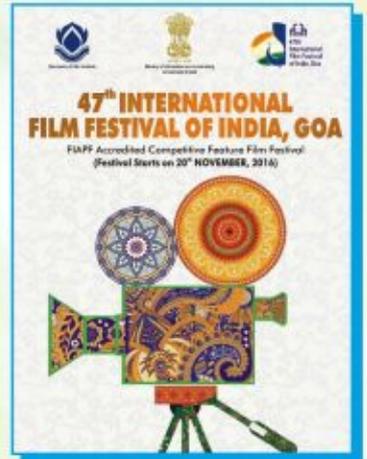


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Current Affairs

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Day to Day



Ministry of Information & Broadcasting
Government of India
Ministry of Youth Affairs & Sports
Government of India
Ministry of Shipping
Government of India

Ministry of Consumer Affairs,
Food & Public Distribution
Government of India



Ministry of Labour & Employment
Government of India
Department of Atomic Energy
Government of India
Ministry of Corporate Affairs
Government of India

**YEAR
END REVIEW
2016**



THE **WORLD'S**
MOST POWERFUL PEOPLE **2016**

QUESTIONS AND RELATED FACTS
1 DECEMBER TO 31 DECEMBER, 2016

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 December to 31st December) 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

Year end review-2016, Ministry of Labour & Employment

Question: When did the Rajya Sabha passed Maternity Benefit (Amendment) Bill, 2016?

- (a) 11 August 2016 (b) 12 August 2016
(c) 13 August 2016 (d) 10 August 2016

Ans: (a)

Related facts:

- On 27 December 2016 Ministry of Corporate Affairs released its Year End Review – 2016. On 27 December 2016 Ministry of Labour & Employment has released Yearend review-2016.
- **Following are the related key facts:**
- The Payment of Bonus (Amendment) Bill, 2015 passed by the Parliament in the Winter Session has been published in the Gazette of India, Extraordinary on 1st January, 2016. The Maternity Benefit (Amendment) Bill, 2016 passed by Rajya Sabha on 11th August, 2016 which inter-alia include increasing maternity benefit to woman from 12 weeks to 26 weeks up to two surviving children.
- The Employees' Compensation (Amendment) Bill, 2016 was passed in Lok Sabha on 9th August, 2016 to modify the provisions of Employees' Compensation Act, 1923 to rationalize the penalties and strengthen the rights of the worker under the Act.
- The Child Labour (Prohibition and Regulation) Amendment Bill, 2016, passed by the Parliament on 26th July, 2016.
- Cabinet in its meeting held on 29th June, 2016 considered the Model Shops and Establishment (Regulation of Employment and Conditions of Service) Bill, 2016.
- The 2nd National Commission on Labour had recommended codification of Labour Laws in to 4-5 Groups on functional basis.
- At present, Ministry of Labour & Employment is working to rationalize the provisions of the 43 Labour Laws in 4 Labour Codes which are Labour Code on Wages, Labour Code on Industrial Relations, Labour Code on Social Security & Welfare and Labour Code on Safety & Working Conditions. The government has announced more than 42% increase in the minimum wages for all sectors in the central sphere.
- ESI coverage on Wage ceiling has been increased from Rs.15000/- to Rs.21000/- . Bonus ceiling has been enhanced from Rs.3500/- to Rs.7000/- and the eligibility limit has been raised from Rs.10000/- to Rs.21000/. Revised scheme for the rehabilitation of Bonded Labour with the quantum of financial assistance increased from the symbolic level of Rs 20 thousand to an amount of Rs 3 lakhs Time limit reduced to 20 days from 30 days for EPF claim settlements.
- A unified Web Portal 'Shram Suvidha Portal' launched on 16.10.2014 to bring transparency and accountability in enforcement of labour laws and ease complexity of compliance.
- Universal Account Number (UAN) programme launched on 16th October 2014 is designed to act as an umbrella for the multiple Member IDs allotted to same individual.
- The Ministry is implementing the Pradhan Mantri Rojgar Protsahan Yojana (PMRPY) scheme to incentivize employers registered with the Employees Provident Fund Organisation (EPFO) for new employment.
- The Ministry is implementing the National Career Service (NCS) Project as a vibrant platform for transforming and strengthening the public employment services in the country.

Reference:

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=155874>



Year End Review of Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food & Public Distribution

Question: For the Kharif Marketing Season (KMS) 2015-16 (October, 2015-September 2016), how much paddy in terms of rice has been procured?

- (a) 342.19 lakhs tons (b) 343.20 lakhs tons
(c) 423.19 lakhs tons (d) None of the above

Ans: (a)

Related facts:



- On 26 Decemeber 2016; Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food & Public Distribution released its Year End Review of 2016.
- Following are the related facts:
- The National Food Security Act (NFSA) was enacted in 2013 and was being implemented in only 11 States/UTs in May, 2014.
- As a result, 13 more States/UTs joined NFSA during the year and the Act is now being implemented in all the States/UTs and covers about 80 crore persons under the Act.
- Sustained efforts have resulted in significant reforms in TPDS making it more transparent and leak proof with better targeting of food subsidy.
- As a result thereof, 100% of ration cards have been digitized while 71.13% have been Aadhaar seeded.
- Online allocation of food grains has started in 29 States/UTs, Supply chain has been computerized in 19 States/UTs and 1,76,834 Fair Price Shops (FPS) have been automated by installing 'Point of Sale' devices.
- 6 States have now automated all their FPSs.
- Cash Transfer for foodgrains under Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT) scheme has been implemented in 3 UTs namely Chandigarh, Puducherry w.e.f. 1-9-2015 and in Dadra & Nagar Haveli (in urban areas) w.e.f. 01-03-2016.
- Total beneficiaries covered under the scheme is 9.14 lakh and total amount of funds transferred is Rs.11.98 crore per month.
- During Rabi Marketing Season (RMS) 2016-17, Govt. agencies have procured 229.32 lakh MT wheat as on 01.12.2016.
- For the Kharif Marketing Season (KMS) 2015-16 (October, 2015-September 2016), 342.19 Lakh tons of paddy in terms of rice has been procured.
- In KMS 2016-17, 178.29 LMT of paddy in terms of rice has been procured till 13.12.2016.
- Government took a number of measures like providing financial assistance of Rs. 413 crore through raw sugar export incentive scheme.
- Financial assistance of Rs. 4305 crore under soft loan scheme has been provided by Government.
- 99.33% of cane dues payments of farmers for 2014-15 sugar season and 98% (on FRP-basis) for 2015-16 sugar season have been cleared. .
- Sufficient food grains are available in Central Pool Stocks of FCI. Stocks as on 1.12.2016 are 275.55 lakh MT (LMT), comprising 164.96 LMT wheat and 110.59 LMT rice which is more than adequate for Government welfare schemes as well as needs of PDS and other buffer stocking.
- To bring all operations of FCI godowns online and to check leakage and automate operations at the depot level, 'Depot Online' system has been launched in 31 Depots on pilot basis across 27 States on 17th March 2016.
- As on 30.11.2016, this system has been implemented in 494 depots
- FCI has developed a software for Online Procurement Management System (OPMS) which is being used for procurement in the KMS 2016-17.

- Buffer stock of about 6.95 lakh tonnes of pulses built under Price Stabilization Fund (PSF) scheme of the Department utilizing budgetary allocation.

Reference:

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=155855>

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=155785>

Year End Review of Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports

Question: In Rio Paralympics – 2016, India won how many medals?

(a) Four (b) Five (c) Six (d) Three

Ans: (a)

Related facts:

- On 21 December 2016 Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports released its Year end Review of 2016.
- Following are the related highlights:
- In Rio Paralympics – 2016 India won its highest ever medal tally of 4 medals (2 Gold, 1 Silver and 1 Bronze all in athletics).
- The athletes are Shri Devendra Jhajharia and Shri Mariappan, Gold medalists, Ms Deepa Malik, Silver medalist and Shri Varun Singh Bhati, Bronze medalist.
- Participation of Athletes ensuring and making all arrangements for participation of the largest ever contingent of India in Olympics / Paralympics 2016 in Rio.
- India won 2 medals in Olympics (1 silver and 1 Bronze in Badminton and wrestling respectively).
- 12th South Asian Games were successfully conducted at Guwahati and Shillong in February 2016.
- India won a record-breaking haul of 308 medals.
- India's final tally stood at 188 gold, 99 silver and 30 bronze medals.
- It was a massive jump in medal count for the Indians compared to the previous edition of the Games in 2010 in which India won 175, including 90 gold.
- BRICS U-17 Football tournament: First ever U-17 Football tournament among teams of five BRICS countries was organized and successfully held at Goa in October 2016.
- Brazil was the winner of this tournament.
- Run for Rio on 31st July, 2016 was organized to create awareness among masses about Rio Olympics and to convey wishes of the country-men to Olympians and Paralympians participating in Rio for 2016.
- Indian U-18 Men Hockey Team won gold in 4th at Dhaka Asia cup beating Bangladesh in the final at Dhaka.
- MoU between India and New Zealand on cooperation in the field of Youth and Sports: A MoU was signed between the two countries on 28th October, 2016 at New Delhi.
- Launch of a new scheme 'Khelo India – National Programme for Development of Sports'
- India beat Belgium 2-1 to win junior hockey world cup title on 18.12.2016.



Reference:

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=155701>

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=155626>

Year End Review- Ministry of Ministry of Information & Broadcasting

Question: Ministry of I&B organized a 2 day State Information Ministers Conference (SIMCON) on 9-10 December, 2016 in which of the following city?

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



Ans: (a)**Related facts:**

- On 23 December 2016; Ministry of Information & Broadcasting released its Year End Review.
- Following are the main highlights:
- Ministry of I&B organized a two day State Information Ministers Conference 28th SIMCON after a gap of 7 years on 9-10 December, 2016.
- It was organised to promote the vision of One Nation & Cooperative Federalism.
- The theme of the conference was Reform, Perform and Transform: A New Dimension of Communication.
- Ministry has also introduced a cash component of Rs. 1 Crore in the Most Film Friendly State Award to promote India as a Filming destination.
- In a major push to Community radio Movement in the Country, I&B Minister announced increased subsidy for setting up of Community Radio Stations from 50 % to 90% in the North Eastern States and 75% in other States, subject to a maximum limit of Rs. 7.5 lakhs.
- Simplification of Annual Renewal process for existing TV channels as part of "Ease of Doing Business".
- A total of 170 channels have been given licences from Jun 2014 till Dec 2016. Of these, 25 licences are given to News channels and 145 licences have been to non-news channels.
- Recently Ministry has extended the cutoff date for Phase IV to 31st March, 2017. Special 5 minutes Bulletin on Swachhta has been started on all weekdays.
- Swachh Bharat Short Film Festival organized by the NFDC on behalf of the Ministry, has received over 4000 entries from across the country in various Indian languages on the theme of the Swachh Bharat Mission.
- Young filmmaker Katyayan Shivpuri, from Maharashtra, won the first prize at the Swachh Bharat Short Film Festival for his work "Murga".
- The first ever BRICS Film Festival took place at Siri Fort auditorium in New Delhi from September 2-6, 2016.
- European Union Film Festival took place at Siri Fort auditorium in New Delhi from 30 July to 6 August where a total of 23 movies from the European Union countries were showcased.
- Iranian Film Festival (16-19 July 2016) took place at Siri Fort auditorium in New Delhi where 14 films of the acclaimed and award winning film makers from Iran were screened.
- On the domestic policy front the Ministry organised Swachh Bharat Short Film Festival, Children's Film Festival and the Patriotic Film Festival with theme Azaadi 70 Saal, Yaad Karo Qurbani.
- The three-day National Children's Film Festival (NCFE) was held from November 14 to 16 in Jaipur, Rajasthan.
- National Film Heritage Mission (NFHM): It is a new Plan Scheme to restore, digitize and archive films and filmic material through National Film Archive of India.
- National Film Archives of India in one of its rare discovery, NFAI acquired 20.43 minutes of the Indian Silent Film Bilwamangal (1919), thanks to the wonderful cooperation of the Cinematheque Francaise.
- It is after 21 years that a silent film has entered NFAI vaults.
- In order to promote transparency and accountability in issuing of Government advertisements in print media and weeding out ghost/irregular newspapers government launched New Print Media Advertisement Policy for DAVP.
- 360 degree Multimedia Campaigns to give wide publicity to the schemes launched by the Government.

- The activities range from holding of Press conferences, telecast/broadcast of special programmes on DD and AIR with experts, Multimedia Exhibitions, social media campaigns using Infographics, animations, graphic plates, short videos, live streaming of events /conferences.
- Publications Division has released the E-version of the India/ Bharat-2016. Online payment and subscription services for popular journals and Employment News of Publications Division through Bharat Kosh Portal of Ministry of Finance.
- Release of books on Rashtrapati Bhavan published by the Publications Division.
- Some of the books are “Around India’s First Table: Dining and Entertaining at Rashtrapati Bhavan”, “The Arts and Interiors of Rashtrapati Bhavan: Lutyens and Beyond”, “Discover the Magnificent World of Rashtrapati Bhavan”, “A Work of Beauty: The Architecture and Landscape of Rashtrapati Bhavan”, “First Garden of the Republic: Nature in the President’s Estate” among others.
- A book on Courts of India- Past to Present published by the Publications Division under the guidance of the Hon’ble Supreme Court was also released.

Reference:

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=155806>

<http://dff.nic.in/>

Ministry of Shipping: Year-end Review-2016

Question: What is the total length of the Indian coastal line

(a) 7517 Km (b) 7075 Km (c) 6075 Km (d) 6010 Km

Ans : (a)

Related facts:

- On 22 December, 2016; Ministry of Shipping released its Year-end Review for 2016.
- Following are the main highlights:
- The Ports play an important role in the trade of the country. In fact they are the Gateways for the EXIM Trade.
- Over all the ports in the Country handle 90% by volume and 70% by value of India’s external trade.
- India’s has a coastline of 7,517 kms with potentially navigable waterways of 14,500 kms. 12 major and 200 non major ports are dotted along the coast.
- The cargo handled by major ports went up by 6.27% in FY 2016-17 (Apr-Oct) to 370.04 million tonnes (MT) compared to 348.21 MT during the same period previous year.
- 56 New Projects worth INR 25000 crores have been awarded during the last two years, which will create an additional port capacity of 317 million tonnes per annum.
- Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) of up to 100 per cent allowed under the automatic route for port and harbour construction and maintenance projects.
- Ship building and ship repair policy approved in December 2015 provides a boost to the shipbuilding and ship repair industry.
- National Waterways (NWs) Act 2016 to promote inland waterways for trade came into effect on April 12, 2016.
It has declared 106 new waterways as NWs.
- The new Berthing Policy that came into effect on August 20, 2016.
- It aims to reduce berthing time and overall turn-around time of ships, standardize anchorage charges etc. across major ports.
- Award of Waterfront and Associated Land policy was approved on July 27, 2016.
- The Cabinet approved the ‘The Merchant Shipping Bill, 2016’ in November 2016.



- The Cabinet also approved 'The Major Ports Bill, 2016 in December 2016 that advocates for greater autonomy to port boards.
- Total FDI equity inflows in Sea Transport and Ports sector was USD 1.07 billion during the two years from April 2014 to September 2016.
- Infrastructure status for shipyards was granted in May, 2016. This will enable Indian shipyards to avail cheaper long-term financing for Indian shipbuilding and ship repair industry.
- The ambitious Sagarmala project envisages a port-led economy through infrastructure development in ports and integration of ports with Special Economic Zones, Port based Smart Cities, Industrial Parks, Warehouses, Logistics Parks and Transport Corridors.
- A total of 173 projects identified under the National Perspective Plan (NPP) for the Sagarmala Programme, at an estimated investment of INR 4 lakh crore, has been initiated during FY 2016-17 6 new mega ports have been identified to add 400 MTPA of cargo handling capacity.
- These are namely Vadhavan (Maharashtra), Enayam (Tamil Nadu), Cuddalore/ Shikazhi (Tamil Nadu), Machilipatnam /Vodarevu (Andhra Pradesh), Paradip South Satellite Port (Odisha), Sagar (West Bengal).
- Saurashtra (Gujarat) and Chennai (Tamil Nadu) have been identified for setting up Maritime Clusters.
- Andaman and Nicobar have been identified for setting up of a marine tourism and maintenance, repair and operation (MRO) cluster.
- A direct container service was launched between Myanmar and India at Chennai Port in October 2014.
- Maritime India Summit 2016 was held on 14-16 April, 2016.
- It played a key role in highlighting the role of port led development for faster and sustainable economic growth.
- The summit provided a platform for participation, engagement and interaction from 42 countries.
- As part of Sagarmala, more than 400 projects, at an estimated infrastructure investment of more than Rs. 7 lakh crore, have been identified across the areas of port modernization & new port development, port connectivity enhancement, port-linked industrialization and coastal community development.
- The Sagarmala Development Company (SDC) was incorporated on 31st August 2016.

Reference:

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=155754>

<http://pibphoto.nic.in/documents/rlink/2016/dec/p2016122201.pdf>

International Solar Alliance (ISA)

Question: International Solar Alliance (ISA) was launched on-

- (a) 30 November 2016 (b) 30 November 201
(c) 15 December 2016 (d) 15 December 2015

Ans: (b)

Related facts:

- On 28 December 2016 Union Cabinet has given its ex-post facto approval to the proposal of Ministry of New & Renewable Energy (MNRE) for ratification of ISA's Framework Agreement by India.
- ISA was launched jointly by the Prime Minister of India and the President of France on 30th November, 2015 at Paris.
- This was launched the side-lines of the 21st CoP meeting of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change.



- The ISA will strive to bring together more than 121 solar resource rich nations for coordinated research, low cost financing and rapid deployment.
 - The foundation stone of the ISA Headquarters was laid at Gwal Pahari, Guragaon in Haryana.
 - India has already committed the required support of operationalization of ISA.
 - ISA will put India globally in a leadership role in climate and renewable energy issues.
 - It will also give a platform to showcase its solar programmes.
 - The Agreement was opened for signature on the sidelines of 22nd CoP meeting at Marrakesh, Morocco.
- Till now, 25 nations have signed the Framework Agreement.
- UNDP (United Nations Development Programme) and World Bank have already announced their partnership with the ISA.

Reference:

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=155801>

Year End Review – 2016: Ministry of Corporate Affairs

Question: The Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code, 2016 (Code) was published in the Official Gazette on-

- (a) 28 May 2016 (b) 27 May 2016
(C) 26 May 2016 (d) 29 May 2016

Ans: (a)

Related facts:

- On 27 December 2016 Ministry of Corporate Affairs released its Year End Review – 2016.
- Following are the main highlights:
- The Companies (Amendment) Bill, 2016 was introduced in the Lok Sabha on 16th March, 2016 proposing to amend Companies Act, 2013[CA-13].
- On 15th December, 2016 out of 470 sections, 422 sections of the Companies Act, 2013 have been notified. 39 sections are omitted by Insolvency Banking Code (IBC).
- The Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code, 2016 (Code) was published in the Official Gazette on 28th May, 2016.
- Government of India (Allocation of Business) Rules, 1961 were amended and notified on 1st Aug, 2016.
- The constitution of National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT) and National Company Law Appellate Tribunal (NCALT) have been notified on 01st June, 2016.



Reference:

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=155871>

<http://taxheal.com/year-end-review-2016-ministry-corporate-affairs-achievements-422-sections-companies-act-notified.html>

Year End review: Department of Atomic Energy

Question: When did the Agreement for Cooperation in the Peaceful Uses of Nuclear Energy signed between the India and Japan?

- (a) 11 November 2016 (b) 12 November 2016
(c) 13 November 2016 (d) 10 November 2016

Ans: (a)

Related facts:



- On 20 December 2016; Department of Atomic Energy released its Year end Review.
- Following are the main highlights:
- Unit 1, (1000 MWe) of the Kudankulam Nuclear Power Project (KKNPP) was dedicated to the nation on August 10, 2016 by the Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Russian President Vladimir Putin.
- Second Nuclear power reactor Unit of 1000 MWe capacity at Kudankulam in Tamil Nadu achieved criticality on 10th July, 2016.
- On October 15, 2016, laying of Foundation Concrete of Units 3&4 of KKNPP was also done by the Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Russian President Vladimir Putin.
- Prime Minister of India Shri Narendra Modi and the Japanese Prime Minister Shri Shinzo Abe signed the Agreement for Cooperation in the Peaceful Uses of Nuclear Energy between the two countries, on November 11, 2016.
- India becomes Associate Member of CERN, Geneva on 21 November 2016.
- The Union Cabinet has given its 'in principle' approval to the LIGO-India mega science proposal for research on gravitational waves, on February 17, 2016.
- India supplied indigenous teletherapy machine Bhabhatron, for cancer treatment to Bougando Medical Centre in Tanzania.
- Scientists at the Tata Institute of Fundamental Research, DAE have developed a novel design of CO₂ sorbents that show superior CO₂ capture capacity and stability over conventional materials.
- BARC and Sree Chitra Tirunal Institute for Medical Sciences & Technology sign MoU for joint development of Deep Brain Stimulator on August 12, 2016.
- BARC develops kit for detection of Chromium contamination of water on 17 August 2016.
- A three-day International conference on "India's role in Global Nuclear Governance" was organised in New Delhi from February 24-26, 2016.
- A National Symposium on "Public Education on Radiation Safety" was held in New Delhi on February 16, 2016.
- The 8th Nuclear Energy Conclave was organised by India Energy Forum in New Delhi on September 30, 2016.
- The Theme of the Conference this year was "Meeting the Non-Fossil Energy Targets through Nuclear Power".
- On January 16, 2016 Northern India's first permanent exhibition on nuclear power, built in the national capital at National Science Centre (NSC) inaugurated.

Reference:

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=155689>

State visit of President of Tajikistan to India

Question: Name the President of Tajikistan who was recently on a state visit to India on 14-18 December 2016.

- (a) Emomali Rahmon (b) Joko Widodo
(c) Nursultan Nazarbayev (d) None of the above

Ans :(a)

Related facts:

- On 14-18 December, 2016; Emomali Rahmon, President of the Republic of Tajikistan paid a State visit to India.
- During his visit he met with President Pranab Mukherjee, Vice President M. Hamid Ansari and Prime Minister Narendra Modi.
- President of Tajikistan and Prime Minister of India held wide-ranging talks on bilateral, regional and international issues.
- The two leaders discussed situation in the region and stressed that terrorism and extremism seriously threaten peace, stability and progress for all countries.



- Following agreements/MOUs were exchanged during the State visit of President of Tajikistan to India:
 1. Memorandum of Understanding between the Committee of television and radio under the Government of Tajikistan and the Prasar Bharati, India for cooperation on Broadcasting in Exchange of Audio Visual Programs.
 2. Protocol amending the Agreement between the Government of the Republic of Tajikistan and the Government of India for the avoidance of double taxation and prevention of fiscal evasion with respect to taxes on income.
 3. MoU between Financial Intelligence Unit of India and the Financial Monitoring Department under the National bank of Tajikistan concerning cooperation in the exchange of financial intelligence related to money laundering, related crimes and financing of terrorism.
 4. Enunciation of initiation of Bilateral investment treaty between the two sides.
- Relations between India and Tajikistan have traditionally been close and cordial.
- Number of Indian nationals in Tajikistan is approx. 400, out of which more than 300 are students in the Dushanbe Medical College.

Reference:

<https://www.mea.gov.in/incoming-visit-detail.htm?27863/Press+Statement+by+Prime+Minister+during+the+State+visit+of+President+of+Tajikistan+to+India>

<https://www.mea.gov.in/incoming-visit-detail.htm?27862/IndiaTajikistan+Joint+Statement+during+the+State+visit+of+President+of+Tajikistan+to+India>

<https://www.mea.gov.in/incoming-visit-detail.htm?27860/List+of+AgreementsMOUs+exchanged+during+the+State+visit+of+President+of+Tajikistan+to+India>

The Right of Persons with Disabilities Bill, 2014

Question: The Right of Persons with Disabilities Bill, 2014 is based on the recommendations of ...

- (a) Sudha Kaul Committee
- (b) Rajinder Sachar Committee
- (c) Balwant Rai Mehta Committee
- (d) Justice G.T. Nanavati commission

Ans: (a)

Related facts:

- On 14th December, 2016 the Rajya Sabha passed The Right of Persons with Disabilities Bill, 2014 with amendments.
- The bill will now go back to Lok Sabha and once cleared, will replace the Persons with Disabilities (Equal Opportunities, Protection of Rights and Full Participation) Act, 1995.
- This bill was drafted on the basis of the recommendations of the Sudha Kaul Committee, under the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment and it has been pending in Rajya Sabha since 2014.
- According to the 2011 Census, the number of disabled in India stands at 2.21 per cent of the population. The Bill is more likely to make a larger number of people eligible for rights and entitlements by reason of their disability since it recognises more disabilities as compared to the 1995 Act.
- The Bill also complies with the UN Convention on Rights of Persons with Disabilities which was ratified by India on the 1st October, 2007.
- The new bill covers 19 conditions, instead of seven disabilities specified in the Act. While the 1995 Act recognised 7 disabilities — blindness, low vision, leprosy-cured, hearing impairment, locomotor disability, mental retardation and mental illness, the 2014 Bill was



expanded to cover 19 conditions— including cerebral palsy, haemophilia, multiple sclerosis, autism and thalassaemia among others. The amended version also recognises two other disabilities — resulting from acid attacks and Parkinson’s disease.

- The Bill has also laid down provisions to allow the central government to notify any other condition as a disability.
- The Bill mentions that individuals with at least 40 per cent of a disability are entitled to benefits like reservations in education and employment, preference in government schemes and others. While the 1995 law had 3 per cent reservation provision.
- One of the most significant highlights is the addition of penalty for violating the rules of the Act. The current amendments to the Bill, propose to remove the jail term entirely, and only keep fines for breaking the law.
- The Rights of Persons with Disabilities Bill, 2014 seeks to improve the overall conditions that prevail in the country for people with different kinds of disabilities.

Reference:

<http://rstv.nic.in/rajya-sabha-passes-disabilities-bill-2014.html>

<http://www.prsindia.org/uploads/media/Person%20with%20Disabilities/The%20Right%20of%20Persons%20with%20Disabilities%20Bill.pdf>

<http://indianexpress.com/article/india/rajya-sabha-clears-disabilities-bill-2014-here-are-the-key-highlights/>

State visit of President of Indonesia to India

Question: Name the President of Indonesia who was recently on a state visit to India.

- (a) Joko Widodo (b) Megawati Sukarnoputri
(c) Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono (d) None of the Above

Ans:(a)

Related facts:

- On 12-13 December 2016: the President of Indonesia, Joko Widodo was on a state visit to India.
- This was the first bilateral visit to India by President Joko Widodo.
- On 12 December 2016 President Joko Widodo held a meeting with President of the Republic of India, Pranab Mukherjee.
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi and President Joko Widodo held extensive talks on bilateral, regional and global issues of mutual interest.
- It should be known that Vice President of India M. Hamid Ansari, who had visited Indonesia in November 2015, called on the President of Indonesia.
- India and Indonesia have shared two millennia of close cultural and commercial contacts.
- The Hindu, Buddhist and later Muslim faith travelled to Indonesia from the shores of India.
- During the State Visit of President Mr S. B. Yudhoyono to India in 2005, the two countries signed a Joint Declaration on Establishing a Strategic Partnership.
- In January 2011, President Yudhoyono visited India as the Chief Guest on the occasion of India’s Republic Day
Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh visited Indonesia on 10-12 October 2013.
- There are around 100,000 Indonesians of Indian origin in Indonesia mostly concentrated in Greater Jakarta, Medan, Surabaya and Bandung.
- They are mainly engaged in trade dealing in textiles and sports goods.
- There are around 10,000 Indian nationals living in Indonesia including engineers, consultants, chartered accountants, bankers and other professionals.
- Recently India and Indonesia have signed three agreements in various areas to enhance strategic partnership.



