The facility of online Aadhaar authentication of the beneficiary is present in E-Pos by which online monitoring of distribution system can also be done.
- Approximately 6,768 villages in rural areas e-pos machines through System Integrator will be installed and their operating and maintenance will be done through related system integrators.
- U.P DESCO will be a nodal institution for appointment and operation of system integrator.
- Nodal institution will be paid 2 % charge on the amount provided to the system integrator.
- In order to install e-pos machine and R.F.P for this and the U.P. Desco has to be made as Nodal Agency and for final approval on RFP; approval of the Council of Ministers is expected on authorization of Chief Minister.



#### Reference:

<http://information.up.nic.in/attachments/CabinetDecisionfile/70f20b20187bb>

## Clean up Manholes by Robot

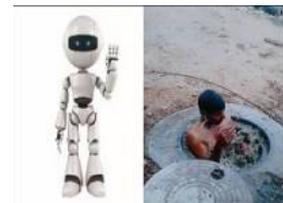
**Question: In which of the following states soon the manhole will be cleaned by robot?**

- (a) Maharashtra (b) Kerala (c) Gujarat (d) Karnataka

**Answer: (b)**

#### Related Facts:

- According to the reports published in February 2018, the manhole will be cleaned soon via robot in Kerala state.
- This will be the first such experiment in the country.
- This robot has been developed by startup company Genrobotics.
- The name of this robot is 'Bandicoot'.
- Technically it was tested experimentally.
- Kerala Water Authority is launching this ambitious project in collaboration with the Kerala Startup Mission.
- An agreement has been signed between the two for this.
- According to JenRobotics CEO Bimal Govind, this robot has made by 9 students studying engineering.



- Commencement its operations by cleaning sewer holes in the city during the festival when lakhs of women from all over the country will converge here to offer Pongala to the diety.
- In the initial phase, this service will be used in Thiruvananthapuram, where there are more than 5,000 manholes.

**Reference:**

<https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/politics-and-nation/robots-to-soon-clean-up-manholes-in-kerala/articleshow/62980508.cms>

## Makkal Needhi Maiam

**Question: Which of the following famous actor from South India recently launched the new political party ‘Makkal Nidhi Maiam’?**

(a) Rajinikanth(b) Kamal Haasan(c) Dhanush(d) Chiranjeevi

**Answer: (b)**

**Related Facts:**

- On February 21st, 2018, the new political party ‘Makkal Needhi Maiam’ was launched in Madurai, Tamil Nadu by famous South Indian actor Kamal Haasan.
- Its literal meaning in Hindi is ‘Center for People’s Justice’.
- On this occasion, he also released the flag of his political party.
- Wherein In the white flag, six hands are represented by shaking each other.



**Reference:**

<http://www.thehindu.com/news/national/tamil-nadu/live-updates-kamal-haasan-launches-party-calls-it-makkal-needhi-maiam/article22812983.ece>

## Investment in Bharti Telecom by Singtel

**Question- According to the recent announcement, how much will Singapore Telecom Limited (Singtel) invest in Bharti Telecom Limited?**

(a) 2200 crores(b) 23,459 crores(c) 2,649 crores(d) 30,485 crores

**Answer: (c)**

**Related Facts:**

- On February 5<sup>th</sup>, 2018; Bharti Airtel, the country’s largest telecom operator company, announced that Singapore Telecom Limited (SingTel) will invest Rs 2,649 crore in Bharti Telecom Limited (Bharti Telecom).
- Singtel is Asia’s leading communications and ICT solutions group, which is a long-term partner of Airtel.
- This transaction is subject to the approval of shareholders of Bharti Telecom.
- The use of the money received will be done by the company to reduce the debt.
- With this investment, the total share of Singtel in Bharti Telecom (with its affiliates) will increase to 48.90 per cent.
- Bharti Enterprises will continue to contribute more than 50 percent in Bharti Telecom.