- These agreements were signed after delegation level talks between Prime Minister Narendra Modi and visiting President of Indonesia Joko Widodo in New Delhi.
 1. MoU on Youth and Sports Cooperation.
 2. MoU on Standardization Cooperation.
 3. Joint Communiqué on Voluntary International Cooperation to Combat Illegal, Unregulated and Unreported
- (IUU) Fishing and to promote Sustainable Fisheries Governance.
- Besides, both countries decided to strengthen their defence and maritime security relations and resolved to effectively address the issue of terrorism.
- Prime Minister Modi congratulated President Widodo on Indonesia's able leadership as Chair of the IORA and the convening of the First IORA Summit next year.
- The two Leaders agreed to follow up on the discussions that they have had, and to carry forward the bilateral relations with meetings of the following mechanisms within the first half of 2017:
 - i). The Ministerial level Joint Commission
 - ii). The Defence Ministers' Dialogue and the Joint Defence Cooperation Committee (JDCC)
 - iii). Biennial Trade Ministers' Forum (BTMF)
 - iv). Convening of the meeting of the Energy Forum to develop a road map for energy cooperation
 - v). Establishment of a security dialogue in order to develop a comprehensive action plan on security cooperation.

Reference:

<http://www.mea.gov.in/incoming-visit-detail.htm?27790/State+visit+of+President+of+Indonesia+to+India+December+12+2016>
<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=155284>
http://www.mea.gov.in/Portal/ForeignRelation/Indonesia_13_01_2016.pdf

Cyclone Vardah

Question: Name 'Vardah' was given to the recent Cyclone hitting Chennai. This name was suggested by which of the following country?

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

Ans :(b)

Related facts:

- Cyclone Vardah struck the Chennai coast on Monday, 12th December, 2016 afternoon, making landfall about 15 km from Chennai.
- The winds at landfall on Monday were around 140 kilometers per hour (87 miles per hour), making Vardah equal to a Category 1 hurricane on the Saffir-Simpson scale.
- It has moved inland, bringing gusty winds and torrential rainfall to the interior portions of Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh and Karnataka states.
- At least 12 people were killed in Tamil Nadu and Andhra Pradesh as a severe cyclonic storm barrelled through India's southeast coast, uprooting trees, flattening homes and overturning vehicles.
- As per the Regional Meteorological Centre in Chennai the cyclonic storm is likely to weaken into a depression in the coming hours but wind speed may hover around the 70 km/hour mark.
- National Disaster Response Force (NDRF) teams are conducting relief and rescue operations in storm-hit areas of Tamil Nadu and Andhra Pradesh.
- **Formation of the Cyclone:**



- Under the influence of a persistent area of convection, a low pressure area formed in Malay Peninsula and adjoining north Sumatra. It emerged as a tropical disturbance in the following days and moved slowly towards southeast Bay of Bengal. On 6 December, The IMD classified the system as Depression BOB 06 as it had sufficiently organized itself with winds exceeding 45 km/h. Owing to low wind shear and favorable sea surface temperatures, the storm gradually intensified into a deep depression the following day. BOB 06 was upgraded to a cyclonic storm by the IMD on 8 December, assigning it the name Vardah.
- It is notable that Tropical cyclones passing over the northern part of the Indian Ocean are named by eight countries in the region, namely India, Pakistan, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, Maldives, Myanmar, Oman and Thailand. The process began in 2004. The names are picked from this pre-designated list and are usually familiar with the people living in the region. The name Vardah, which means red rose, was given by Pakistan. India has so far contributed the following names: Agni, Bijli, Akash, Jal, Lehar, Megh, Sagar and Vayu.
- **Difference between hurricane, cyclone and typhoon**
- There is no difference among the three, except that they differ in terms of their geographical location. Hurricanes form in Atlantic and the Northeast Pacific oceans, typhoons in Northwest Pacific ocean and cyclones in South Pacific and Indian oceans.

Reference:

<http://www.bbc.com/news/world-asia-india-38285564>

<http://edition.cnn.com/2016/12/11/asia/tropical-cyclone-varDAH/>

<http://www.imd.gov.in/Welcome%20To%20IMD/Welcome.php>

<http://www.hindustantimes.com/india-news/cyclone-varDAH-live-at-least-12-killed-in-tamil-nadu-andhra-rains-to-continue/story-3kO3YToDrW3ak3OXlwDvqK.html>

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/2016_North_Indian_Ocean_cyclone_season#Cy

J. Jayalalithaa

Question: On 5 December 2016 Tamil Nadu Chief Minister J Jayalalithaa passed away, When did she become the Chief Minister of Tamilnadu for the first time?

(a) 1991 (b) 1995 (c) 1993 (d) 1997

Ans: (a)

Related facts:

- On 5 December, 2016; Tamil Nadu Chief Minister J Jayalalithaa passed away at the Apollo Hospitals, Chennai following cardiac arrest.
- She was 68.
- She was born on 24 February 1948 at Melkote in Mandya district in then Mysore State (now Karnataka).
- At birth she was named Komalavalli and was renamed Jayalalithaa.
- She had entered into film industry when she was 16 years old and worked in 300 films.
- She had acted in Tamil, Telugu, Kannada, Malayalam, Hindi and English films.
- She made her debut as the lead actress in Kannada films while still in school, age 15, in Chinnada Gombe (1964).
- She also appeared in a dance sequence of a song named "Malligeya Hoovinantha" in the movie Amarashilpi Jakannachari (1964).
- She acted in one Hindi film called Izzat, with Dharmendra as her male costar in 1968.
- Jayalalithaa was nominated and elected to that body in 1984 and retained her seat until 1989.



- After MGR's death in 1987, Jayalalithaa proclaimed herself his political heir and, having fought off the faction headed by Janaki Ramachandran, MGR's widow, emerged as the sole leader of the AIADMK.
- In 1991 Jayalalithaa became chief minister, Tamil Nadu's youngest, for the first time.
- She served five terms(1st Term: 24.6.1991 – 12.5.1996; 2nd Term: 14.5.2001 – 21.9.2001 3rd Term: 2.3.2002 – 12.5.2006;4th term: 16.5.2011 – 27.9.2014;5th term: 23.5.2015 – Present) as the Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu, for over fourteen years between 1991 and 2016.
- On 22 September 2016, Jayalalithaa was admitted to Apollo Hospitals in Chennai, as she suffered from infection and acute dehydration.
- On December 4, she was re-admitted to the critical care unit after suffering a cardiac arrest.
- On December 5, the hospital officially announced her death 23:30 IST.
- Two hours after the announcement of her death, in a simple ceremony at Raj Bhavan O. Panneerselvam was sworn in as the 20th Chief Minister of the state.

Reference:

<http://www.tnrajbhavan.gov.in/PressReleases/2016/PR051216.pdf>

<http://aiadmk.com/en/about/selvi-j-jayalalithaa-general-secretary/>

http://www.pmindia.gov.in/en/news_updates/pm-condoles-the-passing-away-of-selvi-j-jayalalithaa/?comment=disable

Visit of Prime Minister of Qatar to India

Question: Recently the Prime Minister of the State of Qatar, Sheikh Abdullah was on a visit to India on December 02-03, 2016, During this how many agreements between India and Qatar was signed?

(a) 5 (b) 7 (c) 2 (d) 4

Ans:(d)

Related facts:

- On 02-03, December2016; Prime Minister of the State of Qatar, Sheikh Abdullah was on a visit to India.
- This is the first visit of Sheikh Abdullah to India and the third high-level bilateral engagement between the two countries in the past two years.
- India-Qatar cooperation in diverse sectors has been steadily growing in an excellent framework provided by historically close ties and regular and substantive engagement, including at the highest levels of the two Governments.
- The visit of Qatari Emir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al-Thani to India in March 2015 was followed by visit of Prime Minister Modi to Qatar this June.
- Not only an important trading partner for India in the Gulf region, Qatar is also the largest supplier of LNG to it, accounting for 66 per cent of the total imports in 2015-16.
- Indians form the largest expatriate community in Qatar and their positive contribution in the progress and development of their host country is well recognised.
- There are over 630,000 Indian nationals working in Qatar.
- Four agreements signed during the visit of Prime Minister of Qatar to India are:
- I.Agreement between the Government of the Republic of India and the Government of the State of Qatar on exemption from visa requirement for holders of diplomatic, special and official passports.
- II.Protocol on Technical Cooperation in cyber space and combating cyber crime between the Ministry of Home Affairs of the Republic of India and the Ministry of Interior of the State of Qatar.



Cabinet approves inclusion/Amendments in the Central List of Other Backward Classes

Question: In the recently amendments to the central list of other backward classes (OBCs) how many communities are included in eight states?

(a) 25 (b) 28 (c) 37 (d) 30

Ans: (b)

Related facts:

- On 30 November 2006 the Union Cabinet has given its approval to notify inclusion and amendments in the Central List of Other Backward Classes (OBC).
- It was notified in respect of the eight states of Assam, Bihar, Himachal Pradesh, Jharkhand, Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh, Jammu and Kashmir and Uttarakhand.
- The union cabinet approved amendments to the central list of other backward classes (OBCs) to include 28 communities in eight states.
- On the recommendation of the National Commission for Backward Classes (NCBC), a total of 2479 entries for inclusion, including its synonyms, sub-castes, etc. in the Central List of Other Backward Classes have been notified in 25 states and s Union Territories.
- The changes will enable the persons belonging to these castes/ communities to avail the benefits of reservation in Government services and posts as well as in Central Educational Institutions as per the existing policy.
- They will also become eligible for benefit under the various welfare schemes, scholarships etc. being administered by the Central Government, which are at present available to the persons belonging to the Other Backward Classes.



Reference:

<http://indianexpress.com/article/india/india-news-india/govt-approves-inclusion-of-15-new-castes-in-central-obc-list/>

<http://www.hindustantimes.com/india-news/govt-approves-inclusion-of-15-new-castes-in-central-obc-list/story-tG6VzsW0sqSa2fDtPsohPP.html>

http://www.pmindia.gov.in/en/news_updates/cabinet-approves-inclusionamendments-in-the-central-list-of-other-backward-classes-notified-in-respect-of-some-states/

INTERNATIONAL

Foreign Policy's Leading Global Thinkers

Question: Which of the following Indian politician is included in the recently released list of Foreign Policy's Leading Global Thinkers?

(a) Arun Jaitley (b) Narendra Modi
(c) Sushma Swaraj (d) Manohar Parrikar

Ans:(c)

Related facts:

- On 12 December 2016 Foreign Policy magazine released the list of Foreign Policy's Leading Global Thinkers.
- External affairs minister Sushma Swaraj, have been featured in Foreign Policy's 100 Leading Global Thinkers.
- She is named in the 'Decision-makers' category of 14 other notable thinkers including Hillary Clinton, Angela Merkel and Justin Trudeau.
- Swaraj was particularly lauded for her role in managing Indian migrant workers in Saudi Arabia in July when jobs were cut and salaries withheld. "From evacuating Indians from



Yemen to helping replace lost passports, Swaraj has earned the nickname “the common tweekle’s leader” for her aggressive use of Twitter,”

- The magazine also listed the co-founders of Sampark Foundation the Nayars in ‘the Moguls’ segment for ‘unplugging technology so kids can learn’.
- Other Indians who made it to the global thinkers of 2016 list include, Nitesh Kadyan, Nikhil Kaushik, and Anirudh Sharma of Graviky Labs, an Indian firm that uses polluted air to create art supplies and immunologist Gursaran Prasad Talwar as the inoculation, developed by him could decrease leprosy rates by 65 per cent over three years.

Reference:

<https://gt.foreignpolicy.com/2016/?99402caa7f=>

<https://gt.foreignpolicy.com/2016/category/the-decision-makers?99402caa7f=>

<https://gt.foreignpolicy.com/2016/profile/sushma-swaraj?99402caa7f=>

Forbes list of The World’s Most Powerful People

Question: Who has topped the list of top 10 most powerful people in the world by Forbes Magazine?

- (a) Donald Trump (b) Angela Merkel
(c) Vladimir Putin (d) Narendra Modi

Ans: (c)

Related facts:

- On 14 December 2016 Forbes’ released its annual ranking of the World’s Most Powerful People. Forbes list of the World’s Most Powerful People includes 74 names.
- Since 2009, Forbes has compiled an annual list of the world’s most powerful people this is its 8th edition.
- The list that has been topped by Russian President Vladimir Putin for a fourth straight year and had US President-elect Donald Trump in the second place.
- The third most powerful person in the world also happens to be the most powerful woman: Angela Merkel, the chancellor of Germany and the backbone of the European Union.
- The list includes Xi on the 4th spot, Pope Francis (5), Microsoft co-founder Bill Gates (7), Facebook CEO Mark Zuckerberg (10).
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi has been ranked 9th among the top 10 most powerful people in the world by Forbes in a list.
- Britain’s Prime Minister Theresa is ranked 13th in the list.
- The list includes Reliance Industries Chairman Mukesh Ambani on the 38th spot.
- US President Obama comes in on the 48th spot.
- The list also includes French President Francois Hollande (23), Apple CEO Tim Cook (32), North Korean leader Kim Jong-un (43).
- The list also includes Microsoft’s India-born CEO Satya Nadella on the 51st spot.



Reference:

<http://www.forbes.com/sites/davidewalt/2016/12/14/the-worlds-most-powerful-people-2016/#a65d0e368d8a>

<http://www.forbes.com/powerful-people/list/>

ECONOMICS

Lucky Grahak Yojana and Digi-Dhan Vyapar Yojana launched

Question: When did the Government of India had launch Lucky Grahak Yojana and Digi-Dhan Vyapar Yojana in order to promote digital payment methods?

- (a) 20 December 2016 (b) 23 December 2016
(c) 25 December 2016 (d) 15 December 2016

Ans: (c)

Related facts:

- On 25 December 2016 Government of India launched Lucky Grahak Yojana and Digi-Dhan Vyapar Yojana in order to promote digital payment methods.
- The schemes are aimed at encouraging people to move towards significantly higher usage of digital transactions through the offer of incentives.
- Winners will be selected on a daily and weekly basis under the Lucky Grahak Yojana and weekly basis under the Digi-Dhan Vyapar Yojana respectively.
- Under the Lucky Grahak Yojana, 15,000 consumers will get Rs. 1,000 each daily; the weekly prizes will be worth Rs. 1 lakh, Rs. 10,000, and Rs. 5,000, and will be distributed between 7,000 consumers.
- The mega draw on April 14 will have prizes of Rs. 1 crore, Rs. 50 lakh, and Rs. 25 lakh. The government will announce total of 100 winners for USSD payments, 1,500 winners each for UPI and AEPS transactions, and 11,900 winners for RuPay.
- Under Digi Dhan Vyapar Yojana 7,000 merchants per week stand to win rewards of Rs. 50,000, Rs. 5,000, and Rs. 2,500 each week from December 25, 2016 to April 14, 2017.
- The mega draw, which will take place on April 14, will have rewards worth Rs. 50 lakh, Rs. 25 lakh, and Rs. 5 lakh.
- The draws for these events will take place in 100 different cities around India, in an event at each of these cities where DigiDhan Mela will also be organised.
- NITI Aayog, along with the National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) as its implementation partner, launched the two major schemes – Lucky Grahak Yojana for consumers and Digi-Dhan Vyapar Yojana for merchants.
- In order to participate in Lucky Grahak Yojana and Digi Dhan Vyapar Yojana, one needs to make digital payments through either of the following modes: UPI (Unified Payment Interface), RuPay, AEPS (Aadhaar Enabled Payment System), and USSD (Unstructured Supplementary Service Data).
- Those who use other cashless payment modes, such as e-wallets, debit and credit cards, will not be eligible for the Lucky Grahak Yojana and Digi Dhan Vyapar Yojana rewards.
- Also, to be eligible for the Lucky Grahak and Digi Dhan Vyapar Yojana rewards, one must make transactions between Rs. 50 and Rs. 3,000.
- Those who make purchases above Rs. 3,000 will not be eligible for the rewards in this scheme.

Reference:

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=155833>

<https://digidhanlucky.mygov.in/>

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=155801>

http://www.niti.gov.in/writereaddata/files/presentation_digital%20payment%20promotion%20hindi.pdf

<http://gadgets.ndtv.com/internet/features/lucky-grahak-yojana-digi-dhan-vyapar-yojana-how-to-check-if-you-won-1642099>

<http://ddinews.gov.in/Home%20-%20Headlines/Pages/digidhanyojna.aspx>



State Bank MobiCash

Question: Recently State Bank of India (SBI), in partnership with which of the following telecommunication company has launched its mobile wallet application 'State Bank MobiCash'?

- (a) Airtel (b) Aircel
(c) BSNL (d) Vodafone

Ans:(c)

Related facts:

- On 18 December 2016 country's largest lender State Bank of India (SBI), in partnership with Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL), Saturday launched its mobile wallet application 'State Bank MobiCash' for feature as well as smartphones.
- The new wallet services will initially be available in Punjab, Rajasthan, Haryana and Bihar and expanded pan-India by the end of December.
- MobiCash will allow users to deposit cash through BSNL retail outlets and withdraw funds from their account. SBI already has an application named SBI Buddy for smartphone users.
- State Bank MobiCash has both customer initiated and retail assisted features for usage of the wallet.

Reference:

<http://airworldservice.org/english/archives/38179>



Lucky Grahak Yojana and Digi-Dhan Vyapar Yojana

Question: Recently Government of India has launched Lucky Grahak Yojana and Digi-Dhan Vyapar Yojana, The scheme will become operational with the first draw on-

- (a) 12 December (b) 13 December
(c) 14 December (d) 25 December

Ans:(d)

Related facts:

- On 15 December 2016; NITI Aayog announces the launch of the schemes Lucky Grahak Yojana and the Digi-Dhan Vyapar Yojana to give cash awards to consumers and merchants who utilize digital payment instruments for personal consumption expenditures.
- The scheme specially focuses on bringing the poor, lower middle class and small businesses into the digital payment fold.
- It has been decided that National Payment Corporation of India (NPCI) shall be the implementing agency for this scheme.
- It would be useful to reiterate that NPCI is a not for profit company which is charged with a responsibility of guiding India towards being a cashless society.
- The primary aim of these schemes is to incentivize digital transactions so that electronic payments are adopted by all sections of the society, especially the poor and the middle class.
- The scheme will become operational with the first draw on 25th December, 2016 (as a Christmas gift to the nation) leading up to a Mega Draw on Babasaheb Ambedkar Jayanti on 14th April 2017.
- It will comprise of two major components, one for the Consumers and the other for the Merchants:
- Lucky Grahak Yojana [Consumers]:
 1. Daily reward of Rs 1000 to be given to 15,000 lucky Consumers for a period of 100 days;



2. Weekly prizes worth Rs 1 lakh, Rs 10,000 and Rs. 5000 for Consumers who use the alternate modes of digital Payments
- This will include all forms of transactions viz. UPI, USSD, AEPS and RuPay Cards but will for the time being exclude transactions through Private Credit Cards and Digital Wallets.
 - Digi-Dhan Vyapar Yojana[Merchants]:
 1. Prizes for Merchants for all digital transactions conducted at Merchant establishments.
 2. Weekly prizes worth Rs. 50,000, Rs 5,000 and Rs. 2,500
 - Mega Draw on 14th of April – Ambedkar Jayanti
 1. Three Mega Prizes for consumers worth Rs 1 cr, 50 lakh, 25 lakh for digital transactions between 8th November, 2016 to 13th April, 2017 to be announced on 14th April, 2017
 2. Three Mega Prizes for merchants worth Rs 50 lakhs, 25 lakh, 12 lakh for digital transactions between 8th November, 2016 to 13th April, 2017 to be announced on 14th April, 2017
 - The estimated expenditure on the first phase of the scheme (up to 14th April 2017) is likely to be 340 Crores.
 - This is a historic moment in our nation's history when our nation is shedding old habits and rapidly adopting new means which shall propel us into a truly modern age.

Reference:

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=155418>

Government scrapped the import duty on wheat

Question: Recently Government of India has scrapped the import duty on wheat , earlier it was how much?

(a) 15% (b) 10% (c) 5% (d) 20%

Ans:(b)

Related facts:

- On 09 December 2016 Government of India has scrapped the import duty on wheat.
- Earlier the import duty on wheat was 10%.
- The decision was taken amid rising domestic prices and concerns of a dip in buffer stocks following two consecutive drought years.
- Finance Minister Arun Jaitley announced the lowering of import duty on wheat from 10 per cent to nil with immediate effect, without an end date, under section 159 of the Customs Act 1962.
- According to industry estimates, India has imported around 2.1 million tonnes of wheat since April.
- The government's estimate to produce 93.5 million tonnes in 2015-16, an 8 per cent increase over 86.53 million tonnes in 2014-15 is off the mark.
- It may be recalled that earlier, in September, the wheat import duty was brought down to 10 per cent from 20 per cent.

Reference:

<http://indianexpress.com/article/business/economy/wheat-imports-duty-wheat-stock-agriculture-sector-4417956/>

Highest-Paid Athletes Of All-Time

Question: Michael Jordan topped the list of Highest-Paid Athletes Of All-Time released by Forbes magazine, He related to which of the following sports?

(a) Football (b) Baseball (c) Basketball (d) Golf

Ans:(c)

Related facts:



- On 6 December 2016 Forbes has announced the 20 highest paid athletes of all time.
- Michael Jordan has topped the list of the Highest-Paid Athletes Of All-Time With \$1.7 Billion.
- Other athletes on the list are as follows:
 2. Tiger Woods (Tiger Woods)
 3. Arnold Palmer (Arnold Palmer)
 4. Jack Nicklaus
 5. Michael Schumacher
 9. David Beckham
 11. Mike Tyson
 17. Lionel Messi
- Cristiano Ronaldo is three places ahead of famous footballer Lionel Messi i.e. on 14th place.
- The list does not include any Indian.

Reference:

<http://www.forbes.com/sites/kurtbadenhausen/2016/12/06/michael-jordan-heads-the-highest-paid-athletes-of-all-time-with-1-7-billion/#6813db307cde>

Fifth Bi-monthly Monetary Policy Statement, 2016-17

Question: RBI in its fifth Bi- monthly Monetary policy Statement lowered its forecast for India's gross domestic product (GDP) growth to –

(a) 7.2 (b) 7.6 (c) 7.1 (d) 7.4

Ans:(c)

Related facts:

- On 7 December, 2016; RBI governor Urjit Patel led six-member Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) has released its fifth Bi- monthly Monetary policy Statement, 2016-17.
- The RBI kept the policy repo rate under the liquidity adjustment facility (LAF) unchanged at 6.25 per cent.
- The reverse repo rate under the LAF remains unchanged at 5.75 per cent, and the marginal standing facility (MSF) rate and the Bank Rate at 6.75 per cent.
- It may be recalled that Reserve Bank of India (RBI) on 5 October 2016 in its fourth Bi-monthly Monetary policy Statement cut repo rate by 25 bps to 6.25 per cent.
- Statutory Liquidity Ratio (SLR) remains unchanged at 20.75 per cent.
- Reserve Ratios Cash Reserve Ratio (CRR) of scheduled banks also remains unchanged at 4.0 per cent of net demand and time liability (NDTL).
- The MPC also has cut Gross Value Added (GVA) growth estimates for the economy in the fiscal year ending March 2017 to 7.1% from 7.6% earlier.
- The decision of the MPC is consistent with an accommodative stance of monetary policy in consonance with the objective of achieving consumer price index (CPI) inflation at 5% by Q4 of 2016-17 and the medium-term target of 4% within a band of +/- 2%, while supporting growth.

Reference:

https://www.rbi.org.in/Scripts/BS_PressReleaseDisplay.aspx?prid=38818

<https://rbi.org.in/scripts/Annualpolicy.aspx>

<http://www.livemint.com/Industry/YP7o dc0NG8deWiSoWW060L/RBIs-monetary-policy-statement-Key-highlights.html>



Co-branded credit cards launched

Question: Which of the following Bank has tied up with non banking finance company Bajaj Finance to launch a series of co-branded credit cards for Indian customers?

- (a) Kotak Mahindra Bank (b) RBL Bank
(c) HDFC Bank (d) ICICI Bank



Related facts:

- On 23 November 2016 Private sector lender RBL Bank, has tied up with non banking finance company Bajaj Finance to launch a series of co-branded credit cards for Indian customers.
- The first of these credit cards is proposed to be launched in the fourth quarter of FY17.
- The co-branded cards are targeted at the large segment of people in metros and non-metros who have no credit cards.
- These will have many customer-friendly features, including no-cost EMI options, easy borrowing rates, digital payment solutions and more.
- The cards will also boast attractive offers and deals, said the bank in a statement .

Reference:

<http://money.livemint.com/news/company/news/rbl-bank-partners-bajaj-finance-to-launch-co-branded-credit-cards-508163.aspx>

http://www.business-standard.com/article/news-cm/rbl-bank-and-bajaj-finance-partner-to-launch-co-branded-credit-card-116112301213_1.html

<http://economictimes.indiatimes.com/industry/banking/finance/banking/rbl-bank-ties-up-with-bajaj-finance-for-co-branded-credit-cards/articleshow/55664130.cms>

RBI will shortly issue 50 Rs. and 20 Rs. denomination banknotes

Question: Recently RBI announced to shortly issue 50 Rs. and 20 Rs. denomination banknotes in the Mahatma Gandhi Series-2005. All the banknotes in the denomination of 50 Rs. and 20 Rs. issued by the Bank in the past will continue to be legal tender or not?

- (a) Yes (b) No
(c) Yes, Till 30 December, 2016 (d) Yes, Till 31 March , 2017



Ans: (a)

Related facts:

- The Reserve Bank of India will shortly issue 50 Rs. denomination banknotes in the Mahatma Gandhi Series-2005, without inset letter in both the number panels, bearing signature of Dr. Urjit R Patel, Governor, Reserve Bank of India, and the year of printing '2016' printed on the reverse of the banknote.
- The design and security features of these banknotes will be similar to the banknotes of 50 Rs. denomination with the ascending font of numerals in both the number panels and without intaglio print issued earlier in Mahatma Gandhi Series- 2005.
- RBI will shortly issue Rs. 20 denomination banknotes in the Mahatma Gandhi Series-2005 , with inset letter 'L' in both the number panels, bearing signature of Dr. Urjit R Patel, Governor, Reserve Bank of India, and the year of printing '2016' printed on the reverse of the banknote.
- The design and security features of these banknotes will be similar to the banknotes of 20 Rs. denomination with the ascending font of numerals in both the number panels and without intaglio print issued earlier in Mahatma Gandhi Series- 2005.
- All the banknotes in the denomination of 50 Rs. and 20 Rs. issued by the Bank in the past will continue to be legal tender.

Reference:

https://www.rbi.org.in/Scripts/BS_PressReleaseDisplay.aspx?prid=38781

https://www.rbi.org.in/Scripts/BS_PressReleaseDisplay.aspx?prid=38782

SCIENTIFIC

'Pregnancy fluid' could treat Osteoporosis

Question: Researchers of which country proposed that stem cells harvested from pregnant women's amniotic fluid can be used to strengthen weak bones?

(a) USA (b) Britain (c) China (d) Japan

Ans: (b)

Related facts:

- Researchers of Britain proposed that stem cells harvested from pregnant woman's amniotic fluid can be used to treat osteoporosis and strengthen weak bones.
- Amniotic fluid is the protective fluid that surrounds baby in the uterus and helps it to develop inside the mother's womb.
- Scientists proposed the unusual therapy after studies showed that the treatment led to 78% fewer fractures in animals that were bred to have a brittle bone disorder.
- The finding has raised hopes for treating rare bone conditions that affect some babies from birth, but the same procedure has the potential to help older people with osteoporosis, and even astronauts who lose bone mass in orbit.
- Pascale Guillot led the study at University College London.
- The Amniotic fluid also contains stem cells that are the building blocks of other tissues.
- The researchers collected the amniotic stem cells from material left over from screening tests during pregnancy or collected immediately before birth.
- The team at the Institute of Child Health – a collaboration of Great Ormond Street Hospital and University College London – injected the cells into diseased mice.
- Tests on mice showed injecting the cells increased the strength, plasticity and structure of the animal's bones.
- Bone is constantly being remade with cells called osteoclasts breaking down old bone and osteoblasts making new bones.
- Brittle bone disease, osteoporosis and space travel were all characterized by osteoblasts "becoming lazy".
- The study showed the stem cells were increasing the natural activity of the osteoblasts – rather than directly making new bone themselves.
- Clinical trials are already planned, but ultimately the researchers' aim is to discover which chemicals the stem cells are releasing that kick the osteoblasts into gear.



Reference

www.bbc.com/news/health-38376955

<https://www.theguardian.com/science/2016/dec/20/pregnant-womens-stem-cells-could-treat-osteoporosis-say-scientists>

World's most heat resistant material

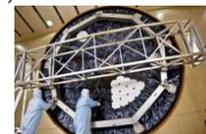
Question: Name the material which is found to be having highest ever recorded melting point for a material by the Researchers from Imperial College London, U.K.

(a)Hafnium carbide (b)Silicon carbide
(c)Calcium carbide (d)Tantalum carbide (TaC)

Ans: (a)

Related facts:

- Recently Researchers from Imperial College London in the UK discovered that the melting point of hafnium carbide is the highest ever recorded for a material.
- It can withstand temperatures of nearly 4,000 degrees Celsius.
- Tantalum carbide (TaC) and hafnium carbide (HfC) are refractory ceramics, meaning they are extraordinarily resistant to heat.



- There has not been the technology available to test the melting point of TaC and HfC in the lab to determine how truly extreme an environment they could function in.
- The researchers developed a new extreme heating technique using lasers to test the heat tolerance of TaC and HfC.
- The compound TaC melted at 3,768 degrees Celsius, and HfC melted at 3,958 degrees Celsius.
- The recent finding may pave the way for the next generation of hypersonic vehicles, meaning spacecraft could become faster than ever.

Reference:

<http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/home/science/worlds-most-heat-resistant-material-found/articleshow/56167238.cms>

<http://www.businessinsider.in/The-sun-is-one-of-the-few-things-that-could-melt-this-newly-discovered-super-material/articleshow/48297938.cms>

India successfully test fires Agni-V missile

Question: Recently India successfully test-fired its nuclear-capable, intercontinental ballistic missile Agni 5 from Dr Abdul Kalam Island, Odisha, that has a range of more than-

- (a) 3000 Km (b) 5000 Km (c) 7000 Km (d) 2500 Km

Ans. (b)

Related facts:

- On 26 December 2016 India successfully test-fired its nuclear-capable, intercontinental ballistic missile Agni 5 from Dr Abdul Kalam Island, Odisha.
- It is a surface-to-surface missile and has a range of more than 5,000km.
- It is indigenously developed by Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO).
- The 17.50-meter long Agni-5 Missile weighs about 50 tonnes and is a three-stage, solid propellant missile.
- It can carry about a 1,000-kg warhead.
- It was fourth trial of Agni-V and first test of a long range missile after India joins Missile Technology Control Regime (MTCR).
- The previous successful missions were executed on April 19, 2012, September 15, 2013 and January 31, 2015.
- The Agni 5 is the most advanced, with inbuilt new technologies for navigation and guidance, warhead and engine.
- On 19 April 2012 with the successful test of Agni-V, India joined the super exclusive club of countries with ICBMs (Intercontinental Ballistic Missiles Club) (missiles with a range of over 5,000-5,500km) alongside the US, Russia, China and France.



Reference:

<http://www.defencenews.in/article/India-successfully-test-fires-China-specific-Nuclear-Agni-V-Missile-229742>

<http://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/defence/agni-v-test-fired-8-things-about-indias-new-missile-that-can-strike-northern-part-of-china/articleshow/56178175.cms>

<http://www.newindianexpress.com/nation/2016/dec/26/india-successfully-test-fires-agni-v-missile-for-a-reduced-range-1553219.html>

Successfully flight test of Smart Anti-Airfield Weapon

Question: The Smart Anti-Airfield Weapon (SAAW) has been successfully flight tested by-

- (a) Indian Air Force (b) Indian Army
 (c) Defence Research and Development Organisation
 (d) Hindustan Aeronautics Limited



Ans. (c)

Related facts:

- On 23 December 2016 Defence and Research Development Organization (DRDO) successfully flight tested the Smart Anti-Airfield Weapon (SAAW), from an Indian Air Force (IAF) aircraft.
- SAAW, an indigenously designed and developed 120 kg. class smart weapon, developed by DRDO.
- It is capable of engaging ground targets with high precision up to a range of 100 kms.
- The light weight high precision guided bomb is one of the world class weapons systems.
- The captive and release trials were tracked by Radar and Telemetry ground stations at ITR during the entire duration of the flight.
- The performance of all systems was satisfactory with all the mission objectives achieved.

Reference:

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=155817>

<http://idrw.org/breaking-drdo-successfully-flight-tested-smart-anti-airfield-weapon-saaw/>

Exercise EKVURIN

Question: Recently Seventh edition of Exercise EKVURIN is being held from 15 to 28 Dec 2016 between which of the following country?

- (a) India and Sri Lanka (b) India and Myanmar
(c) India and Maldives (d) India and Thailand

Ans:(c)

Related facts:

- From 15 to 28 December, 2016; Seventh edition of Exercise EKVURIN will be held at Kadhdhoo, Laamu Atoll, Maldives.
- The bilateral annual exercise, which commenced in 2009 at Belgaum, India, is held annually, alternately in India and Maldives.
- The Exercise is a 14 day platoon level joint military exercise between the Indian Army & the Maldives National Defence Force conducted on a yearly basis.
- The aim of the exercise is to conduct military training with emphasis on amphibious & counter insurgency/ counter terrorism operations with a view to enhance interoperability between the two armies.
- The contingents comprises of platoon strength from BIHAR Regiment and a similar strength of the Maldivian National Defence Force.
- The previous edition of the exercise was held in India at Trivandrum, Kerala

Reference:

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=155305>



Indra Navy -2016

Question: The 9th edition of exercise INDRA NAVY, an annual bilateral maritime exercise between Indian Navy and Russian Navy will be held in-

- (a) Arabian Sea (b) Indian Ocean (c) Bay of Bengal (d) Gulf of Mannar

Ans:(c)

Related facts:

- The 9th edition of exercise INDRA NAVY, an annual bilateral maritime exercise between Indian Navy and Russian Navy will be conducted in the Bay of Bengal from 14 to 21 December 2016.



- The primary aim of exercise INDRA NAVY-16 is to increase inter-operability amongst the two navies and develop common understanding and procedures for maritime security operations.
- The scope of the exercise includes wide-ranging professional interactions in harbor phase and a diverse canvas of operational activities across a spectrum of maritime operations at sea.
- INDRA NAVY is a bilateral maritime exercise between the Indian and Russian navies and epitomizes the strategic relationship between the two countries.
- Initiated in 2003, the exercise has matured over the years with increase in scope, complexity of operations and level of participation.
- In this exercise Russian Federation Navy (RuFN) will be represented by Rear Admiral Eduard Mikhalov, Deputy Chief of Flotilla, Pacific Fleet and ships from the Pacific Fleet, based at Vladivostok. RuFN ships Admiral Tributus (cruiser) and Boris Butoma (fleet tanker) are expected to arrive at Visakhapatnam on 14 December 2016 to participate in exercise INDRA NAVY-16.
- The exercise will be progressed in two phases viz. the Harbour Phase (14 to 18 December 2016) at Visakhapatnam and the Sea Phase (19 to 21 December 2016) off Visakhapatnam.

Reference:

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=155297>

Exercise Indra Navy – 2016

Question: Exercise Indra Navy takes place between the navies of

- (a) India and Russia (b) India and Israel
(c) India and Japan (d) India and USA

Ans: (a)

Related facts:

- The 9th edition of exercise Indra Navy, an annual bilateral maritime exercise between Indian Navy and Russian Navy will be conducted in the Bay of Bengal from 14 to 21 December 2016.
- The primary aim of exercise Indra Navy -16 is to increase inter-operability amongst the two navies and develop common understanding and procedures for maritime security operations.
- During exercise Indra Navy -16, the Indian Navy will be represented by INS Ranvir a guided missile destroyer, INS Satpura an indigenous frigate and INS Kamorta an indigenous Anti-Submarine Warfare corvette in addition to P8I Long Range Maritime Patrol Aircraft, Dornier Short Range Maritime Patrol Aircraft, Hawk Advanced Jet Trainer and other integral rotary wing helicopters.
- The Russian Federation Navy will be represented by Rear Admiral Eduard Mikhalov, Deputy Chief of Flotilla, Pacific Fleet and ships from the Pacific Fleet, based at Vladivostok besides Admiral Tributus (cruiser) and Boris Butoma (fleet tanker) which will arrive at Visakhapatnam on 14 December 2016.
- The exercise will be progressed in two phases viz. the Harbour Phase (14 to 18 December 2016) at Visakhapatnam and the Sea Phase (19 to 21 December 2016) off Visakhapatnam.
- The Harbour Phase would encompass table-top exercises, planning conferences, and professional interactions prior progressing to sea whereas exercises at sea this year would focus on Anti-Submarine Warfare, Air Defence Drills, Surface Firings, visit Board Search and Seizure and Tactical procedures.
- Indra Navy is a bilateral maritime exercise between the Indian and Russian navies and epitomizes the strategic relationship between the two countries.



- This exercise was initiated in 2003 and it has developed through the years with increased scope, complexity of operations and level of participation.
- Exercise Indra Navy -16 will help to further strengthen mutual confidence and interoperability, and also enable sharing of best practices between both navies.

Reference:

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=155297>

<https://www.indiannavy.nic.in/press-release>

TIFR Researchers Challenged theory of Superconductivity

Question: Discovery by scientist of which institute has challenges theory of superconductivity?

- (a) Tata Institute of Fundamental Research (b) IIT Kanpur
(c) Indian Institute of science (d) None of the above.



Ans: (a)

Related facts:

- An exciting discovery by Tata Institute of Fundamental Research (TIFR), Mumbai, recently published in Science (online 1st Dec 2016) has challenged the conventional understanding of superconductivity.
- A team, lead by Dr. S. Ramakrishnan of the Department of Condensed Matter Physics and Material Sciences at TIFR, has discovered bismuth semi-metal in bulk form becoming a superconductor when the temperature is lowered to 530 microKelvin (about -273 degree C).
- This is three orders of magnitude higher than the theoretical prediction.
- The Bardeen-Cooper-Schrieffer (BCS) theory [which explains superconductivity in most low T_c superconductors] cannot explain the superconductivity seen in bismuth
- Superconductors are materials that conduct electricity with no resistance whatsoever. To become superconductors, the element should have mobile electrons, and these electrons should come together to form pairs, known as Cooper pairs.
- Unlike other elements in the periodic table, bismuth has unusual phenomenon. While metallic superconductors have one mobile electron per atom, bismuth has only one mobile electron per 100,000 atoms.
Also, bismuth's electronic energy (Fermi energy) is comparable to the lattice (phonon) energy. So the conventional BCS theory and its extensions which assume that Fermi energy is two to three orders of magnitude higher than phonon energy is not valid in bismuth.
- BCS theory or Bardeen–Cooper–Schrieffer theory (named after John Bardeen, Leon Cooper, and John Robert Schrieffer) is the first microscopic theory of superconductivity since its discovery in 1911. The theory describes superconductivity as a microscopic effect caused by a condensation of Cooper pairs into a boson-like state. The theory is also used in nuclear physics to describe the pairing interaction between nucleons in an atomic nucleus.
- Tata Institute of Fundamental Research is a National Centre of the Government of India, under the umbrella of the Department of Atomic Energy, as well as a deemed University awarding degrees for master's and doctoral programs. The Institute was founded in 1945 with support from the Sir Dorabji Tata Trust under the vision of Dr Homi Bhabha.

Reference:

http://www.tifr.res.in/TSN/news_detail.php?id=108

<https://www.sciencenews.org/article/despite-lack-free-electrons-bismuth-superconducts?tgt=nr>

<http://www.thehindu.com/sci-tech/science/TIFR-discovery-challenges-theory-of-superconductivity/article16769407.ece>

New way to Produce Nuclear Fuel

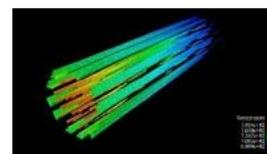
Question: A new way to produce nuclear fuel using electricity has been developed by scientists from which of the following country?

(a) USA (b) India (c) Russia (d) Japan

Ans (c)

Related facts:

- In a Press Release issued on 2nd December, 2016, The researchers of the Far Eastern Federal University School of Natural Sciences, Russia (FEFU SNS) together with those of the Institute of Chemistry of the Far Eastern Branch of Russian Academy of Sciences (FEB RAS) claimed to have developed the world's unique way to manufacture fuel for nuclear reactors.
- The researchers have proposed an alternative mode of production, which forms the basis of powder metallurgy: electric pulse sintering under pressure.
- This new technology allows to obtain products of high quality and to reduce the number of production stages without increasing the cost.
- The main type of fuel for nuclear power reactors is the uranium oxide pellet composition which is produced from a powder by granulation, pressing, and sintering with the subsequent control of the quality and size of the pellets.
- The key idea of the new method is heating by an electric current passing through the mold with the powder placed in. Under these circumstances, the uranium oxide fuel is simultaneously influenced by the powerful pulse discharge and mechanical pressure.
- Using the new method, the fuel pellets may be produced even from uranium dioxide powder, which is not suitable for the conventional technology.
- With its help it is possible to obtain high-quality samples of fuel, including that for fast breeder reactors.



Reference:

http://www.business-standard.com/article/pti-stories/new-way-to-produce-nuclear-fuel-using-electricity-116120200899_1.html

<https://www.dvfu.ru/en/>

A Novel Approach to discover Drug Target

Question: which one of the following is swine influenza virus?

(a) H1b1 (b) H5N1 (c) H7N9 (d) None of the Above

Ans: (a)

Related facts:

- Researchers from the International Centre for Genetic Engineering and Biotechnology (ICGEB), Delhi have found a novel route to discover new drug targets and potential drugs for parasites that cause several diseases such as Loa loa nematode (roundworm) and Schistosoma mansoni platyhelminths (flatworm).
- Both these parasites cause a major health burden particularly in African countries. There are limited treatment options and there is the usual threat of drug resistance.
- There is little interest in developing drugs for these diseases by pharmaceutical companies; they are hence called neglected tropical diseases.
- A team led by Dr. Amit Sharma from the Molecular Medicine Group at ICGEB looked at Aminoacyl-tRNA synthetases (aaRSs) of the two parasites instead of blindly screening molecules, which takes a long time and is expensive.
- In the next step, the team picked up one of the enzymes and validated it as a drugable target. For that purpose, the enzymes were recombinantly produced and their activities were studied.



- The researchers studied the crystal structure of the enzyme with cladosporin. This revealed how tightly the drug binds within the active site of the enzyme. The researchers could understand the active sites of the enzyme and how the drug inhibits their enzyme activity.
- Once the team solved the crystal structure of the enzyme they were able to make an atomic map of all the interacting atoms of both the drug and enzyme. The crystal structure helped to identify the drug pockets in the enzyme where the drug binds.
- Once the genome sequence of any parasite is known then it becomes possible to look at the same interacting atoms in the highly conserved tRNA synthetase enzyme family and assess whether the drug will be able to inhibit the enzyme activity.
- A Research Paper to this regard was published in Journal PLOS Neglected Tropical Diseases.

Reference:

<http://journals.plos.org/plosntds/article?id=10.1371%2Fjournal.pntd.0005084>

<https://journosdiary.com/2016/12/06/icgeb-drug-discovery/>

World's first Water-Wave Laser

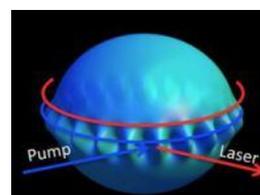
Question: World's first water-wave laser has been created by ...

- (a) Israeli Scientists (b) Russian Scientist
(c) Indian Scientist (d) Chinese Scientist

Ans:(a)

Related facts:

- In a report, published on 21st November, 2016 in the journal Nature Photonics Israeli researchers have demonstrated, for the first time that laser emissions can be created through the interaction of light and water waves.
- The study was conducted by Technion-Israel Institute of Technology students Shmuel Kaminski, Leopoldo Martin, and Shai Maayani, under the supervision of Professor Tal Carmon, head of the Optomechanics Center at the Mechanical Engineering Faculty at Technion.
- A typical laser can be created when the electrons in atoms become "excited" by energy absorbed from an outside source, causing them to emit radiation in the form of laser light.
- Technion researchers created a device in which an optical fiber delivers light into a tiny droplet of octane and water.
- Light waves and water waves pass through each other many times (approximately one million times) inside the droplet, generating the energy that leaves the droplet as the emission of the water-wave laser.
- Furthermore, a drop of water is a million times softer than the materials used in current laser technology. The minute pressure applied by light can therefore cause droplet deformation that is a million times greater than in a typical optomechanical device,
- The new technique may offer greater control of the laser's emissions and capabilities.
- This "water-wave laser" can be used in tiny sensors that combine light waves, sound and water waves, or as a feature on microfluidic "lab-on-a-chip" devices used to study cell biology and to test new drug therapies.



Reference:

<http://www.technion.ac.il/en/2016/11/1st-water-wave-laser/>

<http://www.natureworldnews.com/articles/33150/20161130/scientists-create-first-water-wave-laser-used-new-drug-therapies.htm>

Successful launch of RESOURCESAT-2A into Polar Sun Synchronous Orbit

Question: Name the launch vehicle by which ISRO has successfully launched of RESOURCESAT-2A into Polar Sun Synchronous Orbit ?

- (a) PSLV-C36 (b) PSLV-C35
(c) PSLV-C33 (d) PSLV-C37

Ans:(a)



Related facts:

- On 7 December 2016; In its thirty eighth flight (PSLV-C36), ISRO's Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle successfully launched the 1235 kg RESOURCESAT-2A Satellite.
- It was launched from Satish Dhawan Space Centre SHAR, Sriharikota.
- This is the thirty seventh consecutively successful mission of PSLV.
- After PSLV-C36 lift-off at 10:25 am IST from the First Launch Pad with the ignition of the first stage, the subsequent important flight events, namely, strap-on ignitions and separations, first stage separation, second stage ignition, payload fairing separation, second stage separation, third stage ignition and separation, fourth stage ignition and cut-off, took place as planned.
- After a flight of 17 minutes 05 seconds, the vehicle achieved a polar Sun Synchronous Orbit of 824 km height inclined at an angle of 98.725 degree to the equator (very close to the intended orbit) and 47 seconds later, RESOURCESAT-2A was separated from the PSLV fourth stage.
- After separation, the two solar arrays of RESOURCESAT-2A deployed automatically and ISRO's Telemetry, Tracking and Command Network (ISTRAC) at Bangalore took over the control of the satellite.
- Like its predecessors RESOURCESAT-1 and 2, RESOURCESAT-2A has a unique 3-Tier imaging system with Advanced Wide Field Sensor (AWiFS), Linear Imaging Self Scanner-3 (LISS-3) and Linear Imaging Self Scanner-4 (LISS-4) cameras.
- The data sent by RESOURCESAT-2A will be useful for agricultural applications like crop area and crop production estimation, drought monitoring, soil mapping, cropping system analysis and farm advisories generation.
- The life span of the satellite mission will be 5 years.
- RESOURCESAT-2A is a Remote Sensing satellite intended for resource monitoring. RESOURCESAT-2A is a follow on mission to RESOURCESAT-1 and RESOURCESAT-2, launched in 2003 and 2011 respectively.
- The total number of satellites launched by India's workhorse launch vehicle PSLV including today's RESOURCESAT-2A has now reached 121, of which 42 are Indian and the remaining 79 are from abroad.

Reference:

<http://www.isro.gov.in/launcher/pslv-c36-resourcesat-2a>

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=155074>

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=154978>

<http://www.isro.gov.in/update/07-dec-2016/pslv-c36-successfully-launches-resourcesat-2a-remote-sensing-satellite>

<http://www.isro.gov.in/launchers/pslv>

<http://www.isro.gov.in/Spacecraft/resourcesat-2a>

Exercise Konkan 2016

Question: Konkan-2016, the 2016 edition of the annual bilateral maritime exercise between the Indian Navy and the Royal Navy, would be held from 05 -16 Dec 16 at which of the following place(s)?

- (a) Goa
- (b) Visakhapatnam
- (c) Mumbai and Goa
- (d) Mumbai and Visakhapatnam



Ans:(c)

Related facts:

- KONKAN 16, the 2016 edition of the annual bilateral maritime exercise between the Indian Navy and the Royal Navy, would be held from 05 -16 Dec 16 at Mumbai and Goa.
- Exercise KONKAN, named after the Western coastal region of India, was institutionalised in 2004.
- Since then, the exercise hosted in rotation by both the Navies, has grown in complexity, scale and intensity.
- The exercise will be conducted in two phases at Mumbai and Goa. The first phase, to be held from 05 – 09 Dec 16, would be a Command Planning exercise involving the two navies, where planners from both sides will undertake planning for combined maritime operations.
- KONKAN 2015, the 10th edition in KONKAN series, was conducted from 05 – 11 Sep 15.

Reference:

- <http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=154900>
- <https://www.indiannavy.nic.in/content/exercise-konkan-16>

SPORTS

TENNIS

International Premier Tennis League season-2016

Question: Who has won the recently held International Premier Tennis League season-2016?

- (a) Indian Aces (b) Japan Warriors
(c) OUE Singapore Slammers (d) UAE Royals

Ans:(c)



Related facts:

- On 2-11 December, 2016; The 2016 International Premier Tennis League (IPTL) season (officially the 2016 Coca-Cola International Premier Tennis League) held at the Gachibowli Indoor Stadium, Hyderabad.
- It was the third season of the professional team tennis league.
- It was contested by four teams in Asia (Indian Aces, pan Warriors, OUE Singapore Slammers and UAE Royals.
Winner: OUE Singapore Slammers.
- Runner Up: Indian Aces.

Reference:

<http://www.iptlworld.com/news/1075-oue-singapore-slammers-retain-iptl-crown>

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/2016_International_Premier_Tennis_League_season

Davis Cup-2016

Question: Argentina won its first Davis Cup title by defeating which of the following country?

- (a) U.S.A (b) France (c) Sweden (d) Croatia

Ans: (d)



Related facts:

- The 2016 Davis Cup was the 105th edition of the Davis Cup, a tournament between national teams in men's tennis.
- It was sponsored by BNP Paribas.
- It was the highest level of Tennis competition .
- Argentina won their first Davis Cup title, defeating Croatia in the final by 3-2.
- Argentina is the first team to reach finals four times (1981, 2006, 2008, 2011) but not won a single time.

Reference:

<http://www.daviscup.com/en/news/245925.aspx>

<http://www.daviscup.com/en/draws-results/tie.aspx?id=M-DC-2016-WG-M-ARG-CRO-01>

<http://www.tennis.com/pro-game/2016/11/davis-cup-final-argentina-draws-even-at-2-2-against-croatia/62611/>

HOCKEY

Women's Under-18 Asia Cup hockey tournament

Question: Which of the following country has won the recently held Women's U-18 Asia Cup hockey tournament?

(a) India (b) Malaysia (c) China (d) South Korea

Ans. (c)

Related facts:

- Women's U-18 Asia Cup hockey tournament was held on 16-22 December 2016.
- The participating teams are 8 (South Korea, China, India, Japan, Malaysia, Thailand, Chinese Taipei and Singapore)
- Competition Results:
- Gold-China (4-2), the second title
- Silver-Japan
- Bronze-India (Korea, 3-0)

Reference:

<http://hockeyindia.org/images/stories/2013/12/Girls-U18-Asia-Cup-Bangkok-2016-22.pdf>

<http://www.firstpost.com/sports/indian-womens-hockey-team-secure-bronze-at-u18-asia-cup-hockey-tournament-3169406.html>



Junior Hockey World Cup- 2016

Question: Which of the following country has won the Junior Hockey World Cup- 2016?

(a) Belgium (b) India (c) Pakistan (d) Germany

Ans:(b)

Related facts:

- The 2016 Hockey Junior World Cup was the 11th edition of the Hockey Junior World Cup for men, an international field hockey tournament.
- It was held in Lucknow, India from 8–18 December, 2016.
- Number of participating teams -16
- Competition Results
 1. Gold – India
 2. Silver – Belgium
 3. Bronze – Germany
- Awards:
- Man of the match(Final) – Gurjant Singh (India)
- Best Player of the Tournament: Enrique Gonzalez de Castejon (ESP)
- Goalkeeper of the Tournament: Loic van Doren (BEL)
- Up & Coming U19 Player of the Tournament: Timm Herzbruch (GER)
- Fair Play Award: New Zealand
- Fans Choice Award: Harmanpreet Singh (IND)
- HERO Top Scorer of the Tournament: Edward Horler (ENG) – 8 goals
- India have become the first nation to win the hockey junior World Cup at home.
- India beat Belgium 2-1 to win their second world title after 15 years.
- India has won its first title in Hobart, Australia in 2001.
- In 1997, India had won a silver medal in Milton Keynes, England.

Reference:

<http://www.fih.ch/events/hockey-junior-world-cup/uttar-pradesh-mens-hockey-junior-world-cup-2016/news/incredible-india-win-uttar-pradesh-hockey-junior-world-cup-men-lucknow-2016/>

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/2016_Men's_Hockey_Junior_World_Cup



5th Men's AHF Cup-2016

Question: Which of the following country has won the recently held 5th Men's AHF Cup?

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

Ans: (c)

Related facts:

- 5th Men's AHF Cup was held in Hong Kong China from 19 to 27 November 2016.
- Result of the Competition:
- Gold -Bangladesh
- Silver-Sri Lanka
- Bronze-Hong Kong
- Ashraful Islam, a Bangladeshi player scored maximum(9 goals) goal in the competition.



Reference:

<https://tms.fih.ch/competitions/733#statistics>

<http://www.asiahockey.org/mavista/cms/en/home/33580/19—27-November-2016-%3C%2Fbr%3EMen's-AHF-Cup>

<http://www.asiahockey.org/mavista/cms/en/news/33608/Bangladesh-vs-Sri-Lanka-final-in-Hong-Kong>

<http://bdnews24.com/sport/2016/11/27/bangladesh-beat-sri-lanka-to-earn-third-straight-ahf-cup-title>

Four Nations Invitational Tournament

Question: Which of the following country has won the Four Nations Invitational Tournament?

(a) Australia (b) New Zealand (c) India (d) Pakistan

Ans: (a)

Related facts:

- Four Nations Invitational Tournament 2016 was held at Melbourne, Australia from 23 – 27 November 2016.
- Results of Competition:
- Gold-Australia (3-1)
- Silver-New Zealand
- Bronze-India (4-1)



Reference:

<https://twitter.com/TheHockeyIndia/status/802762749721743361>

<http://hockeyindia.org/news/india-beat-malaysia-take-bronze-medal-at-the-four-nations-invitational-tournament.html>

<http://hockeyindia.org/4-nations-invitational-tournament-2016>

<http://www.murugappa.com/indian-railways-champion-90th-mcc-murugappa-gold-cup-hockey-tournament/>

FOOTBALL

FIFA Club World Cup Japan 2016

Question: Who among the following has won the recently held 2016 FIFA Club World Cup?

(a) Real Madrid (b) Kashima Antlers (c) Auckland City (d) Atletico Nacional

Ans. (a)

Related facts:



- The 2016 FIFA Club World Cup was the 13th edition of the FIFA Club World Cup held on 8-18 December 2016 in Japan.
- It was officially known as the FIFA Club World Cup Japan 2016 presented by Alibaba YunOS Auto for sponsorship reasons.
- Competition Results:
- Gold- Real Madrid (4-2), Spain
- Silver-Kashima Antlers, Japan
- Bronze-Atletico Nacional, Colombia
- Awards:
- Best Player (The Golden Ball)- Cristiano Ronaldo (Real Madrid)
- Fair Play Award-Kashima Antlers, Japan
- Leading goal scorers : Cristiano Ronaldo(4 goals)
- Golden Ball: Cristiano Ronaldo (Real Madrid)
- Silver Ball: Luka Modric (Real Madrid)
- Bronze Ball: Gaku Shibasaki (Kashima Antlers)

Reference:

<http://www.fifa.com/clubworldcup/matches/round=276114/match=300364983/index.html#nosticky>
<http://www.fifa.com/clubworldcup/matches/index.html>
<http://www.fifa.com/clubworldcup/awards/index.html>
<http://www.fifa.com/clubworldcup/news/y=2016/m=12/news=real-madrid-top-of-class-at-japan-2016-2861746.html>

CHESS

London Chess Classic 2016

Question: Who has won the title of the recently held London Chess Classic 2016 tournament?

- (a) Faliano Mruana (b) Viswanathan Anand
 (c) Wesley So (d) Magnus Carlsen



Ans. (c)

Related facts:

- The 2016 edition of the London Chess Classic was held on 18 December 2016 .
- Wesley So has won the title of the London Chess Classic 2016 tournament.
- He scored 36 points in the tournament.
- Viswanathan Anand drew his last round game against Vladimir Kramnik and finished fourth in the tournament.

Reference:

http://www.londonchessclassic.com/gct/gct_standings.htm
http://www.londonchessclassic.com/gct/gct_standings.htm

World Chess Championship-2016

Question: Who among the following has won the World Chess Championship-2016?

- (a) Magnus Carlsen (b) Sergey Karjakin
 (c) Viswanathan Anand (d) None of the above



Ans: (a)

Related facts:

- On 30 November 2016; Magnus Carlsen won the 2016 World Chess Championship in New York City, USA.
- Carlsen defeated Sergey Karjakin to retain the World Chess Champion title.
- It's the third time that Carlsen has won the championship.
- He has reigned as world champion since 2013.
- Magnus Carlsen is a Norwegian chess grandmaster.
- The World Chess Championship is played to determine the World Champion in chess.

Reference:

<http://www.businessinsider.in/Magnus-Carlsen-wins-the-2016-World-Championship/articleshow/55716282.cms>

BADMINTON

YONEX SUNRISE Hong Kong Open-2016

Question: Who has won the men's singles title of recently held Yonex Sunrise Hong Kong Open-2016?

- (a) Sameer Verma (b) Ng Ka Long Angus
(c) Lin Dan (d) Chen Long



Ans: (b)

Related facts:

- The Yonex Sunrise Hong Kong Open-2016 was the twelfth Super series tournament of the 2016 BWF Super Series.
- The tournament took place in Kowloon, Hong Kong from November 22–27, 2016.
- Result of the tournament:
- Men's singles:
- Winner: Ng Ka Long Angus (Hong Kong)
- Runner Up: Sameer Verma (India)
- Women's Singles:
- Winner: Tai Tzu Ying (Chinese Taipei)
- Runner Up: P.V Sindhu (India)
- Ng Ka Long Angus became the first male badminton player from Hong Kong to win this competition.

Reference:

<http://bwf.tournamentsoftware.com/sport/winners.aspx?id=C0F3D6BB-D4E1-4185-840A-8619D6F86854>

BOXING

AIBA Youth World Boxing Championships

Question: Who among the following has won the only Gold medal at recently held AIBA Youth World Boxing Championships?

- (a) Sudhir Kumar (b) Sachin Singh (c) Ajay Kumar (d) Mahesh Chandra

Ans: (b)

Related facts:

- AIBA Youth World Boxing Championship was held on 17-26 November 2016 in St. Petersburg, Russia.
- In this Championship Cuba with 2 gold and 2 silver medals got first place.



- India with 1 gold and 1 bronze medal ranked fourth with Australia and Turkey in the competition.
- Sachin Singh (won the only gold medal at the AIBA Youth World Championships with a stunning unanimous victory over Cuban national champion Jorge Grinan.
- Representing India in men's heavyweight 91 kg category was Naman Tanwar, won bronze after he lost in the semi-finals against Pero of Cuba.

Reference:

<http://d152tffy3gbaeg.cloudfront.net/2016/09/ROOT-C95.pdf>
<http://www.aiba.org/aiba-youth-world-boxing-championships-st-petersburg-2016/>
<http://www.aiba.org/blog/ten-gold-medallists-crowned-future-champions-born-2016-aiba-youth-world-championships-saint-petersburg/>

BILLIARDS, SNOOKER & SQUASH

11th World Billiards Championships

Ques: Who has won the title of recently held 11th World Billiards Championships title ?

(a) Ashok Shandilya (b) Geet Sethi (c) Pankaj Advani (d) Peter Gilchrist

Ans:(c)

Related facts:

- On 12 December 2016; Pankaj Advani won his 11th World Billiards (150-Up format) Championships title.
- 11th World Billiards (150-Up format) Championships was held in Bengaluru, Karnataka.
- Pankaj Advani defeated Peter Gilchrist of Singapore.
- This is his 16th world title overall.



Reference:

<http://airworldservice.org/english/archives/37930>
<http://indianexpress.com/article/sports/sport-others/pankaj-advani-wins-world-billiards-championships-title-4424781/>
<http://indiatoday.intoday.in/story/pankaj-advani-world-billiards-championships-peter-gilchrist/1/833132.html>

TABLE TENNIS

Avadh 20th Commonwealth Table Tennis Championships

Ques: Who won the Avadh 20th Commonwealth Table Tennis Championships men's title?

(a) India (b) England (c) Singapore (d) Wales

Ans: (a)

Related facts:

- This is his 16th world title overall.
- 20th Avadh Commonwealth Table Tennis Championship held at Surat, India from 16 December, 2015 to until 21 December, 2015.
- Indian men's team defeated England men's team in the final by 3-1 in December 18, 2015 in the tournament held at Pandit Deendayal Upadhyay Indoor Stadium, Surat and won the title second time (2015,2004).
- Singapore defeated Northern Ireland by 3-0 and won bronze medal in men's category.
- Singapore defeated India by 3-1 and won gold medal in women's category.



- England defeated Wales by 3-1 and won bronze medal.
- The Indian women's team for the fourth time (1975, 1983, 1991, and 2015) won the silver medal in Championship.
- The results of the tournament are given below :
- **Men's Singles**
- Winner- Chen Feng (Singapore)
- Runner- Anthony Amalraj (India)
- **Women's Singles**
- Winner- Zhou Yihan (Singapore)
- Runner- Mouma Das (India)
- **Men's Doubles**
- Winner- Soumyajit Ghosh and Harmeet Desai(Both from India)
- Runner- G. Sathiyam and Devesh Karia (Both from India)
- **Women's Doubles**
- Winner- Lin Ye and Zhou Yihan (Both from Singapore)
- Runner- Manika Batra and Ankita Das(Both from India)
- **Mixed Doubles**
- Winner- Sathi Gnanasekaran and Ankita Das (Both from India)
- Runner- Soumyajit Ghosh and Mouma Das (Both from India)

Reference:

<http://www.tffi.org/events/show/218>

<http://www.tffi.org/events/newsdetail/377/Indian%20men%20strike%20gold.%20women%20silver>

http://www.tffi.org/app/webroot/eventqualImage/zvs_mxd.pdf

<http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/sports/more-sports/others/Indian-men-down-England-to-strike-gold-in-Commonwealth-TT/articleshow/50235411.cms>

ATHLETICS

TATA Steel Kolkata 25K 2016

Question: Who is the Men Winners of the TATA Steel Kolkata 25K 2016?

- (a) Nitinder Singh Rawat (b) Man Singh
(c) Satyendra Singh Patel (d) G Lakshmanan

Ans. (d)

Related facts:

- TATA Steel Kolkata 25K 2016 was held on 18 December 2016.
- Men's winner- G. Lakshmanan, (1:17:16), a new course record
- Former course record-Nitinder Singh Rawat (1:19:39)
- Women's winner-Monica Athare (1:34:15)

Reference:

<http://tsk25.procammrunning.in/press-release/1042-g-lakshmanan-and-monica-athare-win-the-3rd-edition-of-tata-steel-kolkata-25k>

<http://tsk25.procammrunning.in/race-results>



SPORTS MISCELLANEOUS

Asian Luge Championship-2016

Question: Who has won the recently held Asian Luge Championship-2016?

- (a) Shiva Keshavan (b) Sandeep Tomar
(c) Vikas Singh (d) Sujeet Chaurasia

Ans. (a)

Related facts:

- On 23 December 2016 the Asian Luge Championship was held in Nagano, Japan.
- Result of the Competition:
- Gold medal-Shiva Keshavan (India)
- Time -1 minute, 39.962 seconds (top speed -130.4 km. Per / hour)
- Silver medal-Tanaka Shohei (Japan)
- Time -1 minute, 44.874 seconds (top speed -124.6 km. Per / hour)
- Bronze-Lien Te-An (Chinese Taipei)
- Time -1 minute, 45.120 seconds (top speed -126.3 km. Per / hour)
- Shiva Keshavan has participated five times in Winter Olympics.

Reference:

<http://www.asianage.com/sports/in-other-sports/241216/another-asian-luge-gold-for-shiva-keshavan.html>

<http://www.thehindu.com/sport/other-sports/Shiva-Keshavan-grabs-gold-at-Asian-Luge-Championship/article16931030.ece>

<http://www.hindustantimes.com/other-sports/shiva-keshavan-braves-serious-injury-to-win-gold-at-asian-luge-championship/story-0H4AdhkqsLHzATnotdvqM.html>



Boxing Federation of India

Question: When did the AIBA granted full membership to the recently-formed Boxing Federation of India (BFI)?

- (a) 15 December 2016 (b) 17 December 2016
(c) 14 December 2016 (d) 20 December 2016

Ans. (d)

Related facts:

- On 20 December 2016 the AIBA unanimously granting full membership to the recently-formed Boxing Federation of India (BFI) at a meeting on the sidelines of its 70th anniversary gala in Montreux, Switzerland.
- Indian boxing was thrown into disarray back in 2012 when the erstwhile Indian Amateur Boxing Federation (IABF) was first suspended and later terminated for "possible manipulation in elections".
- Boxing India was formed in 2014.
- But the BFI could not run for even one year and lost a no confidence motion moved by disgruntled state units in 2015.
- BFI took shape in September, 2015 following elections conducted in the presence of observers from the International Boxing Association (AIBA) and the Sports Ministry.

Reference:

<http://ddinews.gov.in/Sports/Sports%20-%20Headlines/Pages/AIBABFI.aspx>

<http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/sports/boxing/aiba-grants-full-membership-to-boxing-federation-of-india/articleshow/56085538.cms>



SPORTS PERSONALITY

K.L Rahul

Question: Who became the second Indian to be dismissed for 199 in Tests?

- (a) Virat Kohli (b) Parthiv Patel
(c) Murali Vijay (d) K.L Rahul

Ans: (d)

Related facts:

- On 18 December 2016; KL Rahul became the second Indian who has been dismissed for 199 in Tests.
- He also become the ninth Batsmen who have been dismissed for 199 in Tests .
- Before this Mohammad Azharuddin scored 199 against Sri Lanka in Kanpur in 1986.
- Rahul become the second Indian opener who has scored more runs in a Test innings against England after Sunil Gavaskar .
- Sunil Gavaskar made 221 at The Oval in 1979.

Reference:

<http://www.espnricinfo.com/india-v-england-2016-17/content/story/1073218.html>

<http://www.espnricinfo.com/india/content/player/422108.html>



Arjun Bhati

Question: Name the Indian who secured first position in the Kids Golf World Championship?

- (a) Saurabh Rathi (b) Arjun Bhati
(c) Jujhar Singh (d) Manav Bais

Ans: (b)

Related facts:

- Arjun Bhati of India bagged the first position in the Kids Golf World Championship.
- He defeated South Africa's Methu Denish during the three-level final match in Malaysia.
- Kids Golf World Championship provides a special opportunity for boys and girls aged between 5 to 18 years to play in a world competition organized by US Kids Golf Foundation.
- Out of the 21 countries that participated in the tournament.
- Arjun Bhati is a student of Green Valley School, Greater Noida.

Reference:

https://www.malaysiakidsgolf.com/results/RESULT_KGWCM_2016.pdf



Alviro Petersen

Question: Name the player who has been banned for two years by Cricket South Africa's (CSA)?

- (a) Thami Tsolekile (b) Alviro Petersen
(c) Pumelela Matshikwe (d) None of these

Ans: (b)



Related facts:

- Alvaro Petersen, the former South Africa opener, has been banned for two years by CSA.
- He was found guilty in 13 breaches of the anti-corruption code in relation to the 2015-16 domestic T20 match-fixing scandal.
- The two year-ban will be effective from 12 November 2016.
- Petersen scored 2,093 Test runs at an average of 34.88.
- He made a century on his debut against India in Kolkata in 2009/10 and formed a successful opening partnership with former captain Graeme Smith.
- He hit five Test centuries, with a highest score of 182 against England in Leeds in 2012.

Reference:

<http://cricket.co.za/news/16483/CSA-and-Alvaro-Petersen-agree-on-two-year-ban-following-charges-under-Anti-Corruption-Code>

<http://www.espn.com/southafrica/content/story/1073675.html>

<http://www.espn.com/southafrica/content/player/46934.html>

Vijender Singh

Question: Indian boxer Vijender Singh, recently retained WBO-Asia Pacific Super Middleweight title by defeating-

(a) Kerry Hope (b) Sonny Whiting (c) Francis Cheka (d) Andrzej Soldra

Ans. (c)

**Related facts:**

- On 17 December 2016 Indian boxing star Vijender Singh knocked out former world Francis Cheka to retain WBO-Asia Pacific Super Middleweight title.
- Vijender Singh beat Tanzanian boxer, Francis Cheka to defend his title at Thyagraj Stadium in New Delhi.
- He won the championship in third round of a 10-round contest.
- Professional boxer Vijender played 8 matches and won all.
- Among these he won 7 knock Out matches.

Reference:

<http://www.theweek.in/news/sports/vijender-retains-wbo-asia-pacific-super-middleweight-title.html>

http://www.business-standard.com/article/news-ani/vijender-singh-retains-wbo-asia-pacific-super-title-116121800093_1.htmlhttp://www.espn.com/boxing/story/_/id/18297368/vijender-singh-defeats-francis-cheka-retain-wbo-asia-pacific-super-middleweight-title

<http://www.thehindu.com/sport/other-sports/Vijender-Singh-knocks-out-Francis-Cheka/article16896879.ece>

Karun Nair

Question: Name the first Indian batsman to score triple ton against England?

- (a) K.L Rahul (b) Virat Kohli
(c) Karun Nair (d) Murli Vijay

Ans. (c)

Related facts:

- On 19 December 2016 Indian batsman Karun Nair scored an unbeaten 303 on the fourth day of the fifth and final Test match against England in MA Chidambaram Stadium, Chennai.
- Nair achieved this feat in the third Test match of his career.
- Karun Nair registered his first triple hundred in only his third innings in Tests – the least innings taken by any batsman.
- The previous best was six Tests and nine innings taken by Len Hutton of England.
- It also the highest individual score by any cricketer in his maiden series, bettering the 113-year record of Tip Foster (287).
- Nair, at 25 years and 10 days, is the sixth youngest batsman to hit a triple century in Tests.
- Garry Sobers remains the youngest to score triple hundred in 21 years 213 days, he had scored 365 not out vs. Pakistan at Kingston in February/March 1958.
- In this match India's total of 759 for seven wickets declared is the highest score by any team vs. England, breaking the record of the 751 for five wickets declared by West Indies at St. John's in April 2004.
- In this test match Ravichandran Ashwin became only the fifth cricketer to complete 300 plus runs and more than 25 wickets in a Test series.

Reference:

- <http://indianexpress.com/article/sports/cricket/karun-nair-record-books-triple-ton-india-vs-england-stats-4435416/>
<http://www.cricbuzz.com/cricket-news/84850/karun-nair-indian-cricketer-enters-record-books-with-triple-hundred>
<http://indiatoday.intoday.in/story/ravichandran-ashwin-300-runs-25-wickets-india-vs-england-tests-ian-boham/1/838077.html>



SHORT NOTES

PERSONALITIES

New Deputy Governor, Reserve Bank of India

Question: Recently who has been appointed as one of the Deputy Governor, Reserve Bank of India?

(a) Dr. Viral V. Acharya (b) Chanda Kochhar
(c) Usha Subramanian (d) Arundhati Bhattacharya

Ans: (a)

Related facts:

- On 28 December 2016 Central Government has appointed Dr. Viral V. Acharya. as Deputy Governor, Reserve Bank of India.
- Currently he works as Professor of Economics, Department of Finance, New York University – Stern School of Business.
- He has been appointed for a term of three years from the date of his taking charge.
- Dr. Acharya will join on January 20, 2017.
- The RBI has four deputy governor posts, of which two are filled by promotions from within the ranks of the central bank. Among the other two, one post is to be filled by a commercial banker, while the other goes to an economist
- Reserve Bank of India is headed by the Governor and the post is currently held by economist Urjit Patel. There are 4 Deputy Governors R Gandhi, S S Mundra, N S Vishwanathan and Viral Acharya.



Reference:

<http://www.thehindu.com/business/Viral-Acharya-%E2%80%98poor-man%E2%80%99s-Rajan%E2%80%99-is-RBI-deputy-governor/article16954507.ece>
https://www.rbi.org.in/Scripts/BS_PressReleaseDisplay.aspx?prid=39063
<https://www.rbi.org.in/Scripts/AboutUsDisplay.aspx?pg=OrganizationStructure.htm>

New Lt. Governor of National Capital Territory of Delhi

Question: Who has been appointed as Lt. Governor of National Capital Territory of Delhi?

(a) Anil Singh (b) Deepak Kumar (c) Anil Bajjal (d) Nipendra Mishra

Ans: (c)

Related facts:

- On 29 December 2016 President of India has appointed Shri Anil Bajjal to be the Lt. Governor of National Capital Territory of Delhi with effect from the date he assumes charge of his office.
- He will replace Najeeb Jung.
- It should be noted that on 22 December 2016, Najeeb Jung resigned from his post.



Reference:

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=155948>

Sunderlal Patwa

Question: Recently Sunderlal Patwa passed away, He was the Former Chief Minister of which of the following state?

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

Ans: (b)

Related facts:

- On 28 December 2016 Former Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister and seasoned BJP leader Sunderlal Patwa passed away. He was 92.
- Sunderlal Patwa was a two-time Chief Minister of Madhya Pradesh.
- His first term lasted a month in 1980. His second term lasted for two years from 1990 to 1992.

Reference:

<http://www.ndtv.com/india-news/former-madhya-pradesh-chief-minister-sunderlal-patwa-dies-at-92-1642615>

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



Akshay Kumar

Question: Which of the following automobile manufacturing company has appointed Akshay Kumar, as the brand ambassador for its Commercial Vehicle Business Unit?

(a) Tata Motors (b) Honda (c) Maruti Suzuki (d) None of the above

Ans: (a)

Related facts:

- On 27 December 2016 Tata Motors, the country's largest automotive player and among the top 10 truck and bus manufacturers globally, announced the appointment of Bollywood film star Akshay Kumar, as the brand ambassador for its Commercial Vehicle Business Unit.
- Besides products and solutions, he will be actively involved in a host of innovative marketing and customer experience initiatives to be rolled out by Tata Motors.
- Tata Motors' association with Akshay Kumar for Commercial vehicles will be supported by a high-decibel, multi-media campaign, beginning in the first week of January 2017.
- Tata Motors Limited is India's largest automobile company, with consolidated revenues of INR 2,75,561 crores (USD 41.6 billion) in 2015-16
- Through subsidiaries and associate companies, Tata Motors has operations in the UK, South Korea, Thailand, South Africa and Indonesia.

Reference:

<http://www.tatamotors.com/press/tata-motors-signs-on-akshay-kumar-as-brand-ambassador-for-its-commercial-vehicles-business/>



George Michael

Question: Recently George Michael passed away, he was a-

(a) Singer (b) Scientist (c) Businessman (d) Environmentalist

Ans: (a)

Related facts:

- On 25 December 2016; Michael, aged 53 passed away at his Oxfordshire home.
- In 2004, the Radio Academy named Michael the most played artist on British radio during the period 1984–2004.



- The documentary A Different Story (released in 2005) covered his career and personal life. Michael's first tour in 15 years, the worldwide 25 Live tour, spanned three tours over the course of three years (2006, 2007, and 2008).
- His popular albums include 'Faith', 'Listen Without Prejudice', 'older', 'Songs from the Last Century' and 'Patience'.

Reference:

<http://hollywoodlife.com/2016/12/25/george-michael-dead-dies-death-christmas/>
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/George_Michael

Thomas Coville

Question: Recently Thomas Coville has made the record for sailing around the world single-handed without stopping, he belonged to which of the following country?

(a) United Kingdom (b) France (c) Germany (d) U.S.A

Ans: (b)

Related facts:

- On 25 December 2016; Thomas Coville of France has made the record for sailing around the world single-handed without stopping by eight days.
- He took 49 days, 3 hours, 7 minutes and 38 seconds.
- The previous record was set by Francis Joyon of France in 2008.
- The time taken by Francis Joyon is 57 days 13hours 34minutes and 6sec.



Reference:

<http://www.sailingworld.com/thomas-coville-sets-new-round-world-record>
<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2016/dec/26/sailor-thomas-coville-sets-new-solo-round-the-world-record>
<http://www.bbc.com/sport/sailing/38435390>

New Director General of National Cadet Corps (NCC)

Question: Recently who took over the reins of National Cadet Corps (NCC) as its Director General?

(a) Lt Gen Praveen Sinha (b) Lt Gen A. Chakraborty
(c) Lt Gen Vinod Vashisht (d) Lt Gen Pramod Vashisht

Ans: (c)

Related Facts:

- On 23 December 2016 Lt Gen Vinod Vashisht took over the reins of National Cadet Corps (NCC) as its Director General.
- He was the Commandant, Officers Training Academy, Gaya prior to the current assignment.
- He succeeds Lt Gen A Chakravarty, who retired on 31 August 2016.



Reference:

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=155847>

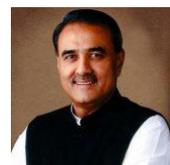
Praful Patel

Question: Recently who has been elected as the president of All India Football Federation?

(a) Manvendra Singh (b) Praful Patel (c) Ramesh Kumar (d) G.D Pandey

Ans. (b)

Related facts:



- On 21 December 2016 incumbent Praful Patel re-elected unopposed as the president of All India Football Federation for his third term at its Annual General Meeting.
 - He took over as full time president in October 2009 before being re-elected for the top job in December 2012.
- Electoral process was held in the presence of the Retired Judge BC Khandpal.
- Vice- President of the five zones are:
 - Vice-President (North Zone): Subhash Chopra
 - Vice-President (South Zone): K M I Mather
 - Vice-President (East Zone): Subrata Dutta
 - Vice-President (West Zone): Manvendra Singh
 - Vice-President (Northeast Zone): Larsing Ming Sawyan

Reference:

<http://indianexpress.com/article/sports/football/praful-patel-to-be-re-elected-aiff-president-for-third-term-4437645/>

<http://www.praful-patel.com/>

K. N. Jagannatha Varma

Question: Recently K. N. Jagannatha Varma passed away, he was a-

(a) Kannada actor (b) Malayalam actor (c) Telugu writer (d) Malayalam litterateur

Ans: (b)

Related facts:

- On 20 December, 2016; Veteran Malayalam actor and Kathakali artiste K N Jagannatha Varma passed away in Thiruvananthapuram at the age of 77.
- He started his career in Malayalam films in 1978 with the film "Mattoly".
- He has worked in nearly 500 films.
- He retired from Kerala Police as an S.P. (Superintendent of police).

Reference:

<http://www.thehindu.com/news/national/kerala/Veteran-Malayalam-actor-Jagannatha-Varma-dead/article16913699.ece>

<http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/entertainment/malayalam/malayalam-actor-kn-jagannatha-varma-dies-at-77/articleshow/56078035.cms>

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



New chairman and managing director Of Life Insurance Corporation of India

Question: Recently who has been appointed as the chairman and managing director Of Life Insurance Corporation of India?

(a) S.K Roy (b) V.K Sharma (c) Deepa Chatterjee (d) Usha Sangwan

Ans: (b)

Related facts:

- On 15 December 2016, V.K Sharma has been appointed as the chairman and managing director Of Life Insurance Corporation of India.
- He will replace S.K Roy.
- His tennure will be of 5 years.
- Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC) is an Indian state-owned insurance group and investment company headquartered in Mumbai.



- The Life Insurance Corporation of India was founded in 1956 when the Parliament of India passed the Life Insurance of India Act that nationalised the private insurance industry in India.

Reference:

<http://economictimes.indiatimes.com/industry/banking/finance/v-k-sharma-appointed-lic-chief-for-5-years/articleshow/55984104.cms>

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

[https://www.licindia.in/getattachment/Top-Links/About-Us/Board-Of-Directors/MD_VK_Sharma_Profile-\(1\).pdf.aspx](https://www.licindia.in/getattachment/Top-Links/About-Us/Board-Of-Directors/MD_VK_Sharma_Profile-(1).pdf.aspx)

Anupam Mishra

Question: Recently noted Gandhian, journalist, environmentalist, and water conservationist Anupam Mishra passed away, He won the Indira Gandhi Paryavaran Puraskar (IGPP) award in which of the following year?

(a) 1998 (b) 1996 (c) 2014 (d) 2001

Ans:(b)

Related facts:

- On 19 December 2016 Noted Gandhian, journalist, environmentalist, and water conservationist Anupam Mishra passed away at the age of 68.
- He had been awarded the 1996 Indira Gandhi Paryavaran Puraskar (IGPP) award instituted by the Ministry of Environment and Forests, Government of India.
- He advocated conservation of traditional water structures in India as well as abroad.
- He wrote books, like, Aaj Bhi Khare Hain Talaab (Lakes are still Standing, 1993) and Rajasthan Ki Rajat Boondein (Radiant Raindrops of Rajasthan, 1995), — landmark works in the field of water conservation.



Reference:

http://www.ptinews.com/news/8203925_Bharti-condoles-death-of-environmentalist-Anupam-Mishra.html

<http://www.newindianexpress.com/nation/2016/dec/19/environmentalist-anupam-mishra-dead-at-68-1550787.html>

IAF New chief

Question: Recently who has been appointed as Chief of Air Staff?

(a) Air Marshal Deepak Kumar (b) Air Marshal Birender Singh Dhanoa
(c) Air Marshal Anup Tyagi (d) Air Marshal Praveen Kumar

Ans:(b)

Related facts:

- On 31 December 2016 Air Marshal Birender Singh Dhanoa PVSM AVSM YSM VM ADC will take over as Chief of Air Staff.
- The appointment was formally announced on 17 Dec.
- Air Marshal BS Dhanoa will be the 25th Chief of the IAF since independence.
- He was commissioned in the IAF in June 1978 as a fighter pilot.
- He is an alumnus of Rashtriya Indian Military College, the National Defence Academy and the Defence Services Staff College, Wellington.



Reference:

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=155647>

New chief of Research and Analysis Wing (R&AW or RAW)

Question: Who among the following has been appointed as new chief of Research and Analysis Wing (R&AW or RAW)?

(a) Anil Asthana (b) Deepak Chatterjee (c) Anil Dhasmana (d) Rajiv Jain

Ans:(c)

Related facts:

- On 17 December 2016 Union Government has appointed senior IPS officer Anil Dhasmana as new chief of Research and Analysis Wing (RAW), India's external intelligence agency.
- He succeeds Rajinder Khanna who completes his two year tenure on 31 December 2016.
- He will have tenure of 2 years.
- Dhasmana is an IPS officer of 1981-batch of Madhya Pradesh cadre.
- The Research and Analysis Wing (R&AW or RAW) is the primary foreign intelligence agency of India. It was established in 1968

Reference:

<http://www.thehindubusinessline.com/economy/policy/rajiv-jain-to-be-new-ib-chief-anil-dhasmana-to-head-raw/article9432721.ece>

<http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/india/rajiv-jain-to-be-new-ib-chief-anil-dhasmana-to-head-raw/articleshow/56038023.cms>

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



New chief of Intelligence Bureau (IB)

Question: Who has been appointed as the new chief of Intelligence Bureau (IB)?

(a) Sanjay Singh (b) Rajiv Jain (c) Devendra Pathak (d) Anil Asthana

Ans:(b)

Related facts:

- On 17 December 2016 Union Government has appointed Rajiv Jain as the new chief of Intelligence Bureau (IB).
- He is presently serving as the Special Director in the IB,
- He will have a tenure of two years.
- He is recipient of President's Police Medal, the 1980-batch IPS office of Jharkhand cadre.
- The Intelligence Bureau (IB) is India's internal intelligence agency.
- It was recast as the Central Intelligence Bureau in 1947 under the Ministry of Home Affairs.

Reference:

<http://www.thehindubusinessline.com/economy/policy/rajiv-jain-to-be-new-ib-chief-anil-dhasmana-to-head-raw/article9432721.ece>

<http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/india/rajiv-jain-to-be-new-ib-chief-anil-dhasmana-to-head-raw/articleshow/56038023.cms>

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Intelligence_Bureau_\(India\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Intelligence_Bureau_(India))



Savita Vaidhyanathan

Question: Savita Vaidhyanathan, an Indian-American woman has been elected as the new Mayor of which of the following Californian city?

(a) Antioch (b) Berkeley (c) Cathedral City (d) Cupertino

Ans:(d)

Related facts:

- In December 2016 Savita Vaidhyanathan, an Indian-American woman has been elected as the new Mayor of Cupertino City .



- For the first time, an Indian-American woman has been elected as the new Mayor of the key Californian city of Cupertino.
- He will replace Barry Chang.
- Vaidhyanathan is an MBA who worked as a high school Math teacher and an officer in a commercial bank as well as in non-profit management.
- Californian city of Cupertino, globally known for its Apple headquarters.

Reference:

<http://www.cupertino.org/index.aspx?page=1268>

<http://www.newsnation.in/article/154253-indian-american-woman-elected-as-mayor-of-californian-city.html>

<http://www.savita4cupertino.com/>

Thomas C. Schelling

Question: Recently Thomas C. Schelling passed away, he was-

(a) Economist (b) Scientific (c) Astronaut (d) Agronomist

Ans: (a)

Related facts:

- On 13 December 2016; Thomas Crombie Schelling, an American economist passed away. He was 95.
- He was awarded the 2005 Nobel Memorial Prize in Economic Sciences (shared with Robert Aumann) for “having enhanced our understanding of conflict and cooperation through game-theory analysis”.
- In 1993 Schelling was awarded the Award for Behavior Research Relevant to the Prevention of Nuclear War from the National Academy of Sciences.
- He was awarded the 2005 Nobel Memorial Prize in Economic Sciences along with Robert Aumann.



Reference:

http://www.nytimes.com/2016/12/13/business/economy/thomas-schelling-dead-nobel-laureate.html?_r=1

http://www.nobelprize.org/nobel_prizes/economic-sciences/laureates/2005/schelling-facts.html

Priyanka Chopra

Question: Recently who has been appointed as UNICEF’s newest global Goodwill Ambassador?

(a) Deepika Padukone (b) Priyanka Chopra (c) Novak Djokovic (d) Katrina Kaif

Ans: (b)

Related facts:

- On 12 December 2016; bollywood Actress Priyanka Chopra, appointed as UNICEF’s newest global Goodwill Ambassador.
- Footballer David Beckham and 12-year-old British actress Millie Bobby Brown announced Chopra’s appointment as UNICEF’s newest global Goodwill Ambassador.
- It was announced at a star-studded celebration held on 12 December 2016 to commemorate UNICEF’s 70th anniversary.
- She urged people from across nations to become the ‘collective voice’ of oppressed children in the world and join forces to leave a better future for the coming generations.
- Priyanka Chopra was recently in news for his acting in American drama series “Quantico”.
- She will be seen making her international debut with the film “Baywatch”.



- The United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF) is a United Nations (UN) programme headquartered in New York City that provides humanitarian and developmental assistance to children and mothers in developing countries.
- It is one of the members of the United Nations Development Group and its executive committee.
- UNICEF was created by the United Nations General Assembly on 11 December 1946, to provide emergency food and healthcare to children in countries that had been devastated by World War II.

Reference:

<http://www.huffingtonpost.in/2016/12/13/priyanka-chopra-appointed-as-unicefs-global-goodwill-ambassador/>
<http://economictimes.indiatimes.com/magazines/panache/priyanka-chopra-becomes-unicefs-global-goodwill-ambassador/articleshow/55956064.cms>

Cheng Wei : Businessman Of The Year In 2016

Question: Which of the following magazine has Named Cheng Wei as Businessman Of The Year In 2016?

(a) Wisden (b) Fortune (c) Forbes Asia (d) Time

Ans:(c)

Related facts:

- On 30 November 2016 Forbes Asia named Cheng Wei as Businessman Of The Year In 2016.
- Cheng Wei, Co-founder and Chief Executive of China’s largest ride-sharing service provider Didi Chuxing (Didi).
- Cheng is featured on the cover of the December issue of Forbes Asia.
- Cheng is one entrepreneur who managed to beat back the relentless advance of the richest, most rapacious startup, Uber, in his home country.
- Didi has attracted 300 million users in 400 Chinese cities in just four years.
- The service, which lets consumers digitally hail and pay for taxis, private cars, limousines and commuter buses commands 85% of China’s ride-sharing market, which Beijing research firm Analysys International estimates will reach 122 billion yuan (\$17.7 billion) by end of this year and 286 billion yuan in 2018.



Reference:

<http://www.forbes.com/sites/ywang/2016/11/30/didis-cheng-wei-is-forbes-asias-2016-businessman-of-the-year/#5a84f23e5bba>
<http://www.forbes.com/sites/forbespr/2016/12/01/forbes-asia-names-cheng-wei-as-businessman-of-the-year-in-2016/#3ca4fd884792>

J. Jayalalithaa

Question: On 5 December 2016 Tamil Nadu Chief Minister J Jayalalithaa passed away, When did she become the Chief Minister of Tamilnadu for the first time?

(a) 1991 (b) 1995 (c) 1993 (d) 1997

Ans: (a)

Related facts:

- On 5 December, 2016; Tamil Nadu Chief Minister J Jayalalithaa passed away at the Apollo Hospitals, Chennai following cardiac arrest.
- She was 68.
- She was born on 24 February 1948 at Melkote in Mandya district in then Mysore State (now Karnataka).



- At birth she was named Komalavalli and was renamed Jayalalithaa.
- She had entered into film industry when she was 16 years old and worked in 300 films.
- She had acted in Tamil, Telugu, Kannada, Malayalam, Hindi and English films.
- She made her debut as the lead actress in Kannada films while still in school, age 15, in Chinnada Gombe (1964).
- She also appeared in a dance sequence of a song named “Malligeya Hoovinantha” in the movie Amarashilpi Jakannachari (1964).
- She acted in one Hindi film called Izzat, with Dharmendra as her male costar in 1968.
- Jayalalithaa was nominated and elected to that body in 1984 and retained her seat until 1989.
- After MGR’s death in 1987, Jayalalithaa proclaimed herself his political heir and, having fought off the faction headed by Janaki Ramachandran, MGR’s widow, emerged as the sole leader of the AIADMK.
- In 1991 Jayalalithaa became chief minister, Tamil Nadu’s youngest, for the first time.
- She served five terms(1st Term: 24.6.1991 – 12.5.1996; 2nd Term: 14.5.2001 – 21.9.2001 3rd Term: 2.3.2002 – 12.5.2006;4th term: 16.5.2011 – 27.9.2014;5th term: 23.5.2015 – Present) as the Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu, for over fourteen years between 1991 and 2016.
- On 22 September 2016, Jayalalithaa was admitted to Apollo Hospitals in Chennai, as she suffered from infection and acute dehydration.
- On December 4, she was re-admitted to the critical care unit after suffering a cardiac arrest.
- On December 5, the hospital officially announced her death 23:30 IST.
- Two hours after the announcement of her death, in a simple ceremony at Raj Bhavan O. Panneerselvam was sworn in as the 20th Chief Minister of the state.

Reference:

<http://www.tnrajbhavan.gov.in/PressReleases/2016/PR051216.pdf>

<http://aiadmk.com/en/about/selvi-j-jayalalithaa-general-secretary/>

http://www.pmindia.gov.in/en/news_updates/pm-condoles-the-passing-away-of-selvi-j-jayalalithaa/?comment=disable

Cho Ramaswamy

Question: Recently Cho Ramaswamy passed away. He was a-

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

Ans:(b)

Related facts:

- On 7 December, 2016; Cho S. Ramaswamy, political commentator, theatre personality and editor of Thuglak, a Tamil magazine known for its withering satire and fearless criticism of political figures, died .He was 82.
- He was nominated to the Rajya Sabha by the BJP government and served as an MP from 1999 to 2005.
- Cho Ramaswamy was a lawyer, actor, playwright, journalist, commentator and a political interlocutor.
- He had also acted in several films.



Reference:

<http://www.thehindu.com/news/national/tamil-nadu/Cho-Ramaswamy-editor-of-Thuglak-dies-at-82/article16771236.ece>

44th Chief Justice of India

Question: Who is the 44th Chief Justice of India?

- (a) Justice Jagdish Singh Khehar (b) Justice Deepak Mishra
(c) Justice Ranjan Gogoi (d) Dhananjaya Y. Chandrachud

Ans:(a)

Related facts:

- Justice Jagdish Singh Khehar has been recommended as the 44th Chief Justice of India.
- Chief Justice of India T S Thakur wrote a letter recommending the name of Justice Khehar, who is the senior most judge of the Supreme Court to be his successor.
- Justice Khehar, 64, will be the first Chief Justice from the Sikh community and he will succeed CJI Thakur who will be demitting office on January 3, 2017.
- Justice Khehar, who will be sworn in on January 4, will hold the tenure for over seven months till August 27, 2017.
- Justice Khehar had assumed office as Judge of the Supreme Court on September 13, 2011.

Reference:

<http://supremecourtindia.nic.in/judges/sjud/jskhehar.htm>

<http://www.huffingtonpost.in/2016/12/06/justice-jagdish-singh-khehar-recommended-as-44th-chief-justice-o/>



New chief of the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA)

Question: Who has been appointed chief of the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA)?

- (a) M Sathiyavathy (b) B.S. Bhullar (c) M. Annadurai (d) M. Subbarao

Ans:(b)

Related facts:

- On 5 December 2016 B.S. Bhullar has been appointed chief of the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) .
- He is a 1986-batch IAS officer.
- He will replace M Sathiyavathy.
- Presently he is additional secretary in the Union aviation ministry.
- The Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) is the Indian governmental regulatory body for civil aviation under the Ministry of Civil Aviation.
- This directorate investigates aviation accidents and incidents.
- It is headquartered in New Delhi.

Reference:

<http://www.thehindu.com/news/national/B.S.-Bhullar-to-head-DGCA/article16765730.ece>



New Chairman of Auroville Foundation

Question: Who has been re-nominated as the Chairperson of the Governing Board of Auroville Foundation?

- (a) Dr. Deepak Gupta (b) Dr Karan Singh
(c) Dr. Subbulakshmi Srinivasan (d) Dr. Yashvardhan Sinha

Ans:(b)

Related facts:



- On 2 December 2016 Dr Karan Singh, an eminent scholar, Rajya Sabha Member and a senior leader of Indian National Congress has been re-nominated as the Chairperson of the Governing Board of Auroville Foundation.
- Auroville Foundation is an autonomous body under the Ministry of Human Resource Development.
- Auroville (City of Dawn) is an experimental township in the state of Tamil Nadu, with some parts in the Union Territory of Puducherry.
- The Government of India notified the constitution of Auroville Foundation as a Statutory Body on 29th January, 1991 as per the Auroville Foundation Act, 1988.

Reference:

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=154823>

New Chairman of National Highways Authority of India (NHAI)

Question: Recently who has been appointed as the new Chairman of National Highways Authority of India (NHAI)?

- (a) Raghav Chandra (b) Dinesh Chandra (c) Yudhvir Singh Malik
(d) Raghuvir Singh



Ans:(c)

Related facts:

- On 23 November 2016 Yudhvir Singh Malik, the Special Secretary with NITI Aayog, has been appointed as new Chairman of National Highways Authority of India (NHAI).
- He is an IAS officer of 1983 batch of Haryana Cadre.
- Prior to joining NHAI, Chandra was Additional Secretary and Financial Advisor for the Department of Agriculture & Cooperation, ADF and Culture.
- NHAI is a statutory body under the ministry, NHAI is entrusted with the task of implementing National Highways Development Project (NHDP).
- The NHAI was created through the promulgation of the National Highways Authority of India Act, 1988.

Reference:

<http://indiatoday.intoday.in/story/yudhvir-singh-malik-new-nhai-chairman/1/818225.html>

http://www.business-standard.com/article/pti-stories/yudhvir-singh-malik-new-nhai-chairman-116112301281_1.html

Lt. Gen. A. K. Bhatt

Question: Recently who has been appointed as the Indian Army's new Director General of Military Operations?

- (a) Lt. Gen. A. K. Bhatt (b) Lt. Gen. A. K. Dixit (c) Lt. Gen. Ranbir Singh
(d) None of the above



Ans:(a)

Related facts:

- On 28 November 2016; Appointments Committee of the Cabinet on Monday approved appointment of Lt. Gen. A. K. Bhatt as the Indian Army's new Director General of Military Operations.
- He will replace Lt. Gen. Ranbir Singh who moved to Mathura as commander of the army's 1 (strike) Corps.

Reference:

http://www.business-standard.com/article/news-ians/lt-gen-a-k-bhat-appointed-dgmo-116112801355_1.html

<http://www.tribuneindia.com/news/nation/lt-gen-ak-bhat-appointed-new-dgmo/329532.html>

Fidel Castro

Question: Recently Fidel Castro, the revolutionary leader of Cuba passed away, In which of the following tenure he served as president of Cuba?

- (a) From 1975 to 2009
- (b) From 1976 to 2008
- (c) From 1976 to 2006
- (d) From 1998 to 2004

Ans: (b)

Reference:

- On 25 November 2016; Fidel Castro, the revolutionary leader of Cuba, died. He was 90.
- Fidel Castro governed Cuba as its Prime Minister from 1959 to 1976.
- Castro also served the country as its President from 1976 to 2008.
- He was the first secretary of the Communist Party of Cuba. He held the post from 1961 to 2011.
- Fidel Castro holds the Guinness Book of Records title for the longest speech ever delivered at the United Nations, lasting 4 hours and 29 minutes on 29 September 1960.
- Earlier his longest speech on record in Cuba was 7 hours and 10 minutes in 1986 at the III Communist Party Congress in Havana.

Reference:

<http://www.bbc.com/news/world-latin-america-38114953>

<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2016/nov/26/fidel-castro-cuba-revolutionary-icon-dies>



Pakistan's new chief of army staff

Question: Who has been appointed as Pakistan's new chief of army staff?

- (a) Lieutenant-General Zubair Hayat
- (b) Lieutenant-General Qamar Javed Bajwa
- (c) Lieutenant-General Kaimur Ahmed
- (d) None of these

Ans: (b)

Related facts:

- On 26 November 2016 Lieutenant-General Qamar Javed Bajwa has been appointed as Pakistan's new chief of army staff.
- He is Pakistan Army's 16th chief of staff.
- He will replace General Raheel Sharif who retired on 29 November 2016.

Reference:

<http://www.aljazeera.com/news/2016/11/profile-pakistan-general-qamar-javed-bajwa-161127045107551.html>

<http://www.dawn.com/news/1299382>



PLACES

Dehradun

Question: Recently the first international cricket stadium of Uttarakhand was open for public in which of the following city?

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

Ans. (a)

Related facts:

- On 16 December 2016 the first international cricket stadium named as Rajiv Gandhi International Cricket stadium of Uttarakhand was open for public in Dehradun.
- Chief minister Harish Rawat and IPL chairman Rajeev Shukla inaugurated Rajiv Gandhi multi-purpose stadium.
- Constructed with a budget of Rs.237 Crore, stadium has been built as per international norms on 23 acres of land and has a capacity of 25,000.
- As part of the inauguration, a day-and-night cricket match between Uttarakhand and Uttar Pradesh was held at the venue.



Reference:

<http://www.hindustantimes.com/dehradun/uttarakhand-s-first-international-stadium-thrown-open/story-zGkJ2lZ3tvMr8xpIyBejM.html>

<http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/dehradun/rawat-throws-open-ukhands-1st-international-stadium/articleshow/56025405.cms>

Himachal Pradesh

Question: Recently which of the following state has achieved 100 percent Aadhar saturation on the basis of population of year 2015?

(a) Uttar Pradesh (b) Himachal Pradesh (c) Bihar (d) Jammu and Kashmir

Ans:(b)

Related facts:

- Himachal Pradesh has achieved 100 percent Aadhar saturation on the basis of population of year 2015.
- It is the sixth state after Delhi, Telangana, Haryana, Punjab and Chandigarh to have achieved this milestone.
- In this small hill state Aadhaar numbers have been generated for 72, 52,880 residents.
- In order to maintain this achievement in future, special arrangements have been made under which services of Anganwari workers and health services will be taken to cover different age groups.
- About 240 Permanent Enrolment Centres are operational for updating and enrolment activity while 22 Aadhaar Mobile Vans are being use to cover the left out citizen or elderly person in the remote areas of the state.



Reference:

http://www.business-standard.com/article/news-ani/himachal-pradesh-becomes-sixth-state-in-india-to-attain-100-aadhaar-saturation-11612180096_1.html

<http://www.statetimes.net/news/2016/12/17/himachal-pradesh-becomes-sixth-in-india-to-attain-100-aadhaar-saturation>

Country's first ever carbon neutral district

Question: Name the District which is set to become the country's first ever Carbon Neutral district by 2020?

(a) Majuli (b) Udalguri (c) Hojai (d) None of the above

Ans: (a)

Related facts:

- On 14 December 2016; The project titled 'Sustainable Action for Climate Resilient Development in Majuli' (SACReD, Majuli) has been initiated by Assam's department of Environment and Forest.
- It was launched by Additional Principal Chief Conservator of Forest (Biodiversity and Climate) A K Johari at Majuli.
- This project has been launched by Assam government to make River Island Majuli the country's first ever Carbon Neutral district by 2020.
- The project will be designed and implemented in partnership with other departments of the district for which a district level committee under the chairmanship of Deputy Commissioner has been constituted.
- It may be recalled that in September 2016 Majuli became the first island district of India after it was inaugurated as the 35th district of Assam by Chief Minister Sarbananda Sonowal.

Reference:

http://www.business-standard.com/article/pti-stories/majuli-to-be-country-s-first-ever-carbon-neutral-district-116121500987_1.html

<http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/home/environment/the-good-earth/majuli-to-be-indias-first-ever-carbon-neutral-district/articleshow/56003942.cms>



First "cashless village" in Maharashtra

Question: Name the village which has been announced as first "cashless village" in Maharashtra?

(a) Nagaon (b) Dhasai (c) Bamali (d) None of these

Ans:(b)

Related facts:

- On 1 December 2016; Dhasai village in Thane district has become the first "cashless village" in Maharashtra.
- All payments in the village are being done through plastic money.
- Traders, vegetable and fruit vendors and others providing goods and services in Dhasai are using swipe machines for cashless transactions.
- It may be recalled that Prime Minister Narendra Modi has taken step to check corruption and terror funding by banning old Rs. 500 and Rs. 1,000 notes.
- It may be recalled that Akodara village in Sabarkantha district of Gujarat has earned the coveted tag of becoming India's first digital village in India.

Reference:

http://www.thehindu.com/news/cities/mumbai/Thane%E2%80%99s-Dhasai-to-become-India%E2%80%99s-first-cashless-village/article16714394.ece?utm_source=RSS_Feed&utm_medium=RSS&utm_campaign=RSS_Syndication

<http://www.ndtv.com/india-news/maharashtra-gets-its-first-cashless-village-1632881>

<http://indiatoday.intoday.in/story/maharashtra-village-cashless-economy-demonetisation/1/824697.html>



Sukna

Question: Recently an army helicopter has reportedly crashed at Sukna Military Camp, Sukna is located in which of the following state?

(a) Chattisgarh (b) Jharkhand (c) West Bengal (d) Manipur

Ans: (c)

Related facts:

- On 30 November 2016 an army helicopter has reportedly crashed at Sukna Military Camp in West Bengal .
- Three officers were killed and a junior commissioned officer (JCO) was injured as an Army chopper crashed.
- The Cheetah helicopter was returning to the camp's helipad at Sukna, near Siliguri, from a routine mission.
- The army's 33 Corps is based at Sukna in northern part of West Bengal and all aircraft of the Army are run by Army Aviation Corps.



Reference:

<http://indianexpress.com/article/india/india-news-india/army-helicopter-crashes-in-sukna-3-dead-4403003/>

<http://www.deccanchronicle.com/nation/current-affairs/301116/army-helicopter-crashes-in-west-bengals-sukna-3-officers-killed.html>

AWARDS & HONORS

52nd Jnanpith Award-2016

Question: Recently who has been chosen for the prestigious Jnanpith Award for 2016?

(a) Nasira Sharma (b) Shankha Ghosh (c) Kamal Vora (d) Nand Kishor

Ans. (b)

Related facts:

- On 23 December 2016 Eminent modern Bengali poet Shankha Ghosh has been chosen for the prestigious Jnanpith Award for 2016.
- His nomination was decided at a meeting of the Jnanpith Selection Board, chaired by writer and scholar Namwar Singh.
- He is sixth Bengali author to get this award.
- Other Bengali litterateur to bag this prestigious literary award is Tarasankar Bandyopadhyay (1966), Bishnu Dey (1971), Ashapurna Devi (1976), Subhash Mukhopadhyay (1991) and Mahasweta Devi (1966).
- He was born in 1932, Mr. Ghosh has penned several poems including 'Adim lata — gulmomay', 'Murkha baro samajik nay', 'Kabir abhipray', 'Mukh dheke jay bigyapane' and 'Babarar prarthana'.
- He also been awarded Sahitya Akademi Award, Saraswati Samman, Narsingh Das Puraskar and Rabindra Puraskar among others.
- Instituted in 1961, the award by Bharatiya Jnanpith recognizes Indian litterateurs who write in one of the 22 Indian languages listed in Schedule Eight of the Indian Constitution.
- In 2015 the Jnanpith award was given to Gujarati writer Raghuvver Chaudhary.
- The award carries cash prize of 11 lakh rupees, a citation plaque and a bronze replica of Saraswati.



Reference:

<http://www.jnanpith.net/sites/default/files/Jnanpith-to-Bengali-poet-Shankha-Ghosh.jpg>

ICC Awards 2016

Question: Recently who has been awarded with Sir Garfield Sobers Trophy for ICC Cricketer of the Year?

(a) Virat Kohli (b) Joe Root (c) Ravichandran Ashwin (d) Alastair Cook

Ans. (c)

Related facts:

- ICC Awards 2016 Winners Sir Garfield Sobers Trophy for ICC Cricketer of the Year: Ravichandran Ashwin (India)
- ICC Test Cricketer of the Year: Ravichandran Ashwin (India)
- ICC ODI Cricketer of the Year: Quinton de Kock (South Africa)
- ICC Women's ODI Cricketer of the Year: Suzie Bates (New Zealand)
- ICC Emerging Cricketer of the Year: Mustafizur Rahman (Bangladesh)
- ICC Associate and Affiliate Cricketer of the Year: Mohammad Shahzad (Afghanistan)
- ICC Twenty20 International Performance of the Year: Carlos Brathwaite (West Indies) (34 not out, 10 balls, 1x4, 4x6, ICC WT20 India 2016 final v England, Kolkata)
- ICC Women's T20I Cricketer of the Year: Suzie Bates (New Zealand)
- David Shepherd Trophy for ICC Umpire of the Year: Marais Erasmus
- ICC Spirit of Cricket Award: Misbah-ul-Haq (Pakistan)
- The International Cricket Council (ICC) announced its Test and ODI Teams of the Year.
- Former Test stalwarts Rahul Dravid, Gary Kirsten and Kumar Sangakkara selected the sides based on players' performances in the period from 14 September 2015 to 20 September 2016.
- England's Alastair Cook has been named as captain of the ICC Test Team of the Year.
- Indian batsman Virat Kohli has been named as captain of the ICC ODI Team of the Year.
- Other Indian players included in the ODI Team of the Year are: Rohit Sharma and Ravindra Jadeja.
- Ravichandran Ashwin is the only Indian player included in the Test team.
- ICC Women's Team of the Year 2016 is captained by Stafanie Taylor of West Indies.
- The only Indian in the women's team is Smriti Mandhana.
- It should be noted that the players and teams are selected on the basis of their performance between September 14, 2015 to 20th September 2016.
- During this period Ashwin played 48 Test matches and took 8 wickets.
- Ashwin became the second Indian to get above two awards in the same year after Rahul Dravid, 2004.
- Misbahul Haq became the first Pakistani to bag International Cricket Council's (ICC) Spirit of Cricket Award.

Reference:

<http://www.icc-cricket.com/icc-awards/nominees>

<http://www.icc-cricket.com/icc-awards/news/2016/media-releases/97145/suzie-bates-scoops-icc-womens-odi-and-t20i-player-of-the-year-awards>

<http://www.icc-cricket.com/icc-awards/news/2016/media-releases/97224/icc-test-and-odi-teams-of-the-year-announced>

<http://www.icc-cricket.com/icc-awards/news/2016/media-releases/97229/ashwin-wins-sir-garfield-sobers-trophy-for-icc-cricketer-of-the-year-2016>



SASTRA-Ramanujan award-2016

Question: Recently, in which of following Indian state the International Conference on Number Theory was organized?

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

Ans. (a)

Related facts:

- On 22 December 2016 Kaisa Matomaki and Maksym Radziwill have been jointly won the 2016 SASTRA-Ramanujan award.
- Maksym Radziwill is the professor of McGill University, Canada and Kaisa Matomaki is the professor of University of Turku, Finland.
- They are awarded for their 'revolutionary' collaborative work on short intervals in number theory.
- Kaisa Matomaki is second woman to receive the prize since it was instituted in 2005.
- The SASTRA Ramanujan Prize, founded by Shanmugha Arts, Science, Technology & Research Academy (SASTRA) University in Kumbakonam, India, Srinivasa Ramanujan's hometown, is awarded every year to a young mathematician judged to have done outstanding work in Ramanujan's fields of interest.
- The age limit for the prize has been set at 32 (the age at which Ramanujan died), and the current award is \$10,000.



Reference:

<http://www.crm.umontreal.ca/communiqués/2016/Octobre/sastra2016prizepressrelease.pdf>

<http://www.thehindu.com/sci-tech/science/SASTRA-Ramanujan-prize-for-Radziwill-Matomaki/article16919741.ece>

Miss World 2016

Question: Who among the following has won the title of Miss World 2016?

(a) Megan Young (b) Priyadarshini Chatterjee (c) Stephanie Del Valle
(d) Rolen Strauss

Ans:(c)

Related facts:

- On 18 December 2016; Miss World 2016, was the 66th edition of the Miss World pageant, held at MGM National Harbor, Oxon Hill, Maryland, United States.
- 117 contestants from all over the world competed for the crown.
- This was the second time that the United States hosted the pageant.
- Mireia Lalaguna of Spain crowned her successor Stephanie Del Valle of Puerto Rico at the end of the event.
- The first runner-up for 2016 was Yaritza Miguelina Reyes Ramirez of the Dominican Republic and the second runner-up was Natasha Mannuela of Indonesia.
- Miss Del Valle is the second ever Puerto Rican entrant to win the coveted title, after Wilnelia Merced took the crown in 1975.
- Priyadarshini Chatterjee, who represented India in the competition could not make in top 10 contestant.



Reference:

<http://www.missworld.com/news/Miss-World-2016-Winner-Revealed/>

<http://www.missworld.com/news/Miss-World-2016-Full-Results/>

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Miss_World_2016

IAAF Athletics Awards 2016

Question: Who has been named as the male World Athletes of the Year at the IAAF Athletics Awards 2016?

(a) Andre De Grasse (b) Usain Bolt (c) Harry Marra (d) None of the above

Ans:(b)

Related facts:

- On 2 December 2016, IAAF Athletics Awards 2016 awards ceremony was held at Sporting Monte Carlo.
- The awards are as follows:
- World Athlete of the Year (Male)- Usain Bolt
- Male Rising Star: Andre De Grasse (Canada).
- Female Rising Star: Nafissatou Thiam (Belgium).
- Coaching Achievement: Harry Marra (US).
- President's Award: Tegla Loroupe.
- World Athlete of the Year (Female): Polyxeni Argeitaki (Greece).

Reference:

<https://www.iaaf.org/awards>

<https://www.iaaf.org/awards/news/athletics-awards-athlete-year-2016-bolt-ayana>



Asian Football Confederation (AFC) Annual Awards 2016

Question: The AFC Annual Awards function was held at-

(a) Tokyo (b) Shanghai (c) Abu Dhabi (d) Kuala Lumpur

Ans:(c)

Related facts:

- On 1 December 2016; AFC Awards-2016 award ceremony took place at the Emirates Palace Hotels in Abu Dhabi.
- Below is the complete list of winners at the AFC Annual Awards 2016.
- AFC Diamond of Asia Award: Issa Hayatou
- AFC Dream Asia Award: Qatar Football Association
- AFC Inspiring Member Association of the Year: Japan Football Association
- AFC Developing Member Association of the Year: All India Football Federation
- AFC Aspiring Member Association of the Year: Bhutan Football Federation
- AFC President Recognition Awards for Grassroots Football (Inspiring): Football Federation Australia
- AFC President Recognition Awards for Grassroots Football (Developing): Philippines Football Federation
- AFC President Recognition Awards for Grassroots Football (Aspiring): National Football Association of Brunei Darussalam
- AFC Coach of the Year (Men): Choi Kang Hee (KOR)
- AFC Coach of the Year (Women): Chan Yuen Ting (HKG)
- AFC Special Recognition Award: Makoto Teguramori (JPN)
- AFC Player of the Year (Men): Omar Abdulrahman (UAE)
- AFC Player of the Year (Women): Caitlin Foord (AUS)
- AFC Futsal Player of the Year: Aliasghar Hasanzadeh (IRN)
- AFC Youth Player of the Year (Men): Ritsu Doan (JPN)
- AFC Youth Player of the Year (Women): Fuka Nagano (JPN)
- AFC Asian International Player of the Year: Shinji Okazaki (JPN & Leicester City FC)



- The AFC Referees Special Award (Men): Alireza Faghani (IRN), Reza Sokhandan (IRN), Mohammad Reza Mansouri (IRN)
- The Asian Footballer of the Year award is presented to the best football player from Asia. Officially awarded since 1994, its official name is Asian Football Confederation's Sanyo Player of the Year Award.
- Prior to 1994 it was awarded on an unofficial basis; the winners from 1988 to 1991 were chosen by the International Federation of Football History & Statistics (IFFHS).
- The Asian Football Confederation (AFC) is the governing body of association football in Asia and Australia.
- The headquarters is located in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.

Reference:

<http://www.the-afc.com/2016-awards-media-releases/afc-annual-awards-2016-dazzles-as-asia%E2%80%99s-finest-are-honoured>
<http://www.the-afc.com/about-afc>

International Children's Peace Prize

Question: Who among the following has won the International Children's Peace Prize?

- (a) Abraham M Keita (b) Malala Yousafzai (c) Kehkashan Basu
 (d) None of the above



Ans: (c)

Related facts:

- On 2 December 2016 environmental activist Kehkashan Basu won Children's Peace Prize.
- She was presented the award by Nobel peace laureate Muhammad Yunus at The Hague. At the age of 12, Kehkashan founded her organisation Green Hope, which now has operations in over 10 countries.
- She was born on 5 June to Indian parents in the United Arab Emirates (UAE).
- She has won this award for her fight for climate justice combating environmental degradation.

Reference:

<http://www.thehindu.com/news/international/Kehkashan-Basu-UAE-based-Indian-teen-wins-Childrens-Peace-Prize/article16754142.ece>
<http://childrenspeaceprize.org/Winners/2016>

47th International Film Festival of India

Question: 47th International Film Festival of India was held in which of the following city of India?

- (a) New Delhi (b) Goa (c) Mumbai (d) None of the above



Ans:(b)

Related facts:

- On 20-28 November 2016; International Film Festival of India (IFFI) was held in Goa.
- The festival aims at providing a common platform for the cinemas of the world to project the excellence of the film art.
- It contributes to the understanding and appreciation of film cultures of different nations in the context of their social and cultural ethos.
- The festival also promotes friendship and cooperation among people of the world.
- The festival is conducted jointly by the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, Directorate of Film Festivals and the Government of Goa.
- **Awards:**

- Best Film: Iranian film “Daughter” won the coveted Golden Peacock prize.
- The award carries a cash prize of Rs. 40,00,000/- to be shared equally between the Director and the Producer
- Special jury award: The Throne (South Korea) directed by Lee Joon-Ik.
- Best Actor Female award: Elina Vaska (Latvia) for Mellow Mud.
- Best Actor Male award: Farhad Aslani (Iran) for Daughter.
- Best Director award: Jointly-shared by Soner Caner and Baris Kaya for Turkish film “Rauf”.
- ICFT UNESCO Gandhi Medal Prize: Turkish director Mustafa Kara for his film “Cold of Kalandar”.
- Special Jury mention award: Tiffany Hsuig for the Korean movie “The Apology”.
- Centenary Award for the Best Debut Feature of the director: Pepa San Martin for the film “Ra Ra”.

Reference:

<http://iffi.nic.in/live/index.html>

<http://iffi.nic.in/live/Award.html>

OPERATIONS & CAMPAIGN

Swachh Swasth Sarvatra launched

Question: ‘Swachh Swasth Sarvatra’, is an inter-ministerial joint initiative of which of the following two ministries?

- Ministry of Water Resources and Urban Development
- Ministry of Health and Family Welfare and the Ministry of Drinking Water and Sanitation
- Ministry of Health and Family Welfare and the Ministry of Rural Development
- Ministry of Rural Development and the Ministry of Drinking Water and Sanitation



Ans: (b)

Related facts:

- On 29 December 2016 Swachh Swasth Sarvatra’, an inter-ministerial joint initiative between the Ministry of Drinking Water and Sanitation and the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare was launched in New Delhi.
- The Union Minister, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, J.P. Nadda, Union Minister, Ministry of Human Resource Development, Prakash Javadekar, and Secretary, Ministry of Drinking Water and Sanitation, Parameswaran Iyer were present at the launch event.
- Another joint initiative, ‘Swasth Bacche Swasth Bharat’, between Ministry of Health and Family Welfare and the Ministry of Human Resource Development was also launched on the occasion.
- The objective of the ‘Swachh Swasth Sarvatra’ initiative is to build on and leverage achievements of two complementary programmes – Swachh Bharat Mission (SBM) and Kayakalp – of the Ministry of Drinking Water and Sanitation and Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, respectively.

Reference:

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=155973>

'100 Million for 100 Million' Campaign

Question: Recently the President of India, Pranab Mukherjee marked his 81st birthday by launching a '100 Million for 100 Million' Campaign. The Campaign organized by which of the following foundation?

- (a) Kailash Satyarthi Children's Foundation (b) CHILDLINE India Foundation
(c) Starlight Children's Foundation (d) None of the above



Ans:(a)

Related facts:

- On 11 December 2016 the President of India, Pranab Mukherjee marked his 81st birthday by launching a '100 Million for 100 Million' Campaign organized by the Kailash Satyarthi Children's Foundation at Rashtrapati Bhavan.
- The '100 Million for 100 Million' Campaign aims to mobilise 100 million youth and children for 100 million underprivileged children across the world, to end child labour, child slavery, violence against children and promote the right of every child to be safe, free, and educated, over the next 5 years.
- On the occasion President said that despite the progress the world has made in science and technology, economic development and in other fields of human endeavour, there are still over a 100 million children who are "out of school"
- He urged all children and young people from India and abroad to join this campaign and be the torchbearers for a vibrant, compassionate and happy world where every child is free from want, fear and exploitation.
- Kailash Satyarthi is an Indian children's rights and education advocate and an activist against child labour.
- His work is recognized through various national and international honours and awards including the Nobel Peace Prize of 2014, which he shared with Malala Yousafzai of Pakistan.

Reference:

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=155277>

INS Sumitra Visits Darwin, Australia

Question: Recently the Indian Navy's Offshore Patrol Vessel Sumitra, has reached Darwin, Australia, the ship had visited which of the following country during 6-09 Dec 16?

- (a) Yemen (b) Sri Lanka (c) U.S.A (d) New Zealand

Ans:(d)

Related facts:

- The Indian Navy's Offshore Patrol Vessel Sumitra, has reached Darwin, Australia on 06 Dec 2016.
- The visit to Australia is aimed at strengthening bilateral ties and enhancing maritime security cooperation between the two countries.
- On departure, the ship would also undertake a Passage Exercise (PASSEX) with RAN ships.
- Sumitra, is the fourth of the Saryu class ships.
- It is based on an indigenous design and constructed by M/s Goa Shipyard Ltd, India.
- Since commissioning in 2014, the ship has been deployed for multiple operational tasks, the most notable being 'Operation Rahat'.
- The ship has a range of 6,500 nautical miles and is capable of embarking one Dhruv/Chetak helicopter.



- The ship is commanded by Cdr KP Shreeshan.

Reference:

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=154949>

<http://www.financialexpress.com/india-news/indias-act-east-policy-strengthens-indian-navys-ins-sumitra-visits-australia/438385/>

<http://dailyworld.in/indian-ship-ins-sumitra-visits-australia/>

Vittiya Saksharata Abhiyan

Question: Vittiya Saksharata Abhiyan was launched on-

- (a) 1 December (b) 2 December (c) 30 November (d) None of these

Ans: (a)

Related facts:

- On 1 December 2016; Union Minister for Human Resource Development, Prakash Javadekar launched 'Vittiya Saksharata Abhiyan' in New Delhi.
- 'Vittiya Saksharata Abhiyan' has been launched to encourage, create awareness and motivate all people around them to use a digitally enabled cashless economic system for transfer of fund.
- The Union HRD Minister also appealed to higher education institutes to receive nothing in cash (fee/fines/deposits) and pay nothing in cash (wages/salaries/vendor payments) and develop a cashless campus (covering shops/canteens/services).
- The Union HRD Minister launched a webpage(<http://mhrd.gov.in/vabhiyaan/>) where students can register themselves, give continuous feedback and suggestions on the initiative as well as upload the progress of their work.



Reference:

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=154755>

<http://mhrd.gov.in/vabhiyaan/>

COMMISSION & COMMITTEE

Final Report of Committee on Digital Payments

Question: Who headed the Committee on Digital Payments constituted by the Ministry of Finance, Department of Economic Affairs?

- (a) Ratan P. Watal (b) Amitabh Kant (c) Pradeep Kumar (d) None of these

Ans:(a)

Related facts:

- On 9 December 2016; the Committee on Digital Payments constituted by the Ministry of Finance, Department of Economic Affairs submitted its Final Report to the Union Finance Minister Arun Jaitley.
- Ratan P. Watal, Principal Advisor, NITI Aayog and former Finance Secretary to the Government of India, headed this committee.
- In its Report, the Committee has recommended that a medium term strategy for accelerating growth of Digital Payments in India with a regulatory regime which is conducive to bridging the Digital divide by promoting competition, open access & interoperability in payments.
- The Report recommends inclusion of financially and socially excluded groups and assimilation of emerging technologies in the market, while safeguarding security of Digital



Transactions and providing level playing to all stakeholders and new players who will enter this new transaction space.

- It has suggested inter-operability of the payments system between banks and non-banks, up-gradation of the digital payment infrastructure and institutions and a framework to reward innovations and for leading efforts in enabling digital payments.
- This Committee was seized of the developments following the decision of the Government to cancel legal tender character of currency of high denominations.
- The Committee has calibrated its recommendations accordingly and has provided a suitable framework for smooth and speedy transition towards a Digital Payments Economy.
- It may be recalled that the Committee was constituted on 23rd August 2016 under the Chairmanship of Ratan P. Watal, Principal Advisor, NITI Aayog and former Finance Secretary to the Government of India.

Reference:

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=155245>

PLANNING & PROJECT

Road Connectivity Project for Left Wing Extremism Affected Areas

Question: Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY) was launched on

- (a) 25th December, 2000 (b) 26th January, 2000 (c) 15th August, 2000
d) 1st May 2000

Ans (a)



Related facts:

- On 28th December, 2016, The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs, chaired by the Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, has approved a Centrally Sponsored Scheme namely "Road Connectivity Project for Left Wing Extremism (LWE) Affected Areas".
- The objective of this scheme is to improve the rural road connectivity in the worst LWE affected districts from security angle.
- The project will be implemented as a vertical under Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY) to provide connectivity with necessary culverts and cross-drainage structures in 44 worst affected LWE districts and adjoining districts.
- Under the project, construction/upgradation of 5,411.81 km road and 126 bridges/Cross Drainage (up to span of 100 meters) works will be taken up at an estimated cost of Rs.11,724.53 crore in these districts.
- The fund sharing pattern of LWE road project will be same as that of PMGSY i.e. in the ratio of 60:40 between the Centre and States for all States except for eight North Eastern and three Himalayan States (Jammu & Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh & Uttarakhand) for which it is 90:10.
- Ministry of Finance will have to allocate to Ministry of Rural Development Rs.7,034.72 crore for this project during the period of implementation 2016-17 to 2019-20.
- The National Highways and the State Highways would be excluded from this project. The roads to be constructed under the scheme have been identified by the Ministry of Home Affairs in close consultation with the State Governments and the security agencies.

- Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY) was launched on 25th December, 2000 as a Centrally Sponsored Scheme with the objective to provide all-weather road connectivity to all eligible unconnected habitations in rural areas of the country.
- The programme envisages connecting all unconnected habitations with a population of 500 persons and above (as per 2001 Census) in plain areas and 250 persons and above (as per 2001 Census) in Special Category States namely Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland, Sikkim, Tripura, Himachal Pradesh, Jammu & Kashmir and Uttarakhand, Tribal (Schedule-V) areas, the Desert Areas (as identified in Desert Development Programme) and in Select Tribal and Backward Districts (as identified by the Ministry of Home Affairs/Planning Commission).

Reference:

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=155909>

<http://www.thehindubusinessline.com/economy/ccea-approves-road-connectivity-project-for-left-wing-extremism-affected-areas/article9447591.ece>

North Eastern Institute of Ayurveda & Homoeopathy (NEIAH)

Question: The North Eastern Institute of Ayurveda and Homoeopathy (NEIAH) is located in which of the following state of India?

(a) Meghalaya (b) Tripura (c) Mizoram (d) Assam

Ans: (a)

Related facts:



- On 22 December 2016; Minister of State for AYUSH Shripad Yesso Naik formally inaugurated the North Eastern Institute of Ayurveda and Homoeopathy (NEIAH).
- NEIAH is an autonomous Institute under Ministry of AYUSH, Government of India located in Shillong, Meghalaya.
- With this, it became the second Ayurvedic College in the North East Region with a Homeopathy college and the only Central Academic Institute of Ayush.
- The primary aim of the Institute is to produce quality human resource in the area of AYUSH in general, particularly in the Ayurveda and Homeopathy along with the Yoga systems.
- Establishment of this Institute will solve the problem of scarcity of doctors in remote areas of the North Eastern regions to a great extent as it will produce quality medical graduates in the stream of Ayurveda and Homeopathy
- The NEIAH will also work with priority to popularize Panchakarma and Yoga along with production of para-medical staff for development of skill for youth of this region.
- The NEIAH has started functioning with one College of Ayurveda and one College of Homoeopathy from the academic session 2016-17.
- The Institute admitted 50 candidates each for BAMS (Bachelor of Ayurvedic Medicine & Surgery) and BHMS (Bachelor of Homoeopathic Medicine & Surgery) courses which commenced from 30th November, 2016.
- The Institute is affiliated to the North Eastern Hills University (NEHU), Shillong for both these courses.

- The seats are reserved for the states of North Eastern Region along with 24 (twenty four) seats under the All India Open Seats Quotas.
- The NEIAH is presently running with OPD and IPD (Ayurvedic & Homoeopathic) with qualified specialist doctors with all diagnostic and laboratory facilities.
- At present a 60 bedded Ayurveda Hospital and a 20 bedded Homoeopathy Hospital are functional.

Reference:

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=155763>

<http://indianexpress.com/article/education/naik-inaugurates-northeast-institute-of-ayurveda-and-homeopathy/>

Chardham Mahamarg Vikas Pariyojna

Question: Prime Minister Narendra Modi laid the foundation stone of the ambitious Chardham Mahamarg Vikas Pariyojna' on 27th December, 2016 in which of the following city?

(a) New Delhi (b) Bhubaneswar (c) Ahmedabad (d) Dehradun

Ans (d)

Related facts:

- Prime Minister , Narendra Modi laid the foundation stone of the ambitious Chardham Mahamarg Vikas Pariyojna' on 27th December, 2016 at Parade Ground in Dehradun.
- The project aims at improving the connectivity to the Char Dham pilgrimage centres in the Himalayas, making journey to these centres safer, faster and more convenient.
- The Chardham project includes developing 900 km of national highways in Uttarakhand at a total cost of Rs. 12000 crores.
- Work for 17 projects worth Rs 3000 crores have already been sanctioned and tendered. The entire length of the highways will be two-laned with paved shoulder and with a minimum width of 10 metres.
- There will be tunnels, bypasses, bridges, subways and viaducts to prevent traffic bottlenecks.
- A team of experts have been engaged to identify zones prone to landslides, and environment friendly techniques are being incorporated in the design to make these zones safer.
- Wayside amenities and public facilities will be constructed all along the Chardham route, including parking spaces and helipad for emergency evacuation.



Reference:

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=155788>

First ever Indian Institute of Skills in India

Question: Recently Prime Minister lay foundation of first ever Indian Institute of Skills in India at which of the following place?

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

Ans: (c)

Related facts:

- On 19 December 2016 Prime Minister Narendra Modi lay the foundation stone of the first ever "Indian Institute of Skills" in the country at Kanpur, Uttar Pradesh.
- The Institute has been conceptualized by Narendra Modi during his visit to Singapore's Institute of Technical Education.
- Union Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship in partnership with the Institute of Technical Education, Singapore has decided to open an institute first ever of its kind in the country, the institute is inspired by the Singapore model of training and would adopt various best practices from the country.
- The Ministry has decided to have six such institutes.
- Prime Minister will also inaugurate the Kaushal Pradarshini (Skill Exhibition) for the youth of Uttar Pradesh.
- The Exhibition would showcase state-of-the-art vocational training practices across different sectors, and would be open for public view at the Railway Grounds, Kanpur between 19th to 22nd December.
- The financial year target for 2016-17 is to ensure enrolment of 5 lakh apprentices at least across the country.
- Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship (MSDE) has plans to open one Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Kendra (PMKK) each, in each district of the country creating opportunities of growth for the youth locally and the launch of some 31 PMKKs was announced by the Prime Minister Modi at the event.
- Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Kendras are iconic state-of-the-art skill development centres with modern infrastructure to facilitate skill trainings in the country.



Reference:

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=155623>

<http://indianexpress.com/article/india/pm-modi-to-lay-foundation-of-nations-maiden-indian-institute-of-skills-in-kanpur-4434722/>

Mahila Police Volunteer Initiative

Question: Which of the following state has launched Mahila Police Volunteer Initiative ?

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

Ans:(b)

Related facts:

- On 14 December 2016; Ministry of Women & Child Development has launched Mahila Police Volunteer initiative in Haryana.



- By launching the initiative in Karnal and Mahendragarh districts, Haryana became the first state to adopt this scheme
- Haryana inducted the first batch of 1000 Mahila Police Volunteers.
- These volunteers have already been trained by the state State Police Authorities on their role and responsibility.
- It envisages creation of a link between the police authorities and the local communities in villages through police volunteers who will be women specially trained for this purpose.
- The Chief Secretaries/UT Administrators have been requested by the WCD Ministry to adopt the scheme in their respective States/UTs.

Reference:

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=155377>

DigiShala

Question: Name the TV Channel launched by ministry of electronics and information technology (MeitY) to impart information and education, especially in rural and semi-urban areas relating to Digital Payment ecosystem, its tools, benefit and processes?

(a) DigiShala (b) DigiHelp (c) DigiSampark (d) DigiDunia

Ans:(a)

Related facts:

- On 9 December 2016 the ministry of electronics and information technology (MeitY) has launched a new TV channel named 'DigiShala'.
- DigiShala will impart information and education, especially in rural and semi-urban areas relating to Digital Payment ecosystem, its tools, benefit and processes.
- DigiShala is free to air channel, which is broadcasted nationally on DD free DTH service. The channel is available through GSAT15 (DD Direct DTH), 93.5 degree East, Receive frequency: 11590 MHz.
- The potential viewership of the channel is more than 2 crores across the country. The channel will be available without any subscription fee.
- On DigiShala, citizens will be informed and educated about various digital payment options through step by step demos of making digital payments using UPI, USSD; Aadhar enabled payment systems, e-Wallets, Cards etc.
- There will also be talk shows and panel discussions with experts.



Reference:

<http://www.livemint.com/Politics/8neMHix6y9T0W5YUU0ouiL/Govt-launches-DigiShala-channel-to-promote-digital-payments.html>

Scheme offering financial assistance for the marriage of women from poor families

Question: Recently Chief Minister Akhilesh Yadav had relaunched a scheme offering financial assistance for the marriage of women from poor families which provide aid for marriage of how much?

(a) Rs 10000 (b) Rs 20000 (c) Rs 25000 (d) Rs 30000

Ans:(b)

Related facts:

- On 5 December 2016; Chief Minister Akhilesh Yadav on Monday relaunched a scheme offering financial assistance for the marriage of women from poor families.



- The scheme, which was discontinued in the past two years ago, was reintroduced with a few changes.
- The government has now increased the aid for marriage from Rs 10,000 to Rs 20,000.
- The income criterion for beneficiaries has also been increased from Rs 19,884 to Rs 46,080 per annum in rural areas and from Rs 25,500 to Rs 56,460 in urban areas.
- The state government aims to accept 2 lakh applications this financial year, for which Rs 400 crore has been allocated.
- Since the scheme includes SC, ST, OBC, minority welfare as well as general category beneficiaries, various targets have been set for each community.
- The target is to reach about 60,500 SC beneficiaries, 650 ST, 77,000 OBC, 41,225 from the minority community and 20,625 from the general category.

Reference:

<http://indianexpress.com/article/india/cm-akhilesh-yadav-relaunches-scheme-for-marriage-of-women-uttar-pradesh-elections-4412366/>

<http://sspy-up.gov.in/rapv/vivahhetuanudaan/>

Railway Ticketing to go Digital, Cashless Transaction at all Railway Stations

Question: Presently Railway has how many ticket counters?

(a) 12000 (b) 15000 (c) 20000 (d) 25000

Ans:(a)

Related facts:

- On 2 December 2016 to encourage cashless transaction, Railways decided to install card swipe machines at parcel booking offices and all ticket reservation counters in all major stations.
- Indian Railways will provide around 15,000 point of sale (PoS) machines at reservation counters, with about a thousand of these machines to be made available by Dec 31,2016.
- This will make railway travel bookings digital.
- Currently, the Railways does not provide POS service for debit and credit card payments at its ticket counters.
- Presently railway have around 12,000 ticket counters.
- All of them would be equipped with one or more POS machines depending on the daily transactions.
- The railways ministry will also go cashless for paying vendors and contractors.
- Railways already has 95% of its freight collection cashless. However, in the reserved category, it's just 55%.
- In unreserved category and monthly passes it's 100% dependent on cash payments as payment through cards was not allowed.
- In the first phase, counters at all urban centers would have the machines.
- In places like Mumbai, where there's a huge sale of monthly passes.
- Railways through its suburban railway network will provide incentive by way of discount up to 0.5 per cent to customers for monthly or seasonal tickets from January 2017, if payment is made through digital means.



Reference:

<http://irctc-co.in/indian-railways/railway-ticketing-go-digital-cashless-transaction-railway-stations/7110>

<http://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/economy/policy/railways-gives-green-light-to-go-cashless/articleshow/55736794.cms>

UPI cashless payments Launched

Question: Recently the United Payments Interface (UPI), a cashless payments system has been launched at-

(a) Utrashree stall (b) Megashree stall (c) Purbashree stall (d) None of these

Ans:(c)



Related facts:

- On 28 November 2016 the United Payments Interface (UPI) cashless payments formally started at Purbashree stall at Dilli Haat, New Delhi.
- Union Minister of Textiles Smt Smriti Irani and Minister of State for Development of North Eastern Region (I/C), Prime Minister's Office, Personnel, Public Grievances & Pensions, Atomic Energy and Space, Dr. Jitendra Singh were present on the occasion.
- The MDoNER took initiative to launch the e-vending and cashless transactions through United Payments Interface at Purbashree stall, a unit of the North East Handloom and Handicraft Development Corporation (NEHHDC), under the aegis of the Ministry.
- In the UPI mode, customers could use their respective bank gateway apps (for e.g. SBI PAY for State Bank of India) and pay directly against purchases to the accounts of Purbashree from the convenience of their mobiles.
- Thus MDoNER has proactively made this possible as an initiative to match with the need to make India a cashless society.

Reference:

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=154504>

Kisan Kalyan Ayojan launched

Question: Ruchi Soya Industries Limited, India's leading Agri and Food FMCG company in association with which of the following Bank launched 'Kisan Kalyan Ayojan'?

(a) Punjab National Bank (b) United Bank of India
(c) State Bank Of India (d) Central Bank of India

Ans:(c)



Related facts:

- On 5 December 2016 Ruchi Soya Industries Limited, India's leading Agri and Food FMCG company in association with State Bank of India (SBI) launched of 'Kisan Kalyan Ayojan'.
- It is an initiative aimed at supporting farmers in availing the benefits of digital banking post demonetization.
To mark the launch of 'Kisan Kalyan Ayojan', a farmer awareness seminar was conducted which was attended by close to 100 farmers and agricultural labors.
- Ruchi Soya and SBI's Kisan Kalyan Ayojan initiative will help the farmers by opening of bank accounts of farmers/agricultural labors, procuring produce directly from farmers at the right price, ensuring farmers receive their payment immediately through internet banking, maintaining banking helpdesks for farmers coming to sell off their produce in mandis and educating farmers on the banking process through awareness seminars.

- Ruchi Soya is associated with 10 million farmers across the country through crops like soybean, mustard and palm.
- Indore based Ruchi Soya is India's leading Agri and Food FMCG company with a turnover of USD 4 billion.

Reference:

<http://www.ruchisoya.com/PressRelease05122016.pdf>

http://www.business-standard.com/article/news-ani/ruchi-soya-launches-kisan-kalyan-ayojan-in-partnership-with-sbi-116120500579_1.html

Union Cabinet approves Pune Metro Rail Project Phase – 1

Question: Gokhale Institute of Politics and Economics (GIPE) is situated at...

(a) Pune (b) Indore (c) Mumbai (d) Nagpur

Ans: (a)

Related facts:

- On 7th December, 2016 The Union Cabinet, chaired by the Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi approved the development of Pune Metro Rail Project Phase – 1.
- The Pune Metro Rail Corridor will be covering a length of 31.254 km comprising with two corridors i.e. Corridor-1 {Pimpri Chinchwad Municipal Corporation to Swargate} and Corridor-2 (Vanaz to Ramwadi) .
- The total completion cost of the metro rail corridor will be Rs.11, 420 crore. The population of approximately 50 lakh of Pune Metropolitan Area will be benefitted through this metro corridor.
- The project is scheduled to be completed in five years from the date of start of work as per the Detailed Project Report (DPR).
- The Project will be implemented by Maharashtra Metro Rail Corporation Limited (MAHA-METRO), which will be a 50:50 jointly owned company of Government of India and Government of Maharashtra.
- The existing Nagpur Metro Rail Corporation Limited (NMRCL) would be reconstituted into Maharashtra Metro Rail Corporation Limited (MAHA-METRO) for implementation of all metro projects in the State outside Mumbai Metropolitan Region.
- Project will be covered under the legal framework of the Metro Railways (Construction of Works) Act, 1978; the Metro Railways (Operation and Maintenance) Act, 2002; and the Railways Act, 1989, as amended from time to time.
- The population of Pune Urban Agglomeration was 4.99 million as per 2011 census. It is to be noted that Pune Metropolitan Area includes Pune Municipal Corporation and Pimpri Chinchwad Municipal Corporation.
- The metro project will considerably reduce the traffic congestion and will bring in fast, comfortable, safe, pollution-free and affordable mass transportation system in the city.



Reference:

http://www.business-standard.com/article/news-ani/union-cabinet-approves-pune-metro-rail-project-phase-1-116120701406_1.html

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=155070>

Cabinet approves Mumbai Urban Transport Project (MUTP)- Phase III

Question: Recently Union Cabinet has approved the Mumbai Urban Transport Project Phase-III. The project is expected to be completed in the next 5 years during which of the following plan period?

(a) 12th (b) 13th (c) 14th (d) 15th

Ans:(b)

Related facts:

- On 30 November 2016 The Union Cabinet, chaired by the Prime Minister, Narendra Modi has approved the Mumbai Urban Transport Project Phase-III.
- The estimated cost of project is Rs.8,679 crore with completion cost of Rs.10,947 crore.
- The project is expected to be completed in the next 5 years during 13th Plan period.
- Western Railway is running suburban services on the existing busy double line between Virar-Dahanu Road which is a part of main line Mumbai –Ahmedabad / Delhi route.
- Main line is already over saturated and there is no scope for supplementing suburban services on this line.
- Construction of additional double line between Virar-Dahanu Road will address the demand of commuters in this region.
- This will provide extension of suburban services from Churchgate to Dahanu Road. Panvel-Karjat double line suburban corridor will cater to the significant urbanization and population growth in recent years in this area.
- The areas covered by this project are Thane, Palghar, Raigad and Mumbai districts of Maharashtra.



Reference:

http://www.business-standard.com/article/news-ians/cabinet-clears-mumbai-urban-transport-project-phase-iii-116113001435_1.html

<http://indianexpress.com/article/india/india-news-india/cabinet-approves-mumbai-urban-transport-project-4404328/>

http://www.ianslive.in/index.php?param=news/Cabinet_clears_Mumbai_Urban_Transport_Project_Phase_III-534043/BUSINESS/5

Inauguration of Apparel & Garment Making Centre in Imphal

Question: Recently Union Minister of Textiles Smriti Zubin Irani inaugurated the Apparel and Garment Making Centre in which of the following state?

(a) Manipur (b) Meghalaya (c) Tripura (d) Sikkim

Ans: (a)

Related facts:

- On 27 November 2016 Union Minister of Textiles Smriti Zubin Irani inaugurated the Apparel and Garment Making Centre in Lamboikhongnangkhang, Imphal.
- The Centre consists of one skilling block and two commercial blocks and 300 nos. of machines are installed in the centre.
- She also distributed “Pehchan” Identity Cards to some artisans.



- The scheme for identifying weavers was launched on 7th October, 2014 and now more than 2000 weavers have been identified and issued identity cards.
- Rs 18 crore has been allocated for installing the centre.

Reference:

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=154431>

‘Smart Water Distribution Monitoring’ web interface

Question: Recently the Chief Minister of which of the following state has formally launched the ‘Smart Water Distribution Monitoring’ web interface?

(a) Madhya Pradesh (b) Karnataka (c) Andhra Pradesh (d) Uttar Pradesh

Ans: (c)



Related facts:

- On 23 November 2016 Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh N. Chandrababu Naidu formally launched the ‘Smart Water Distribution Monitoring’ web interface through which people can check the status of drinking water in the water tanks nearby.
- This is a Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition (SCADA) system which helps in reduction of water wastage as well as ensure seamless supply to the households.
- The monitoring portal is a part of ourvmc.org from where it can be accessed.

Reference:

<https://twitter.com/ncbn/status/801395567360258049>

TREATY & AGREEMENTS

Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between Ministry of Rural Development (MoRD) and Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO)

Question: When did the Cabinet approved Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between Ministry of Rural Development (MoRD) and Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO)?

(a) 14 December 2016 (b) 15 December 2016 (c) 16 December 2016
(d) 17 December 2016

Ans. (c)

Related facts:



- On 14 December 2016 Union Cabinet has approved the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between Ministry of Rural Development (MoRD) and Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO).
- Memorandum of Understanding was signed to improve the effectiveness of rural development programmes in India and to facilitate knowledge sharing.
- The MoU will facilitate South-South cooperation mechanisms around Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana – National Rural Livelihoods Mission (DAY-NRLM)'s experience through exchange visits and dialogues, and establishment of a good-practice Learning Centre.
- It will strengthen the vertical upscaling of the livelihoods of rural populations that are supported by DAY-NRLM, help to develop inclusive and sustainable value chains for key crops and agro-industrial products, employment diversification, skills development, especially for rural youth, strengthening of social protection, risk management mechanisms and enhanced resilience building, especially in arid and disaster risk-prone districts.
- Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana – National Rural Livelihoods Mission (DAY -NRLM) is a flagship rural poverty reduction program of Ministry of Rural Development launched nationwide with the objective of social mobilization, financial inclusion and sustainable livelihoods promotion.
- The MoU will provide for collaboration on activities of common interest to support an integrated approach to rural poverty reduction through activities aimed to promote the economic empowerment of rural women, access of rural poor to natural resources and their sustainable use and social protection.
- The MoU will also provide for exchange of visits and dialogue for knowledge and experience sharing.

Reference:

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=155382>

NTPC and NALCO signs MoU

Question: Recently a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between NTPC Limited and National Aluminium Company Limited (NALCO) has been signed to establish a 2400 MW coal based power project in which of the following state?

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

Ans:(d)

Related facts:

- On 16 December, 2016; a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between NTPC Limited and National Aluminium Company Limited (NALCO) has been signed.
- The MoU will facilitate the setting up of a Joint Venture (JV) Company to establish a 2400 MW coal based power project at Gajmara, Dhenkanal, Odisha.



- The generated power will be taken by the NALCO as a JV partner for the Brownfield expansion of its 5 lakh tonne Aluminium smelter at Angul and the Greenfield project of a 6 lakh tonne smelter at Kamakhya Nagar, Odisha.
- The estimated investment in all these projects will be approximately Rs. 36,000 crores.

Reference:

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=155590>

Memorandum of Understanding between India and Kyrgystan

Question: Recently Cabinet approved signing of a Memorandum of Understanding between India and Kyrgystan for strengthening cooperation in which of the following field?

(a) Tourism (b) Agriculture (c) Science and Technology (d) None of the above

Ans:(a)



Related facts:

- On 14 December 2016 the Union Cabinet has given its approval for signing Memorandum of Understanding between the Ministry of Tourism, Government of the Republic of India and Ministry of Cultural, Information & Tourism of the Government of the Kyrgyz Republic.
- The main objectives of the Memorandum of Understanding include:
 - 1.To expand bilateral cooperation in the tourism sector
 - 2.To exchange information and data related to tourism
 - 3.To encourage cooperation between tourism stakeholders including Hotels and Tour operators.
 - 4.To establish exchange programme for cooperation in Human Resource Development.
 - 5.To invest in the Tourism and Hospitality sectors.
 - 6.To exchange visits of Tour Operators / Media /Opinion Makers for promotion of two way tourism
 - 7.To exchange experiences in the areas of promotion, marketing, destination development and management.
 8. To participate in travel fairs /exhibitions in each other's country and
 - 9.To promote safe & honourable and sustainable tourism.
- Besides, Cabinet also approved signing of an Agreement between India and Kyrgyzstan on cooperation in the field of agriculture and food related industry.

Reference:

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=155390>

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=155394>

Agreement between India and Nigeria

Question: Recently Union Cabinet has given its approval for signing of the Agreement (ASA) between India and Nigeria in which of the following field?

(a) Tourism (b) Agriculture
(c) Science and Technology (d) Air Services

Ans:(d)



Related facts:

- On 14 December 2014 The Union Cabinet has given its approval for signing of the revised Air Services Agreement (ASA) between India and Nigeria.

- The earlier Agreement was signed on 31th January, 1978.

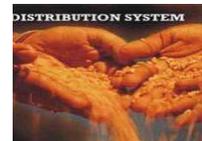
Reference:

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=155380>

Tata Trusts tied up with Uttar Pradesh government

Question: Recently Tata Trusts have tied up with Uttar Pradesh government to leverage digital platforms to-

- (a) Strengthen the public distribution system (PDS)
- (b) Strengthen the Education system
- (c) Strengthen the digital connectivity
- (d) None of the above



Ans: (a)

Related facts:

- On 9 December, 2016; Tata Trusts have tied up with Uttar Pradesh government to leverage digital platforms to strengthen the public distribution system (PDS) in the state.
- As part of the initiative, Tata Trusts have installed electronic Point of Sale devices (ePOS) to ensure operation of an Aadhaar-enabled Public Distribution System (AePDS) at fair price shops of the entire urban region of Lucknow.
- With technology at the helm, our partnership with the Government of UP aims to mobilise resources and be a catalyst of change.
- It should be known that in 2015 the state government and Tata Trusts had signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to work together in several sectors including agriculture, health, nutrition, education and migrant labour.
- The ePOS scheme is a part of this MoU with Tata Trusts.

Reference:

<http://indianexpress.com/article/business/companies/tata-trusts-up-govt-join-hands-to-strengthen-pds-system-4419120/>

<http://profit.ndtv.com/news/corporates/article-tata-trusts-up-government-join-hands-to-strengthen-pds-system-1636113>

MoU between India and Vietnam

Question: Recently the Union Cabinet has given its ex-post facto approval to the MoU between India and Vietnam on Cooperation in which of the following field?

- (a) Agriculture (b) Tourism (c) Space (d) Information Technology

Ans:(d)

Related facts:

- On 7 December 2016; the Union Cabinet chaired by the Prime Minister has given its ex-post facto approval to the MoU between India and Vietnam on Cooperation in the field of IT(Information Technology).



- The MoU aims to develop a long-term and sustainable cooperation on the basis of equality and mutual interest in the areas of IT in line with each country's laws and regulations.
- Implementation of the MoU will result in significant mutual benefits in the IT sector, through institutional and capacity-building in the field of IT and Human Resource Development.
- The MoU will remain in force for a period of five years and will be renewable by mutual written consent between India and Vietnam.
- It will be implemented by establishing a Joint Working Group on IT with representatives from both the countries.

Reference:

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=155066>

MoU between India and Thailand

Question: Recently the Union Cabinet has given its approval to the MoU between India and Thailand in which of the following field?

- (a) Space (b) Improved agricultural technology
 (c) Controlling narcotic drugs, psychotropic substances, their precursors and chemicals and drug abuse.
 (d) Tourism sector



Ans:(c)

Related facts:

- On 7 December, 2016; an MoU between India and Thailand has been approved by the Union Cabinet.
- It is aimed for controlling narcotic drugs, psychotropic substances, their precursors and chemicals and drug abuse.
- It will facilitate effective institutional interaction between India and Thailand.
- The MoU, once in force, would help in curbing transnational narcotics trafficking.

Reference:

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=155062>

MoU between India and Afghanistan

Question: Recently the Union Cabinet has given its ex-post facto approval to the MoU between India and Afghanistan in which of the following field?

- (a) Agriculture (b) Tourism (c) Space (d) Information Technology

Ans:(c)

Related facts:

- On 7 December 2016 the Union Cabinet has given its ex-post facto approval to the MoU between India and Afghanistan on cooperation in the peaceful uses of outer space.



- The MoU envisages cooperation between the two countries for application of space technologies in education, agriculture, weather forecasting, telecommunications, rural health, sanitation, urban development, resource mapping navigation, remote sensing.

Reference:

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=155064>

Agreement between Canara Bank and Bajaj Allianz General Insurance

Question: Recently leading public sector bank Canara Bank and private general insurance firm Bajaj Allianz have signed an agreement, Both have set a target to achieve business of how much amount in the first year FY 2017-18 of operations?

- (a) 200 Crore (b) 300 Crore (c) 400 Crore (d) 500 Crore

Ans: (c)

Related facts:

- On 26 November 2016 Canara Bank & Bajaj Allianz General Insurance, signed a corporate agency agreement.
- It was done for the distribution of Bajaj Allianz's general insurance products through Canara Bank's extensive network of 5920 branches across the country.
- Under this strategic agreement, Bajaj Allianz General Insurance will offer its industry leading general insurance products to the customers of Canara Bank.
- A bouquet of personal lines of products such as Motor Insurance, Home Insurance, Health Insurance, Travel Insurance and commercial line of products such as Fire Insurance, Marine Insurance and Engineering Insurance will be available through branches of Canara Bank.
- The partnership aims to provide enhanced customer experience by leveraging technology to augment the comprehensive range of third party products and services distributed by the Bank.
- Both have set a target to achieve Rs 400 crore business in the first year (FY 2017-18) of operations.



Reference:

<http://www.canarabank.com/media/3403/press-release-canara-bank-and-bajaj-allianz-general-insurance-tie-up-for-distribution-of-insurance-products-29112016.pdf>

<http://indiatoday.intoday.in/story/bajaj-allianz-general-insurance-and-canara-bank-tie-up-%C2%A0-%C2%A0/1/820312.html>

<http://www.thehindu.com/business/Industry/Bajaj-Allianz-General-Insurance-and-Canara-Bank-tie%E2%80%94up/article16706624.ece>

MoU between Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) and Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR)

Question: Recently Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) has signed a MoU with Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) for-

- (a) Cooperation in the area of zoonoses, antimicrobial resistance, nutrition and pesticide residues
 (b) Cooperation in Agriculture sector
 (c) Cooperation in Space Technology
 (d) None of the above



Ans:(a)

Related facts:

- On 01 December 2016 Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) signed a MoU with Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR).
- The MoU has been signed for cooperation in the area of zoonoses, anti-microbial resistance, nutrition and pesticide residues.
- The Memorandum of Understanding between ICMR and ICAR is an important step and will help to bridge the gap between human health and agriculture/veterinary research and will make India address high priority issues in a coordinated manner.
- Some of the significant outcomes of the MoU are as under:
 - 1.Exchange of scientific literature, information and methodology.
 - 2.Utilization of facilities and expertise in programs of common interest as may be mutually agreed upon.
 - 3.Exchange of pertinent research material.
 - 4.Development and implementation of collaborative research projects, the areas and methodology to be as mutually agreed upon in areas of mutual interest like Zoonotic diseases, Anti-Microbial Resistance, Nutrition, Pesticides.
 - 5.Zoonoses have been defined as diseases and infections that are naturally transmitted between vertebrate animals and humans.
 - 6.The effects of zoonoses are accentuated among marginalized groups since the poor tend to have closer interactions with animals and are further removed from accessible health services.
 7. Around 60% of all human diseases and around 75% of emerging infectious diseases are zoonotic however; these are missed, not recognized or understood in developing countries like India.

Reference:

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

CONFERENCE

National Conference on “Accounting Reforms in Indian Railways”

Question: Recently the National Conference on “Accounting Reforms in Indian Railways – A Strategic Mission for Sustainable Growth” was organized by Ministry of Railways in partnership of-

- (a) Ministry of Finance (b) Confederation of Indian Industry
(c) Ministry of Culture (d) Ministry of Labour & Employment

Ans. (b)

Related facts:

- On 20 December 2016 the National Conference on “Accounting Reforms in Indian Railways – A Strategic Mission for Sustainable Growth” was held today at Vigyan Bhawan, New Delhi.
- The Conference was organized by Ministry of Railways in partnership with Confederation of Indian Industry (CII).
- Union Minister of Finance & Corporate Affairs, Arun Jaitley was the Chief Guest at the conference.
- The Conference aimed at giving voice to the expectations and perspectives of various stakeholders’ viz. lenders, investors, financial institutions and profession on the Accounting Reforms project of Indian Railways.

Reference:

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=155690>



Digidhan Mela

Question: Which of the following ministry is being organizing a DigiDhan Mela at Major Dhyanchand National Stadium, Delhi to create awareness about the benefits of Digital Payment option?

- (a) Ministry of Finance (b) Ministry of Commerce and Industry
(c) Ministry of Communications and Information Technology
(d) Ministry of Electronics and IT



Ans:(c)

Related facts:

- On 17-18 December 2016, The two day event DigiDhan Mela is being organized by the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) at Major Dhyanchand National Stadium, Delhi.
- It aims to handhold and create awareness about the benefits of Digital Payment option.
- It also enables users in downloading, installing and using various digital payment systems for carrying out digital transactions.
- The initiative plans to impart knowledge to citizens and merchants about real time digital transactions through the DigiDhan Bazaar.
- The event will witness participation from banks, telecom companies, mobile wallet operators, transportation network companies, Aadhaar enabled payment system (AEPS) vendors, Department of Post, merchants (through marketing associations), co-operatives like Kendriya Bhandar and organised retail fruits and vegetable chains like Safal, milk booths, agricultural produce marketing committees etc.
- The participants will be explaining various options available for digital payments, they will also be assisting visitors in downloading and installing various mobile apps for digital payments and helped them do one digital transaction.

Reference:

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=155425>

6th Asia Pacific Ministerial Conference on Housing and Urban Development (APMCHUD)

Question: The 6th Asia Pacific Ministerial Conference on Housing and Urban Development (APMCHUD) was held at-

- (a) Jaipur (b) Hyderabad (c) New Delhi (d) Kolkata

Ans:(c)

Related facts:

- From 14 to 16 December, 2016; The 6th Asia Pacific Ministerial Conference on Housing and Urban Development (APMCHUD) was held at Vigyan Bhawan, New Delhi.
- The theme of the conference is “Emerging Urban Forms – Policy Responses and Governance Structure in the context of the New Urban Agenda”.
- The three days conference seeks to address issues ranging from crowded city centres to peripheral expansion, metropolitan based urban population growth, megacities and urban corridors etc.
- The 1st APMCHUD was held in New Delhi, India from 13th -16th December, 2006 on the theme of ‘A Vision for Sustainable Urbanization in the Asia-Pacific by 2020’.



- The 5th APMCHUD was held in Seoul, Republic of Korea during 3rd–5th November, 2014. The theme of the conference was ‘Equal Opportunity for Sustainable Development’.
- The Asia Pacific Ministerial Conference on Housing and Urban Development (APMCHUD) is an inter-governmental mechanism for collaboration and cooperation in the field of housing and urban development among the Asia Pacific countries.

Reference:

<http://apmchud-newdelhi.com/>

http://www.apmchud.com/PDF/6thASia_Pacific_Vigyan_bhawan.pdf

5th Arab – Indian Partnership Conference

Question: The 5th Arab – Indian Partnership Conference is being held on 14-15 December 2016 at which of the place?

(a) Muscat (b) New Delhi (c) Cairo (d) Abu Dhabi

Ans: (a)

Related facts:

- The 5th Arab – Indian Partnership Conference is being held on 14-15 December 2016.
- The Conference is organized in collaboration with the Foreign Ministry, Arab League Secretariat, the Ministry of External Affairs in India, the General Union of Chambers of Commerce and Industry in the Arab Countries (GUCCIAC) and Federation of the Arab Business (FAB).
- The theme of the conference is ‘ Partnership towards innovation and cooperation in IT’.
- The conference aims at enhancing flow of investments from both sides, accelerating the investment projects at a number of prioritized sectors, activate the existing joint ventures, provide conducive environment for export promotion and sharing of expertise.
- About 500 Arab and Indian government officials, academicians, businessmen and investors are expected to take part in the conference.



Reference:

[http://iapc-](http://iapc-oman.com/(X(1)S(rmx0nqoxwmpihinrcmvv42))/aboutiapc.aspx?AspxAutoDetectCookieSupport=1)

[oman.com/\(X\(1\)S\(rmx0nqoxwmpihinrcmvv42\)\)/aboutiapc.aspx?AspxAutoDetectCookieSupport=1](http://iapc-oman.com/(X(1)S(rmx0nqoxwmpihinrcmvv42))/aboutiapc.aspx?AspxAutoDetectCookieSupport=1)

<http://indiatoday.intoday.in/story/india-arab-partnership-conference-to-be-held-in-muscat-oman/1/829644.html>

20th National Conference on e-Governance

Question: in which of the following city the 20th National Conference on e-Governance being organised during 9-10th January, 2017?

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

Ans:(b)

Related facts:

- The 20th National Conference on e-Governance being organised at Vishakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh during 9-10th January, 2017.
- Department of Administrative Reforms and Public Grievances, Government of India along with the Department of Electronics and Information Technology, Government of India and State Government of Andhra Pradesh will organise the event.

20th National Conference on e-Governance

CALL FOR PAPERS

On the Theme of the Conference
"Digital Transformation"

Department of Administrative Reforms &
Public Grievances
Government of India
New Delhi

- The theme of the conference is “Digital Transformation”.
- The objective of the Conference is to provide a platform for policy makers, practitioners, industry leaders and academicians to deliberate, discuss and recommend an actionable strategy for good governance and to improve the standard of public services rendered to the common man.
- The nineteenth edition of National Conference on e-Governance has been held in January 2016 in Nagpur, Maharashtra.

Reference:

http://nceg.gov.in/sites/nceg.gov.in/files/nceg2017/nceg_Call_for_paper_2017.pdf

<http://egovconference-ap.com/>

5th IEF-IGU Ministerial Forum

Question: The 5th IEF-IGU Ministerial Forum was held at-

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

Ans:(a)

Related facts:

- On 6 December 2016; Minister of State (I/C) for Petroleum and Natural Gas Dharmendra Pradhan inaugurated the 5th IEF-IGU Ministerial Forum in New Delhi.
- The Ministerial forum is being held as a parallel event to the 3-day Petrotech-2016.
- The theme of this meet “Gas for Growth : Improving economic prosperity and living standards”.
- Compared to international average, the share of gas in India’s primary energy basket is only at about 6.5%.
- Government has set a target to raise the share of gas in primary energy from the current level to 15%.



Reference:

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=154948>

45th All India Police Science Congress

Question: The 45th All India Police Science Congress was celebrated on which of the following place?

(a) Jaipur (b) Thiruvananthapuram (c) Kochi (d) New Delhi

Ans:(b)

Related facts:

- On 8-9 December, 2016; 45th All India Police Science Congress being organized at Kovalam, Thiruvananthapuram.
- The Bureau of Police Research and Development (BPR&D) and Kerala Police are organizers of the event.
- The main objective of this prestigious national event is to provide a common platform to the various police forces/units, social scientists, forensic experts and other stakeholders to deliberate on selected themes of topical interest to the Indian Police.
- The Police Science Congress shall be addressed by the Senior Police Officers, Academicians, Scientists and Subject Experts from institutions like IITs, Department of

The 45th All India Police Science Congress at Thiruvananthapuram Kerala on 8th- 9th December, 2016

Science and Technology, DRDO, Forensic Science Laboratories and other Research Institutions etc.

- The First All India Police Science Congress was held in 1960 at Patna, Bihar. Since then it has been held 44 times.

Reference:

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=154963>

<http://bprd.nic.in/WriteReadData/userfiles/file/20161206070448195691745thAllIndiaPoliceScienceCongress.pdf>

India International Science Festival 2016 (IISF 2016)

Question: Recently India International Science Festival 2016 (IISF 2016) will be held on 7-11 December, 2016 in which of the following city?

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

Ans:(b)

Related facts:

- India International Science Festival 2016 (IISF 2016) will be held at New Delhi during 7-11th December, 2016.
- The Department of Biotechnology, M/o Science & Technology is jointly organizing the India International Science Festival 2016 (IISF 2016).
- The IISF will be inaugurated by Home Minister Rajnath Singh.
- The theme of the festival is “Science for the masses”.
- More than 10,000 people including 5,000 young scientists (those aged below 45), 3,000 children from rural India and 600 foreign students are expected to take part in the festival.
- The first India International Science Festival (IISF -2015) was held at Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) – Delhi campus.



Reference:

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=154738>

<http://www.dbtindia.nic.in/iisfb/>

<http://scienceindiafest.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/12/IISF-Programme-Guide-December-2016.pdf>

<http://indiatoday.intoday.in/story/india-international-science-festival-to-kick-start-on-dec-7/1/825381.html>

<http://www.dbtindia.nic.in/wp-content/uploads/IISF-A.pdf>

21st National Youth Festival

Question: 21st National Youth Festival will be held from 12th January to 16th January, 2017 in which of the following city?

(a) Guwahati (b) Bengaluru (c) New Delhi (d) Rohtak

Ans:(d)

Related facts:

- From 12 to 16 January, 2017; 21st National Youth Festival will be held in Rohtak, Haryana.
- Around 7000 participants, all from across the country are expected to participate in the festival.
- It will be organized by Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports, Government of India in collaboration with Haryana State Governments.



- The National Youth Festival in India is an annual gathering of youth with various activities including competitive ones. Celebrated to commemorate the birth anniversary of youth icon Swami Vivekananda.
- The festival is held on the occasion of the 154th birth anniversary of Swami Vivekananda.
- It may be recalled that the 20th National Youth Festival was held in Naya Raipur, the capital city of Chhattisgarh.

Reference:

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=154845>

<http://yas.nic.in/youth-affairs/national-youth-festival>

<http://www.uniindia.com/21st-national-youth-festival-to-be-held-in-rohtak-from-jan-12-cm/states/news/706149.html>

International Gita Mahotsav-2016

Question: International Gita Mahotsav-2016 will be held from December 6 and 10 in which of the following city?

(a) Rohtak (b) Kurukshetra (c) Gurugram (d) Chandigarh

Ans:(b)

Related facts:

- From 6 to 10 December, 2016; International Gita Mahotsav-2016 to be held in Kurukshetra, Haryana.
- During Mahotsav, youths from 574 districts of the country would reach Kurukshetra, showcasing one Shloka each scripted on their traditional dresses.
- The International Gita Mahotsav, being celebrated by the Haryana Government, will also set a world record with the recitation of 'Ashtadash Shaloki Gita' by as many as 18,000 students at one go.
- Besides, it is for the first time that it will be simultaneously chanted by hundreds of people in many countries of the world.



Reference:

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=154890>

http://www.business-standard.com/article/pti-stories/tourists-start-arriving-for-international-gita-festival-116120400616_1.html

<http://www.internationalgitamahotsav2016.com/events/Programm.pdf>

<http://www.uniindia.com/prez-to-inaugurate-international-gita-mahotsav-2016/india/news/708278.html>

7th World Ayurveda Congress

Question: The 7th World Ayurveda Congress (WAC) was held from December 2 to 4, 2016 in which of the following city?

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

Ans:(b)

Related facts:

- From 1 to 4, December 2016; 7th World Ayurveda Congress (WAC) was held at Science City in Kolkata, West Bengal.
- It was organised by the World Ayurveda Foundation with the support of the Union Ministry of AYUSH and West Bengal government.
- The focus theme of the Ayurveda Congress was "Strengthening the Ayurveda Ecosystem".
- Besides, to facilitate development and growth of AYUSH system of medicine the AYUSH ministry also had organised AROGYA Expo.



- It was inaugurated by Union Minister for AYUSH Shripad Naik.
- This year's World Ayurveda Congress was the largest ever as compared to the earlier World Ayurveda Congress at Kochi 2002, Pune 2006, Jaipur 2008, Bengaluru 2010, Bhopal 2012 and Delhi 2014.

Reference:

<http://www.ayurworld.org/>

<http://www.ayurworld.org/world-ayurveda-congress/>

ASSOCIATIONS & ORGANIZATIONS

Film, Television and Liberal Arts Institute

Question: Recently Chief Minister of Uttar Pradesh, Akhilesh Yadav lay the foundation stone of the Film, Television and Liberal Arts Institute in which of the following city?

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

Ans: (b)

Related facts:

- On December 27, 2016; Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Mr. Akhilesh Yadav laid the foundation stone of 'Film, Television and Liberal Arts Institute' Institute in Lucknow.
- Land has already been allotted near the Avadh Shilpgram under the local Avadh Vihar scheme.
- Till the time the new buildings construction is not complete, it will temporarily function in the first phase from the campus of S.C.R.T. Institute in Nishatganj.
- This first of its kind institute is for students involved with films and television.



Reference:

<http://www.business-standard.com/video-gallery/general/akhilesh-yadav-announces-plan-to-set-up-film-television-and-liberal-arts-institute-in-lucknow-43495.htm>

<http://upnews360.in/E/36003600370038003700/Chief-Minister-to-lay-foundation-stone-of-'Film—Television-and-Liberal-Arts-Institute'-on-December-27>

Inauguration of Sagarmala Development Company

Question: Recently the Sagarmala Development Company has been inaugurated by Minister of Shipping and Road Transport & Highways Nitin Gadkari in which of the following city?

(a) New Delhi (b) Mumbai (c) Patna (d) Greater Noida

Ans: (a)

Related facts:

- On 26 December 2016 Minister of Shipping and Road Transport & Highways Nitin Gadkari has inaugurated the Sagarmala Development Company in New Delhi .
- The Sagarmala Development Company (SDC) has been incorporated under the Companies Act, 2013. The company has an initial Authorized Share Capital of Rs. 1,000 Crore and a subscribed share capital of Rs. 90 Crore.
- The main objective of the company is to identify port-led development projects under the Sagarmala Programme and provide equity support for the project Special Purpose Vehicles (SPVs) set up by the Ports / State / Central Ministries and funding window and /or implement only those residual projects which cannot be funded by any other means / mode. The implementation of the identified projects would be taken up by the relevant Ports, State Governments/Maritime Boards, Central Ministries, through private or PPP mode. The Company would act as the nodal agency for coordination and monitoring of all the currently identified projects under Sagarmala as well as other projects emerging from the master plans or other sources.



Reference:

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=155840>

Tata Steel acquired iron ore pellet manufacturer BRPL

Question: Recently Tata Steel has signed an agreement to acquire iron ore pellet manufacturer Brahmani River Pellets Ltd (BRPL), it is located in-

(a) Andhra Pradesh (b) Rajasthan (c) Odisha (d) Karnataka

Ans: (c)

Related facts:

- On 23 December 2016; Tata Steel has signed an agreement to acquire Odisha-based iron ore pellet manufacturer BRPL .
- Brahmani River Pellets Ltd (BRPL) has been acquired in Rs. 900 crore in cash.
- BRPL was incorporated on August 24, 2006 and is engaged in the business of acquisition and beneficiation of iron ore and the manufacture and sale of iron ore pellets.
- Pellets are used as agglomerates in the iron making process.
- BRPL had a turnover of Rs. 452 crore in 2015-16, owns a 4 million tons per annum capacity pellet plant in Jajpur and a 4.7 million tons iron ore beneficiation plant in Bardil, Odisha.



Reference:

http://www.tatasteelindia.com/media/viewfile.asp?filename=PressRelease_press%20release_23.12.2016_1ae96f51f7.pdf&grpsiteid=2

<http://economictimes.indiatimes.com/industry/indl-goods/svs/steel/tata-steel-to-acquire-brpl-at-enterprise-value-of-rs-900-crore/articleshow/56147747.cms>

<http://indianexpress.com/article/business/companies/tata-steel-to-acquire-pellet-maker-brpl-for-rs-900-crore-4442282/>

Acquisition of JSC Biosintez

Question: Recently which of the following company has entered into an agreement to acquire Russian pharma company JSC Biosintez for \$24 million?

(a) Ranbaxy India Ltd (b) Cadila Pharmaceutical Ltd
(c) Cipla Ltd. (d) Sun Pharmaceutical Industries Ltd.

Ans: (d)

Related facts:

- On 23 November 2016 Sun Pharmaceutical Industries Ltd has entered into an agreement to acquire Russian pharma company JSC Biosintez for \$24 million.
- Sun Pharma picked up 85.1% of the company for US\$ 24 million and also the debt of approximately US\$ 36 million as part of the transaction.
- Biosintez is a Russian pharmaceutical company focusing on the hospital segment with annual revenues of approximately US\$ 52 million for 2015 .
- Sun Pharmaceutical Industries Limited is an Indian multinational pharmaceutical company headquartered in Mumbai, Maharashtra.
- It manufactures and sells pharmaceutical formulations and active pharmaceutical ingredients (APIs) primarily in India and the United States.
- It is the 5th largest specialty generic company globally.



Reference:

<http://www.sunpharma.com/media/press-releases>

http://www.business-standard.com/article/companies/sun-pharma-acquires-russian-company-for-60-million-116112300199_1.html

YEAR, DAY & WEEK

Good Governance Day

Question: Good Governance Day is celebrated on-

(a) 26 December (b) 23 December (c) 28 December (d) 25 December

Ans: (d)

Related facts:

- On 25 December 2016 Good Governance Day, 2016; was celebrated across the country.
- The Day is observed on the birth anniversary of former-Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee.
- Good Governance Day was established in 2014 to honor Prime Minister Vajpayee by fostering awareness among the Indian people of accountability in government.
- On the occasion of Good Governance Day, 2016, Union Minister of Textiles Smriti Zubin Irani launched following initiatives of the Ministry of Textiles in New Delhi.
- JUTE-SMART- It is an online portal to facilitate purchase of Jute bags from the Jute Industry by the State Procurement Agencies.
- Dashboard for Integrated Skill Development Scheme hosted on the NIC Cloud with access to public.
- Bunkar Mitra – It is a Helpline for handholding of Handloom weavers.

Reference:

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=155831>



National Consumer Day

Question: National Consumer Day is celebrated on-

(a) 25 December (b) 23 December (c) 20 December (d) 24 December

Ans: (d)

Related facts:

- On 24 December 2016 National Consumer Day was celebrated across the country.
- The theme for this year is “Alternate Consumer Disputes Redressal.”
- The National Consumer Day is observed every year on December 24. On this day, the Consumer Protection Act, 1986 had received the assent of the President.
- The Day is an annual occasion for celebration and solidarity within the national consumer movement and is an opportunity to promote the basic rights of all consumers.
- It should be known that on 15 March, each year ‘World Consumer Rights Day’ is celebrated.
- On this occasion Department of Consumer Affairs, Ministry of Consumer Affairs Food and Public Distribution held an event at Vigyan Bhavan, New Delhi.
- In this event the theme “Alternative Dispute Resolution” and the Consumer Protection Bill 2015 were discussed.

Reference:

<https://twitter.com/jagograhakjago/status/812570708341469185>

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=155786>

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=155821>

National Mathematics Day

Question: National Mathematics Day is celebrated on-

(a) 20 December (b) 21 December (c) 22 December (d) 23 December

Ans. (c)

Related facts:

- On 22 December 2016 National Mathematics Day was celebrated across the country.
- The declaration was made by Dr Manmohan Singh, Prime Minister of India, during the inaugural ceremony of the celebrations to mark the 125th birth anniversary of Srinivasa Ramanujan held at the Madras University Centenary Auditorium on 26 February 2012.
- The Indian mathematical genius Srinivasa Ramanujan was born on 22 December 1887 and died on 26 April 1920.
- It was in recognition of his contribution to mathematics the Government of India decided to celebrate Ramanujan's birthday as the National Mathematics Day every year and to celebrate 2012 as the National Mathematical Year.



Reference:

<http://indiatoday.intoday.in/story/srinivasa-ramanujan-national-mathematics-day-facts/1/840477.html>

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

Kisan Diwas

Question: Kisan Diwas is celebrated on-

(a) 22 December (b) 23 December (c) 24 December (d) 25 December

Ans. (b)

Related facts:

- On 23 December 2016 Kisan Diwas was celebrated across the country.
- Birth anniversary of Ch. Charan Singh is observed as Kisan Diwas or Farmers day.
- He was born on December 23, 1902 in Uttar Pradesh's Meerut district.



Reference:

<http://www.festivalsofindia.in/Kisan-Diwas/Index.aspx>

<http://bharatdiscovery.org/india/%E0%A4%95%E0%A4%BF%E0%A4%B8%E>

Vijay Diwas

Question: Vijay Diwas is celebrated on-

(a) 15 December (b) 16 December (c) 17 December (d) 13 December

Ans: (b)

Related facts:

- On 16 December 2016; 45th Vijay Diwas was celebrated across the country.
- On this day in 1971, the chief of the Pakistani forces, General Amir Abdullah Khan Niazi, along with 93,000 troops, surrendered to Indian Army.
- As a consequence, East Pakistan seceded and the independent state of Bangladesh, or Bengali nation, was proclaimed on March 26, 1971.
- The anniversary of Vijay Diwas is observed across India by paying tributes to the martyrs who laid down their lives for the nation.



Reference:

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=155510>

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Vijay_Diwas_\(India\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Vijay_Diwas_(India))

National Energy Conservation Day

Question: National Energy Conservation Day is celebrated on-

(a) 13 December (b) 14 December (c) 16 December (d) 12 December

Ans:(b)

Related facts:

- On 14 December 2016; National Energy Conservation Day was celebrated across the world.
- It is celebrated to make people aware of global warming and climate change and promote a conscious effort towards saving the energy resources.
- The event was organized by Bureau of Energy Efficiency (BEE) as a part of National Energy Conservation Day celebrations.
- These awards were given in 22 major category (like Railways, hospitals, office buildings, industry, power, plant etc.) covering 53 different subsectors of large and medium scale industries mainly on the basis of improvement in specific energy and energy conservation initiatives based on recommendations of an Award Evaluation Committee under Bureau of Energy Efficiency (BEE).
- Ministry of Railways and Zonal Railways won 27 National Energy Conservation Awards (NECA) this year, highest ever by Railways.



Reference:

http://www.pmindia.gov.in/en/news_updates/niti-aayog-announces-launch-of-the-schemes-lucky-grahak-yojana-and-digi-dhan-vyapar-yojana/?comment=disable

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=155372>

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=133212>

International Anti-Corruption Day

Question: International Anti-Corruption Day is celebrated on-

(a) 12 December (b) 10 December (c) 13 December (d) 09 December

Ans: (d)

Related facts:

- On 9 December 2016; International Anti-Corruption Day was celebrated across the world.
- Theme for 2016 is “United against corruption for development, peace and security”.
- The Day is celebrated to raise awareness of corruption and of the role of the Convention in combating and preventing it.
- On 31 October 2003, the General Assembly adopted the United Nations Convention to celebrate this day.
- Every year \$1 trillion is paid in bribes while an estimated \$2.6 trillion are stolen annually through corruption – a sum equivalent to more than 5 per cent of the global GDP.



International Mountain Day

Question: International Mountain Day is celebrated on-

(a) 10 December (b) 11 December (c) 12 December (d) 09 December

Ans: (b)

Related facts:

- On 11 December, 2016; International Mountain Day was celebrated across the world.



- 2016 Theme is “Mountain Cultures: Celebrating diversity and strengthening identity”
The Day was established by the UN General Assembly in 2003 to encourage sustainable development in mountains.
- Covering around 22 percent of the earth’s land surface, mountains play a critical role in moving the world towards sustainable economic growth.
- They not only provide sustenance and wellbeing to 915 million mountain people around the world, representing 13 percent of global population, but mountains also indirectly benefit billions more living downstream.

Reference:

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

Human Rights Day

Question: Human Rights Day is observed every year on-

(a) 10 December (b) 11 December (c) 12 December (d) 15 December

Ans:(a)

Related facts:

- Human Rights Day is observed every year on 10 December.
- It aims to re-emphasise how important it is to live in peace and harmony, compassion and concern for each other’s rights with respect towards the idea of mutual co-existence.
- It commemorates the day on which, in 1948, the United Nations General Assembly adopted the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.
- In 1950, the Assembly passed resolution 423 (V), inviting all States and interested organizations to observe 10 December of each year as Human Rights Day.
- The theme for 2016 is “Stand up for someone’s rights today!”



Reference:

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

World Soil Day

Question: World Soil Day is celebrated on-

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

Ans:(b)

Related facts:

- On 5 December 2016; World Soil Day was celebrated across the world.
- The theme of World Soil Day 2016 is ‘Soils and pulses, a symbiosis for life’
- The FAO Conference, in June 2013, unanimously endorsed World Soil Day and requested official adoption at the 68th UN General Assembly. In December 2013, the 68th UN General Assembly declared 5th of December as the World Soil Day.
- Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) dedicates this year’s World Soil Day to pulses. Also, owing to their nutritional benefits, 2016 was declared the International Year of Pulses.
- The campaign aims to connect people with soils and raise awareness on their critical importance in our lives.
- Soil is an essential resource and a vital part of the natural environment from which most of the global food is produced.



Reference:

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

<http://www.un.org/en/events/soilday/background.shtml>

International Volunteer Day

Question: International Volunteer Day is celebrated on-

(a) 4 December (b) 1 December (c) 5 December (d) 2 December

Ans:(c)

Related facts:

- On 5 December 2016; International Volunteer Day was celebrated across the world.
- 2016 Theme is “Global Applause – give volunteers a hand”.
- The International Volunteer Day for Economic and Social Development was adopted by the United Nations General Assembly through Resolution A/RES/40/212 on 17 December 1985.
- International Volunteer Day provide a chance for individual volunteers, communities and organizations to promote their contributions to development at the local, national and international levels.

Reference:

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

<http://www.un.org/en/events/volunteerday/background.shtml>



Navy Day

Question: Navy Day is celebrated on-

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

Ans:(d)

Related facts:

- On 4 December 2016; Navy Day was celebrated across the India.
- India celebrates Navy Day on 4th December to celebrate Navy's role in 1971 Indo-Pakistan war when missile boats carried out a daring attack on Karachi harbour.
- The mission titled as Operation Trident commenced on the same date.
- In this operation, the Indian Navy used anti-ship missile for the first time.
- Immediately after this operation, “Operation Python ‘was launched, which incurred huge losses to the Pakistani Navy.

Reference:

<http://indianexpress.com/article/india/navy-day-2016-prime-minister-narendra-modi-lauds-bravery-of-naval-forces-4409702/>

<http://economictimes.indiatimes.com/slideshows/infrastructure/heres-the-story-behind-navy-day/4th-of-december/slideshow/55788008.cms>



World Computer Literacy Day

Question: World Computer Literacy Day is celebrated on-

(a) 1 December (b) 2 December (c) 5 December (d) 3 December

Ans: (b)

Related facts:

- On 2 December 2016; World Computer Literacy Day was celebrated across the world.
- The Day aims to increase awareness of this ‘Digital divide’ and increase access to information technology for disadvantaged communities.

Reference:

<http://camara.org/blog/2012/11/27/world-computer-literacy-day-dec-2nd/>



International Day of Persons with Disabilities

Question: When did the International Day of Persons with Disabilities is celebrated?

(a) 1 December (b) 2 December (c) 3 December (d) 5 December

Ans: (c)

Related facts:

- On 3 December 2016 ;International Day of Persons with Disabilities was celebrated across the Globe.
- The theme for this year's International Day is "Achieving 17 Goals for the Future We Want"
- Since 1992, the United Nations International Day of Persons with Disabilities (IDPD) has been celebrated annually on 3 December around the world.
- The observance of the 2016 IDPD coincides with the 10-year anniversary of the adoption of the CRPD – one of the most quickly and widely ratified international treaties put forth by the United Nations to date.
- This year's objectives include assessing the current status of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD) and SDGs and laying the foundation for a future of greater inclusion for persons with disabilities.



Reference:

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

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

World Aids Day

Question: World Aids Day is celebrated on-

(a) 30 November (b) 1 December (c) 2 December (d) 5 November

Ans: (b)

Related facts:

- World Aids Day was celebrated across the world on 1 December 2016.
- The theme for 2016 is "HANDS UP FOR #HIVPREVENTION".
- The Day is celebrated to raise awareness, commemorate those who have passed on, and celebrate victories, such as increased access to treatment and prevention services.



Reference:

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

<https://www.aids.gov/news-and-events/awareness-days/world-aids-day/>

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

National Pollution Control Day

Question: National Pollution Control Day is celebrated on-

(a) 2 December (b) 4 December (c) 30 November (d) None of the above

Ans:(a)

Related facts:

- National pollution control day is celebrated every year on 2nd of December to make aware the people and most importantly to aware the industries about paying great attention towards the need of Pollution Control Acts.
- This day is also celebrated to give honor and memorialize the thousands of human beings who had lost their lives because of the Bhopal gas tragedy in 1984.



- Many more were left severely affected due to poisonous gas that leaked from Union Carbide plant in Bhopal.

Reference:

<http://ddinews.gov.in/Social/Social%20-%20Top%20Story/Pages/pollution.aspx>

MISCELLANEOUS

Sale of surplus land of four Pharmaceutical PSUs approved

Question: Hindustan Antibiotics Limited is a

- (a) public sector undertaking (b) private sector company
(d) firm based on public private partnership (d) None of the above.



Ans: (a)

Related facts:

- On 28th December, 2016, The Union Cabinet chaired by the Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi approved the sale of surplus land of Hindustan Antibiotics Limited, Indian Drugs & Pharmaceuticals Limited, Rajasthan Drugs & Pharmaceuticals Limited and Bengal Chemicals & Pharmaceuticals Limited.
- The sale of surplus land of these four public sector undertakings was required to meet their outstanding liabilities. In this way, the national assets would be utilized in the best national interest.
- The sale would be through open competitive bidding to government agencies and the outstanding liabilities will be met from the sale proceeds.
- Voluntary retirement scheme and voluntary separation scheme will also be implemented in these Public Sector Undertakings.
- The remaining part of the land will be managed in accordance with the guidelines of the Department of Investment & Public Assets Management (DIPAM) and Department of Public Enterprises.
- After meeting the liabilities, steps will be taken to close Indian Drugs & Pharmaceuticals Limited and Rajasthan Drugs & Pharmaceuticals Limited. The option of strategic sale will be explored for Hindustan Antibiotics Limited and Bengal Chemicals & Pharmaceuticals Limited. The Department of Pharmaceuticals, the administrative department for these undertakings, will take time bound follow-up action.

Reference:

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=155920>

https://www.telegraphindia.com/1161229/jsp/business/story_127361.jsp#.WGTr7dJ97IU

World Meteorological Organization

Question: World Meteorological Organization (WMO) has its headquarters in which of the following city?

- (a) Rome (b) London (c) New York (d) Geneva

Ans. (d)

Related facts:

- On 13 December 2016 World Meteorological Organization have established a new world record for wave height measured by a buoy.
- An automated buoy recorded the wave in a part of the North Atlantic Ocean between Iceland and the U.K. on 4 February 2013.
- It was 19 meters, or 62.3 feet, in height.



- The previous record of 18.275 meters (59.96 feet) was measured on 8 December 2007, also in the North Atlantic.
- The highest waves typically occur in the North Atlantic, rather than the Southern Ocean.
- Wind circulation patterns and atmospheric pressure in the North Atlantic in winter leads to intense extra-tropical storms, often so-called “bombs”.
- The World Meteorological Organization (WMO) is an intergovernmental organization with a membership of 191 Member States and Territories.
- It originated from the International Meteorological Organization (IMO), which was founded in 1873.
- Established in 1950, WMO became the specialised agency of the United Nations for meteorology (weather and climate), operational hydrology and related geophysical sciences.

Reference:

<https://public.wmo.int/en/media/press-release/19-meter-wave-sets-new-record-highest-significant-wave-height-measured-buoy>

Amphibious Bus launched in Punjab

Question: Who has launched an amphibious bus at the Harike wetland near Amritsar?

- (a) Parkash Singh Badal (b) Sukhbir Singh Badal (c) Gurpreet Singh
(d) None of the above

Ans:(b)

Related facts:

- On 12 December 2016 Deputy chief minister Sukhbir Singh Badal launched an amphibious bus at the Harike wetland near Amritsar.
- The bus will be run by the state tourism department.
- In the first phase, such buses will run between Amritsar and Harike via Tarn Taran catering to domestic and international tourists.
- The first of its kind amphibious bus in India was imported from Swedish automobile company Scania.
- An amphibious vehicle (or simply amphibian), is a vehicle that is a means of transport, viable on land as well as on (or under) water.



Reference:

<http://www.hindustantimes.com/punjab/punjab-gets-an-amphibious-bus-with-harike-cruise/story-aShWePnxCG0vWWGYqUMzMJ.html>
<http://www.sukhbirsinghbadal.org/2016/02/amphibious-buses-to-be-launched-in.html>

Prasar Bharati inaugurates Archives Sales Counter

Question: Where did the Prasar Bharti inaugurated its Archives Sales Counter?

- (a) Paryawaran Bhawan (b) Doordarshan Bhawan
(c) Akashwani Bhawan (d) Archeology Building

Ans:(c)

Related facts:

- On 8 December 2016; Prasar Bharati Chief Executive Officer S C Panda and All India Radio Director General F Sheheryar inaugurated the Archives Sales Counter of Prasar Bharati at Akashwani Bhawan.
- It consists of the recordings of Ramacharitmanas, Bharat Ek Khoj, Ustad Bismillah Khan, Vidushi M S Subbulakshmi, Begum Akhtar, Dr M Balamuralikrishna and many other renowned maestros.



- This newly built structure is expected to fulfill the objectives of bringing the rare archival assets of All India Radio and Doordarshan to public domain through its commercially released ACDs, DVDs and VCDs.

Reference:

<http://www.uniindia.com/prasar-bharati-ceo-inaugurates-archives-sales-counter/india/news/712260.html>

<http://indiatoday.intoday.in/story/now-purchase-prasar-bharatis-rare-recordings-at-air-office/1/830386.html%3Cp%3E%3Cp%3E>

Children-special train

Question: Recently which of the following state has started first children-special train?

(a) Jammu and Kashmir (b) Jharkhand (c) Maharashtra (d) Haryana

Ans:(a)

Related facts:

- On 11 December 2016 Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister Mehbooba Mufti flagged off the first children-special train in the state.
- The train will run fortnightly — on alternate Sundays — between Banihal in Jammu and Baramulla in north Kashmir.
- The idea for starting a special train was mooted by Mufti and was taken in view of the fact that children have generally limited facilities for an outing.
- The train will en routes from Quazigund, Anantnag, Awantipur, Srinagar, Budgam, Sopore and Baramula.
- The train is first of its kind in India.



Reference:

<http://indianexpress.com/article/india/mehbooba-inaugurates-special-train-for-children-4422604/>

New visa policy approved

Question: When did the Union Cabinet has given its approval for liberalization, simplification and rationalization of the existing visa regime in India?

(a) 29 November 2016 (b) 30 November 2016 (c) 1 December 2016
(d) 2 December 2016

Ans: (b)

Related facts:

- On 30 November 2016 Union Cabinet has given its approval for liberalization, simplification and rationalization of the existing visa regime in India.
- The cabinet has also approved incremental changes in the visa policy decided by the Ministry of Home Affairs in consultation with various stakeholders and with approval of the Home Minister.
- The approval will facilitate entry of foreigners for tourism, business and medical purposes.
- This is expected to stimulate economic growth, increase earnings from export of services like tourism, medical value travel and travel on account of business and to make 'Skill India', 'Digital India', 'Make in India' and other such flagship initiatives of the Government successful.
- This will also considerably ease the travel of foreigners to India for the above-mentioned legitimate purposes.



Reference:

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=154663>

<http://economictimes.indiatimes.com/nri/visa-and-immigration/union-cabinet-approves->

[rationalisation-of-visa-regime/articleshow/55712685.cms](http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/india/Govt-approves-new-visa-to-attract-foreigners-boost-trade/articleshow/55712685.cms)
<http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/india/Govt-approves-new-visa-to-attract-foreigners-boost-trade/articleshow/55710822.cms>

Mahatma Gandhi's spinning wheel among Time's 100 'Most Influential Photos'

Question: According to a compilation by Time magazine of "images that changed the world." A picture of Mahatma Gandhi with his Charkha (spinning wheel) in the foreground has been included among the 100 most influential images of all time, it was taken in which of the following year?

(a) 1936 (b) 1946 (c) 1921 (d) 1942

Ans: (b)

Related facts:

- In a compilation by Time magazine of "images that changed the world." A 1946 picture of Mahatma Gandhi with his Charkha (spinning wheel) in the foreground is among the 100 most influential images of all time.
- The black and white photo of a bespectacled Gandhi taken by Margaret Bourke-White.
- The photo shows Gandhi sitting on a thin mattress on the floor, head bent down as he is reading the news while his spinning wheels sits in the foreground.
- The picture was taken for an article on India's leaders but less than two years later it was featured prominently in a tribute published after his assassination.
- The Time collection includes 100 of the most iconic and history-altering images, dating from the 1820s to 2015 that have remained engrained in the human psyche from the time they were taken.



Reference:

<http://100photos.time.com/photos/margaret-bourke-white-gandhi-spinning-wheel>

Mobile app to promote breastfeeding launched

Question: Which of the following ministry has launched mobile application to promote breastfeeding?

- (a) Ministry of Women and Child Development (b) Ministry of Tribal Affairs
(c) Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment
(d) Ministry of Health and Family Welfare

Ans: (b)

Related facts:

- On 2 December 2016 a mobile application to promote breastfeeding and keep a tab on "inappropriate" promotion of baby food items was launched by Tribal Affairs Minister Jual Oram.
- The first of its kind app on breastfeeding protection called 'Stanpan Suraksha,' developed by Breastfeeding Promotion Network of India (BPNI).
- It has a baby food promotion reporting mechanism where any person can click a photograph of inappropriate promotion around them of baby food and related equipment and send it to BPNI through the app.
- BPNI will further document and analyse the reports and follow up with required action.
- This feature will empower people to keep check on the baby food industry.



Reference:

<http://www.ptinews.com/news/8143228-Mobile-app-to-promote-breastfeeding-launched.html>
http://www.business-standard.com/article/news-ani/app-launched-to-protect-breastfeeding-monitor-violations-of-the-ims-act-116120300212_1.html